On the Occasion of Prof. Shibata’s Retirement

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...and well known economist, it was a real pleasure to meet him in person and share ideas about what was happening at the Ritsumeikan University and at the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) at that time.

I also took this opportunity to invite him to deliver a module on ‘Environmental Taxation’ in the summer program on ‘Tax Analysis and Revenue Forecasting’ that I direct at HIID. It turned out to be a scoop for us as Prof. Shibata and his lectures were highly appreciated by the participants in the program. This is a group of senior tax professionals and policy makers from different countries having long years of field experience. Prof. Shibata was able to offer them a rare and exciting insight into a subject that has been of growing interest to tax practitioners around the world.

My colleague Dr. S. Ramakrishnan, who directs a program on ‘Public Sector Budgeting’ at HIID, had come across Prof. Shibata’s paper on ‘Budget-Minimizing Bureaucrats’ and when he found that Prof. Shibata was coming to Harvard, he wasted no time in extending an invitation to him to his own program. Prof. Shibata’s lecture in the budgeting program turned out to be another success story. Since then Prof. Shibata has been gracious enough to participate in these programs as a valued guest faculty every summer and we look forward to many more years of association with him.

Apart from his professional excellence and academic stature, I have been truly impressed by his good nature, unassuming personality, transparent simplicity and wonderful capacity to get along with people of different backgrounds.

I wish him well on this occasion and hope he has a bright and fulfilling retired life, which he well deserves after his long and distinguished service to the academic world.