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Now, dear friends, I suggest that we start. It seems to me that we have a quorum and traditionally at this world forum we are always on time so we should start now. It is a great privilege to have some time to discuss matters that are of extreme importance and in particular, I have the privilege to introduce the speakers. Whilst they need no presentation, I will briefly introduce them now.

We are privileged to have Jeff Frieden, professor at Harvard University with us. He is an extremely influential thinker and author of many books. He is very well known here because he has participated in previous meeting we have had together, including the very same workshop and in particular he has published currency politics the political economy of exchange rate policy, *Lost Decades: the making of America's debt crisis and the long recovery* an excellent and stimulating book.

We are also privileged to have with us Yutaka Aso, a business man with a family business which is diversified both in cement and in various services, financial services and health services, with a view which is multi dimensional, if I may say, on the real economy. He graduated from the University of Keio and Oxford.

We have with us Daniel Dăianu who has been the Finance Minister of Romania. In recent times, he has been in the open parliament and he was the first deputy president of the Financial Supervision Authority. He has a vision I would say, that is both that of a major politician, of an MP and of a specialist in financial supervision. It is an immense privilege to have him and I know that he would be very keen to tell us his views on secular stagnation, should he accept to do that.

We have with us Jun Kwang-Woo who has been Chairman and CEO of the National Pension Service in Korea and founding chairman of the Financial Services Commission, also with a very multi-dimensional view of the financial services through both regulation and management of capital at a global level. All speakers today have very multi dimensional experience and views.

We have Bozidar Djelic with us, previously the Serbian Minister of Finance, Serbian Vice President of the government. He has also been in the financial services industry as a banker, the Director of Credit Agricole Group for Eastern Europe and he is presently with Lazard. So, again, thank you so much for having accepted to share with us your experience and your vision.

Also, we have, last but not least, Marek Belka, my friend Marek with whom we have worked a lot over many years. Marek has been, as everybody knows, Prime Minister of Poland, has occupied many political functions in his country and has also been in an eminent position for Europe in the IMF and is presently the governor of the Central Bank of Poland. We worked together because we had the privilege to co chair the risk committee of the European Union

So, dear friends, we have three major angles of vision; the World Economic Outlook through again all possible angles, we have the Financial Services, the progress of financial reforms. I would say in a way the two first issues are very much G20 issues also, after all we are in the global governance forum through both the angle of the real economy and the macro policies on the one hand and also through the angle of the FSB and all the progress of financial reforms which are examined at a global level now. Also, we have part of a session on monetary policy, what is the new normal [inaudible] and where we stand as regards unconventional policies.

What I would suggest is that we try to trench this discussion in approximately three hours successively. Traditionally in these workshops, the idea is that we exchange views with maximum intensity which means that we have to respect some constraints. One of the constraints would be that the speakers should not speak for more than 10 minutes and they have agreed to that and then I suggest that the comments and questions would not normally go over four minutes.



If you accept that with the possibility of intervening with two hands which gives you the possibility of asking a question or responding to something in one minute. Therefore, that is the idea and I will try to maximise our interaction in respecting those constraints. Let me also say that it is very important that we speak into the mic including those who are 'back benchers', if they would come and speak in the mic that would ensure that we have perfect clarity in the understanding of all that will be said.

These, then, are my own introductory remarks. Let me say on the first issue which is the global economy, the world economic outlook, that we are still in the shadow of the worst crisis in the advanced economy since World War II which, in my opinion, could have been the worst crisis since World War I had central banks and governments not taken measures that were extraordinarily bold and extraordinarily swift. We could have had a great depression which, in my view, could have been even worse than in 1929, 1930. To understand exactly where we stand, why we are in the present situation? Why we are very disappointed in many respects in many parts of the world? Why the risks are still there? Perhaps more importantly than we would like, we have to refer to this extraordinary period which started in 2007, 2008 and which is again the worst financial crisis of the advanced economy since World War II.

To concentrate more particularly perhaps, if he wishes to do so, on the risks that he sees in the present situation, I give the floor to Jeff, please...