

On April 16 and 17, the eyes of the world will be fixed on Palm Beach County. Global economic and political thought leaders will gather at the International Economic Forum of the Americas' Palm Beach Strategic Forum to discuss this year's theme, Competing in a World of Emerged Economies.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund recently acknowledged, "The global economy may be on a path to recovery, but there is not a great deal of room for maneuver and no room for policy mistakes." This is why events such as the Palm Beach Strategic Forum are integral to navigating the ever-changing political and economic landscapes.

The aim of this year's event is to focus on corporate strategies for success, in particular, how companies of various sizes effectively compete for international markets; how innovative partnerships between government and the private sector can be formed to address new challenges; and how developments in international trade and energy policy affect the global role of the United States.

The roster of speakers for the event includes Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan; Ron Prosor, Israel's ambassador to the UN; Douglas Duncan, vice president and chief economist at Fannie Mae; Mickey Levy, chief economist at Bank of America; Heraldo Muñoz, assistant secretary general of the United Nations and UNDP director for Latin America and the Caribbean; John Negroponte, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State; Hans Timmer, director of development projects with The World Bank; and Alejandro Toledo, former president of Peru. (A complete list of speakers can be found by visiting www.forum-americas.org/palmbeach.)

The Forum's objective is to provide insights and suggest solutions by bringing together well-respected thinkers with a variety of opinions and backgrounds. Just as with previous conferences, we anticipate spirited dialogue and a free-flowing exchange of ideas. We don't expect to answer all of the great questions facing today's economy, but we do expect to start a conversation that will be reflected in future policymaking.

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