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## Lecture to examine Asian economic change

Discussion to look at recent shifts in Eastern markets, impact on American investment

BY AMY CURTIS  
The Battalion

The "Economic Crisis in Asia" lecture is open tonight to discuss the recent economic shifts in the Asian market.

The lecture will be at 7 p.m. in 105 Wehner.

Luke Altendorf, director of the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, said any student with an interest in Asia or economics is welcome to attend.

Altendorf said the program will consist of a 30- to 45-minute pre-

sentation and will be followed by a 20-minute question-answer period. He said the program is to help educate students about the economic crisis in Asia.

"It impacts all of us," he said.

The program was prompted by growing changes in the economics of Asia. Altendorf said the United States was encouraged to invest in Asian markets and now, with their failing economies, people are having to restructure investment policies.

Dr. Julian E. Gaspar, director of the Center for International Business Studies, will lecture at the pre-

sentation. Gaspar has a doctorate in international and monetary economics. He has been teaching international finance at A&M for the past seven years.

Gaspar said he would like to discuss the causes of the falling market. He said the Asian crisis began with the Thailand currency crisis in July '97 and spread throughout Asia.

Gaspar said the effects of the crisis have been felt globally as the failing markets have spilled over into the Russian economy and other

world markets.

Hiro Ikura, the director of the program and a senior commerce major, said the lecture will inform students and discuss the future of the Asian economy. Gaspar will make predictions and will inform and help students understand what happened and will happen in the Asian market.

Ikura said he is hoping for a similar program about the economy in November.

The program is sponsored by L.T. Jordan Institute and the Cultures Education Committee.

## Industrial Distribution gets software donation

BY AMY CURTIS  
The Battalion

The Industrial Distribution Program at Texas A&M has been chosen to install the Advanced Distribution System, a software package donated to A&M by Prelude Systems, Inc.

There will be a ceremony announcing the partnership between Prelude Systems, Inc., and IBM and the installation of the software at A&M today at 2 p.m. outside of Fermier Hall.

Barry Lawrence, assistant professor of logistics, said the tracking and inventory software system is used by many distributors across America. He said the software will expose students to things they will encounter on the job.

"Students can be trained on real-world systems," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said the Industrial Distribution program at A&M is the oldest and largest in the country, and this software will help update the systems with the "most feature-rich distribution software today."

Lawrence said Prelude Systems, Inc., will work in conjunction with IBM. The Advanced Distribution System can only be used with a competent server. IBM will provide the Netfinity server to A&M to run the software.

The founder of Prelude Systems, Inc., Don Webb, was an A&M graduate. Lawrence said Webb wanted to donate something to the school.

Dan Parris, senior lecturer at A&M, said the donation of the software will help initiate a closer relationship between A&M and Prelude Systems, Inc. He said the donation will help Prelude Systems, Inc., develop their product by providing them with working input from users at A&M.

Parris said that the software is a current, state-of-the-art application system and will be used to teach students real-world applications. He said students in three courses will utilize the system: information and control systems, logistics and purchasing.

Parris said the new system will allow students in those courses not to have to learn a different system for every course.

## Agricultural Career Expo offers career opportunities

BY NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

The Agricultural Career Expo (ACE) will be held today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the atrium of the Kleberg Building.

Approximately 40 agriculture-related companies will be present for students looking for co-op positions, internships and full-time jobs.

Kelly McMillan, president of Ag Council and a junior agricultural business major, said the expo is a great opportunity for students to interact with different companies.

"Here students can get to meet vital businesses and gain possible employment contacts," McMillan said. "Also, by bringing the companies here to campus, students can meet with the companies in a more relaxed atmosphere."

McMillan said although it is called the Agricultural Career Expo, there will

be companies that relate to some other majors in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences such as chemistry firms.

Members of the Ag Council will have the opportunity to have a free lunch at the Ag Cafe with representatives from the companies. Members can go to Ill and sign up for one of three lunch slots: 11:30 a.m., noon, and 12:30 p.m.

Sherry Staggs, administrative secretary in the College of Agricultural Life Sciences, said after all interested members of Ag Council have signed up, any other interested students in the college are welcome to sign up for remaining spots.

"These business lunches give students a somewhat of a perspective of the business environment that these companies are in," McMillan said.

McMillan said she expects at least 500 students to attend today's expo.

## Residents look for ways to tame tubers

AUSTIN (AP) — Now that residents along the Guadalupe River have survived another summer of tubers and trash, they're trying to figure out how to tame the next tourist season.

New Braunfels area civic leaders like \$50 million or more in sales tax revenues that 500,000 tubers and visitors left in their wake, but they dislike the floating beer cans, trash and occasional nudity and other offenses.

"I am adamant that we're going to clean this up," Comal County Judge Carter Casteel told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "We're not going to tolerate that kind of foolishness."

Along with other civic leaders, Casteel spent several weeks this summer meeting with homeowners concerned about the tubers' behavior. He said as

few as 20 and as many as 100 tubers are left along the river.

Many ideas designed to end river diness emerged. They include banning aluminum from the waters and a complete prohibition on alcohol. Outfitting dogs from riding on tubers and raising well as increasing all fines and increasing enforcement were also discussed.

Already implemented is an increased law enforcement presence at the particularly on busy holiday weeks. Hundreds of thousands of visitors sought refuge from this summer record heat.

Developing "pocket parks" along the river is another proposed solution. One-acre-wide sites, tubers can get out of water, use the restroom, make a phone call and dry off for a few minutes.

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