Tufts Institute Awards Annual Economics Prize to Robert Wade and José Antonio Ocampo
Fall event on “New Visions for Trade and Development”
February 25, 2008

Tufts University’s Global Development and Environment Institute announced today that it will award its annual Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought to José Antonio Ocampo of Columbia University and Robert Wade of the London School of Economics. The award ceremony will take place November 17 at Tufts University and will feature lectures by the prize winners on the topic, “Beyond the Washington Consensus: New Visions for Trade and Development.”

The Global Development And Environment Institute (GDAE), which is jointly affiliated with Tufts’ Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, inaugurated its economics award in 2000 in memory of Nobel Prize-winning economist and Institute advisory board member Wassily Leontief, who had passed away the previous year. The Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought recognizes economists whose work, like that of the institute and Leontief himself, combines theoretical and empirical research that can promote a more comprehensive understanding of social and environmental processes. The inaugural prizes were awarded in 2000 to John Kenneth Galbraith and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen.

“There is no longer any consensus, in Washington or elsewhere, that free trade, unregulated by government intervention, can produce broad-based sustainable development,” says GDAE Co-director Neva Goodwin. “José Antonio Ocampo and Robert Wade are among the most creative economic thinkers, combining rigorous analysis with empirically grounded research. Each of them is laying critical pieces of the groundwork that’s needed for solving global problems in ways that will genuinely improve the lives of the world’s poor majority.”

José Antonio Ocampo is one of the deans of Latin American economics. His numerous articles, books, and reports have made major contributions to development scholarship, and policy. He is a leading thinker on the reform of the international financial architecture and on macroeconomic policies to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to international financial volatility. He worked in the United Nations, as Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and held several cabinet-level government posts in his native Colombia.

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He currently serves as Professor and Co-director with Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University's Initiative for Policy Dialogue. His many books include Globalization and Development: A Latin American and Caribbean Perspective, Regional Financial Cooperation, and the forthcoming volume on Capital Market Liberalization and Development.

Robert Wade has made seminal contributions to several fields of study. His book Governing the Market, on the state's role in East Asian development, won the American Political Science Association’s prize for Best Book in Political Economy. His Village Republics: Economic Conditions for Collective Action in South India, showed that the tragedy of the commons does not always hold true and that collective action can be an alternative to privatization and state control in the management of common property resources. More recently he has emerged as a leading critic of the view that globalization reduces global inequality and global poverty, and a leading contributor to rethinking development policy and the international policy framework.

The Global Development And Environment Institute was founded in 1993 with the goal of promoting a better understanding of how societies can pursue their economic and community goals in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. The Institute develops textbooks and course materials that incorporate a broad understanding of social, financial and environmental sustainability. The Institute also carries out policy-relevant research on globalization, climate change, and the role of the market in environmental policy.

In addition to Amartya Sen and John Kenneth Galbraith, GDAE has awarded the Leontief Prize to Paul Streeten, Herman Daly, Alice Amsden, Dani Rodrik, Nancy Folbre, Robert Frank, Richard Nelson, Ha-Joon Chang, Samuel Bowles, Juliet Schor, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, and Stephen DeCanio.

The awards ceremony and Leontief Prize lectures will take place on Tufts University’s Medford Campus November 17, 2008.

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