

At a recent symposium sponsored by the US Federal Reserve Board, Chairman Alan Greenspan remarked on the relationship between globalization, the technology revolution and increasing world prosperity. By breaking down regulatory barriers, globalization has unleashed “an advance and diffusion of technical change that has raised living standards in much of the world.”



Not everyone accepts this process of change. The protests that took place at the World Trade Organization Ministerial in Seattle and again at the World Bank/International Monetary Fund meetings must be respected because they represent legitimate concerns about how the pace of globalization may cause some groups to suffer. However, those who protest change must not be allowed to choke the rising prosperity that globalization promises.

Some believe that developing nations are likely to fall hopelessly behind in this new, fast moving world. But this does not have to be the case. In this issue of *Economic Reform Today*, there are enough examples of countries that successfully operate in world markets to show that developing countries need not be victimized by the forces of globalization. Those who have been successful understand that today's “new economy” demands ever faster and more reliable information flows for well-functioning financial markets and efficient investment.

What does all this mean for the policymakers of developing countries? Achieving competitiveness in the global economy must be accompanied by greater equity in how globalization's benefits are distributed. This requires that the process of change must be accompanied by a commitment to democratic institutions and the creation of a level playing field where entrepreneurs large and small can compete fairly to supply global markets with goods and services. These are complex issues for policymakers to grapple with, and it is why we have dedicated this double issue of *Economic Reform Today* to the topic of “Prospering in the Global Economy.”

In keeping with the spirit of globalization and technological change, this special issue of *Economic Reform Today* marks the evolution of our publication to an electronic one. This transition has been underway for the past several years. It began in 1995 with the launch of CIPE's Web site, the Forum on Economic Freedom, where electronic editions of the publication have been posted in advance of the printed edition. In 1997, CIPE won the *Financial Times* award for a nonprofit business Web site for this online initiative.

CIPE is pleased to announce the launch of its new Economic Reform Feature Service, which is described at www.cipe.org. The service will continue on from *Economic Reform Today* in providing guidance for policymakers in developing democracies on how to manage economic growth while building democratic institutions. It is our hope that the Feature Service will continue to provide the readers of *Economic Reform Today* with the same quality materials to which they have become accustomed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willard A. Workman".

Willard A. Workman
Vice President, CIPE & Vice President,
International, US Chamber of Commerce