



Jonathan E. Leightner

Visiting Professor of International Economics

Background and Education:

Dr. Leightner is on leave from Augusta State University, Augusta, Georgia, where he is Professor of Economics. He also holds a professorship in Economics at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, where he teaches during the summers. He has taught and conducted research in Asia many times, primarily in Japan, Thailand, and China. At the Center, Dr. Leightner teaches the Comparative Economies of the U.S. and China, Development Economics, International Monetary Theory and Policy, and Globalization.

Dr. Leightner earned BA and MA degrees in Philosophy from Baylor University. His studies included Western, Asian, and Latin American Philosophy. It was his 1981-1982 experience teaching in northern Thailand, where he witnessed people living in slums on US\$ 1 per day, lepers begging on street corners, and a dead body floating down the Mekong River, that inspired him to pursue advanced study of economics in order to help developing countries. Leightner received a Ph.D. in economic development and comparative systems at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Publications:

As an Asian specialist, Dr. Leightner has published papers on income distribution in South Korea and Japan, pollution abatement in Thailand, Asia's financial crisis of 1997-1998, the efficiency of Thai financial institutions, and the effectiveness of fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies in Asia. The *European Journal of Operational Research* has published two of his papers explaining and using a new econometric technique that he developed which greatly reduces the bias from omitted variables when conducting statistical analyses. He is currently working on papers which use that technique to estimate equilibrium exchange rates for the Chinese yuan and for the Japanese yen.