



Leverhulme Centre
for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy



FDI, Outsourcing and Trade: An Asian Perspective

Some of the world's foremost authorities on Asia's economies are to meet at GEP's China branch to examine the ever-growing role of the country on the global financial stage.

Delegates from across the region and fellow academics from the UK and the US will present and analyse research into some of the key issues that face China in the next period of growth, such as foreign direct investment, outsourcing, trade, technical progress and the effects of financial liberalisation on stock markets.

The event, entitled FDI, Outsourcing and Trade: An Asian Perspective, will be held at GEP in China at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, on 9th July.

Part of GEP's China Research Workshop Series, it will take place just weeks after the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development raised its forecast for China's short-term economic growth.

GEP's own experts have already suggested China is poised to overtake Japan to become the world's second-largest economy before the end of this year.

And the OECD lent further weight to the claim by predicting the Chinese economy will grow by 7.7 per cent in 2009 – up from an earlier forecast of 6.3 per cent.

Professor Doug Nelson, a GEP Professorial Research Fellow, said that China's major role in the international trading system shows the importance of continued research on both the sources and consequences of its extraordinary performance.

He said: "A workshop like this gives us a great opportunity to share and showcase our different approaches to studying one of the most significant aspects of the globalisation story.

"Asian economies in general – and China in particular – have become increasingly important to the system of world trade and global production.

**GEP China Research
Workshop Series**

"This natural interest is matched by the existence of exceptionally detailed trade and investment data that will allow scholars from different research traditions to test hypotheses and extend existing bodies of knowledge in important ways."

Professor Nelson, of Tulane University, New Orleans, will co-chair the event and present one of his own papers, Does Aid Cause Trade?.

Other speakers will include Professor Zhao Chen, Deputy Director of the China Centre for Economic Studies (CCES), Fudan University; Professor Xiao Wen, of Zhejiang University; Dr Zhihao Yu, of Carleton University, Canada; and Dr Chang Liu and Dr Wei Huang, both of the University of Nottingham, Ningbo.

The workshop comes at a time when China's standing in the world economy is in the spotlight for a number of reasons.

Alongside projections of sustained economic growth, there has been recent debate about how China might react to the ill-fated tie-up bid between Chinalco and Rio Tinto.

The state-owned aluminium company's controversial attempt to invest in the Anglo-Australian mining giant collapsed amid shareholder anger and political pressure.

Had it succeeded, the \$19.5bn deal would have represented the largest-ever overseas investment by China. Instead it ended in embarrassment for the Chinese.

Professor Shujie Yao, co-ordinator of GEP's China and the World Economy programme, suggested China would learn a "painful lesson" from the fiasco and pursue a "massively interventionist" industrial strategy.

His warning that the West would face "tough challenges" as a result of such an approach was widely published in the Chinese media.

About GEP

GEP is based at the University of Nottingham and is substantially funded by grants from the Leverhulme Trust.

In January 2008 it opened GEP in Malaysia at the University of Nottingham's purpose-built Semenyih campus, 30km from Kuala Lumpur.

In November 2008 it launched GEP in China at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China.

GEP is keen to promote its research work and is committed to communicating its expertise through the media and to assisting journalists whenever able.

Website: www.gep.org.uk

Speakers and topics

Professor Zhao Chen, Fudan University

Core-Periphery Model of Chinese Urban System: Empirical Studies on Geography and Economic Growth

Professor Xiao Wen, Zhejiang University

Decomposition of FDI's Effects on China's Regional Technical Progress

Professor Doug Nelson, Tulane University, US/GEP, Nottingham

Does Aid Cause Trade? Evidence from an Asymmetric Gravity Model

Dr Zhihao Yu, Carleton University, Canada

Economies of Scope and Patterns of Outsourcing

Dr Chang Liu, University of Nottingham, Ningbo

Previously Ignored Hinterland Regions (of China): Location Choice and Discussion

Dr Wei Huang, University of Nottingham, Ningbo

Stock Market Effects of Emerging Markets' Financial Liberalisation

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http://www.gep.org.uk/leverhulme/events/Conferences%20announcements/2009_July_ChinaWorkshop.php