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South African Reserve Bank

Dr Maurice Obstfeld



Position

Economic Counsellor and Director of Research

Affiliation

International Monetary Fund

Tel. no.:

+202 326 4545

e-mail:

MObstfeld@imf.org

Keynote address

Global developments and outlook for Emerging Markets

Biographical details/achievements

Maurice Obstfeld was born in New York City in 1952. Since September 2015, he has been the Economic Counsellor and Director of Research at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on leave from the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, he is the Class of 1958 Professor of Economics and formerly Chair of the Department of Economics (1998–2001). He arrived at Berkeley in 1991 as a professor, following permanent appointments at Columbia (1979–1986) and the University of Pennsylvania (1986–1989), and a visiting appointment at Harvard (1989–1990). He received his PhD in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT) in 1979 after attending the University of Pennsylvania (BA, 1973) and King's College, Cambridge University (MA, 1975).

From July 2014 to August 2015, Dr Obstfeld served as a Member of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers. He was previously (2002–2014) an honorary adviser to the Bank of Japan's Institute of Monetary and Economic Studies. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Among Dr Obstfeld's honours are Tilburg University's Tjalling Koopmans Asset Award, the John von Neumann Award of the Rajk Laszlo College of Advanced Studies (Budapest), and the Kiel Institute's Bernhard Harms Prize. He has given a number of distinguished lectures, including the American Economic Association's annual Richard T Ely Lecture, the L K Jha Memorial Lecture of the Reserve Bank of India, and the Frank Graham Memorial Lecture at Princeton. Dr Obstfeld has served both on the Executive Committee and as Vice President of the American Economic Association. He has consulted and taught at the IMF and numerous central banks around the world.

He is also the co-author of two leading textbooks on international economics, *International Economics* (10th edition, 2014, with Paul Krugman and Marc Melitz) and *Foundations of International Macroeconomics* (1996, with Kenneth Rogoff), as well as more than 100 research articles on exchange rates, international financial crises, global capital markets and monetary policy.