

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui



VICTORIA
MANAGEMENT SCHOOL
Te Kura Whakahaere

Victoria Management School Seminar

“What Makes New Zealand Firms Successful? A Summary of an Ongoing Research Programme”?

Dr Philip Stevens

Philip Stevens heads the research team in the Economic Strategy Branch of the Ministry of Economic Development

Friday, 8 October 2010, 11.00am - 12.20pm
Boardroom, Level 12, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus

ALL WELCOME

Understanding the performance of New Zealand firms is fundamental to the design and implementation of effective economic policy. This presentation outlines research done by government agencies and other collaborators to this end. Its main focus is on the work of the research team in the Ministry of Economic Development and work based on the prototype Longitudinal Business Database (LBD). The LBD is a world-leading resource for research on a wide-range of issues relating to firm performance. This is illustrated by the work recently and currently being done using it on competition, innovation, business strategy, skills, exporting, hedging behaviour and the impact of broadband. He will also talk about one other piece of research – Management Matters – a study of the quality of management capability in medium and large New Zealand manufacturing firms.

About the presenter:

Philip Stevens heads the research team in the Economic Strategy Branch of the Ministry of Economic Development. Prior to this, he was Research Fellow (formerly Research Officer and Senior Research Officer) at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in London. Philip has also been a lecturer at St. Hugh's College, University of Oxford and consultant for Shell's Global Scenarios team on their Global Scenarios to 2020 project. He received his D.Phil in Economics from the University of Oxford.

Philip has a passion for the application of economics to real world problems. His main focus has been on firm behaviour and organisational behaviour more broadly its determinants and the implications for economic performance and welfare. Throughout his career he has worked on the interface between academic research and issues of economic policy, from health and education to innovation and international development. He has published on everything from the specification of aggregate production functions in the presence of inefficiency to how to best measure the output of the health sector, Philip has been a keen advocate of spreading economics beyond academe. One example of this was the lecture he gave as part of the UK Economic and Social Research Council's Social Science Week entitled 'What has the public sector ever done for us?'

Outside economics, Philip enjoys playing the guitar (in the 1990s, he reached number 81 in the UK album charts and toured Europe!) and Wado Ryu karatedo (second dan black belt and Oxford Blue). He lives in Wellington with his wife Alison, daughters Rebecca and Hannah, and a two-hundred year old edition of Adam Smith's 'An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations'.

For further information please contact Urs Daellenbach
Urs.Daellenbach@vuw.ac.nz, Tel: 463 5732