



2016
SPRING MEETINGS
International Monetary Fund
World Bank Group
Washington, D.C.

SEMINARS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 13

**8:30 a.m. –
3:30 p.m.**

Low-Income Developing Countries: Sustainable Economic Development in a Challenging Global Environment

Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

After a decade of sustained growth, low-income developing countries slowed sharply in 2015, mostly in response to a recent shift in the external environment: global growth has weakened, commodity prices—relevant for many commodity-exporting developing countries—are expected to remain at much lower levels than in the recent past, and external financial conditions are tightening for frontier market developing countries. Against this backdrop, the conference will discuss how low-income developing countries should prioritize between multiple policy objectives to attract and manage domestic and external financing to meet their development objectives, implement structural reforms, while sustaining macro-financial stability and sustained growth.

[Join the conversation: #IMFonLICs](#)

**12:30 p.m. –
2:00 p.m.**

Conflicts and the Refugee Crisis: An International Call for Action

Venue: Lisner Auditorium, GWU

This high-level panel will examine how conflicts are fueling the current unprecedented refugee crisis and discuss the impact of that crisis on source, transit, and host countries. The event will bring together senior national policymakers with representatives from international organizations and other stakeholders to identify policy responses and build awareness of the need for scaled-up and robust international cooperation to overcome the challenge.

[Join the conversation: #IMFonRefugees](#)

**4:00 p.m. –
5:30 p.m.**

Collect More & Spend Better: The Role of Capacity Development

Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

After the adoption of a renewed global commitment to development in 2015, the real challenge now will be implementation. A key theme from the 2015 Financing for Development (FfD) Conference in Addis Ababa was the urgent need to improve fiscal outcomes and address related implementation challenges. This panel will discuss a number of key issues. How can capacity development (CD, that is, technical assistance and training) better support countries in their efforts, particularly in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals? What lessons can be drawn from past experiences of strengthening CD? How can we be more innovative in meeting CD needs?

[Join the conversation: #IMFCapDev](#)

Getting Down to Business: Women, Work, and the Global Economy

Venue: Lisner Auditorium, GWU

Women comprise a little more than half the world's population, yet significant gender gaps in labor markets constrain their contribution to measured economy activity and growth. Earlier IMF research pointed to the importance of increasing female participation as part of the economic recipe to boost growth prospects in a wide range of countries, including many advanced economies. Most recent research by the IMF suggests that more women in senior corporate positions may also improve firms' financial performance. Despite significant progress in recent decades, progress toward gender equality is hampered by gaps in participation in the labor force, earnings, and the limited number of women in senior positions. This panel of experts will examine the role that women's role in the labor market plays in overall growth and stability. But the debate doesn't end in the corporate sector. New research also shows that public policy may have just as much a role to play as personal choice in women's decision to work. How does tax policy play an unintended role in keeping women out of the labor force?

[Join the conversation: #IMFGender](#)





SEMINARS

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 14

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Political Economy of Structural Reforms**

Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

The need to implement structural reforms to help overcome the new mediocre and address growth challenges is becoming increasingly urgent. But doing so isn't easy. Reforms that have significant long-term payoffs often go against vested interests and populist pressures. This panel will explore how policymakers can overcome these obstacles as they seek to overhaul trade, improve labor and product markets, and undertake fiscal and financial-sector structural changes to invigorate economies.

🐦 **Join the conversation: #BoostGrowth**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **The Managing Director's Interview on the Global Economy**

Venue: Lisner Auditorium, GWU

Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, will discuss key issues in the global economy with Stephen Sackur of the BBC's HARDtalk. Global growth in 2015 remains modest and uneven, as important transitions weigh on the outlook. These transitions include asynchronous monetary policy in advanced economies, rebalancing in China, and the end of the global commodity boom. Recent data suggest that global growth is likely to remain modest in 2016, with a continuation of the modest recovery in advanced economies and still-difficult conditions in several emerging and developing economies, particularly commodity exporters. If the transitions are not successfully navigated, global growth could be derailed. Indeed, in an environment of significantly lower commodity prices, reduced private capital flows to emerging markets, and higher financial market volatility, downside risks to the outlook remain elevated, particularly for emerging and developing economies. To secure a strong and durable recovery, policies need a decisive upgrade.

