

## **KIERTISAK TOH, Ph.D.**

### ***Senior Fellow***

Duke Center for International Development (DCID)  
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University  
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### ***Special Purpose Faculty***

Department of Economics, College of Business and Economics  
Radford University, Radford, Virginia, U.S.A.  
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## **KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

Kiertisak (Kiert) Toh is a senior executive with 25 years of experience in international development with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), State Department. He held leadership and senior management positions as USAID, including Mission Director in Kenya (2001-2005) and Malawi (1997-2001), and attained the presidentially commissioned rank of Minister Counselor in the U.S. Senior Foreign Service. Since 2005, he has worked as international development consultant for USAID-supported programs and for the World Bank. Currently, he is special purpose faculty at the Department of Economics at Radford University in Radford, Va.

- Administered and managed U.S. development assistance with an annual budget ranging from \$35-50 million (Malawi) to \$100-150 million (Kenya) in multi-sector, overseas missions with staff of over 200 in the case of Kenya, including U.S., other expatriate, and Kenyan national employees in diverse settings.
- Led high-level policy discussion, negotiation and formulation with senior government officials, other development partners, donors and nongovernmental stakeholders in business, civil society, research think tanks and universities.
- Provided leadership and oversight in strategic planning, and program development, assessment and implementation.
- Led or participated in design and evaluation of policy-based sector assistance programs, including macroeconomic and public sector reforms, democratic governance, agriculture, informal sector and microenterprise development, health care, education and training, natural resource management, and institutional development and capacity building.
- Designed and managed institutional capacity building and leadership training programs, including managing research think tanks and university technical assistance programs.
- Managed and coordinated economic analysis, policy and governance review, policy formulation and assessment.
- Expertise in macroeconomic analysis, economic governance, evaluation and assessment of country strategic plans and policy and program development and monitoring.
- Experience in university teaching, research and academic services both in the U.S. and overseas universities.

## **EDUCATION**

2004                      Diploma, Senior Executive Leadership Seminar,  
Federal Executive Institute, Charlottesville, Va.

1997	M.A. in National Security Strategy, National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
1980	Ph.D. in Economics, University of Maryland, College Park
1975	M.A. in Economics, University of Maryland, College Park
1972	B.S. in Economics, University of Maryland, College Park

## **SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **United States Agency for International Development**

(1980-2005)

*Mission Director: USAID Mission to Kenya, 2001-April 30, 2005*

- Led the assessment and formulation of USAID Development Assistance Program under a new U.S. assistance policy framework toward Kenya.
- Directed USAID assistance in support of Kenya's Presidential and Parliamentary Elections that resulted in a historic, peaceful and democratic transition in December 2002.
- Guided program development, design, and implementation of a \$100 million program to address the Kenya HIV/AIDS epidemic under the U.S. President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- Successfully implemented and completed the U.S. Congressional mandate of \$75 million program to assist the victims of the 1998 Nairobi Embassy bombing.
- Initiated assessment of the drought situation in 2003/2004 and subsequent program design, development, and implementation of the humanitarian assistance program.
- Led the policy dialogue and discussion under the USG Millennium Challenge Account with the Government of Kenya that resulted in a pilot program supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation for support of a reform program in governance reform.
- Contributed to the development of a Kenya External Aid Policy paper and public expenditure review by the Ministry of Finance.

*Mission Director: USAID Mission to Malawi, 1997-2001*

- Strengthened internal USAID/Malawi strategic plan and program operations: streamlined its focus; phased out ineffective programs; and improved operating efficiencies in the context of declining budget.
- Oversaw a coordinated effort at the Ambassadorial level for a free and fair Malawi's Presidential and General Election in May 1999.
- Led high-level policy dialogue and implementation of three policy-based reform programs: (a) basic education with emphasis on girls' education; (b) environmental protection and natural resource management; and (c) privatization of the Malawi railway.
- Guided the development of a new five-year Country Strategic Plan for Malawi to guide USAID development and humanitarian assistance.

*National War College, University of Defense, Washington, D.C., 1996-1997*

- Participated as a civilian in the military context in a ten-month national security and foreign policy seminar, contributing and serving as discussant in economic and developmental policy issues with focus on sub-Saharan Africa and U.S.-China relations.
- Accompanied senior military officials to China on a Military Exchange Program to promote U.S. China cooperation, serving as a resource person on economic issues.

*Deputy Mission Director, USAID Mission to Kenya, 1994-1996*

- Oversaw the day-to-day operations of USAID development programs, projects, and personnel management.
- Managed the USAID/Kenya Reengineering process that resulted in organizational restructuring into Strategic Objective Teams and promoted greater teamwork in the Mission.
- Directed and coordinated the development of a new USAID/Kenya Country Strategic Plan.
- Served as Mission representative in donor coordination.

