Abstract for “Measuring and Monitoring the World Economy Since the Global Economic and Financial Crisis”

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Six years since the beginning of the global economic and financial crisis, the world economy has arrived at a tipping point that may determine the growth performance for the next two decades. While mature economies are crawling out of the depths of the recession, large emerging markets are seeking a sustainable growth path since the post-crisis bonanza of massive capital inflows ended, and poorer developing economies are struggling to stabilize their economies under pressure of survival, the question is what the next two decades may look like compared to the 20 years before the crisis. Optimists hope for a new era of fortune again driven by technology and innovation. Pessimists suggest a dismal outlook of secular decline driven by slowing population growth and lack of innovation. In this lecture, Bart van Ark looks at the global economy through the lenses of the past, the present and the future to find some clues on where we are coming from and where we are heading. In particular, he will address how today’s system of measurements of growth and development can help to monitor and navigate the global economy.