



**Leverhulme Centre**  
for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy

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# China: the next steps towards superpower status

GEP's centre in China will welcome leading academics and economists from around the world in November when it hosts its third major international conference.

The event, Enterprise and Labour Market Adjustment in China's Transition, will examine the likely next phases of the nation's journey to economic superpower status.

The prestigious gathering will mark two years since GEP underlined its commitment to studying China by opening a branch at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo.

The country's role at the heart of the global economy has only been reinforced by the financial crisis, with China widely seen as the "engine-room" of worldwide recovery.

Delegates at the conference, to be held on 9 and 10 November, will address themes including enterprise adjustment, foreign direct investment, labour markets and trade.

The event will also feature the third The World Economy Annual China Lecture, to be delivered by Martin Wolf, Chief Economics Commentator of The Financial Times.

Earlier this year Wolf, one of the most influential voices in economics, used a speech

at GEP in Nottingham to call on China to do more to fulfil its growing obligations.

He argued that China's future interests lie in maintaining a stable global system – with a dangerous world of "power politics" a likely result if it chooses otherwise.

Wolf said: "China is one of the few countries that must take account of the impact of its actions on the world economy. It cannot just 'import order' – it must 'export order', too."

Other speakers in Ningbo will include Professor Shujie Yao, co-ordinator of GEP's China and the World Economy programme.

Professor Yao recently called for "mutual compromise" amid suggestions of deterioration in relations between China and the United States in the wake of the credit crunch.

Writing in China Daily, he said: "The rapidity of China's advancement in the aftermath of the financial crisis – and the simultaneous weakening of the US's clout – has undoubtedly shocked many in the US.

"But the US needs China for its huge market and low-cost exports – and China needs the US because it is the biggest consumer market in the

world and possesses the technology China requires."

Professor Yao, also Head of the University of Nottingham's School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, said: "As ever, we are delighted to be returning to Ningbo.

"It is vital for us to have a presence and a profile in a country that has an ever-growing importance in the story of globalisation and the world economy in general.

"The standard of speaker we have been able to attract yet again demonstrates our foresight in establishing GEP in China and our faith in its continued success."

The conference is being sponsored by GEP, the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, Fudan University's China Centre for Economic Studies and Zhejiang University's College of Public Administration.



Conference delegates include:

- Minjia Chen, GEP, University of Nottingham
- Zhao Chen, Fudan University
- Fabrice Defever, GEP, University of Nottingham
- Junxin Feng, Renmin University
- Sourafel Girma, GEP, University of Nottingham
- Alessandra Guariglia, Durham University
- Saileshsingh Gunessee, GEP, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China
- Lei Li, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China
- Ping Lin, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
- Chang Liu, GEP, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China
- Ming Lu, Fudan University
- Alyson Ma, UC San Diego
- Jie Ma, Beijing University
- Shiyuan Pan, Zhejiang University
- Albert Park, University of Oxford
- Innwon Park, Korea University
- Hans-Jörg Schmerer, Tübingen University
- Fredrik Sjöholm, Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm
- Puyang Sun, Nankai University
- Jiadong Tong, Nankai University
- Priit Vahter, University of Tartu, Estonia
- Zheng Wang, GEP, University of Nottingham
- Zheng Wei, GEP, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China
- Wen Xiao, Zhejiang University
- Shujie Yao, GEP, University of Nottingham
- Xianguo Yao, Zhejiang University
- Eden Yu, City University, Hong Kong

### Shujie Yao

Shujie Yao is a Professor of Economics and the Head of School at the University of Nottingham's School of Contemporary Chinese Studies. He is also the co-ordinator of the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre's China and the World Economy programme.

Before joining the University of Nottingham in 2006 he worked with Oxford, Portsmouth and Middlesex Universities as a Research Fellow, Lecturer, Professor and Head of Economics.

In an article published in the Journal of Asian Economic Literature he was ranked in the top 10 Chinese scholars specialising in the country's economy. He is chief editor of the Social Science Edition of the Xi'an Jiaotong University Journal and founder editor of the Journal of Chinese Economics and Business. He has been a consultant to organisations including the World Bank, the EU and UNCDF.



### School of Contemporary Chinese Studies

The School of Contemporary Chinese Studies is widely recognised as a leader in high-quality, discipline-based degree programmes incorporating the study of China.

Established in recognition of the national and global importance of understanding contemporary change and transformation in China, it undertakes and promotes advanced interdisciplinary social sciences research into key aspects of the rapid changes in the country.

The School houses the highly-regarded China Policy Institute, which is the UK's only think-tank dedicated to the analysis of China policy. The Institute aims to expand knowledge about and offer insight into contemporary China.

- Miaojie Yu, Beijing University
- Zhihong Yu, GEP, University of Nottingham
- Huafeng Zhang, Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, Norway
- Jing Zhang, University of Nottingham
- and, delivering, the third The World Economy Annual China Lecture, Martin Wolf, The Financial Times



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### About GEP

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

It is one of the major centres in the world studying the impacts of globalisation and economic policy, and its staff have advised organisations and institutions including the Treasury, the Bank of England, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank.

In January 2008 it opened GEP in Malaysia at the University of Nottingham's purpose-built Semenyih campus, and in November 2008 it launched GEP in China at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China.

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