

## MIEPP International Day 2015

### Idea and Concept

An important goal of the Master's program in International Economics and Public Policy (MIEPP) is to bring together students from many different countries, cultures and histories. We hope and believe that our program allows students to broaden their horizon not just by participating in discussions during lectures and seminars, but also through the many informal conversations and debates that take place outside the classroom.

To enhance this process, we want to give students the chance to learn more about their colleagues' countries and to present key economic and social parameters of their own country – or a country that they are knowledgeable about. The MIEPP International Day will offer a sequence of such presentations as a starting point for a (hopefully) productive discussion. If all goes well, we will eventually know more about economies and societies that we do not know very well, and we will learn to see the familiar rules and circumstances of our own countries in a new light.

### Rules:

- Participation in the MIEPP International Day is **voluntary**. There are **no ECTS** awarded for this event.
- Participants should present their country (or a country that they know very well) by giving a presentation that follows the **structure** indicated below.
- Presentations should last no longer than **45 minutes**.
- Presentations can be given by individual students or by **groups**.
- **Non-presenting students** are cordially invited to attend.
- **Presentations** will be stored in ILIAS and made available to all participants
- It would be naïve to ignore the numerous animosities and resentments that exist between countries. However, the MIEPP should be a **forum of mutual tolerance and rapprochement**. So please don't carry any political agenda into the classroom.

## Organization:

- **Date:** December 18, 2015. **Start:** 10.00 a.m. **End:** Depending on number of presentations (no later than 8.00 p.m.). **Room:** tba.
- If you would like to present a country, please **sign up** by sending an email with your name, contact details and the country's name to [LsHarms@uni-mainz.de](mailto:LsHarms@uni-mainz.de).
- **Deadline** for signing up: November 27, 2015.
- If the number of countries presented does not exceed the **critical number** of three, the event will be cancelled.

## Structure of Presentations:

To enhance the comparability across countries, you should design your presentation according to the structure given below. There are questions that can (and should) be answered by using standard data sources (WDI, IFS), and others that you should answer based on your personal knowledge of the country you present.

Note: To get access to the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) or the International Monetary Fund's International Financial Statistics (IFS), please press the "DATA" button on the International Economics homepage and follow further instructions.

Remark: Presenting pictures is great, and introducing a bit of folklore is fine as well, but please **avoid** showing the promotional videos of national tourist agencies, ministries, chambers of commerce etc.

## General information:

- Geographical location, size (multiple of Germany), name of capital.
- Population size and urbanization in 2012<sup>1</sup> (WDI);
- Government (democracy, monarchy, etc.)
- Who is the most famous resident of your country?

## Economy: General information and International Trade:

- GDP per capita since 1991 in constant US dollars (WDI)
- Sectoral structure of output in 2012 (agriculture/industry/services) (WDI)

---

<sup>1</sup> If data for 2012 are not available the most recent year will do as well.

- Trade openness in 2012: (Exports + Imports)/GDP (WDI)
- Three main export goods (or services) in 2012
- Percentage of migrants in domestic population ("migrant stock") (% of population) in 2012 (WDI)

#### Monetary Policy and Financial Markets:

- Name of currency
- Inflation rates since 1991 (IFS)
- Exchange rate regime (fixed, flexible, intermediate) in 2012
- Evolution of nominal and real (CPI-based) effective exchange rate since 1991 (IFS)
- Size of financial markets: domestic credit to private sector/GDP since 1991 (WDI)
- Foreign assets and liabilities relative to GDP in 2011 (Lane/Milesi-Ferretti:  
<http://www.philiplane.org/EWN.html> )
- Savings rate since 1991 (WDI)
- How do people store their wealth (cash, savings accounts, etc.)?

#### Labor Market, Education, and Social Security:

- Participation rate (male, female, total) in 2012 (WDI)
- Unemployment rate since 1991 (WDI)
- What happens if you get unemployed? Is there a public unemployment insurance system?
- Gini index in 2012 (WDI)
- Evolution of unit-labor-cost-based real effective exchange rate since 1991 (IFS)
- Primary/secondary/tertiary school gross enrollment rates (WDI)
- Demographics: old-age and young-age dependency ratios since 1991 (WDI)
- What happens if you get sick? Is there health insurance? How does it work?
- What is the average retirement age in 2012
- What are the income sources of retired people?

#### Goods markets and relative prices

- Where do people purchase groceries (markets/small-scale convenience stores/large-scale stores à la WalMart)?
- What share of the population has access to the internet? (WDI)
- Relative prices (Note: You don't have to be precise. A rough estimate is okay):
  - o Price of 30 BigMacs as % of average monthly salary
  - o Rent of 100 m<sup>2</sup> apartment in the nation's capital as % of average monthly salary

- Price of a 5 km taxi ride in the nation's capital (or another major city) as % of average monthly salary

Government, institutions and society

- Top marginal tax rate on income
- Evolution of central government debt (in % of GDP) since 1991 (WDI)
- What is perceived as the bigger economic risk in your country: inflation or unemployment?