



LSE in Asia

Since 2004 we have been organising Asia Forums to enhance the School's profile around the region. We began in Bangkok in 2004, and have subsequently been to Hong Kong, Delhi and Singapore. In each case we were pleased to have the prime minister (or chief executive in Hong Kong) to open the event.

The aim of the series is straightforward. LSE has a significant Asian community, there are over 1,500 Asian students in the School, perhaps a thousand of whom are studying for master's programmes. We also carry out a lot of research on socio-economic questions related to the continent. We do not see ourselves as simply a degree factory, shipping Asians into London, filling them full of equations and sending them back home. Our engagement with Asian countries is much closer than that, and the Asia Forums have allowed us to show off the range of our research.

Next March we shall hold the fifth event in Beijing and we have invited foreign minister Yang Jiechi, to make a keynote opening address. He is an alumnus

of the School from the mid-1970s, when – as part of an attempt to warm up bilateral relationships after the cultural revolution – two groups of Chinese students came here. We are also taking a strong group of our faculty to China.

One positive feature of the forums so far has been the presence of alumni both from the individual country, and from the rest of the region. They were all very welcome, and it gave a 'family' feel to the events which we would not have been able otherwise to duplicate. So I very much hope that any of you who are within reach of Beijing on 26 March next year will join us.

An extra feature is that we will be holding a graduation ceremony on the day before. Most of our students and their families like to come to London for graduation. But it is an expensive trip, so we think we ought to offer the option of a graduation ceremony, with the full LSE livery, accessible more cheaply for those living in the region.

At the Forum itself, we will be talking about financial developments in China. I, for the last six years, have been a member of the Advisory Board of the China Banking Regulatory Commission and have followed financial reform in China quite closely. The

Chinese are now thinking hard about where they go next with their reform programme, particularly in the light of the very visible meltdown in Western financial systems.

Then there is climate change. Nick Stern will be in Beijing. He has been advising the Chinese already on their position at the Copenhagen summit. China has a particular problem. Its economy has grown very rapidly, so the kind of targets for cuts in emissions which are debated in Washington and London do not look appropriate. But the most recent speeches by the Chinese leadership show that they are now very seriously engaged with the topic. Once again, it is a timely subject to debate. We will also be discussing the challenges of developing health care systems, led by Professor Julian Le Grand, and Professor Arne Westad will be discussing China's foreign relations.

So we hope that our fifth forum will be intellectually exciting, as well as being an opportunity for old and new friends of the School to get together. ■

Howard Davies is director of LSE.

LSE ASIA FORUM BEIJING 25-26 March 2010

CHINA AND THE WORLD: THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

The 5th LSE Asia Forum will visit Beijing in 2010. The forum brings together senior academics from LSE with eminent figures from the worlds of government, policy and business to discuss key current issues relating to globalisation, with a particular emphasis on Asia.

Speakers will include Howard Davies, Professor Lord Stern, Professor Julian Le Grand and Professor Arne Westad, who will each be joined by high profile figures from across the world. Special guests will also include Professor Michael Yahuda and Professor Christopher Hill who both taught at LSE in the 1970s.

There will be an Alumni Reception on the evening of Thursday 25 March with the one day forum following this on Friday 26 March – please visit the website for further information.

The forum is free and open to LSE alumni to attend but you must register in advance. There are limited places, and places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Registration opens 1 December 2009. Register at www.alumni.lse.ac.uk/asiaforum

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