

## **Seminar in International Social Protection**

### **Semester 5.1 Fall 2007**

The purpose of this seminar is twofold:

First, deepening some of the issues which were addressed during the lecture of the summer semester 2007.

Second, students participating in the seminar may use their respective topic chosen for preparing the ground for their master thesis, if they so wish.

Due to time constraints, only a maximum of 4 (four) students will be admitted.

Organization is as follows:

1. The participating student writes a **proposed outline** (between 1 to 3 pages) with a problem statement on one of the topics listed below. To be submitted on **October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007**.
2. During the semester, the participating student writes a **seminar paper** of between 15 and 25 pages, on one of the topics as listed below.
3. **Submission of fully finalized paper latest on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007**
4. The paper will be presented, as part of the overall examination process during the period January 11 to February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (date to be specified later)
5. The paper, including its presentation, will be marked. If successful, the student can earn 3 (three) credits.

Applicants, while indicating the topic of interest, should write me an email with copy to Rosario Monter.

The first meeting will be on **Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 17h15 Nef /125**.

**From October 19th to December 2007, professor will not be available to answer any questions, or to provide advice.** Therefore, the assistant will perform the role as an “interim corrector and advisor”.

I will be chairing the presentation of the papers and I will mark the papers and their presentation.

## List of Topics :

- 1) *Assumption setting in ILO-SECSOC's actuarial reports on Thailand; 1990 to 2006. Exposition and discussion.*

Required reports will be made available.

- 2) *Capital stock of Thailand (2548 / 2005). Exposition, explanation and discussion of a publication of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) of Thailand.*

Publication, in English, will be provided.

- 3) *Political forces behind the pension reforms in Central-Eastern Europe.*

Basis: Katharina Müller: *The Political Economy of Pension Reform in Central-Eastern Europe*. Studies in Comparative Economic Systems. Edward Elgar. 1999

- 4) *Predicting the future costs of hospitals. Exposition and discussion of chapter 7 of the book by Finkler / Ward: Essentials of cost accounting for health care organizations.*

Chapter 7 of the book by Steven A. Finkler and David M. Ward: *Essentials of cost accounting for health care organizations*. Second edition, will be provided.

- 5) *The OECD system of National Health Accounts. Version 1.0. Introduction to the conceptual framework and to the proposed International Classification for Health Accounts.*

Publication, in English, will be provided.

- 6) *Theory and practice of economic growth in J. Bradford DeLong's Macroeconomics. An explanatory exposition.*

Basis: Chapters 4 and 5 of the book by J. Bradford DeLong: *Macroeconomics*. Updated edition. McGraw-Hill Irwin, 2002.

- 7) *The world's human population: past, present and future. Introduction to, and critical discussion of population estimates for the past, and of the UN population division's very long-term world population projections.*

All required information is accessible through the internet.

## **Additional topics:**

1. Capital markets: functions, institutions and instruments. An overview.  
Lit.: Frank J. Fabozzi and Modigliani, Franco: Capital Markets: Institutions and Instruments. Prentice-Hall International Editions. 1992.
2. Financial and tangible investments: the pre-requisites for a positive growth impact.  
Lit.: Michael Cichon et al: Financing social protection. ILO, Geneva 2004. Especially chapter 6, pages 330 to 400.
3. International guidelines for the investment of pension reserves: assessment and comparison.  
Lit.: International Social Security Association (ISSA), Working Group on the Investment of Social Security Funds: Guidelines for the investment of social security funds. Presented at the 28th General Assembly of the International Social Security Association Beijing, 12 – 18 September 2004. ISSA/WG/INVESTMENTS/AMSTERDAM/2006
4. Socially Responsible Investments (SRI): a valid option for pension funds?  
Lit.: <http://www.socialinvest.org/>
5. Work places for an ageing European work force: problems and solutions.  
Lit.: <http://www.agingworkforcenews.com/index.html>
6. Work places for a young world's population: problems and solutions.  
Lit.: Niall O'Higgins: Youth Unemployment and Employment Policy. A global perspective. International labour Office, Geneva 2001.
7. Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs): an effective tool for health cost control?  
Lit.: Health Systems International: DRGs Diagnosis Related Groups Fourth Revision. Definitions Manual. 1987. Especially pages 1 to 22.
8. Thailand's health system: historical development and present problems.  
Lit.: Suwit Wibulpolprasert: Thailand Health Profile 2001 – 2004. Ministry of Public Health, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, 2005.  
[http://www.moph.go.th/ops/health\\_48](http://www.moph.go.th/ops/health_48)
9. Life expectancy: theoretical concepts, practical applications and international comparison of selected empirical results.  
Lit.: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life\\_expectancy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_expectancy)
10. Mortality: concept and causes.  
Lit.: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/other/atlas/atlas.htm>
11. Aruba's pension system: problems and solutions.  
Lit.: International Labour Office: Technical Reports. Various, 2004 and 2005.
12. Notional defined contributions (NDCs): the reformed Swedish pension system.

- Lit.: John Williamson and Williams, Matthew: The Notional Defined Contribution Model: An Assessment of the Strengths and Limitations of a New Approach to the Provision of Old Age Security. CRR Working Papers #2003-18  
[http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp\\_2003-18.shtml](http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2003-18.shtml)
13. Administering social security systems – tasks and solutions.
- Lit.: International Labour Office: Social Security Governance: A Practical Guide for Board Members of Social Security Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. ILO, Budapest 2005.
14. Economic security for a better world: critical assessment of an ILO publication.
- Lit.: International Labour Office: Economic security for a better world. ILO Socio-Economic Security Programme. ILO, Geneva 2004
15. Old Age Income Support in the 21st Century: critical assessment of a World Bank publication.
- Lit.: Robert Holzmann and Hinz, Richard: Old Age Income Support in the 21st Century. An International Perspective on Pension Systems and Reform. The World Bank 2005.
16. The political forces behind the pension reforms in Central-Eastern Europe.
- Lit.: Katharina Müller: The Political Economy of Pension Reform in Central-Eastern Europe. Studies in Comparative Economic Systems. Edward Elgar. 1999
17. Comparison of the health systems of Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Lit.: B. von Maydell et al.: Enabling Social Europe. Wissenschaftsethik und Technikfolgen-beurteilung. Band 26. Springer 2006. Chapter 3, pages 157 – 198

### Literature:

Attached to each of the topics above is one reference as an entry reading to start with. Students are expected to complement the attached literature by own literature search to the extent required for a comprehensive coverage of their chosen topic.

Unless indicated otherwise, students must *in no case* take web-site references as their only sources. Students should rather aim at critically checking such pages for correctness instead of taking their contents for granted.

Be aware that (also) the ILO has a large library in which you may find solid reference material.