

MEDIA RELEASE

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World Economists Focus on Government Role in Resource-Based Industries

Over 350 local and international economists will converge on Adelaide next week to progress key local and global issues of concern to government and the agriculture and natural resource management sectors.

The largest ever Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from the 10 to 12 February 2010.

The theme of the 54th AARES Conference is *Government Roles in Resource-Based Industries in an Interconnected World*.

Key issues covered in the conference program include emerging challenges in climate change, government policy in water and trade, globalization of supermarkets, the rise of corporate farming, landscape management, and agriculture and global economic development.

Eminent Australian and international speakers can explain for the layperson their topics including:

- Steve Polasky, Professor, University of Minnesota, member of the USA EPA and former environment advisor to the Clinton administration speaking on *Coming Down to Earth: Valuing Nature for Better Decisions*
- Derek Byerlee, an Australian Member of the CGIAR Science Council and Former Director, World Development Report 2008, presenting on *Globalisation and the Rise of Corporate Farms*
- Jeffrey LaFrance, Professor, Washington State University speaking on *Understanding the US Demand for Food, Nutrition and Health, 1910-2007*
- Will Martin, the Australian Research Manager of the Rural Development Unit, World Bank speaking on *Promoting Global Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction*
- Prabhu Pingali, Deputy Director, Agricultural Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation speaking on *Promoting Agriculture Renaissance through Strategic Philanthropy*
- Peter Timmer, Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Development Studies, Emeritus, Harvard University speaking on *What are the Lessons from Agricultural Development in Asia?*
- Kym Anderson, George Gollin Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide and advisor to the World Bank presenting on *Distortions to Global Agricultural Markets: What next?*
- Julian Alston, the Australian Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis speaking on *Agricultural Productivity in the USA*
- John Freebairn, Professor, The University of Melbourne speaking on *Markets, Government & Agriculture*
- Ross Kingwell, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture and Food; Associate Professor, University of Western Australia speaking on *Managing Complexity in Modern Farming*
- Katarina Nossal, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), speaking on *Agricultural Productivity in Australia*
- Mike Young, Professor & Director, The Environment Institute, The University of Adelaide speaking on *Managing Environmental Water*
- Jeff Bennett, Professor, Australian National University, speaking on *Making Decisions about Environmental Water: An Economic Approach*

Additional reports will focus on a broad range of domestic and international topics such as kangaroo meat traceability, food safety, water policy and investments, new approaches to African agriculture, intellectual property issues in agricultural research, food price volatility, carbon policies for agriculture, water quality in the Great Barrier Reef, management of marine resources, and the value of water in tourism and the environment, biodiversity and endangered species.

Media are welcome to attend - further information is available from the AARES Conference Website <http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/AARES2010> or contact Cathy Reade.