

United Nations University of which WIDER is a part has a special role to play. They would like to put up "a credible Third World Economist" (their words, not mine!) as their candidate. I was approached and I have agreed. Chances are little that I would be chosen as the director of WIDER because it is a complex international bargain and politicking. I know nothing of it nor do I wish to get involved. Nevertheless, since I agreed, I had to give three names as referees — I have given Luigi Pasinetti (Italy), Bo Gustafsson (economic historian, Sweden) and your name. I do hope you will not mind in case they get in touch with you regarding my abilities as an economist. I know it is a bother and I apologise for this, but I deliberately chose to keep out of the American & English academic scene, because I no longer know economists there on the same wavelength.

Hope you are keeping well?

I hope to see you soon again in Vienna in April and in May this year. With my highest regards. Yours
Amit