



Global Economic Governance Programme  
University College, Oxford

**THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE** | GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES  
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

## The Geneva Lectures on Global Economic Governance

---

### Speaker Biography

#### H.E. Dr. Bhattacharya

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya (born 1956), a macro-economist and a civil society activist, is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Offices, World Trade Organization (WTO) and other International Organizations in Geneva and Vienna. Dr. Bhattacharya concurrently acts as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Vatican. Prior to his new assignment, he was the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) – a leading think tank in South Asia. He has earlier worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Debapriya Bhattacharya did his Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Economics at Plekhanov Institute of National Economy, Moscow, USSR. He was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, UK and a Senior Fulbright Fellow at the Centre for Global Development (CGD), Washington D.C. He was also a Visiting Fellow at the United Nations University-Institute of New Technology (UNU-INTECH), Maastricht and Department of Economics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. He has conducted joint research with the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), Tokyo and Institute of Development Planning and Management (IDPM), Manchester. He undertook assignments for a number of international organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ILO as well as bilateral development agencies from the USA, Japan, UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden. Since 2001 Dr. Bhattacharya has regularly contributed to the preparation of the *Global Competitiveness Report* (GCR) of the World Economic Forum (WEF). He undertook short-term overseas assignments in Costa Rica for CARE International, in India for the World Bank, in Nepal for the UNDP, in Sri Lanka for the British ODA, in Malaysia for the EDI, World Bank, Mongolia for the APO, and Bulgaria and Moscow for the UN-DESA.

Dr. Bhattacharya regularly participates in high-level consultative bodies of the Government of Bangladesh. He was a member of the Macro-economic Policy Advisory Committee, Ministry of Finance; Banking Sector Reform Committee; Advisory Committee of the Securities and Exchange Commission; Panel of Economists for the Fifth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), Ministry of Planning; Member, National Committee on Utilisation of Gas Resources, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and National Committee for *Vision 2020*, Prime Minister's Office. Dr. Bhattacharya drafted the Industrial Policy (1999) for the Ministry of Industries. He was a Director of Janata Bank (1996-2000), the second largest bank in Bangladesh. He was a member of the Task Force on "Foreign Aid" constituted under the Adviser (Minister) for Planning in the Interim Government of 1991.

He has been a longstanding member of the Advisory Committee on WTO Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh. He prepared the “Trade-related Technical Assistance Need Assessment of Bangladesh” in 1999, the first such country report prepared for support under the “Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-developed Countries” of the WTO. He has also prepared a number of position papers for the Ministry of Commerce relating to WTO negotiations.

Dr. Bhattacharya was a member of the official Bangladesh delegation to the WTO Fourth Ministerial Meeting held in Doha (2001) and the Second Meeting of the LDC Trade Ministers held in Dhaka (2003). He played a critical role in the national preparatory process for the WTO Ministerials held in Cancun (2003) and Hong Kong (2005). Dr. Bhattacharya played a guiding role in organization of the pre-WTO Ministerial International Civil Society Forums on LDC Interests, held in Dhaka in 2003 and 2005.

He remains active in international networks on international trade, migration, development finance and pro-poor macroeconomic policy. He was a member of the “Task Force on WTO” set up by the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS). Since its inception in 2004, he had been faculty member of the Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPC) for Asia and Pacific organized by the WTO in Hong Kong and Singapore.

He was a member of the founding Panel of Advisory Board of the International Centre for Trade and Development (ICTSD), Geneva. He is currently the Regional Editor of the *Oxford Development Studies*, Member of the Editorial Board, *South Asian Studies*, Colombo and Chairperson of the EU-LDC Network. Dr. Bhattacharya was the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Economic Association for three consecutive terms. He is a member of the governing body of BRAC and sits on the Academic Council of the BRAC University.

In the recent past Dr. Bhattacharya has played an leading role for promoting good governance in the country and, particularly, spearheaded the civil society campaign for “Clean and Competent Candidates” for parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. He married to Dr. Irina Shebanova, an economist. They have a daughter, Alexandra Bhattacharya, who is reading Law at the London School of Economics (LSE).

## **Most Recent Publications**

### Books/Monographs

- *Globalisation and the LDCs: Perspectives from the Asia-Pacific Region*, CPD-Pathak Shamabesh, Dhaka, 2004 (co-author).
- “Globalization and the State: Human Development and Capacity Building Needs – A Review of Asian Country Experiences” in *Globalization and the State: Challenges for Economic Growth and Human Development*. United Nations, New York, 2004.
- *Bangladesh in the Global Trade Regime: Labour, Environment, Agriculture, Export and Trade Negotiations*. Pathak Samabesh, Dhaka, 2005 (co-author).
- *State of the Bangladesh Economy in 2004-2005 and Outlook for 2005-06*, Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 2006.

- *State of Bangladesh Economy in 2005-2006 and Outlook for 2006-07*, Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 2007.
- *Bangladesh's Apparel Sector in Post-MFA Period: A Benchmarking Study on the Ongoing Restructuring Process*. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) (forthcoming).

#### Articles/Policy Briefs/Reviews

- "Bangladesh's Experience with Foreign Direct Investment", in *Foreign Direct Investment: High Risk, Low Reward for Development*, pp. 51-66, Bonn: Church Development Service (EED), November, 2004.
- "Adjusting to the MFA Phase-Out: Policy Priorities". *CGD Brief*, Washington, D.C.: Centre for Global Development, April, 2005 (with Kimberly Elliott).
- "The Doha Round and Poverty: An LDC Perspective". *Bridges*, Vol. 9, No. 5, pp. 13-14, May 2005, Geneva: International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).
- "Least Developed Countries in Trade Negotiations: Planning Process and Information Needs". *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Review*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 51-68, New York: ESCAP, September, 2005.
- "Delivering on the PRSP in Bangladesh: An Analysis of the Implementation Challenges". Occasional Paper No. 54, Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 2005.
- "Road to Hong Kong Ministerial of the WTO: Anticipating the "First Approximations" from Bangladesh Perspective". *Occasional Paper Series*, No. 49, Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 2005 (co-author).
- "Hong Kong Ministerial of the WTO: Reflections on the Outcomes from Bangladesh Perspective", *Trade Policy Brief No. 12*, Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 2005 (co-author).
- "Macroeconomic Performance of South Asian Economies: A Comparative Perspective on Bangladesh" in *Regional Cooperation in South Asia: A Review of Bangladesh's Development 2004*. Dhaka: CPD-UPL, 2006 (co-author).
- "An Evaluation of the Need and Cost of Selected Trade Facilitation Measures in Bangladesh: Implications for the WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation". *ARTNeT Working Paper Series*, No. 9, April 2006 (rev. 8/06), Bangkok: UN-ESCAP (co-author).
- "The Economic Implications of the Rise of China and India". *Bridges*, Vol. 11, No. 5, pp. 17-18, August, 2007, Geneva: International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) (co-author).
- "Trade and Investment Linkages and Need for Policy Coordination in LDCs: A Case Study of Bangladesh". *ARTNeT Working Paper Series* (forthcoming), Bangkok: UN-ESCAP (co-author).