

Global Aging Forum

The World Bank's Pension Paradigm: Lessons from a Decade of Reform

---Speaker's Biography---

ROBERT HOLZMANN, Ph.D.

Sector Director, Social Protection Unit,
Human Development Network, The World Bank

Robert Holzmann is the Sector Director of the Social Protection Unit in the Human Development Network of the World Bank. He was appointed to this position on May 1, 1997. The Social Protection Sector is the Bank's focal point for labor market interventions, including child labor and youth employment; social insurance, in particular pensions; targeted interventions, such as social safety nets and social funds; and the disability and development program of the Bank.

From 1992 to 1997, Mr. Holzmann was Managing Director of the European Institute and Full Professor for International Economics and European Economy, both at the University of Saarbrücken (Germany). Prior to that he was Professor of Economics at the University of Vienna (Austria), Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund (Washington, DC) and OECD (Paris) where he worked on international public finance and social protection issues; and was a visiting professor at various universities in Japan, Chile and Austria.

Since 1992, Mr. Holzmann has served as editor of *Empirica*. He has been Research Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Economic Analysis in Vienna since 1985.

Before joining the Social Protection Unit, Mr. Holzmann frequently acted as consultant to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Commission of the European Union, International Labor Organization (ILO), International Social Security Association, German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), and the Council of Europe. In this capacity he was involved in the reform of pensions and other social programs in Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Mr. Holzmann, an Austrian national, holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Graz, a Diplôme d'Etudes in Economics from the University of Grenoble and a Ph.D. and "Habilitation" in Economics from the University of Vienna.

His research on and operational involvement in pension reforms extends to all regions of the world, and he has published 22 books and over 100 articles on social, fiscal and financial policy issues.