



Leverhulme Centre
for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy

June 2011 www.gep.org.uk

A taste of things to come for would-be economists

Government deficits, reduced public spending, interest rates, unemployment, IMF predictions – economics and finance continue to dominate the news agenda.

Small wonder, then, that GEP's annual Sixth-Form Conference is yet again set to attract record numbers of would-be economists when it takes place later this month.

Students from around the UK will visit the Centre on 20 and 21 June to get their first real taste of the huge challenges that continue to confront the global economy.

The event is designed to introduce them to crucial themes such as globalisation, recession, protectionism and China's growing role in the world economy.

GEP academics achieve this through lectures and practical exercises that this year are based around issues including technological change, exports and the financial crisis.

Professor Wyn Morgan, whose International Trade Game is always one of the event's most popular features, said: "These students see economics as their future.

"Interest in the subject is at a high – understandably so, given what has happened during the past few years – and it's important to take full advantage of that.

"That's why one of our key tasks on the day is to prove to the students that they're right about the subject – to show them it's a discipline they really will enjoy."

GEP's founding Director, Professor David Greenaway – now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham – pioneered the idea of the Sixth-Form Conference.

Now in its sixth year, the event is so popular that since 2008 two separate day-long sessions have been necessary to satisfy the intense demand for places.

Professor Morgan, of the Nottingham School of Economics, which houses GEP, said: "Our approach to teaching always involves plenty of interaction and engagement.

"The conference is true to that philosophy, because we want to harness the enthusiasm of the students and make sure they carry it through to their later studies.

"If they go away reassured that economics is a genuinely fascinating subject and something they want to pursue further then we can consider the event a success."

GEP's Director, Professor Daniel Bernhofen, said: "It's easy to forget that only a few years ago economics stories were hidden away inside newspapers' business sections.

"Now we're used to economics being front-page news, which helps explain why more and more students are appreciating what an important and exciting subject it can be.

"It's also worth remembering that a degree in economics can lead to many careers, so even those who ultimately don't go on to work as economists will benefit."



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

Conference highlights

20 June

Import Protection and Export Promotion?
Professor Chris Milner

Can China become the next Economic Superpower?
Dr Zhihong Yu

Firms in International Trade
Dr Fabrice Defever

Globalisation and Technological Change: An Historical Perspective
Professor Daniel Bernhofen

The International Trade Game
Professor Wyn Morgan

21 June

Entrepreneurship and the Global Financial Crisis
Dr Richard Kneller

The Crisis of 2008: A Story of Big Numbers
Dr Spiros Bougheas

Trade and the Environment
Dr Tim Lloyd

Winners and Losers of Globalisation
Dr Alejandro Riaño

The International Trade Game
Professor Wyn Morgan

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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About GEP

Based at the University of Nottingham in the UK and primarily funded by grants from the Leverhulme Trust, GEP is the major centre in Europe studying the impacts of globalisation and economic policy.

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