



ROB GIFFORD BIOGRAPHY



China, with its rising political, economic and environmental influence, is an increasingly important player on the world stage. Speaker Rob Gifford provides an in-depth and personal look at today's China, detailing the current political, economic and social situation in China with important context provided by historical background and personal stories.

Rob Gifford served as NPR's China correspondent from 1999-2005 and now serves as NPR's London Bureau Chief. His first book, *China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power*, was published earlier this year.

A fluent speaker of Mandarin Chinese, Gifford has traveled throughout China, from Tibet to the Muslim Northwest, to the border with North Korea, filing news and feature stories for NPR News. Gifford also has traveled widely in East Asia for NPR, covering elections in Taiwan and East Timor, diplomatic visits to North Korea, and has produced a range of features on everything from Christian missionaries in Mongolia to Internet start-ups in Hong Kong.

Two days after the terrorist attacks on the US on 9/11, Gifford flew to Pakistan for the first of many reporting trips to the region and has continued to widely reporting on Islamic issues from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Southern Philippines.

Gifford was born and raised in the U.K. where he worked for three years at the BBC World Service before moving to the US in 1994 to attend graduate school. He also spent two years at NPR member station WGBH in Boston. He holds a BA in Chinese Studies from Durham University, UK, and an MA in Regional Studies (East Asia) from Harvard University.

For more information please visit www.springfieldpublicforum.org.