

Speaker profiles

Ranjit Chakraborty

Project Director, Financial Management Reform Programme, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

Ranjit Chakraborty has worked for the Government of Bangladesh for the last 23 years in various capacities within the realm of public financial management. Ranjit is currently the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh and also Project Director of the Financial Management Reform Programme (FMRP) in the Finance Division. Ranjit trained both at home and abroad in public finance. He has attended various seminars and conferences on topics relevant to public financial and economic management. He has reviewed a number of key manuals and documents on government financial rules and regulations. Ranjit is closely associated with the design of the next phase of Bangladesh PFM reforms to be launched in July 2008, after formal closure of the current FMRP. Ranjit has travelled abroad extensively and participates in talks, seminars and workshops on PFM with the senior civil servants of the Government of Bangladesh.

Paolo de Renzio

Research Associate, Global Economic Governance Programme, Oxford University

Paolo de Renzio is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, where he is affiliated to the Global Economic Governance Programme, and a research associate of the Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure (CAPE) at the Overseas Development Institute. His research focuses on the interplay between aid policies and modalities and public finance management systems in developing countries. Until 2006, Paolo worked as a Research Fellow in CAPE, after six years spent working as an economist and policy advisor in Papua New Guinea's Ministry of Finance, and as a UNDP public sector specialist, lecturer and independent consultant in Mozambique. His past research spans from issues related to aid architecture and mutual accountability, to donor conditionalities and general budget support, to assessing the quality of PFM systems and their reform.

Alison Evans

Director of Programmes, Poverty and Public Policy Group, ODI

Alison Evans is Director of Programmes for Poverty and Public Policy. She is an economist working on poverty, public policy, institutional change and the role of international development assistance. Alison has practical policy experience, including six years at the World Bank, covers poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs), budgetary processes, aid modalities and aid effectiveness, plus evaluation. Other interests include fragile states, policy coherence and social protection. She has extensive experience in Southern and Eastern Africa, Western Balkans and of shorter assignments in South East Asia.

Edward Hedger

Research Fellow, Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure, ODI

Edward Hedger is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure at ODI. He specialises in public expenditure and financial management reform issues in developing and transition countries. Prior to joining ODI he worked as a consultant for PKF and Crown Agents. His experience includes long-term assignments as budget adviser to the Ministry of Finance in Republika Srpska (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and as team leader of a sub-national public finance reform project across multiple regions in the Russian Federation. He has also worked as a short-term consultant in areas of budget planning and preparation, external audit and accountability, and public administration reform in countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Western Balkans and Central Asia. He is co-organiser of the 2007 CAPE Conference and his current research focuses on the factors underlying successful PFM reform in various governance contexts.

Malcolm Holmes

Independent PEM Specialist

Malcolm Holmes is an independent consultant working on budgeting issues, particularly those relating to medium term budgeting, mostly in Asia. In recent years much of his work has been in the Philippines and Pakistan. In 2004 he participated as one of three international resource people in a Budget Reform Seminar in South Africa, initiating the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative. A major focus of the seminar was African experience with MTEFs.

Malcolm worked at the World Bank up until 2000, when he was a Principal Public Sector Management Specialist in the central Governance and Public Sector Reform Unit. This small unit plays an anchor role supporting the Bank in its work on core public sector reform, including civil service reform, public expenditure, tax policy and administration, decentralisation / intergovernmental fiscal relations, and generic issues in service delivery. Within this unit he was responsible for coordinating the development of the Bank's approach to Public Expenditure Management (PEM).

Malcolm has also worked at the Department of Finance in Australia and in the Fiscal Affairs Department at the IMF.

Andrew Lawson

Director, Fiscus Public Finance Consultants

Andrew Lawson is Director of Fiscus Public Finance Consultants Limited, UK. He is an Associate and former staff member of ODI and prior to that was one of the founder members of Oxford Policy Management. He has worked on a long term basis in three ministries of finance – in Papua New Guinea, in Equatorial Guinea and in Tanzania and has undertaken a wide range of diagnostic studies, evaluation projects and capacity building initiatives in support of the design and implementation of reforms to public finance management in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. What causes the success or failure of PFM reforms is a major research interest, as is the interaction between the provision of General Budget Support and the implementation of improvements to budget systems.

