

SAIS IDEV Fall 2006 Development Roundtable

Under the guidance of Professor Francis Fukuyama, Director of the SAIS International Development (IDEV) Program, the Development Roundtable provides a forum for informed discussion of the major issues facing the development community today. The biweekly events give speakers the opportunity to address the challenges of global development assistance and suggest new initiatives that will improve the field. Formerly known as the brown bag series, for more than a dozen years the lectures have hosted influential speakers at noontime before a diverse audience of representatives from the academic, policy, and government spheres.

NOTE DATE CHANGE!!

Friday, September 8 12:30 - 1:30

Creating Fiscal Space: Managing Fiscal Policy in a World of Scaled Up Aid

Peter Heller, Deputy Director of Fiscal Affairs, International Monetary Fund

Gleneagles presented the possibility of a substantial expansion in aid to low-income countries. This can help finance the needed expansion in "fiscal space" required for public and private sector programs to deliver the social services and infrastructure investment required to meet the Millennium Development Goals. But higher aid also poses major challenges for policy makers in recipient countries, particularly given the reluctance of donor countries to make long-term aid commitments. Peter Heller of the International Monetary Fund will explain ways that government decision-makers can adapt fiscal policy and financial management processes to use aid more effectively.

Friday, September 22 12:30 - 1:30

Trade and Development: What is Holding Africa Back?

Florizelle Liser, Assistant US Trade Representative for Africa

New strategies to encourage African development through trade overcome a range of impediments to growth, yet many obstacles remain. What changes in trade policy will most benefit the continent? What can be learned from the results of earlier initiatives? Florizelle Liser, a SAIS alumna, oversees implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and serves as chief U.S. negotiator for a free trade agreement with the five member countries of the Southern African Customs Union. She will describe the direction of US trade policy toward Africa and the consequences for growth and development on the continent.

Friday, October 6 12:30 - 1:30

Ecosystems, Governance, and Poverty: Increasing the Benefits of Development

Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute

Effective poverty reduction strategies start with natural resources, which are rarely controlled by the poor who depend on these assets for their livelihood. Improved governance that emphasizes accountability and transparency can give the poor a greater stake in their future, and transform ecosystems into wealth-creating capital. Jonathan Lash, president of the World Resources Institute, will explain new approaches to sustainable development, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, environmental income accounting, and other strategies that preserve environmental resources and use these assets to fight poverty.

Friday, October 20 12:30 - 1:30

Development Assistance After Afghanistan and Iraq

Nancy Lindborg, President, Mercy Corps International

With unprecedented levels of funding, new civil-military collaborations, and unique security constraints, aid efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq challenged traditional development strategies. The development community has learned from the challenge. Nancy Lindborg, president of Mercy Corps, will explore the future of development assistance, lessons learned, and the keys to successful development in post-conflict environments.

Friday, November 10 12:30 - 1:30

The Future of Democracy Promotion and Civil Society Development

Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy

Can the US realistically promote global democracy after the experience in Iraq? Today, the obstacles are significant and the stakes are high. Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy, will discuss which countries show the most promise for democratic development and how the US can best encourage democratic change. Does regime change remain a viable strategy to promote democratic governments?

Friday, November 17 12:30 - 1:30

Evaluating the Evaluation Gap

Dr. Ruth Levine, Director of Programs, Center for Global Development

Jim Rugh, Coordinator of Program Design, Monitoring and Evaluation, CARE International

Donors, government leaders, and development agencies face a dilemma: Everyone wants to ensure that the billions of dollars spent on development each year are invested in programs that work, but rigorous measurement of impact is rare. Dr. Ruth Levine, co-author of "When Will We Ever Learn? Closing the Evaluation Gap," will discuss the work of the Evaluation Gap Working Group, which calls for a new international initiative that complements existing efforts and promotes rigorous studies of the impact of social programs. She will be joined by Jim Rugh, co-author of *Real World Evaluation* and Co-chair of the InterAction Working Group on Evaluation and Program Effectiveness, who will offer his personal perspective on the obstacles to improving assessments, the realities of impact evaluation design, and the existing networks that address these issues.

Friday, December 1 12:30 - 1:30

The State of Labor Globally: Strategies for Change

Bama Athreya, Executive Director, International Labor Rights Fund

Though economists hail foreign direct investment as an engine to improve the developing world, economic growth and increased trade often adversely impact labor standards and working conditions. Affecting positive change for workers in impoverished environments requires partnering with a range of stakeholders, including corporations, unions, the government, and international organizations. With a special focus on child labor, Bama Athreya, executive director of the International Labor Rights Fund, will explain the most effective strategies to improve labor standards and working conditions internationally, and describe which countries are most in need of these interventions.

To RSVP or receive future event announcements, send an email to: developmentroundtable@jhu.edu

All events are free, open to the public, and held in Room 200, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW