The Economic Growth Centre cordially invites you to a seminar by Professor Ivan Png

Speaker: Prof Ivan Png  
School of Computing  
National University of Singapore

Topic: “Copyright Duration and the Supply of Creative Work”

Chairperson: Asst Prof Lydia Gan  
Division of Economics  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Date: Wednesday, 13 September 2006

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Venue: Executive Seminar Room 10 (S3.1-B2-11)  
Nanyang Business School  
Nanyang Technological University

About the Speaker:

Dr Ivan Png is Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Professor of Information Systems and Professor of Business Policy at the National University of Singapore. He is also a Professorial Fellow of the IP Academy of Singapore, Associate Editor of Management Science, and partner of Economic Analysis Associates, LLP. He was formerly a nominated MP (10th Parliament of Singapore, 2nd Session).

Dr Png’s research focuses on the economics of copyright, privacy, and pricing. He is the author/co-author of Managerial Economics, which has been published in multiple editions.

Abstract:

At various dates between 1991-2002, 18 countries extended the duration of copyright, typically from the author’s life plus 50 years to author’s life plus 70 years. We study the impact of the extensions on the production of movies.

We find that the extensions were associated with a 1.80% (± 1.77%) to 12.7% (± 5.82%) increase in movie production. The increase was higher in countries with lower rates of piracy.

These findings were robust to various specifications. In one sub-sample, we controlled for changes in government funding of movie production. In another sub-sample, we tested and rejected the wealth effect: while the retrospective extension of copyright duration did enrich owners of existing film libraries, they did not increase movie production relatively more.

Our results suggest that contrary to received thinking among leading economists and lawyers, extensions of copyright duration far in the future do have economically significant effects on the production of creative work.
Reservation:

Admission is free. Please reply to Christina, e-mail: achristina@ntu.edu.sg or Tel: 6790-5689 to confirm your attendance.