



*Centre for the
Study of Living Standards
Centre d'étude des
niveaux de vie*

Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

World Poverty: A Review of Trends and Prospects

Gordon Betcherman

4:00-5:30 PM
Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Karsh Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario

To attend, please RSVP by May 21 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

The eradication of poverty remains the central challenge in international development. Indeed, the first of the Millennium Development Goals agreed upon by the international community in 2000 is to halve extreme poverty world-wide by 2015. This goal remains within reach, largely because of gains against poverty that have been made in East Asia -- especially China. However, the trends in much of the rest of developing world are far less positive. There are still almost 1.5 billion people living on less than US\$1.25 a day, the “extreme poverty” line that is now the standard used in international research. The situation remains dismal in Sub-Saharan Africa, where poverty rates have remained constant around 50 per cent.

In this seminar, Gordon Betcherman will cover recent poverty trends world-wide as well as consider prospects for the future. He will review the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction, including the nature of what has become known as “pro-poor” growth. He will also touch on the major factors explaining regional and national variations in poverty trends, including the dramatic reductions in China over the past three decades.

Dr. Betcherman joined the University of Ottawa in July 2009 as a Professor in the School of International Development and Global Studies, with a cross-appointment in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He returned to Canada after 11 years at the World Bank in Washington. In his last position at the Bank, he was Sector Manager and Lead Economist in the Human Development Sector, Europe and Central Asia Region. In that position, he was responsible for leading the World Bank’s policy lending and research in that region in social protection, labour, health, and education.