

ICRIER-HUDCO Seminar
Urbanization and the Competitiveness of Cities
May 17th, 2012

PRESENTER

EJAZ GHANI, an Indian national, is currently Economic Advisor at The World Bank. He has worked on Africa, East Asia, and India/South Asia. He has written on poverty, growth, trade, fiscal policy, debt management, conflict, decentralization, entrepreneurship, employment, and agriculture. He has been a consultant at ILO, UNCTAD, and UNICEF. He has edited several books including Reshaping Tomorrow-- Is South Asia Ready for the Big Leap? Oxford University Press 2011; The Poor Half Billion in South Asia, Oxford University Press 2010; The Service Revolution in South Asia, Oxford University Press 2010; Accelerating Growth and Job Creation in South Asia (with S. Ahmed) 2009, Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia (with S. Ahmed and S. Kelegama), 2009; and Growth and Regional Integration (with S. Ahmed) Macmillan 2007.

He has taught economics at Delhi University (India) and Oxford University (U.K.). He is an Inlaks Scholar, and obtained an M. Phil. & D. Phil in Economics from Oxford University. He did his schooling in Bihar at St. Michael's High school Patna; undergraduate degree at St. Stephens College; and Masters degree at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

ICRIER-HUDCO Seminar
Urbanization and the Competitiveness of Cities
May 17th, 2012

CHAIR OF THE SESSION

ISHER JUDGE AHLUWALIA is Chairperson, Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), where she served as Director and Chief Executive from 1997 to 2001. Dr. Ahluwalia was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature. Dr. Ahluwalia was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure Services, appointed by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, which submitted its report in March 2011. She is Member, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India and is on the Boards of a number of premier research institutes in India. Dr. Ahluwalia was Vice Chairperson of the Punjab State Planning Board from 2005 to 2007.

Dr. Ahluwalia is a Member of a recently set up Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on India-ASEAN by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. She is Vice Chairperson, Global Development Network, New Delhi and Member, Board of Trustees of the International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka. She was Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C. from 2003 to 2006.

Dr. Ahluwalia received her B.A. from Presidency College, Calcutta University, M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics, and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), all in economics. Her research has focused on industrial development, macro-economic reforms, issues in social sector development and challenges of urbanization in India. She is the author/co-author/editor of several books and has published many articles in professional journals. She is actively engaged in policy debates in India through writings in newspapers and magazines and participation in discussions in the electronic media.

ICRIER-HUDCO Seminar
Urbanization and the Competitiveness of Cities
May 17th, 2012

CO-CHAIR OF THE SESSION

A.N. KRISHNAMURTHY is an Architect Town Planner and is currently heading the Human Settlement Management Institute as Executive Director. He has been working with HUDCO in various capacities and contributed to capacity building, research and documentation activities of the institute since its inception in 1985. Current responsibilities include coordinating the professional activities of the multi-disciplinary team of professionals engaged in organizing research and training that support implementation of country wide programmes of urban and infrastructure development, municipal governance, urban poverty alleviation, settlement planning and upgradation both on behalf of HUDCO and different ministries of Government of India.

Professional area of interest includes settlement planning and upgradation, participatory approaches for urban renewal and re-generation, livelihood and local economic development activities, institutional development and management. He has undertaken preparation of policy documents, background papers and evaluation studies both as in-house projects and consultancy / fee based assignments.

He has travelled extensively within India on project assignments and has also undertaken study visits for participation in international events in Asia and other countries.

ICRIER-HUDCO Seminar
Urbanization and the Competitiveness of Cities
May 17th, 2012

DISCUSSANT

AJAY SHANKAR is Member Secretary of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC). He was earlier, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Government of India from where he retired in December, 2009. He has been closely involved with the policy issues in the industry and energy sectors of the Government of India. He has also served on the Boards of some of India's major Public Sector Undertakings.

ICRIER-HUDCO Seminar
Urbanization and the Competitiveness of Cities
May 17th, 2012

DISCUSSANT

JOHN BLOMQUIST is a Senior Economist in the World Bank's Social Protection Unit. He specialized in the design and evaluation of social assistance and poverty alleviation programs, with experience in Asia, the FSU, Africa and Latin America. He is currently engaged in the preparation of a set of guidelines on the implementation and use of social safety net programs for APEC finance ministers and he recently assisted the Asian Development Bank in the formulation of a draft social protection framework for its operations. Dr. Blomquist holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.