



Nanyang Technological University
DIVISION OF ECONOMICS
Seminar Series

The Division of Economics invites you to a seminar by Professor Richard Barichello

- Speaker** : **Richard Barichello**
Professor, University of British Columbia
- Topic** : **"Comparing Agricultural Productivity and Growth: Alternative Measures of Sectoral Performance in Indonesia, Vietnam, and China"**
- Chairperson** : **Associate Professor James ANG**
*Division of Economics
School of Humanities & Social Sciences*
- Date** : **28th April 2016 (Thursday)**
- Time** : **3.30pm to 4.30pm**
- Venue** : **Meeting Room 4 (HSS-04-71)**
*Nanyang Technological University
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
14, Nanyang Drive
Singapore 637332*

About the Speaker:

Rick Barichello is a Professor within the Food and Resource Economics Group at the University of British Columbia and has worked at UBC since his PhD at the University of Chicago in 1979. He was Head of the UBC Department of Agricultural Economics from 1988 to 1994, and from 2007 to 2014 was the Director of the Center for Southeast Asia Research within UBC's Institute of Asian Research. He has been a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and a visiting professor at Yale, Stanford, Harvard, University of California-Davis, Leuven in Belgium, and ISEAS in Singapore. He worked for the Harvard Institute for International Development in Jakarta, from 1986 to 1988, and has subsequently researched and taught courses in Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Korea, Poland, and Ethiopia. He was President of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society in 1999 and awarded the designation of Fellow of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, its highest honour, in 2008. In 2015 he was named to the Executive Committee of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium, then elected to be Chair of that organization in 2016. His research has been on the economic analysis of public policy, particularly trade and agricultural policies and institutions, Canadian dairy and poultry quota markets, and on a variety of agricultural development issues, mostly applied to Southeast Asia. His economic development work has focused mostly on trade policy, domestic agricultural policies, world food markets, Southeast Asia rural labour markets, and cost-benefit analysis of investment projects.

Abstract:

For developing countries, achieving economic success in the agricultural sector is a critical policy objective to increase percapita incomes and alleviate poverty. Vietnam's and China's agricultural sector's successes are striking, especially when one looks at Vietnam's remarkable export performance and China's agricultural GDP growth. In contrast, Indonesia has had a modest record of agricultural performance and competitiveness, relying only on tree crop exports and a history of food crop protectionism. We examine a range of measures of sectoral performance, all from widely accessible data, to gain a more nuanced assessment of each country's respective agricultural growth and productivity. In this paper we examine a selection of six measures over the time period from 1990 to 2010 for all three countries, measures that include but move beyond simple export statistics. The more detailed data show different dimensions of these countries' agricultural sector performance. First, by some measures of performance and in some time periods, Vietnam and China have a very strong record, much better than that of Indonesia. But by other measures and periods, Indonesia is at least as strong as Vietnam, even surpassing that country in some cases and years. Our examination of more recent data forces a reconsideration of what is the cause of these changes in relative performance. Lessons are drawn on how countries can reform their agricultural policies to achieve better results for growth and poverty reduction.

Reservation:

Admission is free. Please reply to h-dae@ntu.edu.sg to confirm your attendance.

