The Joseph Fisher Public Lecture Series

"Multinational Corporations and Development: Changing Perceptions."

The School of Economics together with the Economics Society of Australia Eminent Speaker Series is proud to present Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Professor of Law and Economics at Columbia University New York.

Multinationals (MNCs) have been doubly maligned traditionally. One school maintains that they create enclaves which then fail to benefit the host country. The other school argues that they do in fact affect the host countries but that the impact is malign.

There is now recognition that MNCs can have benign impact on host countries in many ways that the Lecture will consider. Besides, many of the conventional malign-impact fears that the anti-globalization lobbies voice - e.g. that they "exploit" host-country labour - have been shown to be unjustified. Nonetheless, the Lecture will demonstrate that the malign impact can come from the MNCs influencing rule-setting that can yield them gains at the expense of the host countries.

Finally, the obligations (and not just the rights) of MNCs in defining international codes for MNCs have been increasingly discussed and link up with the widespread demand that MNCs undertake programs for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Jagdish Bhagwati is Senior Fellow for international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and University Professor at Columbia University. He is also Co-Chair of the High-Level Expert Group on Trade appointed by the Governments of Britain, Germany, Indonesia, and Turkey.

He has been economic policy adviser to Arthur Dunkel, director-general of GATT (1991–93), special adviser to the UN on globalization, and external adviser to the WTO. He has served on the expert group appointed by the director-general of the WTO on the future of the WTO and the advisory committee to Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the NEPAD process in Africa, and was also a member of the Eminent Persons Group under the chairmanship of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso on the future of UNCTAD.

Friday 13th July 2012
5.30 – 6.30pm
Napier Building Lecture Theatre G04

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