SESSION 5. Towards an Integrated Agenda for Agriculture and Development in Southeast Asia

Dr. Cielito F. Habito – Chair/Interlocutor of Session 5 and Forum Technical Adviser

Dr. Cielito F. Habito, a Senior Fellow at SEARCA, is a Professor of Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he is also a Senior Fellow and former Director of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development (2001-2012). At the same time, he is Chairman of Brain Trust, Inc. and Operation Compassion Philippines. He writes the twice-weekly op-ed column “No Free Lunch” in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

In 1992-1998, he served in the Cabinet of former President Fidel V. Ramos as Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning, heading the National Economic and Development Authority. In 1998, he was elected Chair of the Sixth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York. Prior to joining government, he was Professor and Chair at the Department of Economics of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

He had worked at the World Bank, Harvard University, Center for Southeast Asian Studies in Kyoto University, and Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, USAID, AusAID, JICA, UNICEF, UNEP and other development partners have tapped his expertise to advise the government of the Philippines and of other countries in Asia-Pacific and Latin America. He has served in the boards of several companies, including First Gen, Manila Water Company, Metrobank, and Philsteel Holdings, among others. He holds a Ph.D. and Master of Arts in Economics from Harvard.
University, Master of Economics from the University of New England (Australia), and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Major in Agricultural Economics), *summa cum laude* from UPLB.