

SPEAKERS

Speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

Prof. Habib Ahmed

Sharia Chair in Islamic Law & Finance, Durham University Business School



Before joining Durham University as the Sharjah Chair, Prof. Habib Ahmed was Manager, Research and Development, Islamic Banking Development Group, The National Commercial Bank (NCB), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also worked at Islamic Research & Training Institute of the Islamic Development Bank Group, Saudi Arabia and taught at the University of Connecticut, USA, National University of Singapore, and University of Bahrain. He has been a member of the Capital Adequacy Working Group of

Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) which is responsible for, among others, setting standards and guidelines for Islamic banks and financial institutions.

Prof. Hossein Askari

Iran Professor of International Finance, The George Washington University



Prof. Hossein Askari is Iran Professor of International Business and International Affairs at the George Washington University. He served for two and a half years on the Executive Board of the IMF and was Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance of Saudi Arabia; during the mid-1980s he was director of the team that developed the first comprehensive domestic, regional and international energy models and plan for Saudi Arabia. He has written extensively on economic and human development in the Middle East, conflicts and wars in the Persian Gulf, Islamic economics and finance, social and economic justice in Islam,

international trade and finance, agricultural economics, oil economics and on economic sanctions, including twenty-seven books, over one hundred refereed journal articles and numerous chapters in books and magazine web-based articles. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from MIT.

Prof. Mehmet Asutay

Director, Durham Doctoral Training Center in Islamic Finance



Prof. Mehmet Asutay has a BA in Public Finance from the University of Istanbul (Turkey); continued for MSc in Public Finance at the University of Istanbul; has Postgraduate Diploma in Economic and Social Policy

Analysis, University of York (UK); MA in Economics of Public Policy, Department of Economics of the University of Leicester (UK); Ph.D. in Political Economics, University of Leicester. He teaches and supervises research on Islamic Political Economy; Islamic Moral Economy; Islamic Banking, Finance and Management; Political Economy of Development in the Middle East including Turkish Political Economy and Kurdish Political Economy. He is the Director of Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance; and is the Programme Director for MSc in Islamic Finance and MSc in Islamic Finance & Management; and also the Director of the Durham Islamic Finance Summer School. He also serves as the Managing Editor of the *Review of Islamic Economics*; and is an Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Islamic Social Science*; and in the Editorial Board of *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* and *Borsa Istanbul Review*. He is the Honorary Treasurer of the BRISMES (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies); and of the IAIE (International Association for Islamic Economics).

Prof. Thorsten Beck

Professor of Banking and Finance, Cass Business School, London



Thorsten Beck is professor of banking and finance at Cass Business School in London. He is also a research fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the CESifo. He was professor of economics from 2008 to 2014 at Tilburg University and the founding chair of the European Banking Center from 2008 to 2013. Previously he worked in the research department of the World Bank and has also worked as consultant for – among others - the IMF, the European Commission, and the German Development Corporation. His research, academic publications and operational work have focused on two major questions: What is the relationship between finance and economic development? What policies are needed to build a sound and effective financial system? In addition to numerous academic publications in leading economics and finance journals, he has co-authored several policy reports on access to finance, financial systems in Africa and cross-border banking. His country experience, both in operational and research work, includes Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Russia and several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. He holds a PhD from the University of Virginia and an MA from the University of Tübingen in Germany.

Dr. Muhammed Umer Chapra

Research Advisor, Islamic Research and Training Institute of the Islamic Development Bank



Dr. M. Umer Chapra is Research Advisor at the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah. Prior to this position, he worked at the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), Riyadh, for nearly 35 years, retiring as Senior Economic Advisor. He has also taught as Assistant and Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin (Platteville) and the University of Kentucky, Lexington; as Senior Economist and Associate Editor of the *Pakistan Development Review* at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics; and as Reader

(Associate Professor) at the Central Institute of Islamic Research (Pakistan). He has authored 15 books and monographs, 95 papers and 15 book reviews. Some of his books, monographs and papers have been translated into a number of languages, including Arabic, Bangla, French, Indonesian, Japanese, Malay, Persian, Polish, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu. An accomplished scholar of Islamic economics, Chapra made seminal contributions to Islamic economics and finance over the past several decades. He published around 15 books and monographs and more than 90 articles and book reviews. One of his groundbreaking contributions is his book *Towards a Just Monetary System* (1985). In 2002, he published *The Future of Economics: An Islamic Perspective* followed in 2005 by *Objectives of Islamic Economic Order: An Introduction in Economics and Islamic Financing* both of which have also been well received.

Dr. Mohamad Hammour

Chairman, Guidance Financial Group

Dr. Hammour is Chairman of Guidance Financial Group and a Managing Director of Capital Guidance where he has been an executive over the past 22 years. Since founding Guidance Financial Group in the year 2000, Dr Hammour has led the development and execution of the company's strategy, has overseen the growth of its organization and international expansion, and has established key strategic partnerships that form the foundation of some of the company's main business lines. Dr Hammour is an accomplished economist, having served as: a member of the economics faculty at Columbia University and of the visiting faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; a Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France; a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research in the United Kingdom; and a consultant to the World Bank. His research has been published in leading scholarly journals of economics. Dr Hammour holds a BA in Philosophy and an MS in Industrial Engineering from Stanford University and a PhD in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Zamir Iqbal

Head of World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center, Istanbul



Lead Financial Sector Specialist at the Finance and Markets Global Practice of the World Bank. He heads the World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center in Istanbul. He has more than 20 years of experience of risk management, capital markets, and asset management at the World Bank Treasury. Islamic finance is his research focus and he has co-authored several books on Islamic finance on the topics of banking risk, financial stability, and risk-sharing. His latest co-edited book, "Economic Development and Islamic Finance" was published by the World Bank in 2013. He earned his Ph. D. in international finance from the George Washington University and serves as Professional faculty at Carey Business School of Johns Hopkins University.

