IFABS 2021 CONFERENCE: WELCOMING REMARKS Monday, 13 Sept 09:00-09:15

Professor Duncan Angwin, Dean of University of Nottingham Business School.

- It's a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 IFABS Oxford Conference, now in its' 12th edition. IFABS conferences have become truly global events, with participants from all around the globe, and with two successful spin-offs in Americas and Asia, the so-called Latin American and Asian chapters of the IFABS global events.

- After a difficult year of break in 2020, we are happy to welcome you back to the IFABS family, with many old as well as new companions and top-level researchers.

  It was originally intended to hold the conference in person at Oxford University's Said Business School, but eventually it was decided that it should be held virtually. Regardless, this is the 3rd time that Said Business School hosts this conference, so it's a great pleasure to be back in Oxford, albeit online.

- We at Nottingham University Business School, are very excited to be the co- organiser of this IFABS event and to have partnered with a number of highly prestigious institutions, namely, the Bank of England, King's Business School, Said Business School and Nottingham University Business School to organize this exciting conference.

- I am particularly looking forward to hearing from well-renowned senior policy-makers over the next 3 days, such as Andrew Hauser and Gareth Ramsey and other well-established researchers from academia, industry and central banks.

- The conference features several highlights including keynotes on day 1 and 3 from globally renowned economists Professor Willem Buiter and Professor Larry H. Summers. In addition, there will be 2 very topical panel events: one on big data in the time of COVID on **day 1** and the other on how to empower markets and institutions to enable an orderly transition in the face of climate risks on **day 3**.

- After a very tough selection process, **just over 200 papers** were accepted for presentation, in 7 to 8 parallel sessions over the next 3 days.

- We are thrilled to welcome our central bank colleagues to the conference. To mark the high-quality submissions from central bank researchers, IFABS is delighted to announce **7 special sessions** with high quality papers dedicated to topics of special interest to central banks. In particular, there will be **3 Bank of England, 1 European Central Bank, 1 Federal Reserve Board, 1 Asian Development Bank Institute**, and **1 Banco de la Republica Colombia** special session over the course of the conference.

- Our presenters and attendees are **truly diverse,** as highlighted by the characteristics of the participants. Our audience comes from more than **36** countries, **70%** come from academia and **30%** come from the industry, central banks and other international organisations.

- The conference presenters are comprised of PhD students, early career researchers, senior researchers, and professors or high-level professionals. I am sure this diversity will be reflected in the presentations and discussions over the next few days, and contribute to a more inclusive economics profession.

- Now for the acknowledgments: I want to thank a number of institutions for making this conference a reality including the Bank of England, King's Business School and Oxford University Said Business School. In particular, I wish to extend a very special thanks to *Eddie Gerba, Ed Hill and Arjun Mahalingam from the Bank of England, David Aikman, Anastasia Allayioti and Tim Foreman from Kings Business School, Thomas Noe from the University of Oxford, and Meryem Duygun from the University of Nottingham* for their role in putting this exciting world-class conference programme together. But most of all, my deepest gratitude goes to the four 2021 IFABS conference chairs: **Meryem Duygun, Eddie Gerba, David Aikman** and **Thomas Noe** and **the Research Support team at our Business School.**

- Finally, I wish to thank everyone in the audience for making IFABS the great event it is, and I really hope you enjoy the next 3 days.

- Thank you