🐦 **Join the conversation: #BBCIMF**

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Emerging Markets at the Crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities**

Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

Emerging markets (EMs) are at the crossroads of three major transitions facing the global economy: an increase in U.S. interest rates, China's shift to consumption-led growth, and lower commodity prices. Against this backdrop, many EMs also face rising private debt and leverage. These circumstances present both challenges and opportunities for EMs. This session will examine both the tradeoffs and policy tools needed to navigate these uncertain times, including policies aimed at gradual de-leveraging while limiting the impact on growth.

🐦 **Join the conversation: #IMFEmergMkts**

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **Fortifying the Global Financial Safety Net**

Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

Three major transitions present challenges to the global economy: an increase in U.S. interest rates, China's shift to consumption-led growth, and lower commodity prices. Against this backdrop, many emerging markets face rising private debt and leverage. Such trends bring opportunities along with challenges. This session will look at the role of the global financial safety net and the international monetary system in helping to manage the current landscape.

🐦 **Join the conversation: #IMFSafetyNet**





SEMINARS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 15

11:30 a.m. –
1:00 p.m.**Sub-Saharan Africa: Just a Rough Patch?***Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU*

Reflecting the slump in commodity prices, tighter global financing conditions, and meager policy buffers, economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa has weakened markedly to 3½ percent in 2015, the lowest rate in some 15 years. This slowdown and the macroeconomic difficulties it has engendered—particularly in a number of the region's larger economies—is likely to dominate the news and policy discussions in the coming months. This panel will discuss a number of key questions. Is the Africa Rising episode over? What kind of macroeconomic policy response can help strengthen the region's resilience to external shocks and unlock its growth potential?

🐦 **Join the conversation: #IMFonAfrica**

Saturday, April 16

3:30 p.m. –
5:00 p.m.**The Evolving Role of China in the Global Economy***Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU*

China is transitioning to a growth model that is driven more by consumption and services, the success of which will have major implications for the economy of its own and the rest of the world. This session will consider a number of key questions. Are we seeing early signs of successes in the transition and what more is needed? How can we manage spillovers from such an unprecedented transition? How will China contribute to a renewed and strengthened international monetary system?

🐦 **Join the conversation: #IMFonChina**





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Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m. –
10:30 a.m

Fiscal Forum 2016: Strengthening the International Tax System **Roundtable Discussion: Future of International Taxation**

Venue: HQ2 Conference Hall 2, IMF

Multinational companies are currently engaging in tax avoidance and tax planning to reduce their worldwide tax bill. Whether avoiding taxes, or paying them in a jurisdiction with the lowest rate, the result is the same—a loss of tax revenue for governments that need it. Governments, on the other side, often encourage foreign direct investment through tax competition. This session will look at a number of key issues. How can the international tax system be improved? Which countries are the most heavily impacted by tax competition? How can governments balance the desire for foreign investment against the need for a worldwide tax system that is fair for all countries?

🐦 **Join the conversation: #FiscalForum**

10:00 a.m. –
12:30 p.m.

Digital Disruptions to the Financial System: Opportunities and Threats

Venue: Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

This seminar will focus on the macro-financial challenges and opportunities created by two emerging disruptions: rapid growth of FinTech and increasing cyber security risks:

FinTech. The tech revolution is fundamentally changing the global economy. The financial system is facing novel disruptions, such as those relating to virtual currencies and the underlying distributed ledgers, peer-to-peer lending, and high-frequency trading. How can policymakers get ready for these trends, and the potentially systemic risks that they pose (for financial and macroeconomic stability), while harnessing the opportunities that they create (for example, financial efficiency and financial inclusion)?

Cyber security. The rapid rise of cyber risks and their potential to disrupt global financial stability have elevated cybersecurity to a top policy priority. Cyber risks are now regarded as a leading threat to the global financial system by policymakers. The key cyber security vulnerability from a systemic risk perspective is related to the heavy reliance of financial institutions on information technology and communications, and in particular the highly interconnected nature of these systems. How well can the financial sector deal with potential disruptions, particularly given the limited incentives to share information and reveal security breaches?

🐦 **Join the conversation: #IMFDigitalDisrupt**

For the latest information see: www.imf.org/springseminars2016

