

to an International Lecture on

**"THE STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:
AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVISITED"**

by

PROF C. PETER TIMMER
Harvard University, USA

Thursday, 6 October 2011

Conference Hall, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang

PROGRAMME

9.45am – 10.00am	Arrival of Guests and Registration
10.00am – 10.05am	Welcoming Remarks
10.05am – 10.35am	Presentation by Prof C. Peter Timmer Harvard University, USA
10.35am – 11.30am	Question & Answer Session
	End

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

C. Peter Timmer is currently the Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Development Studies, *Emeritus*, Harvard University; Professor of Development Studies, *Emeritus*, University of California, San Diego; and Adjunct Professor at Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University. He has served as a professor at Stanford, Cornell, three faculties at Harvard, and the University of California, San Diego. Timmer is a leading authority on agricultural development and structural transformation during the process of economic growth. He is a core advisor on the World Bank's *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development*. He has long worked with and advised a number of Asian governments on domestic food and agricultural policies and, more recently, on their responses to the crisis in the global rice market. He was the principal analyst for the Asia Society-IRRI Task Force on Food Security and Sustainability in Asia which led to the publication, *Never an Empty Bowl: Sustaining Food Security in Asia* in 2010. He is also an advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on agricultural development strategy.

ABSTRACT

The speaker traces four basic patterns to a successful structural transformation which leads to sustained poverty reduction. These patterns have been remarkably uniform across more than two centuries of economic growth. Furthermore, the basic *cause and effect* of the structural transformation is rising productivity of agricultural labor and the speaker considers three basic ways to raise labor productivity in agriculture. In the course of structural transformation, there have also been stresses on the poor, some of which arose from government interventions such as agricultural protection and widespread subsidies to farmers, which often have the unintended result of worsening urban *and* rural poverty because most of the poor must purchase their food in markets. The speaker stresses that a dynamic rural economy stimulated by genuine growth in productivity has been pro-poor in all circumstances. In contrast, a rural economy with farm profits stimulated by protection tends to hurt the poor in both the short and long run.

ADMISSION IS FREE. Please confirm your participation via fax or e-mail **not later than 28 September 2011** to:

RSVP: Tel: 03 2693 9366 ext 144 / 164 Fax: 03 2694 9227 / 2691 3210 Email: azeema@isis.org.my / hanafi@isis.org.my

☐ Yes, I will be able to attend. ☐ No, I will not be able to attend. ☐ I will send a representative to attend.

Name: _____

Position: _____ Organisation: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____