

ASIA RISING:

Quest For Sustainable Development

National Geographic

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"Economics is a study of mankind in the ordinary business of life. It enquires how he gets his income and how he uses it. Thus, it is on the one side, the study of wealth and on the other and more important side, a part of the study of man"

- Alfred Marshall -

In an age where Economic permeates all aspects of life, the importance of economic knowledge has never been greater. The world is going through a period of transformation so rapid that the individuals and countries alike are facing overwhelming uncertainties. It is essential for countries to pull their resources together and unite in efforts to create a prosperous future for the world economy.

The Economics Faculty of Thammasat University in collaboration with respected institutions has initiated the International Conference of Economics Students, or ICES, in the hopes that it will serve as a unique learning experience and promote international cooperation. Join us to expand your horizons, exchange ideas, and be involved in discussions about economic challenges facing Asia and the world.

OBJECTIVES OF ICES

- Offer an opportunity for university students to gain insight into contemporary economic issues from renowned scholars and apply their knowledge to solve the problems
- Promote the exchange of economic, political and cultural perspectives, strengthen international understanding and foster successful cooperation among nations
- Raise awareness of current issues facing the global community and provide an opportunity for students to realize their role in building the future
- Provide an international experience for participants and help develop skills required for international success

ICES 2007

ASEAN-China Regional Integration of the Diversity



*"...ICES was really great,
and your idea at ICES
stimulated all participants
to imagine the future of
Asia..."*

- Han Sungwon
South Korea,
ICES2007 -

During a three-day conference held in Bangkok, the first ICES addressed China's rise to power and its relationship with ASEAN neighbors. Distinguished policy makers, scholars and entrepreneurs were joined in two panel discussions by over sixty delegates representing their nations. Delegates had the opportunity to present opinions and discuss with panels as well as student participants. Topics discussed included Development Economics, trade and negotiation, as well as education and culture.

*"...If you love economics and want to
experience the feeling like I did, you should
apply for ICES 2011 and I believe it will
be your unforgettable
memory..."*

- Jenny
Vietnam,
ICES2008 -

ICES 2008

ASEAN Development at a Crossroad ?

The second ICES highlighted Asian countries' strategy for survival in the increasingly globalized world. It emphasized the significance of international cooperation and attempted to formulate a framework for countries to follow for successful cooperation. Potential hindrances to development as a matter of concern were thoroughly discussed. Over one hundred delegates and experts discussed current state of development from different perspectives, offered opinions on possible future paths, and formulated potential solutions to problems.

The third ICES focused on the challenges and new responsibilities for Asian countries in their prominent roles in the global economy. The conference started with the interaction and economic integration between Western powers and rising Asian countries. The discussion then focused on Asia and its new challenges and responsibilities. Topics examined included poverty and inequality reduction, environmental responsibility, the aging economy and sustainable growth.



ICES 2012

Asia Rising: Quest For Sustainable Development



MOTIVATION

The world enjoyed massive economic growth in the early 2000's due to technological innovations, market system development, financial system development, and other factors. Many countries could not sustain long term growth. Periodic interruptions included the 2007 global financial crisis and the current European sovereign-debt crisis. These crises have caused adverse impact throughout the world.

Business cycles are common in every country, yet the duration of boom and bust has been shortened recently, indicating more severe economic volatility. Such volatility could dampen long-term growth, and the economic

structure might be made more fragile than in a system which encourages sustainable growth. Sustainable development is a vital consideration for any country. Each one can play a crucial role in developing sustainable growth.

Thinking of "Asia Rising", there are several issues worth discussing: How Asia can foster sustainable development to promote a sound world economy? Three fundamental factors must be discussed: sociopolitical, economics, and environmental.