*Supervisory Program Officer, USAID Mission to Kenya, 1992-1994*

- Served as Chief Economist for the Mission and advisor to Mission Director on economic and development issues affecting USAID development assistance.
- Supervised economic analysis, assessment and reporting for the Mission.
- Managed and coordinated all Mission evaluation, impact assessment, and country strategic plan development.
- Oversaw evaluation of proposal reviews in different sectors.
- Supervised Mission's training and institutional development capacity both in and outside the government, including research think tanks and USAID-supported university programs.
- Administered the overall Mission's program budget and preparation of Congressional Budget Presentation and Annual Report.

*Supervisory Program Officer and Senior Economist, USAID, Washington, D.C., 1989-1992*

- Led an economic assessment of a USAID program in Thailand to provide lessons learned from USAID-supported export and investment services in East Asia.
- Contributed expertise in economic analysis and appraisal of country strategic plans and policy reform agenda in the Asia and Near East Bureau and Africa Bureau in USAID Washington.
- Managed economic analysis, review, and assessment of country strategic plans and program design for USAID missions in East Africa, including field support through field trips.

*Mission Economist, USAID Mission to Kenya, 1986-1989*

*Mission Economist, USAID Mission to Niger, 1982-1986*

*Economist, Mission to Liberia, 1981-1982*

*Economist, Planning and Policy Analysis, Africa Bureau, USAID, Washington, 1980-1981*

**CONSULTING EXPERIENCE (2005-PRESENT)**

**The World Bank, 1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.**

*Development Policy Advisor, Office of the Vice President for Operations Policy and Country Services*

May 2005 – October 2005

- Provided advice related to the review and assessment of Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), Development Policy Lending, and evaluative research and studies in capacity and institutional development.
- Assisted in the analysis and preparation of policy and operational guidance to improve aid effectiveness, including preparation of Good Practice Notes for fragile states.

- Wrote an evaluative report on specific policy, operational, management and other constraints and opportunities for strengthening partnership between the Bank Group and USAID to enhance aid effectiveness.

**U.S. Agency for International Development, Kingston, Jamaica**

*Director and Senior Program Advisor, Office of Program Development and Management (OPDM), USAID/Jamaica*

November 2005 – February 2006

- Advisor to OPDM in all aspects of strategy implementation, program and budget policy guidance, and performance measurement
- Provided mentoring and shared expertise and experience with staff, especially first four Foreign Service Officers in the Mission
- Coordinated and finalized submission of the USAID/Jamaica Mission Annual Report to USAID/Washington
- Assisted in the Mission Management Assessment and the update of the Mission Performance Management Plan

**Management Systems International**

*Team Leader and Economic Consultant*

January – February 2008

- An activity design in evaluation and applied economic research for USAID/Pakistan Economic Growth Strategic Objective.
- Team Leader on project appraisal for the development of a program to strengthen Pakistan applied economic research capability.
- Developed and held numerous discussions with senior government officials and Pakistani stakeholders on issues related to economic and policy research capability.
- Wrote a report of the findings and recommendations for the USAID mission.

**Management Systems International**

*Senior Economic Advisor*

USAID-funded post-conflict economic growth and recovery activity in Sudan

June – August 2009

- Provide technical support to USAID in its role as a member of various donor and joint donor government committees and groups on the Government of Southern Sudan's (GOSS) fiscal situation and growth prospects, including participating on USAID's behalf. Provide technical assistance in support of the implementation of the recommendations coming from various working committees and groups.
- Develop a policy reform agenda to guide Mission reform efforts.
- Wrote a report entitled "South Sudan: Post-Conflict Economic Recovery and Growth – An Agenda for USAID Engagement," which was submitted and presented to USAID/Sudan Mission Director and his senior staff and USAID/Washington.

**American Breeders Service, Total Cattle Management Ltd.**

Kenya-based Nongovernmental Organization

*Senior Policy Advisor*

July - August 2011

- Provided consulting service to a Kenya-based private business, American Breeders Service, Total Cattle Management in the development of a project proposal.
- Assisted in the preparation and writing of a public-private grant proposal for USAID funding.