Ian Lienert

Senior Economist, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF

Ian Lienert is currently a senior economist in a PFM Division of the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. After beginning his career in the New Zealand Treasury in the 1970s, he worked for 12 years in the OECD's Economics Department. In 1989, he joined the IMF, working initially as desk economist for Rwanda in the Fund's African Department. This was followed by two to three years of teaching courses in financial programming in the IMF's in-house training institute, before joining the Fiscal Affairs Department as a macro-economist in 1995. Since 1998 he has specialised in providing technical assistance in good public financial management (PFM) practices, mainly to governments in Africa and Asia. Based on his experiences in these countries, he has published IMF working papers, including a comparison between the anglophone and francophone PFM systems in Africa, and case studies of PFM reforms in Rwanda and Tanzania.

During 12 months of individual study leave from IMF in 2004, he co-authored an OECD publication that compares the legal framework for budget systems in 13 OECD countries. This stimulated research into the political economy of budget practices and publication of another IMF working paper on the relative powers of the legislature or the executive in 28 countries.

Nick Manning

Sector Manager, Public Sector Group, LAC, World Bank

Nick Manning is the Manager (Public Sector) in the World Bank for the Latin American and Caribbean region. Previously he was the Head of the Public Sector Management and Performance Division in the OECD and Lead Public Sector Specialist (South Asia) in the World Bank. He has been Senior Technical Adviser to UNDP in Lebanon and Adviser (Organisation Structure and Design) to the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He began his public sector career in local government in the U.K. and, before moving to international advisory work, was Head of Strategic Planning for an inner London Borough.

He is Adviser to the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management and member of the editorial board of the Public Management Review.

He has an extensive range of governance publications covering developing and developed countries, linking public administration with public budgeting and policy management. His recent publications have focused on post-conflict state-building, measurement of government activities, public sector pay setting in the OECD, performance-based arrangements for senior civil servants in the OECD, political involvement in senior staffing, policy management within government, asymmetric pay reform, cabinet decision-making, the functioning of government in Afghanistan, governance indicators (local and national) and on devolution and service delivery.

Mario Marcel

Director, Politeia Public Solutions, Chile

Mario Marcel Cullell is of Chilean nationality and holds a Commercial Engineering, Bachelor degree in Economics from the University of Chile and a M.Phil Degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge.

Currently Mario is Partner and Director of Politeia Public Solutions Consulting; Associate Researcher at CIEPLAN; Director of Transelec Inc.; Director of Aguas Metropolitanas Inc.; and professor of public management at the Master's degree program in Management and Public Policy at the faculty of industrial engineering of the University of Chile.

Within his wide and recent professional experience he has occupied various positions such as: Board Member of the State-owned Company System (March 2000 - March 2007); Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Board on Pensions Reform (March - July 2006); Chairman of the Internal Audit Board of the Government (June 2003 - March 2006); Director of the Budget Office of the Ministry of Finance (March 2000 - March 2006). Further, Mario Marcel acted as Executive Director for Chile and Ecuador within the Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C. (1997 - February 2000).

He has carried out several consultancies in Mexico, Colombia, The Bahamas, Uruguay, Bolivia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Kazakhstan and Vietnam for international organisations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, UNDP, ILO and various foreign governments. He has also participated in various international seminars in public policy worldwide.

Since 1983 he has authored about 50 publications in the areas of public sector modernisation and transparency, social politics and public finance.

Andrés Mejía Acosta

Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

Andrés Mejía Acosta is a Governance Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies based at the University of Sussex. Andrés is a political scientist whose research looks at the roles that formal and informal political institutions play in crafting reform coalitions in Latin America and the Caribbean. His published research features articles and book chapters on legislative politics, political parties and elections, the politics of the budget process, policymaking and policy outcomes, informal institutions, and democratic governance. He has done consulting work for Club de Madrid, The Carter Center, Eurasia Group, Freedom House, and United Nations Development Programme, and the Inter American Development Bank. His current research work looks at the impact of the resource bonanza on the formation of political coalitions and budget outcomes in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Sanjay Pradhan

Director, Public Sector Governance, World Bank

Sanjay Pradhan is Director, Public Sector Governance for the World Bank. He is responsible for providing the strategic directions for the World Bank's global work across all member countries on improving public sector governance and combating corruption.

