"Economics and Politics of the Post-Communist Transition"

Friday, November 5
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Pond Inlet

Transition to a market economy is a lengthy process comprised of various spheres of economic activities. The naive belief that a market economy can be introduced by "shock therapy" is wrong, and in several cases, when attempted, has caused more problems than it has solved. Because a market economy requires adequate institutional structures and an appropriate behaviour, transition can be executed only in a gradual manner, since these are very gradual processes based upon new organizations, new laws, and the changing behaviour of various economic entities.

Professor Grzegorz W. Kolodko is a world renowned authority on development economy and economic policy. While Deputy Premier and the Minister of Finance (1994-1997) he led Poland to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD.) Holding the same positions in the years 2002-2003, he played an important role in Poland's integration with the European Union.

The United Nations, IMF and the World Bank have sought Professor Kolodko's expertise. He has accepted invitations for visiting professorships at Yale, UCLA and the University of Rochester, as well as research fellowships and lectures at academic institutions and organizations worldwide.

He is the author of 30 books and over 250 articles and research papers that are published in 20 languages around the globe, of which a majority is available in English. Professor Kolodko holds Honorary Doctorate degrees from Lviv University (Ukraine, 2003) and from South West University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu (China, 2004), and has recently received the Honorary Professorships from India Institute of Finance (New Delhi) and from Nankai University, Tianjin.

For more information on Professor Kolodko please see his Web site http://kolodko.tiger.edu.pl.

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