Prof. Dr. Abbas Mirakhor

First Holder, INCEIF Chair of Islamic Finance



Prof. Dr. Abbas Mirakhor received his Ph.D. in Economics from Kansas State University in 1969. After teaching at various universities in the USA and in Iran, he joined the staff of the Research Department of the IMF in 1984. He became an Executive Director of the IMF from 1990 until his retirement in 2008. He is the author of a number of articles and books on Islamic Economics and Finance. He is now the first holder of the INCIEF Chair in Islamic Finance.

Sebastian- A Molineus

Director, The World Bank Group



Sebastian-A Molineus, a German national, is currently the Regional Practice Director for the World Bank Group's (WBG) Finance & Markets Global Practice. In this role, he is responsible for delivering the Practice's financial, advisory and knowledge, and convening services across the WBG's six Regions. Sebastian joined the WBG's International Finance Corporation (IFe) in 2002, where he was a Project Manager for the Russia Corporate Governance Project, based in Moscow. He later worked in the IFe's Middle East & North Africa Department, where he led a region-wide Corporate Governance Program, based in Cairo. In 2008, he joined the Financial and Private Sector Development Vice-Presidency (FPD) as a Sr. Operations Officer in the Capital Markets Department, and between 2010 and 2012 he co-led the change management initiative to implement Global Practices across FPD. From 2012-2014, Sebastian was the Practice Manager of the Capital Markets Practice, where he was responsible for strategic, knowledge, resource, portfolio, and talent management. Prior to joining the WBG, Sebastian worked at the OECD in the Financial, Fiscal, and Enterprise Affairs Division, where he focused on corporate governance and financial reporting reforms. Sebastian holds an MBA from the HEC School of Management in France, and a Masters in European and International Law from the University of Passau's School of Law in Germany. He is married with four children.

Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Azmi Omar

Director General of Islamic Research and Training Institute



Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Azmi Omar is the Director General of Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), Islamic Development Bank Group. Prior to joining IRTI, he was the Deputy Rector in charge of academic and research at the International Islamic University Malaysia. During his tenure, a

number of milestones were achieved, among these the establishment of the Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance as a center of excellence at the university. He is an active researcher and speaker on Islamic Economics and Finance and co-authored a textbook *Introduction to Islamic Capital Market*. Professor Azmi holds a Doctorate in Finance from Bangor University, Wales, United Kingdom, a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science (Finance) degree from the Northern Illinois University, United States of America. He was the Shari'ah adviser to Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia.

Dr. Andrew Sheng

Distinguished Fellow, Fung Global Institute



Dr. Andrew Sheng is Distinguished Fellow of Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong, and Chief Adviser to the China Banking Regulatory Commission. He has written extensively on international finance and monetary economics, financial regulation, and global governance and sits on several international, regional and national boards and advisory panels. His international/regional appointments include Board Member of the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority, Board Member of the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Securities

Market, India (NISM), and member of the Advisory Board of the Emerging Markets Forum. From 1989 to 1993, he was seconded to the World Bank as Senior Manager, Financial Sector Development Department, where he undertook pioneering work on bank restructuring, including publication of the definitive "manual", *Bank Restructuring: Lessons from the 1980s*. In 2011, Andrew Sheng became President of the Fung Global Institute, where he focused on business-relevant research on global issues from Asian perspectives. He relinquished that position in April 2014 to devote more time to writing on global financial reforms and governance issues. A chartered accountant by training, he holds a BSc in Economics and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bristol. In 2013, Time Magazine named Andrew Sheng as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Talat Ulussever, Ph.D.

Chairman of the Board, Borsa Istanbul



Talat Ulussever was born in Adana, Turkey in 1970. Holding a BA degree in Public Finance from Ankara University (Turkey) and a Master's degree in Management of Financial Resources from Carnegie Mellon University (USA), he earned his Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Kansas (USA) in 2004. During his graduate studies, he worked as teaching assistant, financial analyst, instructor and adjunct professor at different universities and institutions in the U.S. After acquiring his Ph.D., Dr. Ulussever joined Benedict College in

Columbia, South Carolina (USA) in 2004 as Assistant Professor of Finance where he lectured on economics and finance until 2007. Besides his academic career at Benedict College, Dr. Ulussever also served as research and financial consultant to the Business Development Center and Community Development Corporation of the College. Dr. Ulussever continued his academic career as Assistant Professor of Finance at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia where he taught and conducted research in finance and economics. Throughout his graduate and post-graduate studies, Dr. Ulussever has attended numerous international academic symposia as speaker, discussant as well as chair and published academic papers in internationally recognized refereed journals. Moreover, Dr. Ulussever has actively participated in many research teams and served as principal investigator, co-investigator as well as consultant on sponsored research projects in the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. Promoted to the rank of Associate Professorship in February 2013, Dr. Ulussever has served on the Editorial and Scientific Boards of various international academic journals and institutions. Dr. Ulussever worked for the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) from 2010 to 2014 as Chief Project Director and Advisor to the President and trained the Project Directors of ISPAT in economics, finance and investment. Appointed as a Board Member to Borsa İstanbul on April 5, 2013, Dr. Ulussever was elected as the Chairman of the Board by the General Assembly on March 31, 2015. Dr. Ulussever is a founding Chairman of Economics Department at İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, and has held an Associate Professorship in the School of Political Sciences at Ankara Social Sciences University since 2014. Dr. Ulussever is fluent in English and has intermediate knowledge of Arabic. Dr. Ulussever is married with four children.