

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
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NOBEL LAUREATE TO ENLIGHTEN DEBATE ON ECONOMIC TRANSITIONS AND SOCIALIST ECONOMIC REFORMS

Prof. Kenneth J. Arrow -- one of the giants in modern economics -- will lecture in Hong Kong for the first time at a public lecture on October 4th (Monday), which commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Known for his pioneering contribution to the general equilibrium theory, which led to his award of Nobel Prize in Economic Science in 1972, Prof. Arrow will venture into newer ground in his upcoming lecture entitled "Economic and Political Transitions: Scale and Speed".

A number of the world's economies have decided in one way or another to engage in a transition from state socialism to some form of free market activities -- most conspicuously the states of Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China, Prof. Arrow wrote in a synopsis he prepared for the lecture.

"The idea of immediate movement to a free economy is in fact not even feasible... for very elementary reasons of economics," noted Prof. Arrow -- who is Joan Kenney Professor of Economics (Emeritus) and Professor of Operations Research (Emeritus) from the Stanford University in the U.S.

As a debate is heating up as to whether the "shock therapy" approach in the ex-Soviet bloc or the "gradualism" approach in mainland China is more desirable, Prof. Arrow will discuss the various alternatives in such economic transformation in light of general economic theory and new developments in the theory of organization.

The 72-year-old professor was hailed as one of the most "creative composers of music in economics". His work is wide-ranging -- covering the most fundamental elements of economic theory to applications to social institutions and policies. His influence is far-reaching, crossing the fields of moral and political philosophy, politics and operation research.

His architectonic contributions to modern economics -- which many believe deserve a second Nobel Prize -- cover the economics of decision-making under uncertainty; the relationship between individual preferences, social choice, and the impossibility of consistent aggregation (which was encapsulated in the Arrow's Impossibility Theorem); and the analysis of public investment.

Prof. Arrow's well-known works include: *Social Choice and Individual Values*, 1951; *Essays in Theory of Risk Bearing*, 1971; and *The Limits of Organization*, 1974.

Sponsored by the Wei Lun Foundation, the lecture is part of the University's year-long 30th Anniversary Celebrations.

All are welcome to attend the lecture which starts at 4:30 p.m. on October 4th at the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall on the University's Shatin campus.

Secondary schools are encouraged to organize their senior form students to attend the lecture. For seat reservation, please ring the Chinese University's Information Office at 609-7293.

For press enquiry, please contact Mrs. Shirley Kwok of the Chinese University of Hong Kong at 609-7294.

Note to Editors:

A photo of Prof. Arrow will be distributed via GIS press boxes this afternoon.