Organizational Fact Sheet

**Description**

CFSP is a private research organization of leading and emerging economists. Our goal is to reduce poverty and improve the lives of the world’s poor through helping to identify, define and develop more efficient financial systems. We strive to generate tangible and objective results that have meaningful lessons for policymakers, researchers and stakeholders.

**Key Leaders**

**Robert M. Townsend, MIT**
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**Organization**

The Consortium supports research through two primary funding mechanisms: member grants (given to senior and up-and-coming scholars) and seed grants (given to leading experts or up-and-coming scholars in important sub-fields).

CFSP also facilitates ongoing workshops that are designed to foster productive dialogue and scholarly progress in areas of central importance to the understanding of financial systems and poverty. Currently, there are three workshops underway.

The [Savings and Financial Underpinnings of Macro Models Workshop](#) brings together growth and development researchers who study the effects of the financial underpinnings of economic development on production efficiency, consumption insurance, and welfare by using general equilibrium models.

The [Flow of Funds Accounts Workshop](#) brings together experts and practitioners to assess the current status of flow of funds accounts in developing countries and to enhance measurement of financial systems in a variety of target countries.

The [Optimal Design of Payment Systems Workshop](#) brings together experts who are interested in encouraging payment systems that greatly expand access to the financial system for poor people, to make sure these systems are secure and robust, to offer recommendations for a potentially improved, efficient overall design of payment systems and to integrate that design with optimal monetary policy and ideal regulation.
## Geographical Reach

The following countries are currently under study by CFSP:

- Brazil
- Chile
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Mexico
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda

## Researchers

The following people are currently member researchers of CFSP. (For a complete list of researchers affiliated with our organization, please visit [www.cfsp.org](http://www.cfsp.org).)

- Juliano Assunção, PUC-Rio
- Abhijit Banerjee, MIT
- Francisco Buera, UCLA
- Douglas W. Diamond, University of Chicago
- Gabriel de Abreu Madeira, University of São Paulo
- Roberto Rigobon, MIT
- Kenneth Singleton, Stanford University
- Tavneet Suri, MIT
- Weerachart Kilenthong, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce
- Robert M. Townsend, MIT
- Christopher R. Udry, Yale University
- Christopher M. Woodruff, University of Warwick

## Established

The Consortium on Financial Systems and Poverty was established in 2009 by a grant to the University of Chicago from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## Website

[www.cfsp.org](http://www.cfsp.org)

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