

# Sir Partha Dasgupta

## Biographical Note:

Partha Dasgupta, who was born in Dhaka (at that time in India) and educated in Varanasi, Delhi, and Cambridge, is the Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics and past Chairman (1997-2002) of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Cambridge, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. He taught at the London School of Economics during 1971-1984 and moved to the University of Cambridge in 1985 as Professor of Economics. During 1989-1992 he was also Professor of Economics, Professor of Philosophy, and Director of the Program in Ethics in Society at Stanford University; and during 1991-1997 he served as Chairman of the (Scientific Advisory) Board of the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics, Stockholm.

## Research Emphasis:

Professor Dasgupta's research interests have covered welfare and development economics, the economics of technological change, population, environmental and resource economics, the theory of games, and the economics of undernutrition. His publications include "Guidelines for Project Evaluation"(with S.A. Marglin and A.K. Sen; United Nations, 1972), "Economic Theory and Exhaustible Resources"(with G.M. Heal; Cambridge University Press, 1979 (recipient of the United States Association of Environmental and Resource Economists "Publication of Enduring Quality Award 2003")); "The Control of Resources" (Harvard University Press, 1982); "An Inquiry into Well-Being and Destitution" (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1993); "Human Well-Being and the Natural Environment" (Oxford University Press, 2001; revised edition, 2004); and "Economics: A Very Short Introduction" (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2007).

## Awards and Fellowships:

Professor Dasgupta is a Fellow of the Econometric Society (1975), Fellow of the British Academy(1989), Fellow of the Royal Society (2004), Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (1998), Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences (2001), Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (1991), Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics (1995), Honorary Member of the American Economic Association (1997), Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1991), Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences (2001), and Foreign Member of the American Philosophical Society (2005). He is a past President of the Royal Economic Society (1998-2001), the European Economic Association (1999), and Section F (Economics) of the BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) Festival of Science (2006). Professor Dasgupta was named Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her Birthday Honours List in 2002 for "services to economics", was co-winner (with Karl-Goran Maler of the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics, Stockholm) of the 2002 Volvo Environment Prize and of the 2004 Kenneth E. Boulding Memorial Award of the International Society for Ecological Economics,

and is the recipient of the John Kenneth Galbraith Award, 2007, of the American Agricultural Economics Association.

**Preliminary Title of Lecture: “Social Capital and Economic Development”**

Prof. Dasgupta has done outstanding research in both disciplines. Developmental economics represents his major analytical focus. He has investigated the primary sources of sustainable development where the interests of economics collide with ecological and social issues. An important result of his work points to the importance of Social Capital i.e. the degree of mutual trust and social networks that form a community. The lecture will illustrate the potential of Social Capital for economic production and its consequences for regional and national competitiveness. Prof. Dasgupta has provided a number of contributions to the topic expounding a way of conceptualizing Social Capital in economic terms. He is a leading academic in the field as is clearly illustrated by his article on the concept in the second edition of the New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics (about to be published in the May 2008).

**Workshop: Social Capital in European Regions**

The workshop constitutes a kick-off event for the implementation of an empirical assessment of the stock of *social capital* in European Regions (either on NUTS2 or a NUTS3 level). In order to perform such an analysis the project aims to set up a network of specialists on the topic of social capital. The network should comprise a range of institutions in member states of the EU. The researchers representing these institutions will be entrusted with the implementation of a *social capital* survey in their respective countries (and possibly in countries nearby). All participants will convene at the beginning of the project at the workshop in order to represent their respective research emphases and to develop the survey questions. Social Capital in the Euregio Tirol (Trentino, South Tirol – Alto Adige, Bundesland Tirol) has already been empirically investigated in the context of the research focus “Alpine Space – Global Change and Regional Competitiveness” of the Faculty of Economics and Statistics. Consequently, the workshop and its affiliated project represent an extension of local research with a European perspective.