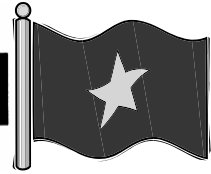




INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND



Office of the Resident Representative
HANOI, VIETNAM

PRESS STATEMENT
English Version

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2005

IMF Chief Economist Visits Hanoi

Dr. Raghuram Rajan, Economic Counselor and Director of Research at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will make his first visit to Vietnam on March 16-17. During this visit, Dr. Rajan will meet with Government officials, business representatives and diplomats to learn more about the Vietnam economy and to convey his views about the global economic situation. Dr. Rajan will also participate in a session for a group of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laos officials taking part in a regional training course in Hanoi being conducted by the IMF's Singapore Training Institute. In addition, he plans to conduct a seminar for the graduate students of the National Economics University of Hanoi.

Biography

Raghuram G. Rajan is the Economic Counselor and Director of Research at the International Monetary Fund. Prior to holding this post, Dr. Rajan taught at the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago where he is the Joseph L. Gidwitz Professor of Finance. His research is broadly on the role of institutions, especially financial institutions, in fostering economic development. In 2003, Dr. Rajan was awarded the inaugural Fischer Black Prize by the American Finance Association for contributions to finance by an economist under 40. Dr. Rajan is an electrical engineering graduate from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi. He earned his M.B.A. from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and his Ph.D. from MIT.