

Joint Distinguished Lecture

"The growth implications of WTO accession: the value of binding reform externally"

(in English)

Professor WEI Shangjin
N.T. Wang Professor of Chinese
Business and Economy, Finance
and Economics, Columbia
Business School



Abstract

This paper studies the value of external commitment to policy reforms in the case of WTO/GATT accessions. The accessions often entail reforms that go beyond narrowly defined trade liberalization, and have to overcome fierce resistance in the acceding countries, as reflected in protracted negotiations. We study the growth and investment consequences of WTO/GATT accessions, with attention to a possible selection bias. We find that the accessions tend to raise income, but only for those countries that were subject to rigorous accession procedures. Policy commitments associated with the accessions were helpful, especially for countries with poor governance.

Date: 3 March 2009 (Tuesday)

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Venue: MBG06

Biography

Dr. Shang-Jin Wei is Professor of Finance and Economics and N.T. Wang Professor of Chinese Business and Economy at Columbia University, and Director of Working Group on the Chinese Economy and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (US), and Research Fellow at the Center for Economic Policy Research (Europe).

He holds a PhD in economics and M.S. in finance from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Wei's research covers corruption, international finance, trade, and China, and has been reported in the Financial Times, Economist, Business Week, Times, US News and World Report, Chicago Tribune, Asian Wall Street Journal, South China Morning Post, and other international news media. He has published widely in world-class academic journals including Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Finance etc.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Enquiries: 26167164 (Nicola)