

The University of Hong Kong



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

Poverty in the Midst of Affluence

The HKSAR Government has made a determined effort since 1998 to reduce its commitment to the provision of public housing and social services on grounds of economic uncertainty, the risk of "free riders" and traditional Chinese values. Yet, the SAR is among the world's most stable and prosperous post-industrial economies, with no public debt and ample government reserves. The presentation will review this policy: the decision-makers' motives, the bureaucracy's priorities, the role of business, and the relevant official social data.

Mr. Leo Goodstadt

Honorary University Fellow, HKU

Adjunct Professor, Trinity College Dublin

Former Head of the Central Policy Unit, HKG

Leo Goodstadt was Head of the Central Policy Unit 1989-97. Previously, he had worked as an independent economist for Hang Seng Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and other major corporations, a career he has since resumed. An Honorary Fellow of Hong Kong University and an adjunct professor at Trinity College Dublin, his published research covers a wide range of economic and political issues in Hong Kong and the Mainland. His recent books include *Uneasy Partners: The Conflict between Public Interest and Private Profit in Hong Kong* (revised edition 2009) Chinese edition (2011) *官商同謀：香港公義私利的矛盾*; *Reluctant Regulators: How the West Created and China Survived the Global Financial Crisis* (2011); *Profits, Politics and Panics: Hong Kong's Banks and the Making of a Miracle Economy, 1935-1985* (2007).

Date: April 26, 2012 (Thur)

Time: 4:30 pm

Venue: 631 Meng Wah Complex

(Tea & coffee will be served at 4:15 pm)

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