



PRESS RELEASE

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48th ANNUAL NABE MEETING TO FOCUS ON THE INFORMATION ECONOMY

The National Association for Business Economics (NABE) will hold its 48th Annual Meeting from 10-12 September 2006. Titled “Comparative Advantage in the 21st Century: Information Technology and the Professional Network,” the event will be held in Boston at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Based upon the theme of the information economy, the meeting program will examine how new research and technology can enhance the way that economists work with business executives to achieve success in an intensely competitive global marketplace.

“There are two things that make this meeting unique among other meetings that business economists will attend this year,” said John Silvia, chief economist, Wachovia Bank, and co-chair of the NABE Annual Meeting Committee. “One, it is focused on one key theme: information technology, and two, it focuses people’s attention on the twenty-first century. It is taking a core look at how everyone is using technology today—how we are gathering, processing, and disseminating information, and how others are using it. We’re really looking at the new fundamentals here, and at how we capture the comparative advantage of using technology.”

Unlike previous NABE meetings, the program will not be based upon an industry focus or a macroeconomic focus, but will cut across all industries and across the entire economy. “Our intent is that NABE’s quarterly journal, *Business Economics*, will publish 10-15 papers from this conference, and that these papers will become a source document that will explain how the information economy works and that will be referenced over the next 10-20 years,” said John Silvia.

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In discussing the focus of the meeting, Co-Chair Gene Huang, chief economist at FedEx Corporation, said: “We are witnessing the unfolding of the IT revolution. The infusion of information technology is transforming our workspace in a dramatic way. This annual meeting is a major effort by NABE to prepare business professionals and executives to succeed in the new environment.”

Sessions will address such topics as: Dealing with the Media; Blogs; Measuring Inflation; Household Wealth and the Savings Rate; Capital Inflows and the Trade Deficit: Measurement and Implications of Global Imbalances; Private Sector Data Developments in Response to the New Economy; Developing the Consultant Data Base—Economist as Entrepreneur; Commercial Construction Outlook: Information Gathering, Processing, and Dissemination; The Economics of a 24/7 World and How IT Has Changed Business; Marriage of Economics and Management Information in the High Technology Space; European Financial Markets—How and Why Information Technology Matters; Technology and the Financial Markets: Trading 24/7/360; and Wall Street Intelligence and Real-Time Networks.

Confirmed speakers include: **Yochai Benkler**, professor, Yale University Law School; **Paul Bennett**, senior vice president and chief economist, New York Stock Exchange; **Stephen Cecchetti**, professor of international economics, Brandeis University; **Charles Gabriel**, senior vice president, Prudential Securities; **Robert Gordon**, professor of economics, Northwestern University; **Maury Harris**, chief economist, UBS; **Hans-Helmut Kotz**, member of Executive Board, Deutsche Bundesbank; **Edward Lazear**, chairman, President’s Council of Economic Advisers; **Cathy Minehan**, president, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; **Stephen Minton**, vice president, IDC Worldwide IT Markets; **William Poole**, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; **Chris Probyn**, chief economist, State Street Global; **Harvey Rosenblum**, executive vice president and director of research, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; **Richard Schmalensee**, dean of the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and **Diane Swonk**, chief economist, Mesirow Financial.

PRESS REGISTRATION: An online press registration form is available at:
<http://www.nabe.com/press/2006amreg.html>.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For more information regarding press attendance at the NABE 2006 Annual Meeting, please contact NABE Press Officer Melissa Golding on 571-236-2820 or melissag@nabe.com. More information about the conference is available online at: <http://www.nabe.com/am2006/index.html>

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