



Leverhulme Centre
for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy

A taste of things to come for would-be economists

The economists of the future will get their first taste of the huge challenges that lie ahead of them when GEP hosts its annual Sixth-Form Conference later this month.

Inspired by the all-consuming saga of the global credit crunch and the new drama of Europe's debt crisis, record numbers of students are again due to attend the event.

As ever, they will receive a valuable insight into what studying economics entails – as well as an idea of what saving the world from further meltdown might involve.

The conference was first staged in 2006 and quickly became so popular that in 2008 it was doubled in size to accommodate the number of sixth-formers keen to take part.

This year's event again comes at a time when economics is high on the news agenda as the after-effects of the worldwide financial slump continue to throw up fresh crises.

Dr Wyn Morgan, whose International Trade Game is a regular centrepiece of the conference, said: "Interests in economics has boomed during the past couple of years.

"The students who attend these events really want to know the ins and outs of the global financial system and to try to understand why, to put it bluntly, it all went so wrong.

"They perhaps see themselves making a difference in the future, and our first task is to help them on their way by proving they're right to think economics is a fascinating subject."

GEP founder Professor David Greenaway – now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham – spearheaded the idea of the Sixth-Form Conference.

The first was so successful that the conference was expanded

Conference briefing

for 2007. When even this produced a reserve list, two one-day events were introduced for 2008.

This year's events are being held on 21st and 28th June and, as in previous years, will see GEP academics present a range of lectures and practical exercises.

The programmes are designed to introduce students to key current themes such as globalisation, recession, protectionism and China's growing role in the world economy.

Dr Morgan, of the Nottingham School of Economics, which houses GEP, said: "The importance of interaction and engagement is a cornerstone of our approach to teaching.

"When students come to you with a genuine enthusiasm for a subject you can't waste it. You should do everything you can to make sure they always retain it.

"The conference very much fits in with that ethos, and it's no coincidence that many of our students first encounter GEP and the School as a whole through this event."

Conference highlights

21st June

Protectionism and the Global Recession (Professor Chris Milner)
Will China Become the Next Economic Superpower? (Dr Zhihong Yu)
The International Trade Game (Dr Wyn Morgan)
The Global Financial Crisis (Professor David Greenaway)
Are Financial Markets Efficient? (Dr Spiros Bougheas)

28th June

On the Case for Free Trade (Professor Daniel Bernhofen)
Firms in International Trade (Dr Fabrice Defever)
The International Trade Game (Dr Wyn Morgan)
Trade and the Environment (Dr Tim Lloyd)
Could the UK Go Bust? (Dr John Gathergood)

Full details can be found at

http://www.gep.org.uk/leverhulme/events/Conferences%20announcements/2010_6th_Form_Conference.php

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

The Nottingham School of Economics

The Nottingham School of Economics has earned a world-class reputation for its research on a broad range of economic subjects, particularly globalisation, experimental economics and time-series econometrics.

Its standing among the elite economics departments in the UK was reinforced by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, which ranked its "research power" among the top three in the country.

The measurement of "research power" takes into account not only the quality of research but, crucially, the number of staff put forward for inclusion in the RAE. To underline the strength and depth of its work, the School put forward every member of its staff.

All of its research was classed as of international quality, and 85 per cent was defined as "world-leading" or "internationally excellent" – the top two possible ratings.

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