

CALL FOR PAPERS

**An International Conference Organized by
Cornell University/International Policy Center (Ford School, Michigan)**

*Labor Markets in Developing and Transition Economies:
Emerging Policy and Analytical Issues*

Ann Arbor, May 25-27, 2007

As developing and transition economies enter the next phase of reforms, labor market issues increasingly come to the fore. With the increased competition from globalization, the discussion is shifting to the need for greater labor market flexibility and the creation of “good” jobs. Moreover, the greater actual and perceived insecurity in labor markets has generated a new agenda on how to structure safety nets. At the same time, long term demographic trends are greatly differentiating countries – with some set to reap the demographic dividend while others facing an ageing population, large scale migration and other difficult policy issues. The older questions of the links between the formal and informal labor markets reappear with new dimensions and significance. In addition, it is clear that an accurate understanding of how labor markets function is essential if we are to analyze alternative policy proposals in the wake of these concerns.

With this background, Cornell University and the International Policy Center at the Gerard R. Ford School of Public Policy of the University of Michigan are hosting a major international conference – “Labor Markets in Developing and Transition Economies: Emerging Policy and Analytical Issues” – May 25-27, 2007, at the Ford School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The conference organizers are Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University, and Jan Svejnar, University of Michigan.

The conference will discuss theoretical, empirical and policy papers. The suggested topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Formality and Informality (Competition or Market Power)
2. Gender and Other Discrimination
3. Labor Market Flexibility
4. Globalization, Foreign Investment, and Labor Standards
5. Structuring Safety Nets
6. Demographic Issues

The organizers invite the submission of substantive abstracts (3-5 pages) or papers by December 1, 2006. Submissions should be sent electronically to Ravi Kanbur at sk145@cornell.edu Decisions will be communicated by January 15, 2007.

Participants who can use their own funds to cover part or all of the cost of their participation are requested to do so. The conference will provide accommodation and

economy class travel for one presenter per paper accepted for those who do not have funding. Please indicate with your submission what funding you need.

It is the organizers intention to publish a high quality publication—a special issue of a journal or an academic press volume—based on papers selected from the conference. Those authors who wish to have their papers considered for publication will be invited after the conference to submit their paper for refereeing if they wish to do so.