

***Towards Better Economic Policy Making: Strengthening Africa's Data***

***Featuring: DMD Zhu***

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 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

**Claver Gatete**, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda

**Pierre Ndiaye**, Director of Forecasting Research, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Senegal

**Mthuli Ncube**, Chief Economist and Vice President, African Development Bank

**Morten Jerven**, Assistant Professor, Simon Fraser University, Canada

*Moderator:* **Simon Rogers**, Author, Facts are Sacred