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**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE****Duke University Center for International Development**

Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

*Senior Fellow*

August 2006 – present

- Consultant and Lecturer (November 2006 – January 2007): Organized and developed part of the training material for a Management of Foreign Aid Workshop for Kenyan government officials held in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2007
- Regular Lecturer on Management of Foreign Aid in Budget and Financial Management Workshop
- Guest Lecturer on Public Financial Management

**College of Business and Economics**

Radford University, Radford, Virginia

*Special Purpose Faculty*

2008 – present

*Visiting Professor, 2007-2008*

- Teach courses in economics of globalization, international relations, and international business, economics of development in Africa, public finance, and MBA course in economics of strategy and international competitiveness.
- Successfully proposed, developed and established an international education and exchange program, including study abroad between Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya) and Radford University (Virginia, United States)
- Serve on the Graduate Curriculum Committee, Assessment of Learning Committee, Global Innovation Tournament Committee
- Current research in rethinking foreign aid amid austerity in major donor countries and in light of increasing interconnectedness, interdependence, changing landscape of international aid, emerging post-2015 (Millennium Development Goals) development agenda, the critical role of fragile states.
- Writing commentary for The Nation, a daily English newspaper in Bangkok, Thailand

**University of Nairobi, Kenya, *External Examiner***

1987-1989

**Journal of Eastern Africa Economic Review, *Referee***

University of Nairobi, Kenya, 1987-1989

**University of Monrovia, Liberia, *Lecturer in Economics***

1981-1982

**University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, *Economics Instructor***

1977-1980

**Economic and Community Development, State of Maryland Government, *Research Fellow***

Annapolis, Maryland

1976-1977

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## **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

Toh, K. (2016). *Emerging Growth Economies in Sub-Saharan Africa*. The American Economist (forthcoming, September 2016).

Book Review. *The Fourth Revolution: The Global Race to Reinvent State* by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge (The Penguin Press 2014). *The American Economist*, Spring 2015, Vol. 60, No. 1.

*Rethinking Foreign Aid for Fragile States* (with P. Kasturi). *Journal of Development Economics and Studies*. December 2014, Vol. 2, No. 4.

*Foreign Aid in Post-Conflict Countries: The Case of South Sudan* (with P. Kasturi), Fall 2012, *Journal of Third World Studies*, Fall 2012.

*Niger's External Debt: Legacy of Uranium-Led Growth Strategy*, *Eastern Africa Economic Review*, June 1987.

*A Cross-Section Analysis of Intra-Industry Trade in U.S. Manufacturing Industries*, *Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv*, Band 118, Heft 2 (*Review of World Economics*), June 1982.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL PAPERS**

*Economic Transformation in Emerging Africa* (2013). Presented at Society of Business Research International Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, March 2013.

*Long-Term Perspectives on Aid and Development in Africa*. Fifty Years in USAID: Stories from the Front Lines (2012).

*Personal Reflections from a USAID Career: Long Term Perspectives on Aid and Development in Africa*, USAID 50th Anniversary Project, January 2013, the U.S. Agency for International Development

*South Sudan: Post-Conflict Economic Recovery and Growth – An Agenda for USAID Engagement*, Consultant Report prepared for Management Systems International, supported by United States Agency for International Development, July 2009.

*Pakistan Applied Economic Research: Activity Design and Scope of Work*, Consultant Report prepared for Management Systems International, supported by United States Agency for International Development, February 2008.

*Challenges and Opportunities for Development Partnership: The World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*. Report prepared for the Office of the Vice President for Operations Policy and Country Services, The World Bank, November 2005.

*Development Policy Operations and Program Conditionality in Fragile States* (Contributor) in Good Practice Note for Development Policy Lending, The World Bank, June 2005.

*U.S.-China Relations: A Strategic Challenge*. Paper prepared for the Sino-American Relations Seminar, National Defense University, May 1997.



*Whither Economic Reform in China?* Paper prepared for the Sino-American Relations Seminar, National Defense University, March 1997.

*Bureaucratic Politics of U.S. Foreign Aid and Proliferation of Aid Objectives.* National Defense University, January 1997.

*Crisis in Governance: The Case of Kenya.* Paper Prepared for the Sub-Saharan Africa and United States Interest Seminar, National Defense University, Washington, D.C., November 1996.

*Export and Investment Promotion in Thailand.* (Coauthor) USAID Technical Report for USAID Center for Development Information and Evaluation, April 1994.

*Export and Investment Services in Thailand: Evidence from a Firm-Level Survey.* An evaluative review of empirical evidence prepared for USAID Center for Development Information and Evaluation, February 1992.

*Liberalization of the Uganda Foreign Exchange Regime.* Paper Prepared for the Africa Bureau, USAID/Washington, August 1991.

