

Agenda

13:00-14:00	Reception
14:00-14:05	Opening Remarks by Epoch Foundation
14:05-15:05	Introduction & Presentation: <i>the Future of Business: Web of Agents</i> by Dr. Shoumen Datta
15:05-15:20	Break
15:20-16:15	Open Discussion and Q&A
16:15-16:30	Conclusions

If a typhoon in South China Sea impacts the shipment and delivery of FLASH memory chips to the OEM's assembly plant in Mexico City, you can count on the ripple effect to affect financial service providers, manufacturers and suppliers, shippers in charge of logistics and of course, the end-consumer. Can we plan to reduce risk from uncertainties? Can businesses (semiconductor plants, bank, logistics providers) cooperate to minimize uncertainties? Conventional wisdom states that uncertainties are equivalent to accidents and hence by nature remain unpredictable. In this seminar, we shall suggest application of tools and technologies that partially disproves such wisdom. The emergence of "adaptive" demand management is the new paradigm in supply chain. How can we collapse information asymmetries (between manufacturers and their lending institutions, for example)?



Dr. Shoumen Datta

**Executive Director
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Dr. Shoumen Datta is the Executive Director of the MIT Forum for Supply Chain Innovation and a Research Scientist with the Engineering System Division, School of Engineering, MIT. He is interesting in diverse innovation tools and technology that converge on the evolution of supply chain to create the future real-time adaptive business. Prior to developing his interest in innovative systems, he has involved with local, state and federal groups in technology and biomedical research/teaching at Harvard-MIT. For more information please visit <http://supplychain.mit.edu/innovation/shoumen.htm>