

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

presents

Local Governments as Catalysts for Economic Growth and Development: A New Paradigm in Local Governance

A Lecture by Anwar Shah

Decentralization reforms have spread like wild fire in both industrial and developing countries during the last two decades but have had only modest impact on government performance and accountability and improving the quality of life of citizens around the globe. What went wrong? The author argues that these reforms failed to internalize lessons from the past history of nations as well as newer conceptual perspectives on governance. The author compares and contrasts the experiences of India, China and USA among others on local governance and also reflects upon the role of local government in China's remarkable success in poverty alleviation. Drawing upon these analytical and historical perspectives, the author presents a new vision of local governance that he argues is more compatible with globalization and the information age and with citizen-centric governance. Such a vision implies a dramatic shift in the respective roles of central, state and local governments.

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6:00 pm

Crest Room 72

ARCH Building at the intersection of 36th St. and Locust Walk



Anwar Shah is Lead Economist and Program Leader, Public Sector Governance Program at the World Bank Institute, Washington, DC, Member of the Executive Board of the International Institute of Public Finance, Munich, Germany and a Fellow of the Institute for Public Economics, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He is also affiliated as 'Honorary Professor' with the Southwest University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China and Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China. He has previously served the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada, the US Agency for International Development and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (as the lead author). He has served as the coordinator of the Global Dialogue on Fiscal Federalism conducted by the Forum of Federation in partnership with Governments in Federal Countries over 2005-2007. He has advised the governments of Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, and Turkey on fiscal system reform issues.

He has lectured at Harvard, Duke, MIT, University of Southern California, University of Ottawa, University of Western Ontario, Peking and Wuhan Universities. He has published more than two dozen books and numerous articles in leading economic journals on governance, federalism and climate change issues. His most recent edited/authored books include Fiscal Federalism (with Robin Boadway), forthcoming by the Cambridge University Press, Macro Federalism and Local Finance, published by the World Bank in 2008 and The Practice of Fiscal Federalism: Comparative Perspectives, published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2007.