



Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kottur, Chennai-600025, TN-India

Status Note

Conference and Ph.D Workshop on

“Frontier Issues in Technology, Development and Environment”

(Annual Conference of IASSI hosted by MSE)

(Venue: Madras School of Economics, March 19 -21, 2010)

The Madras School of Economics (MSE) is hosting a three day conference of Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) on **“The Frontier Issues in Technology, Development and Environment”**. The conference is also supported by the Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing (Knowledge Forum). The conference will have two components:

1. Conference and
2. Ph.D. workshop; paper presentation in the workshop will be restricted to students from Southern and Western India.

The morning sessions will be devoted to the conference and the afternoon sessions will mainly deal with the Ph.D. workshop. Both the conference and the Ph.D. workshop will deal with the same theme.

All the participants (including the Ph.D. students) will spend three days at MSE.

The three day conference will start with Tarlok Singh Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Professor G K Chadha.

Conference

The conference will have about 20 papers.

Papers to be presented will cover the following broad themes:

1. Technology – Innovation and Knowledge Sourcing
2. Technology and Development – Interface
3. Environmental Studies
4. Environment and Development – Interface

Under the first theme, papers will discuss the relationship between in-house knowledge creation and external knowledge sourcing, the role of non-technical innovations in influencing performance, R&D strategies, patents, and industrial case studies. Under the second theme the papers will cover issues relating to growth, productivity and energy intensity of the manufacturing sector in India. The presentations will cover the manufacturing sector as well as the information technology sector.

Papers on the environmental theme will cover several topics like coping with environmental disasters, vulnerability of the population, ground water conditions, conflicts and local livelihoods, marginalisation of the vulnerable sections and issues relating to climate change. On the interface between environment and development several issues have emerged. The conference will cover some of them like sustainability issues whether relating to cropping pattern or fishing, property rights relating to water and other issues.

Ph.D. Workshop

The Ph.D. workshop will have about 15 papers.

Papers to be presented in the Ph.D. workshop have been classified under the following heads:

1. Studies on Environmental
2. Studies on Health
3. Studies on other Issues Relating to Development
4. Technology

Papers on environmental issues will focus on impact of environmental regulations on enterprises, energy consumption, water governance, issues relating to commons, climate change, displacement of population and environmental conflicts, and alternative sources of energy. There will be a separate session on Health Studies. The session will cover topics relating to health and technology, access to health care, and the measurement of health services. Studies on other issues relating to development will cover urban development, contract farming, and productivity growth. The session on technology will discuss technology - society interactions, renewable energy technologies, and diffusion of information technologies.