

Micro-Economic Foundations of Economic Policy Performance in Asia

***National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
&
East Asia Bureau of Economic Research (EABER)***

New Delhi, 3-4 April 2008

NCAER and EABER, which is coordinated through the Australian National University, will hold a working conference on micro-economic foundations of economic policy performance in Asia. This conference, to take place in New Delhi, 3-4 April 2008, will carry forward research and dialogue on issues of microeconomic and institutional foundations of South Asian integration.

Programme: Day 1

9.00am – 9.30am	Registration
9.30am – 10.30am	Welcome Remarks by Suman Bery (NCAER) and Peter Drysdale (EABER) Keynote Address by Distinguished Speaker: Dr. Ishrat Husain
10.30am – 10.45am	Coffee Break
10.45am – 12.30pm	SESSION 1: The Role of Microeconomic Policy Reform in Regional Integration: Analytic and Empirical Questions

This session will outline the analytic issues and provide some empirical evidence on the importance of domestic regulatory and institutional factors to economic performance, briefly reviewing the relationship between institutions for micro-economic and structural policy making and economic integration.

Chair:	Suman Bery
Paper 1:	Philippa Dee (ANU)
Paper 2:	Paul Gretton (Australian Productivity Commission)
Discussant 1:	Mitsuo Hosen (Keio University/Cabinet Office)
Discussant 2:	Vinod Dhall (Competition Commission of India)
12.30pm – 1.15pm	Lunch

1.15pm – 2.45pm SESSION 2: Institutional Foundations of Economic Reform and Integration: Lessons from South Asia

With a focus on the Indian experience, this panel will discuss the principles whereby the institutions for economic policy making can be evaluated and the processes of economic policy making improved. It will review various dimensions of these issues in the context of experience in different South Asian economies at different stages of development and integration into the international economy. It will seek to identify common interests in the development of more efficient micro economic policy institutions in the region.

Chair:	Prasanna Gai (ANU)
Paper 1:	Arvind Virmani and Tarun Das (India)
Paper 2:	S M Naseem (Pakistan)
Discussant 1:	Stephen Howes
Discussant 2:	Saowaruj Rattanakhamfu (TDRI)

2.45pm – 3.00pm Coffee Break

3.00pm – 5.00pm SESSION 3: Asian Trade Potential and Trade and Investment Structures

This session will analyse Asian trade flows and trade integration with a view to assessing the extent to which the potential of trade integration in East and South Asia is being realised and how that potential is changing over time. The session will review the factors that determine trade potential and promote or inhibit its realisation, as well as provide empirical analysis of the issue. Trade and investment links affecting trade in goods and services will also be examined.

Chair:	Deepak Dasgupta (World Bank, Delhi office)
Paper 1:	Shiro Armstrong, Peter Drysdale, Kaliappa Kalirajan (ANU) – <i>Asian Structures and Trade Potential</i>
Paper 2:	Prema-chandra Athukorala (ANU) – <i>Trade and Investment Networks in Asia</i>
Paper 3:	Rajesh Chadha and Geethanjali Nataraj (NCAER) – <i>Services Trade and Investment Flows in South Asia</i>
Discussant 1:	Bill Brummitt (Australian Treasury)
Discussant 2:	Kanhaiya Singh (NCAER)
Discussant 3:	Shandre M. Thangavelu (SCAPE)

Evening (6:15pm) Sir John Crawford Lecture by Peter Drysdale (co-sponsors: NCAER and Australia-India Council, Canberra)

Programme: Day 2

9.00am – 11.15am **SESSION 4: Regional Cooperation and Economic Reform and Growth through Integration in Asia**

This session will explore the scope for regional cooperation between South Asia and East Asia through a comparative analysis of their institutional structures and reform agendas. It will identify strategies whereby South Asia might more effectively integrate, and leverage off, the rapid economic growth occurring in its neighbouring region and East Asian approaches to trans-regional integration.

Chair:	Dr. Narahari Rao (ADB, Delhi office) (TBC)
Paper 1:	Bibek Debroy – <i>South Asian Integration Strategies</i>
Paper 2:	Kyung Tae Lee (KIEP) – <i>East Asian Integration Strategies</i>
Paper 3:	Chris Legg (Australian Treasury) – <i>East Asian and Pacific Integration Strategies</i>
Discussant 1:	Chatib Basri (UI)
Discussant 2:	Mohamed Ariff (MIER)
Discussant 3:	Pradeep Mehta (CUTS)

11.15am – 11.30am **Coffee Break**

11.30am – 1.30pm **Policy Dialogue** on ways forward for South Asian and East Asian Intra-regional Integration

This session will bring together the range of issues discussed over the previous sessions and in a discussion of ways forward for South and East Asian integration, and institutional and regional cooperation strategies to promote it.

Chair:	Peter Drysdale (ANU)
Panelists:	Geng Xiao (Tsinghua) Masahiro Kawai (ADB) Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh) U. Sankar (MSE) Dushni Weerakoon (IPS, Sri Lanka) Dr. S M Naseem (Pakistan)

1.30pm **Lunch and End of Program**
