

Bio of Wing Thye WOO (wtwoo@ucdavis.edu)

Wing Thye Woo is Professor at University of California at Davis, Yangtze River Scholar at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, Director of the East Asia Program within The Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. His current research focuses on the economic issues of East Asia (particularly, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia), international financial architecture, comparative economic growth, state enterprise restructuring, fiscal management, and exchange rate economics.

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. This report was published as Economies in Transition: Comparing Asia and Europe, MIT Press, 1997. He 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. 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. In 2001, Wing Thye Woo helped establish the Asian Economic Panel (AEP), now sponsored by Brookings Institution, 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 biannually to discuss economic issues that are of particular importance to Asia; and selected proceedings are published in the journal Asian Economic Papers (of which Wing Thye Woo is the editor), MIT Press.

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 as Fiscal Management and Economic Reform in the People's Republic of China, Oxford University Press, 1995. During 1997-1998, Wing Thye Woo served as a special advisor to the U.S. Treasury; and from 2002-2005, he was the Special Advisor for East Asian Economies in the Millennium Project of the United Nations. In July 2005, he was appointed to the International Advisory Panel to the Prime Minister of Malaysia; and in April 2009, he was appointed Chairman of the International Economic Advisory Panel of Penang state, Malaysia. In 2004, the University of California at Davis awarded Wing Thye 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 July 2009, the Governor of Penang conferred on him the chivalry order of *Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri* (DSPN), which bestows on him the title *Dato*, for his academic achievements, professional leadership, and public service contributions.

Wing Thye 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; received an M.A. in Economics from Yale in 1978, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard in 1982.