

ECONOMY KNOWLEDGE & EDUCATION

Nobel laureate to give talk on 'Barriers to Riches' on June 16

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Prof Edward Prescott, the 2004 Nobel laureate in Economics, will give a lecture on "Barriers to Riches" to a Bangkok audience on June 16.

The lecture will follow a gala dinner hosted by the Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration, the Bank of Thailand, UOB Radanasin, Bank of Asia, the *Bangkok Post* and *Post Today* newspapers.

Prof Prescott is reputed for his analysis of the changes in business cycles as a result of supply shocks, rather than pure macroeconomic factors.

He has concluded that the consistency of institutions in providing short- and long-term policies that increase public interaction, the strengthening of human capital and the reduction of monopolies would provide wealth for countries in the longer term.

Sasin director Toemsakdi Krishnamra said the topic was relevant to the current situation in Thailand, where the government has set poverty eradication as the national agenda.

Atchana Waiquamdee, an assistant go-

vernor at the central bank, said the basis of Prof Prescott's work was relevant to the central bank.

"The concept of his work relates to the central banking role of discretion in the monetary policy and the independence of central banks."

Pongsak Huntrakul, a senior research fellow at Sasin, said Prof Prescott's work was groundbreaking in its field.

He said the Nobel laureate's arguments were a serious challenge to "the classical economics camp of Keynesians who believe domestic consumption can be used to prop up the economic cycle".

Prof Prescott currently serves as a senior adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and is a professor at the University of Arizona.

In 2002, he was awarded Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize, which recognises major contributions to new knowledge in economics.

The dinner will be held at Dusit Thani Hotel, starting 5:30 pm. Tickets are 5,000 baht, with all net proceeds to be donated to His Majesty the King for royal disbursement.