

Dear Colleagues:

Let me first apologize for this form letter, rather than a personalized invitation. It is purely a cost-minimizing attempt (on my behalf), while the sincerity is undiminished.

For those of you that participated in the 83rd Annual Conference (Honolulu, Hawaii, June 29 – July 3, 2008), I hope you enjoyed the experience. I have to admit that the attendance was higher than I had expected, given the location.

I am writing this letter to invite you to participate in the WEA International's 8th Pacific Rim Conference, to be held in Kyoto, Japan (3/24-27, 2009). For those of you who attended the 7th Biennial Pacific Rim Conference last year (Peking University, Beijing, China), I trust you all had a great experience, and I hope it would be the same this time around. Next year's conference is held later than the past Pacific Rim Conferences, but that is intentional as it will coincide with the famous Cherry Blossom season!! In addition, the ancient city of Kyoto is the greatest representation of the Japanese culture. I've visited several cities in Japan, and Kyoto is my favorite.

If you are interested in presenting a "volunteer" paper, please go to www.weai.org to register/submit. However, if your paper has policy implications, may I suggest that you consider participating in the ***Contemporary Economic Policy*** (CEP) sessions? For those of you that are familiar with the WEA know that CEP is one of the two professional publications of the Association (the other is the *Economic Inquiry*). The paper submission fee (us475) is WAIVED, and you will be listed under the CEP invited session banners.

As usual, I will be organizing many CEP sessions. The topics typical include Labor, Development (Asia and general), Institutions/Cultural, etc. The papers should have significant policy implications so as to fit the objective of CEP (Contemporary Economic Policy).

If you are interested, please e-mail me your

1. Name and affiliation;
2. Address, phone/fax, e-mail;
3. Title of the Paper (including 3 sets of JEL classification codes);
4. Brief abstract (no more than 200 words);
5. Areas willing to serve as Discussant (JEL codes would help);
6. Time/day preference (flexibility is greatly appreciated).

As a presenter, I would also like to ask you to serve as a discussant, so as to share your expertise and enhance the exchange of ideas. I will try my best to assign you to papers consistent with your interest.

As an officer in the Association, I typically have a bit more flexibility with time. BUT, this year the timeline is very tight. Hence, I would appreciate it if you could send in your info by the **October 21st**, so as to allow some time for me to put the sessions together and to communicate with you regarding time/schedule preferences and other issues. **Please feel free to pass along this invitation to your friends/colleagues.**

If you are interested in organizing a complete session (with chair/presenters/discussant), may I have the full session setup sheet by 11/15/08? And, if you need any assistant, please don't hesitate to let me know. As an added **incentive**, those that organize a session will be listed as a member of the Conference Program Committee. Furthermore, if you organize a session **AND if your affiliation is an Institution Member** of the WEA, your conference registration fee is waived (\$235 for WEA members, and \$315 for non-members).

Regardless, by participating in the CEP sessions, your paper submission fee (475) is waived, AND, all pay only the member rate for Conference registration (potentially a \$80 savings). And, if you choose to submit your paper to CEP for publication considerations, the paper submission fee (up to \$100) will also be waived.

If you have already submitted a proposal to the WEA, but would like to (instead) be in one of the CEP sessions, just let me know and I will ask the WEA to transfer you to me.

I have attached a formal pdf file for the Kyoto Conference with all the important information. You are also encouraged to visit the WEA website (www.weai.org).

I have attached several informative documents/forms.

Best wishes,

Jack W. Hou

Contemporary Economic Policy