

**International Monetary Fund OAP/FAD Conference**  
**Institutions for Fiscal Credibility—Fiscal Policy Rules and Fiscal Councils:**  
**Experience and Prospects in the Asia-Pacific Region**

Tokyo, June 12, 2014

Orchard Room, 2F South Wing, Hotel Okura

8:45-9:10	<b>Registration</b>
9:10-9:30	<p><b>Opening Session:</b></p> <p><b>Opening Statement:</b> Odd Per Brekk (<i>Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IMF</i>)</p> <p><b>Inaugural remarks:</b> Martine Guerguil (<i>Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</i>)</p>
9:30-11:00	<p><b>Towards a New Generation of Fiscal Policy rules:</b> The session takes stock of fiscal rules around the world. The main discussion points are: What features of fiscal rules were most effective and what are the side effects? Has good international practice evolved since the crisis? What is the room for tailoring national fiscal frameworks to country-specific circumstances? What is the risk of “rules overhang” ? What are the tradeoffs between simple and transparent rules and flexible ones?</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Yuko Kinoshita (<i>Deputy Head of Office, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IMF</i>)</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> Sahoko Kaji (<i>Professor, Faculty of Economics, Department of Economics, Keio University, Japan</i>)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Markus Brueckner (<i>Associate Professor, Singapore National University</i>)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Xavier Debrun (<i>Deputy Division Chief, Fiscal Policy and Surveillance, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</i>)</p> <p><b>Floor discussion</b></p>
11:00-11:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:15-12:45	<p><b>Fiscal Councils: Advancing Credibility through Accountability and Transparency:</b> The session focuses on the role and the design of “fiscal councils” – independent watchdogs— in promoting sound fiscal policies. Case studies on the international experience with fiscal councils will be discussed as well as other possible institutional structures. The main questions are: What is the rationale for fiscal councils? Are they complementary or substitutes to fiscal policy rules? Are there common features to effective fiscal councils? What are the channels through which they can encourage sound policies? To what extent can they be customized to country needs and institutional setup?</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Keiko Takahashi (<i>Deputy Director, Research Division, Budget Bureau, Ministry of Finance</i>)</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> Phil Bowen (<i>Parliamentary Budget Officer, Australia</i>)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Juergen von Hagen (<i>Professor, University of Bonn, Germany</i>)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Thurgha Govindasamy (<i>Head, External Sector, Macro Section, Fiscal &amp; Economics Division, Treasury, Malaysia</i>)</p> <p><b>Floor discussion</b></p>
12:45-14:30	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Keynote address:</b> Juergen von Hagen (<i>Professor, University of Bonn, Germany</i>)</p>

14:30-16:00	<p><b>Making Fiscal Rules Enforceable:</b> The session discusses the key design elements in support of enforcement of fiscal rules. The main questions are as follows: what determines compliance with fiscal policy rules? What are prominent cases of success and failure of fiscal policy rules in Asia and elsewhere? What specific enforcement mechanism can be envisaged: automatic correction mechanisms, formal sanctions and reputational mechanisms? What can be the role of a fiscal council in this context?</p> <p><b>Chair:</b>            <b>Phil Bowen</b> (<i>Parliamentary Budget Officer, Australia</i>)</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> <b>Mohamad Ikhsan</b> (<i>Special Advisor to the Vice President ,Office of Vice President , Republic of Indonesia</i>)  <b>Barry Anderson</b> (<i>Deputy Director, National Governors Association, USA</i>)  <b>Xavier Debrun</b> (<i>Deputy Division Chief, Fiscal Policy and Surveillance, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</i>)</p> <p><b>Floor discussion</b></p>
16:00-16:25	<p><b>Photo Session &amp; Coffee Break</b></p>
16:25-17:40	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Fiscal rules and Fiscal Councils: Prospects for Asia and the Pacific</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b>     <b>Martine Guerguil</b> (<i>Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</i>)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> <b>Barry Anderson</b>(<i>Deputy Director, National Governors Association, USA</i>)  <b>Mohamad Ikhsan</b> (<i>Special Advisor to the Vice President ,Office of Vice President , Republic of Indonesia</i>)  <b>Phil Bowen</b> (<i>Parliamentary Budget Officer, Australia</i>)  <b>Shigeo Kashiwagi</b> (<i>Professor, Faculty of Business and Commerce, Keio University, Japan</i>)</p>
17:40-17:50	<p><b>Concluding Remarks:</b> <b>Yuko Kinoshita</b> (<i>Deputy Head of Office, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IMF</i>)</p>
18:00-19:30	<p><b>Reception</b></p>