SESSIONS

1. Socio-Political Structure: The Foundation of Development

Society has many rules or structures which govern interactions. Formal structures in politics demonstrate how decisions are made. They may be centralized or decentralized, automatic or democratic. Political problems may hinder economic development. Social and cultural values participate in shaping society as well. The quality of human capital inherited from previous generations can also make a difference in development. This session aims to understand how socio-political factors affect sustainable development. Potential discussion topics include:

- Effect of social and political factors on development
- Challenges of sustainable development in today's socio-political environment
- Success or failure in overcoming past challenges
- Possible roles of social institutions in future development

2. The Economic System: Fuel of Prosperity

Economics has always played a crucial role in all human society. Its importance is increasing, as the capitalist system develops into more complicated forms and determines how the world is run. A good economic system should allocate resources efficiently, whether capital, commodities, or money. But world crises in recent years have revealed systemic problems which threatens sustainable growth of the world economy. Understanding the causes of these problems and making necessary adjustments to improve the system's efficiency and mitigate risks of future crises is essential. How can Asia learn from the West's mistakes and avoid its problems to achieve sustainable growth? Potential discussion topics include:

- Soundness of financial system
- The role of the private sector and market competitiveness
- The role of international trade
- The role of government and the central bank
- Growth engine: domestic or export-led growth?
- Social welfare and inequality



"ICES is not just a stage for sharing knowledge, it is actually more than that.

In ICES, you can find lots of nice and smart people here. Having an opportunity to see these people present their ideas is very exciting. Motivation and interesting knowledge are what I gained from joining ICES.

Moreover, I also met a lot of new friends, both domestically and internationally. They are very friendly and enthusiastic. If you are the one who is interested in economics and wants to have international friendship, ICES is the right place for you."

*- Gazinpoj Techahuasingh,
Thailand,
ICES2011 -*

3. Environmental Management: The Path to Sustainable Future

Our environment blesses us with resources for consumption and production, but also punishes us with disasters. Sometimes the environment is unpredictable and uncontrollable, but on occasion it can be managed and sustained for future. Some resources are consumed irresponsibly. Energy is a issue to fuel a growing industrial world. Alternative resources such as solar, nuclear, and hydro energy each have pros and cons. Another important issue is pollution harming society and the economy. The question is how to better manage and utilize the environment to benefit society in the long term. key Potential topics include:

- Allocation of resources and regeneration
- Disasters and how to reduce their impact on long-term growth path
- Alternative sources of energy: their costs and benefis
- Pollution: its effect on livelihood and productivity
- Health solutions and their effects on the economy
- Global warming

"ICES is the best conference in business and economics for students in the Asian and Pasific Region.

I got many great insights and I met many prestigious people in the conference. You must come to this conference!"

- Dendi Anugerah
Pratama Suhubdy,
Indonesia,
ICES2011 -



A MISSION (IM)POSSIBLE ? How to Accomplish Sustainable Development

Imagine our economy as a seed which we hope will grow into a mighty tree. Socio-political factors can be viewed as soil, economic policies as mulch, and the environment as sunlight around the tree.

For the tree to grow sustainably, all factors must be strong and appropriately mixed, yet may vary according to conditions. Optimality is a dynamic concept rather than a static one.

Sometimes only growth speed is a concern. The soil's nutrients are depleted. Fertilizer is used recklessly and the air is polluted. Although the tree may grow in the short tern, it will soon die.

The question is how to make the tree grow sustainably in the long term. Considering socio-political factors, economics, and the environment, how can we attain the goal of sustainable development?

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1

08.00 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome Speech and Opening Remarks
09.30 – 10.00	Keynote Speech
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 – 12.00	Panel Discussion
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.30	Session 1: Socio-Political Structure: The Foundation of Development
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 17.30	Activities and Group Discussion for Presentation in Day 2

DAY 2

09.00 – 11.00	Session 2: Economic System: The Fuel of Prosperity”
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.00	Group Discussion
12.00 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.30	Session 3: Environmental Management: The Path to Sustainable Future
15.30 – 16.30	Coffee Break and Group Discussion
16.30 – 18.00	Group Presentation
18.00 – 18.30	Closing Ceremony

DAY 3

8.00 – 17.00	Field Trip
18.30 – 22.00	Gala Dinner (International Night)

CONTACT INFORMATION



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