

About the Authors

Jennifer Blanke

Jennifer Blanke is Director, Lead Economist, and Head of the Centre for Global Competitiveness and Performance at the World Economic Forum. Since joining the team in 2002, she has written and lectured extensively on issues related to national competitiveness and has edited a number of competitiveness reports, with a particular regional focus on Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. From 1998 to 2002, she was Senior Programme Manager responsible for developing the business, management, and technology section of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Before joining the Forum, Dr Blanke worked for a number of years as a management consultant for Eurogroup, Mazars Group in Paris, France, where she specialized in banking and financial market organization. Dr Blanke obtained a BA from Hamilton College, a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, and an MA and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva).

Zuzana Brixiova

Zuzana Brixiova is a Principal Research Economist at the Development Research Department of the African Development Bank, where she currently researches the longer-term impact of the global financial crisis on Africa and the role of growth-supporting macroeconomic policies in the post-crisis global economy. She has authored or co-authored several studies and policy briefs in this area, some of which provided analytical background for discussions of the Committee of Ten (C-10). Before joining the African Development Bank, she worked in the Country Studies branch of the OECD's Economics Department, where she was the lead author of the first *OECD Economic Survey of Estonia*. As a Fulbright Scholar at the Addis Ababa University in 2007–08, she conducted research on entrepreneurship in Ethiopia and taught graduate courses on advanced macroeconomics. She has an extensive operational experience from the IMF in countries in Africa, Central Asia, and emerging Europe, including as the IMF resident representative for Lithuania and Belarus. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Minnesota.

Ciara Browne

Ciara Browne is Associate Director of the Centre for Global Competitiveness and Performance at the World Economic Forum, where her responsibilities include coordinating the Executive Opinion Survey process and managing the network of over 150 Partner Institutes worldwide, as well as providing input into *The Global Competitiveness Report* and several of the Forum's other benchmarking studies. She also works closely with the Forum's media team in articulating the findings of the various competitiveness reports to the media and the public. Before joining the Forum, she served for several years with the International Organization for Migration, where she worked for a mass claims processing program. She has a BA (Hons) from the University of Manchester.

Uri Dadush

Uri Dadush is Senior Associate and Director of Carnegie's International Economics Program. His work currently focuses on trends in the global economy and the global financial crisis. A French citizen, Dr Dadush previously served as the World Bank's Director of International Trade for six years and before that as Director of Economic Policy for three years. He has also served concurrently as the Director of the Bank's World Economy Group over the last eleven years, leading the preparation of the Bank's flagship reports on the international economy over that period. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was President and CEO of the Economist Intelligence Unit and Business International, part of the Economist Group. Dr Dadush received BA and MA degrees in Economics from Hebrew University and a PhD in Business Economics from Harvard University, where he specialized in International Trade.

Andres F. Garcia

Andres F. Garcia is an Economist in the Africa Financial and Private Sector Development Group. He joined the World Bank as part of the Young Professionals Program in 2009. His work at the Bank is mainly focused on strengthening the linkages along the tourism and agribusiness value chains in Africa. Before joining the World Bank, Dr Garcia was an Assistant Research Professor in Development Economics at the University of Copenhagen, working on issues related to poverty reduction and economic structure in Mozambique and Vietnam. He has published in the *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, authored a book chapter on "Agricultural Price Distortions and Stabilization," and worked together with the Honduran Ministry of Tourism to create the manual *How to Implement Ecotourism Projects*. He has a PhD in Agricultural Economics and an MS in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Purdue University, and a BS in Socioeconomic Development and Environment from the Pan-American School of Agriculture.

Tugba Gurcanlar

Tugba Gurcanlar is a Trade Consultant at the World Bank's Finance and Private Sector Development Unit for the Africa Region. Her current focus is on developing business clusters and enhancing the competitiveness of African firms in the global markets. Previously Ms Gurcanlar worked in the International Trade and International Finance Units of the World Bank on trade corridors, investment decisions of the global buyers, trade facilitation, export competitiveness, and south-south banking and investments. Prior to her work at the World Bank, she also focused on European trade and finance at the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the Turkish Prime Ministry, the General Secretariat for European Union Affairs, and the Economic Development Foundation. A Turkish national, Ms Gurcanlar holds an MPP in Global Economic Policy from Duke University.

Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong

Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong is Professor of Economics at the University of South Florida at Tampa, where he has been Department Chair since 2004. Dr Gyimah-Brempong has also held professorial positions at New College of Florida and Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. He was an Economics Program Director at the National Science Foundation from 2002 to 2004 and a Senior Research Economist at Elliot Berg Associates in Alexandria, Virginia, between 1986 and 1987. He is a past Secretary/Treasurer and President of the African Finance and Economics Association (AFEA) as well as a past President of National Economics Association. He consults regularly for the African Development Bank, the United Nations' Economic Commission for Africa, the African Capacity Building Foundation, and the National Science Foundation, among others. His research focuses on the economics of crime, efficiency in public production, and the economic development of Africa. He has published several articles in refereed journals including the *American Economic Review*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Business and Economics Statistics*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, the *Economics of Education Review*, *Information Economics and Policy*, and the *Journal of African Economies*. He serves on the editorial boards of the *Southern Economic Journal* and the *Journal of African Development*. Dr Gyimah-Brempong has also contributed chapters to several books. He holds a BA (Honors) in Economics from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and a PhD in Economics from Wayne State University.

Mary Hallward-Driemeier

Mary Hallward-Driemeier is a Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist of the Financial and Private Sector Development Network of the World Bank. Since joining the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1997, she has published articles on entrepreneurship, firm productivity, the impact of the investment climate on firm performance, the impact of financial crises, and determinants of foreign direct investment. She was the Deputy Director for the *World Development Report 2005: A Better Investment Climate for Everyone*. She helped establish the World Bank's Enterprise Surveys Program, which now covers over 100,000 enterprises in 100 countries. She is also a founding member of the Microeconomics of Growth Network. She is currently the Task Team Leader for the regional flagship report *Expanding Economic Opportunities for Women in Africa*. She received her MSc in Development Economics from Oxford University and her PhD in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Giuseppe Iarossi

Giuseppe Iarossi is Senior Economist in the Regional Program for Enterprise Development of the Africa Finance and Private Sector Development Group of the World Bank. He joined the Bank in 1994 in the Research Department and worked on determinants of long-term growth with particular emphasis on ethnicity in Africa. Since 1997, he has been a core team member of the Investment Climate team, contributing to the establishment of the Enterprise Surveys Program throughout the World Bank. He has managed surveys in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and East Asia and has written numerous *Investment Climate Assessments* and research papers on firm productivity and the impact of the business environment on firm performance. He has managed the production on the World Bank side for a number of publications, including the flagship reports *The Africa Competitiveness Report 2007, 2009, and 2011*, published jointly with the World Economic Forum and the African Development Bank. His interests include survey methodology and the effects of survey design on data accuracy. He is the author of *The Power of Survey Design: A User's Guide for Managing Surveys, Interpreting Results, and Influencing Respondents*. He holds a Master in Economics from the University of Maryland at College Park and a Master in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. He received an MBA from the University of Siena and a CPA certification from the University of Naples. He has taught Survey Methodology at the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University and has led short courses on Survey Methodology and Survey Data Analysis in many countries around the world.

Hannah Messerli

Hannah Messerli is dedicated to utilizing tourism as an economic development tool for emerging economies. Currently a Senior Private Sector Development Specialist in Tourism for the Africa Region of the World Bank, Dr Messerli supports government initiatives to develop private-sector capacity in tourism across a region of 47 countries. With more than 15 years of experience in the public and private sectors focusing on tourism planning and development, she has worked in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. As an analyst and tourism product development specialist, she has focused on cultural heritage and nature-based tourism in emerging economies. Her professional background includes serving as a faculty member at New York University and operations consulting with hotel and tourism companies globally. Hannah has completed Masters in Hotel Administration at Cornell University and in Tourism Planning at the George Washington University. Her doctorate in Tourism Planning and Development was also completed at Cornell University.

Peter Ondiege

Peter Ondiege is Chief Research Economist at the Development Research Department (EDRE) of the African Development Bank (AfDB). He coordinates the production for the AfDB of the *Investment Climate Assessments* and the *African Competitiveness Reports* jointly undertaken with the World Bank and World Economic Forum. Prior to joining EDRE in July 2006, He was in the Planning and Budgeting Department of the AfDB where he served as the Annual Report Coordinator, coordinating and playing lead roles in the preparation of the *Bank Group Annual Reports* of 2004 to 2007. Prior to joining the Bank in 2004, he was a Director of the Housing and Building Research Institute and an Associate Professor at the University of Nairobi, Kenya; he also held a position at the Ministry of Planning and National Development, Kenya. He has conducted and led a number of study teams mainly in the areas of macroeconomic and sectoral reforms and enterprise development, especially in the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) sector. He has published widely in the field of Urban and Regional Economics and in the private sector, focusing on SME development. He has also served as a consultant to a number of regional and international organizations and agencies. He holds a Master and a PhD in Economics from the University of Tsukuba, Japan.

