

Bio of Wing Thye WOO

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Wing Thye Woo is Professor in the Department of Economics, University of California at Davis, and the Director of the East Asia Program within the Center for Globalisation and Sustainable Development at Columbia University. His current research focuses on international financial architecture, economic growth, exchange rate economics, and the economic issues of East Asia (particularly China and Indonesia). He has published over 100 articles in professional economic journals and books on topics like exchange rate economics, current account determination, technological innovation and competitiveness, economic management in Indonesia and Malaysia, and competing interpretations of China's growth mechanisms; co-authored books on Indonesia and China; and edited volumes and special issues of journals on cross-country experiences with financial crisis, and economic transition. His article "The Monetary Approach to Exchange Rate Determination under Rational Expectations: The Dollar-Deutschemark Case," Journal of International Economics (JIE), February 1985, was identified by JIE in 2000 to be one of the twenty-five most cited articles in its 30 years of history.

From 2000-2002, Wing Thye Woo was the Director of the East Asia Program at the Center for International Development, Harvard University. He founded the Asian Economic Panel (AEP) as a joint venture of Harvard University (now replaced by Columbia University), Keio University, and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy. AEP is a forum of about 50 leading specialists on Asian economies which meets twice a year to discuss economic issues that are of particular importance to Asia. The discussions in each meeting are organised around 9 analytical papers. Selected papers from the meetings are published in the new journal Asian Economic Papers (of which Wing Thye Woo is the editor), MIT Press.

In 1998, Wing Thye Woo headed the project "Asia Competitiveness Report 1999" to analyse the Asian financial crisis for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, February 1999. The updated report was published as The Asian Financial Crisis: Lessons for a Resilient Asia, MIT Press, 2000. He also directed the Harvard Institute for International Development project "China's Integration into the World Economy" (1997-98); and a part of that report was published as "Discrepancies in International Data: An Application to China-Hong Kong Entrepot Trade," in American Economic Review, May 1999.

From 1994-96, Wing Thye Woo led an international team (which included Leszek Balcerowicz, Boris Fedorov, and Jeffrey D. Sachs) to study the reform experiences of centrally-planned economies. The findings of this cross-country study were disseminated in high-level conferences in Prague, Beijing, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Ulan Bator and Washington D.C. This report was published by MIT Press as Economies in Transition: Comparing Asia and Europe, 1997.

Wing Thye Woo has advised a number of governments on macroeconomic and exchange rate management, state enterprise restructuring, trade issues, and financial sector development. He was a member of Consultant Team to China's Ministry of Finance that helped to design the tax and exchange rate reforms implemented in January 1994; and the report has been published by Oxford University Press as Fiscal Management and Economic Reform in the People's Republic of China, 1995. During 1997-1998, Wing Thye Woo served as a special advisor to the U.S. Treasury; duties included

accompanying Secretary Robert Rubin to meetings in China, and to the IMF-World Bank annual meeting in Hong Kong. From 2002-2005, he was the Special Advisor for East Asian Economies in the Millennium Project of the United Nations (amongst the Millennium Development Goals is to the halving of the 1990 rate of absolute poverty by 2015). In July 2005, he was appointed to a three-year term on the International Advisory Panel to the Prime Minister of Malaysia; this Panel meets with the Prime Minister at least once a year to assess Malaysia's economic performance, discuss the implications of global developments for Malaysia, and suggest growth strategies for Malaysia.

Wing Thyee Woo has held research positions (of longer than a month) at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore), Center for Strategic and International Studies (Indonesia), London School of Economics, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Developpement International (CERDI) at Universite d'Auvergne (France), East-West Center (Hawaii), International Monetary Fund, University of Hong Kong, National Taiwan University, Institute for Strategic and International Studies (Malaysia), Lowy Institute (Sydney), and People's University of China. He has also served as external reviewer for Lingnan University (Hong Kong), Chinese University of Hong Kong, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia), and National University of Singapore, and as external examiner for master and doctoral dissertations submitted to University of Colorado, Australian National University, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Universite Toulouse I, Oxford University, University of Alberta, and University of Hong Kong.

Wing Thyee Woo is presently Editor of *Asian Economic Papers* and *Journal of Chinese Economic and Business Studies*, and Associate Editor of *Economics of Planning* and *Asian Economic Journal*. He is also a member of the editorial advisory boards of a number of other journals, including *Journal of Asian Business*, *ASEAN Economic Bulletin*, *Pacific Economic Review*, *Journal of International Economics and Economic Policy*, *China Journal of Finance*, *Economics and Finance in Indonesia*, and *Argumenta Oeconomica Cracoviensia*, (English language journal published by the Cracow University of Economics, Poland). He was President of the Chinese Economists Association of North America (2001-2002), and Vice-President of the Chinese Economists Society (2000-2001, and 2002-2003), and is now a member of the Executive Council of American Association for Chinese Studies. Wing Thyee Woo also serves on the Advisory Board of the University of Cambodia, Center for Contemporary China at National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan, Center for Contemporary China at University of Southampton, and Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) in Poland, and on the Council of Fellows of the East Asian Economic Association. He is the Co-General Secretary of the *Research Consortium for Western China Development Studies*, jointly housed in Sichuan University and University of Michigan, since its establishment in 2003.

In 2004, the University of California at Davis awarded Wing Thyee Woo its Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award, and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Malaysia appointed him a Distinguished ISIS Fellow. In November 2004, he delivered the Chang Chi Ming Cambridge Public Lecture on Chinese Economy at the University of Cambridge. In March 2006, he was appointed a Chang Jiang Scholar (by the Ministry of Education of China based on nation-wide competition among universities) at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, China.

Wing Thyee Woo was born in 1954 in Penang, Malaysia, where he was a member of the 2nd. Georgetown (S) Senior Scout Troop, out of Methodist Boys' School. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 1976 with a B.A. (High Honors) in Economics, and a B.S. in Engineering. Wing Thyee Woo received an M.A. in Economics from Yale in 1978, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard in 1982. He joined the University of California in Davis in 1985, and, before that, he was a Research Associate at the Brookings Institution.