Dr. Anwar Shah

Dr. Anwar Shah is Lead Economist, World Bank Institute with thirty years of experience as a manager-practitioner-analyst of government organization and finance. He has previously served the Ministry of Finance, Government of Canada and Government of Alberta, Canada and held responsibilities for tax policy, municipal and local finances, fiscal transfers, federal-provincial and provincial-local fiscal relations. He helped design provincial-local fiscal transfers for the Government of Alberta and represented the Federal Government of Canada in high level deliberations on Canada's fiscal equalization program and federal transfers to the provinces for health and education. As a member of the Urban Advisory Group of the Government of Alberta, he advised the province on municipal incorporation, annexation, amalgamation and municipal and local finance issues. He served as a lead author of the Second Report of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In late 1980s, he served as the founder-coordinator of the informal World Bank networks on decentralization and greenhouse gas emissions. He also designed and developed the very first training programs on fiscal decentralization for the World Bank staff and developing countries offered by the World Bank and was the lead author of the first comprehensive World Bank study for a developing country on fiscal federalism issues. This study provided an over-arching framework of analysis for fiscal decentralization which was widely replicated in later Bank and non-Bank work on these issues. He has led World Bank missions to a large number of countries and has advised the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, and Turkey on the reform of fiscal systems. He is the lead author of the World Bank reports on decentralization in Indonesia (1994) and Pakistan (1996). He is also the lead author of the Operations Evaluation Department evaluation reports on World Bank Public Expenditure Reviews and Anti-corruption and Governance initiatives. He has lectured at Harvard, MIT, Duke, University of Southern California, University of Western Ontario, University of Alberta, McGill University, University of Ottawa, Peking University, Wuhan University and the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

His current policy and training interests are in the areas of governance, fiscal reform, fiscal federalism, local government organization and finance and global environment. He has published several books/monographs on these subjects including The Reform of Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in Developing and Transition Economies (World Bank, 1994), Tax Policy in Developing Countries (1991 with J.K. Shirazi) and a 1995 Oxford University Press Book on Fiscal Incentives for Investment and Innovation. He has just completed a five volume manuscript, "Handbook on Public Sector Performance Evaluation". He has published numerous articles in leading economic and policy journals. He serves as a referee and a member of the editorial advisory boards for leading economic journals. He is also the fellow of the Institute of Public Economics, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.