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2010 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Gordon MacAulay



Gordon MacAulay is Emeritus Professor in Agricultural Economics at the University of Sydney and Principal Economist at BRI Australia (formerly the Bread Research Institute). He was appointed professor in 1992 and was twice Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and later the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (1992–1997 and 2000–2003) in the Faculty of Agriculture.

Gordon received his PhD from the University of Guelph in Canada in 1976, being the first graduate of the new PhD programme in agricultural economics. Previously, he gained Bachelor's and Master's degrees in agricultural science at the University of Melbourne. Upon graduating with his PhD, he worked at Agriculture Canada and returned to Australia in 1980 to a lecture-ship at the University of New England. From 1990 to 1992, he was Chief Research Economist in ABARE. He was twice appointed Acting Director of the Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific at the University of Sydney in 1998 and 2006, and in 2006 joined BRI Australia.

Gordon worked in various fields in agricultural economics and in a variety of industries and commodities. He published papers (including joint authorship to two best published articles in the Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics in 1985 and 1993) and reports on the pork and livestock industries, the sheep and wool industries, on wheat, dairy and even on steel trade and bluefin tuna. His interest in issues to tackle is wide ranging, having published during his career on topics as varied as international trade, agricultural supply elasticities, commodity stabilisation policies, dairy deregulation, marine protected areas, land fragmentation and land reform. He also worked to refine and apply modelling techniques, including mathematical programming, forecasting models and, what became a particularly favoured analytical tool, spatial equilibrium models. Generations of undergraduates and no small number of postgraduate students at UNE and University of Sydney learnt how to apply spatial equilibrium techniques to a variety of market and trade issues. He worked in, and wrote about, a number of countries including Canada, the Soviet Union, Indonesia and China and spent over 17 years contributing to teaching and research into land and natural resource use in Vietnam. Gordon served in various roles in the AARES including the Editorial Committee and as President in 1994. He gave a Presidential address on the economics of an agricultural economics society using the theory of club goods.

Most recently, Gordon has been involved in research and training for the Australian wheat industry. He will be returning to Vietnam in 2011 to assist in a new programme to teach a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics degree, in English, at Hue University.