



Leverhulme Centre
for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy

Press release

Offshoring under the spotlight at major conference

Are scare stories real - or do gains outweigh losses?

Academics and policy-makers from around the world will meet later this month to address the growing and controversial trend towards sending jobs abroad.

A major conference hosted by the respected Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre will discuss the implications of the “offshoring” phenomenon.

Representatives from institutes including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the New York Federal Reserve Bank will attend the event.

Economic experts from leading universities, among them a former key advisor to President Clinton, will also deliver crucial speeches on the contentious issue.

The conference will coincide with the publication by GEP, based at the University of Nottingham, of the largest-ever study into the economic impact of offshoring.

Economists at the world-renowned centre claim their findings explode many of the “myths” surrounding a practice that has engendered widespread public distrust.

Now delegates from around the globe will add their own thoughts on the subject during two days of discussion and debate at the University of Nottingham.

GEP’s influential World Economy Annual Lecture, delivered by Elhanan Helpman, Professor of International Trade at Harvard University, will launch the event.

Alan Blinder, Professor of Economics at Princeton University and a one-time economic adviser to the Clinton administration, will also give a keynote address.

Other speakers include Heather Booth di Giovanni, senior economist at UK Trade and Investment, and

Jonathan Portes, chief economist at the Department of Work and Pensions.

GEP’s own research, which analysed data from 66,000 UK firms, found offshoring – contrary to public perceptions – actually helps boost employment in the UK.

GEP Director Professor David Greenaway, the study’s co-author, said: “Offshoring is not a phenomenon to be feared – it should be embraced and its benefits exploited.

“People are worried their jobs are being exported to countries like India and China, where labour is cheaper, but the picture is far more complex and much more positive.

“It would seem that firms that offshore part of their production process or service provision overseas become more efficient.

“This boosts productivity and turnover, and as a result these firms grow and end up employing more people at home, not fewer.

“But we need to continually invest in upgrading the skills of British workers to increase their adaptability and help smooth the transition from one job to another.”

The Economic Impact of Offshoring

GEP’s research into the effects of offshoring is presented in a 120-page report, *The Economic Impact of Offshoring*.

The study is the largest of its kind ever undertaken.

A useful six-page summary has been prepared for the Conference on Offshoring.

PDFs of the summary are available on request.

GEP Conference on Offshoring

June 20th and 21st, University of Nottingham

Policy forum speakers include:

- **Alan Blinder**, Princeton University
- **Heather Booth di Giovanni**, UK Trade and Investment
- **Alex Hijzen**, Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development
- **Jonathan Portes**, Department of Work and Pensions
- **James Watson**, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)

Speakers from the academic community include:

- **Mary Amiti**, New York Federal Reserve Bank
- **Giorgio Barba Navaretti**, Milan University
- **Claudia Buch**, University of Tübingen
- **Karolina Eckholm**, Stockholm University
- **Peter Egger**, University of Munich
- **Joseph Francois and Julia Wörz**, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies
- **Ingo Geishecker**, University of Goettingen
- **Liza Jabbour**, GEP, University of Nottingham
- **Eiichi Tomiura**, Yokohama National University
- **Alex Hijzen, Richard Upward and Peter Wright**, GEP, University of Nottingham
- **Holger Görg, David Greenaway and Richard Kneller**, GEP, University of Nottingham

GEP - the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre - is the major centre in Europe studying the impacts of globalisation and economic policy.

One of the biggest of its kind in the world, the centre has an impressive international reputation.

Its academics have advised the Treasury, the Commonwealth, the OECD, the World Bank and the WTO.

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 purpose-built Semenyih campus, 30km from Kuala Lumpur.

The first-ever branch campus of a UK university abroad, Semenyih serves an international community of students from more than 50 countries.

In November 2008 GEP will launch 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

University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham is ranked in the UK's Top 10 and the World's Top 70 universities by the Shanghai Jiao Tong (SJTU) and Times Higher (THES) World University Rankings.

It provides innovative and top-quality teaching, undertakes world-changing research and attracts talented staff and students from 150 nations. Described by The Times as Britain's "only truly global university", it has invested continuously in award-winning campuses in the United Kingdom, China and Malaysia.

Twice since 2003 its research and teaching academics have won Nobel Prizes. The University has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise in both 2006 (International Trade) and 2007 (Innovation — School of Pharmacy).

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For more information, contact:

Martin Stott, Bulletin PR
Telephone: +44 (0)115 922 8264
Mobile: 07956 917 978.
Email: martin.stott@bulletinpr.co.uk

or Tim Utton in the University's Media and
Public Relations Office
Telephone: +44 (0)115 846 8092

GEP website: www.gep.org.uk