*The Philippines: Analysis of Sectoral Growth Trends and Environmental and Natural Resource Interventions.* Paper prepared for the USAID/Philippines Mission and Bureau for Asia and Near East, USAID. July 1990.

*The Philippines Agrarian Reform.* Paper submitted to U.S. Congressional Hearing on the Philippines, February 1990.

*Economic Performance Indicators.* Background paper prepared for USAID Mission Directors' Conference, November 1989.

*Kenya: Fertilizer Pricing and Marketing Reform Program.* USAID Program Document, July 1989.

*Public Investments and Budget Rationalization in Kenya.* Paper prepared for the Workshop on Recurrent Costs of Public Investments, Nairobi, April 1989.

*Impact of Structural Adjustment in Kenya.* Paper prepared for the Conference on Impact of Structural Adjustment, Nairobi, September 1988.

*Kenya: Structural Adjustment Assistance Program.* USAID Program Document, August 1988.

*Kenya: Public Finance Performance, 1987-1988.* USAID Program Document, April 1988.

*Assessment of Exchange Rate Policy in Kenya.* Paper presented at USAID Economists' Conference, Washington, D.C., August 1987.

*Niger Health Care Financing Support Program.* USAID. Concept Paper for Policy-Based Health Sector Adjustment Program, March 1986.

*Niger: Current Macroeconomic Situation and Constraints.* USAID Strategic Planning Document, January 1986.

*Policy Dialogue in the Design of A.I.D. Sector Assistance: The Case of Niger.* Published in Papers and Proceedings of A.I.D. Economists' Conference, September 1985.

*Niger Agricultural Sector Development Grant.* USAID Program Document, August 1984.

*An Analysis of Niger's Interim Plan, 1984-1985.* USAID Strategic Planning Document, March 1984.

*A Review of Recurrent Cost of Niger Assistance Program.* Paper prepared for the National Recurrent Cost Workshop, Niamey, June 1983.

*Co-Financing: Its Nature and Implications.* USAID Africa Bureau Discussion Paper, September 1981.

*A Summary of Crosscutting Issues from A.I.D. Project Evaluation.* Paper prepared for the Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, USAID August 1980.

*Price and Income Elasticities of Import Demand: The Case of Thailand,* Discussion Paper, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, May 1977.

*Issues in International Finance,* Discussion Paper, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, November 1976.

## **NEWSPAPER OPINION COLUMNS**

*The Nation* - daily English paper in Bangkok, Thailand. (October 16, 2015).  
["Is business success a good predictor for leading a superpower?"](#)

*The Nation* - daily English paper in Bangkok, Thailand. (August 16, 2014).  
["East overtaking West in global race to reinvent the state."](#)

*The Nation* - daily newspaper in Bangkok, Thailand. (December 17, 2013).  
["Why Obamacare really does add up for America."](#)

*The Nation* - daily newspaper, Bangkok, Thailand. (October 26, 2013).  
["Policy Externalities of the US fiscal standoff."](#)

*The Nation* - daily newspaper, Bangkok, Thailand. (September 18, 2013).  
["Argentina offers a lesson in debt management."](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (August 28, 2013).  
["Truth, truthiness and the US deficit and debt."](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (June 19, 2013).  
["A post-2015 global agenda that could boost development goals."](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper and Sanford School of Public Policy - News & Commentary. (April 29, 2013).  
"World outlook and challenge of managing capital inflows."

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper and Sanford School of Public Policy - News



&Commentary. (March 1, 2013).

[“US budget sequestration is folly.”](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (January 8, 2013).

[“More to come in the United States’ cliffhanger drama.”](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (October 31, 2012).

[“Can Romney piggyback to victory on Obama’s foreign policy?”](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (October 17, 2012).

[“Presidential debates, round 2: Obama v Romney on foreign policy.”](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (August 31, 2012).

[“Trust and reputation effects in the conduct of fiscal policy.”](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (July 6, 2012).

[“Another euro summit, but are things different this time?”](#)

*China Daily*. (June 15, 2012).

[“Thailand can recover through home-grown efforts.”](#)

*Sanford School of Public Policy Commentary* and *The Nation*. (June 12, 2012).

[“Euro zone's Muddling Through Has Implications for Asia.”](#)

*The Nation* -- Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (April 17, 2012).

[“New World Bank president: is the US candidate a good choice?”](#)

*The Nation* - Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (March 31, 2012).

[“Macro-economic policies in the post-crisis economy.”](#)

*The Nation* -- Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (March 13, 2012).

[“Thailand remains vulnerable to external factors.”](#)

*The Nation* -- Bangkok English Daily Newspaper. (February 28, 2012).

[“Is a country like a large corporation?”](#)