

Bios of Speakers

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo is the Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs, as well as Director of the Economic and Political Development Concentration in the School of International and Public Affairs, Member of the Committee on Global Thought and co-President of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University. He is also the Chair of the Committee for Development Policy, an expert committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In 2008-2010, he served as co-director of the UNDP/OAS Project on “Agenda for a Citizens’ Democracy in Latin America”; and in 2009 a Member of the Commission of Experts of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Ocampo served in a number of positions in the United Nations and the Government of Colombia, most notably as United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Ocampo received his BA in economics and sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 1972 and his PhD in economics from Yale University in 1976.

Ms. Tarisa Watanagase was Governor of the Bank of Thailand from 2006-2010. Starting in 1975, her long career at the Bank has involved a number of responsibilities in all major functions of central banking including economic research, banking sector policy and supervision, payment systems, money market operations, reserve management, and monetary and financial policies. She was a member of the Monetary Policy Committee and Financial Institution Policy Committee and the chairperson in both committees. She also sits on the boards of the Insurance Commission and SCG, a leading business conglomerate in Southeast Asia. She has been active on financial-inclusion issues, advising the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, a network of policymakers. She also advised Total Access Communication, a Thai mobile-phone service provider, on mobile payments. She is a member of the boards of the Ramathibodi Hospital Foundation, the Heart Foundation of Thailand, and the Private Sector Collective Action Coalition Against Corruption. Dr. Tarisa received her B.A. and M.A. in Economics from Keio University, Japan and Ph.D. in Economics from Washington University, St. Louis, USA.

Mr. Rupert Thorne is the deputy to the secretary general of the Financial Stability Board (FSB), where he helps in the FSB's work to coordinate international policy initiatives to strengthen the financial system and promote consistent implementation of those policies across sectors and across countries. Before joining the FSB, he worked for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 11 years, in areas such as multilateral surveillance of advanced financial markets and debt management policy advice, including as a member of teams negotiating IMF programs in response to capital account crises in Turkey and Uruguay. Previously, he spent over a decade at the Bank of England, in operational areas such as money market operations, government debt issuance and foreign exchange reserves management, as well as the analysis of financial stability, international financial market surveillance and statistics. He has an M.A. in mathematics from Cambridge University.

Mr. Athanasios Thanos Arvanitis joined the IMF in 1994 and is currently Assistant Director in the Strategy, Policy and Review Department. He is in charge of the Emerging Markets division, and is involved in the review of IMF-supported programs and the IMF's lending policies. Prior to this appointment, Thanos worked in the European Department and was head of the IMF missions to Hungary, Ukraine, and Croatia. Thanos was born in Athens, Greece, and studied economics at the Athens School of Economics and University of Rochester where he received his Ph.D in 1994.

Professor Catherine Schenk FRHS, AcSS is Professor of International Economic History at the University of Glasgow and Associate Fellow, Chatham House. Her research ranges across a variety of topics in international economic relations. She is particularly interested in the current policy implications of the history of the development of international financial regulation and the organization of the international monetary system since 1945. Her work includes research on the rise and fall of international currencies, how international banks react to global imbalances and the management of sovereign debt. Additionally, she undertakes research on the development of Hong Kong's international financial center and relations between Hong Kong and Mainland China since 1945. She has been visiting researcher at IMF and Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Her current major research project is a comparative study of financial regulation in Hong Kong, New York and London from 1961 to 1982, to understand the relations between banks and regulators; the constraints on effective banking supervision; the impact of financial regulation; and how multilateral institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Bank for International Settlements, interact with banks and national regulators. She studied her BA and MA at University of Toronto and PhD at London School of Economics and has held academic appointments in New Zealand, London, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Glasgow.