Sanjay earlier served as the World Bank's Sector Manager, Public Sector and Poverty Reduction for the South Asia region, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Prior to that, he was responsible for managing the Bank's unit supporting governance and public sector reform in 26 countries across Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Kazakhstan, among others.

He was a Principal Author of the World Development Report 1997, *The State in a Changing World*. He presented the WDR in 20 countries across regions, including press conferences, high-level seminars, and presentations to Heads of State and Parliament, including the British House of Commons. He has authored numerous publications, including articles, books and policy papers.

Sanjay completed his PhD from Harvard University in 1988, and his Bachelor's degree from Harvard College, Harvard University in 1982.

Carole Pretorius

Independent PFM Specialist

Carole Pretorius started her career in the UK public sector almost thirty years ago as a regional finance trainee with Coventry health authority. She then moved from the wards to the buses and then on to a large municipal borough council, before joining one of the "Big Five" consultancy companies. She is a qualified public finance accountant and experienced public finance manager with practical experience in public sector management, institutional development, policy making and governance issues gained while working in the UK and overseas. Over the past twenty years (sixteen years as an independent consultant), she has been fortunate to work on a variety of assignments in Africa, South East Asia, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean and Oceania mainly in public sector and public financial management reform. She has extensive experience of fiduciary assessments including the new PEFA methodology, CFAAs and Fiduciary Risk Assessments and has recently carried out assignments for the World Bank on the application of the PEFA methodology at the sub national level and on the identification of successful PFM reforms.

In her ideal world, she would like Birmingham City Football Club to win the English Premiership and England rugby and cricket teams never to lose to South Africa or Australia. She continues to live in hope!

Sok Saravuth

Manager, PFM Reform Committee Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Cambodia

Sok Saravuth currently works in the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Cambodia. He has held various positions and worked in the Budget Strategy and Enforcement Centre (BSEC), on the Strengthening Economic and Financial Management Programme and in the Economic and Financial Policy Planning and Monitoring Unit (EFPMU). Since January 2005 Sok has been Director of the Budget Department and Manager of the PFM Reform Committee Secretariat.

Sok has previously worked in the National Institute of Management (NIM), the Institute of Technology and Management (ITM) and the Economics and Finance Institute (EFI) in Phnom Penh where he taught classes in macroeconomics, international economics, fiscal policy, financial management and public finance.

Sok also has experience of working in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University, USA and for Catholic Relief Services (CRS). He holds a Bachelors degree in Agricultural Economics from the Ho Chi Minh University of Economics and a Masters degree in the same subject from the Oklahoma State University. He also has a PhD from the Oklahoma State University in Economic Development.

Carlos Scartascini

Senior Research Economist, Research Department, IADB

Carlos Scartascini holds a PhD and a MA in Economics from George Mason University, and a Bachelor in Economics from Universidad Nacional del Sur in Argentina. At George Mason, he also held research and teaching positions and he was awarded the William Snavely Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies in Economics. He currently holds a position as Senior Research Economist at the Research Department of the Inter-American Development Bank.

His areas of expertise include Political Economy and Public Finance. He has written several articles on the impact of political institutions on fiscal outcomes, and on the relevance of fiscal institutions. His current research includes the analysis of the policymaking process in Latin America with special emphasis on budget institutions and budget processes, and the political determinants of institutional reform.

Paul Smoke

Professor of Public Finance and Planning, New York University

Paul Smoke is Professor of Public Finance and Planning and Director of International Programmes at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He previously taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1990-2001) and worked with the Harvard Institute for International Development (1986-1990). His main research and policy interests include fiscal reform, public sector decentralization and urban development in developing countries, primarily in East and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. Focal countries include Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda.

Paul has written and edited several books and published in a variety of journals, including *World Development*, *Public Administration and Development*, *International Journal of Public Administration*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Public Budgeting and Finance* and *Third World Planning Review*, among others. He has worked with many international organisations, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank; various UN agencies, including the UN Capital Development Fund, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Development Program, and the UN Research Institute for Social Development; and several bilateral agencies, including USAID, GTZ, DFID and SIDA.