Towards Better Economic Policy Making: Strengthening Africa’s Data
Featuring: DMD Zhu
Friday, October 11th, 11:30am – 1:00pm, Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University

The quality of basic economic statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as national accounts and short-term activity data, is often so poor that it can lead to serious misdiagnosis and erroneous policy decisions. At the same time, the demand for good data by policy-makers is rising as increased integration in the global economy boosts countries’ exposure to shocks and puts a premium on being able to react quickly to economic developments. This seminar will examine the state of economic statistics in SSA, the priorities for improvement, and the role that the IMF and others can play in building capacity.

Panelists:

Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
Clafer Gatete, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda
Pierre Ndiaye, Director or Forecasting Research, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Senegal
Mthuli Ncube, Chief Economist and Vice President, African Development Bank
Morten Jerven, Assistant Professor, Simon Frasier University, Canada

Moderator: Simon Rogers, Author, Facts are Sacred