

Erik Thorbecke

Erik Thorbecke is the H.E. Babcock Professor of Economics and Food Economics Emeritus and former Director of the Program on Comparative Economic Development at Cornell University. He is presently Graduate School Professor. His past positions include chairman of the Department of Economics at Cornell, a professorship at Iowa State University, and associate assistant administrator for program policy at the US Agency for International Development. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Ghent in 1981. He has made contributions in the areas of economic and agricultural development, the measurement and analysis of poverty and malnutrition, the Social Accounting Matrix and general equilibrium modeling, and international economic policy.

The Foster-Greer-Thorbecke poverty measure (Econometrica, 1984) has been adopted as the standard poverty measure by the World Bank and practically all UN agencies and is used almost universally by researchers doing empirical work on poverty. The F-G-T measure was recently incorporated in the Mexican Constitution and used to allocate inter-regionally 14 billion pesos to educational, health and nutritional programs benefiting the poor.

Recent publications include: The Impact of Globalization on the World's Poor (with Machiko Nissanke), Palgrave-McMillan, 2007; Taiwan's Development Experience: Lessons on Roles of Government and Market, (with H. Wan, Eds.) Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999; State, Market and Civil Organizations: New Theories, New Practices, and Their Implications for Rural Development, (with A. de Janvry and E. Sadoulet, Eds.), London: Macmillan, 1995; Intersectoral Linkages and Their Impact on Rural Poverty Alleviation: A Social Accounting Matrix Approach, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna, 1996; Adjustment and Equity in Indonesia, (with collaborators), OCED Development Center, Development Paris, 1992. Earlier books include The Theory of Economic Development (with Irma Adelman) Johns Hopkins, 1968 and The Role of Agriculture in Economic Development, NBER, 1968. He is the author or co-author of about 25 books and 200 articles.

He has been an economic adviser to numerous U.S. and international agencies, and foreign governments, including USAID, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Labor Organization, the World Bank, the OECD Development Center and UNU-WIDER.

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