



PRESS RELEASE

Top UN Official to inaugurate Maastricht Policy Seminar Series



Maastricht, 15 April. José Antonio Ocampo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs will inaugurate the new UNU-MERIT/Maastricht School of Governance Joint Seminar Series on 17 April 2007. The lecture at Maastricht University is the first of a monthly series that seeks to bridge the academic and policy dimensions of key global issues in the area of technological development, innovation, international policy and governance.

Professor Ocampo has vast experience as an academic and policymaker at national, regional and international level. He previously headed the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and has served both as a government minister and Director of the Foundation for Higher Education and Development in Colombia, in addition to holding professorships at leading universities in South America, the US and UK.

The starting point for the seminar is the observation that the rich and diverse analytical insights that have been garnered in the field of development economics have so far not been matched in the policy design sphere where "...the triumph of liberal economics is the dominant rule." In the introductory chapter of his book *Beyond Reforms: Structural Dynamics and Macroeconomic Vulnerability* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, World Bank and ECLAC, 2005) Ocampo writes: "After an era marked by strong State intervention and protectionism, it was expected that less interventionist, open economies would provide the basis for rapid growth in the developing world. These expectations have been largely frustrated so far. Latin America represents, in this

regard, an outstanding example of a region where the record of economic liberalization has not only been disappointing, but indeed has been considerably poorer than that of State-led (or import-substitution) industrialization.”

Ocampo concludes that the key to rapid growth in the developing world is thus a combination of strategies aimed at the dynamic transformation of production structures with appropriate macroeconomic conditions and stability, in the broad sense of the latter term; to improve the distributive effects of growth, such a strategy should be supplemented with policies aimed at reducing the structural heterogeneity of production structures.

The seminar will be held at the Feestsalon, Bouillonstraat 3 (Faculty of Law), 6200 MD Maastricht

Media representatives are welcome to attend the event. To schedule an interview, or for more information please contact:

Wangu Mwangi

Communications Coordinator

UNU-MERIT

Keizer Karelplein 19

6211 TC Maastricht

The Netherlands

Tel: + 31 43 3884465

Fax: + 31 43 3884499

Email: mwangi@merit.unu.edu

URL: <http://www.merit.unu.edu/>

Or

Charlotte Groven

Project Manager

Training Activities & Research Projects

MGSoG

Tongersestraat 49

6211 LM Maastricht

The Netherlands

Tel: +31 43 3883411

Fax: +31 43 3884864

Email: info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl

URL: <http://www.governance.unimaas.nl>