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Takatoshi Ito, Professor of Economics and Dean, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo, has taught extensively both in the United States and Japan, including at University of Minnesota, Hitotsubashi University, Columbia Business School and Harvard University. Ito also served as Senior Advisor in the Research Department, IMF (1994-97) and as Deputy Vice Minister for International Affairs at Ministry of Finance, Japan (1999-2001). He is an author of many books including "The Japanese Economy," "The Political Economy of the Japanese Monetary Policy," and "Financial Policy and Central Banking in Japan," and more than 50 academic journal articles on international finance and the Japanese economy. He was President of the Japanese Economic Association in 2004. He served as a member of the Prime Minister's Council of Economic and Fiscal Policy from 2006 to 2008. The national Medal with Purple Ribbon was awarded in June 2011.