

“The economics of education”. Discurso de bienvenida.

Alicante, 31 de mayo de 2002

It is for me a pleasure to welcome you to this international workshop on the Economics of Education, on behalf of the University of Alicante. We are glad to host a meeting that gathers some of the most distinguished experts in the field.

Human capital has proven to be one of the key elements that explains the different degrees of economic growth, not only between developed and underdeveloped countries, but also between the United States and the European Union.

Education is both a personal asset and a collective endowment. It helps individuals to improve their position in the labour market and to get a better understanding of a world that changes rapidly. Moreover, it constitutes a basic determinant of the economic capacity of a society, that conditions the evolution of its productivity and growth.

I believe that understanding the role of human capital in the economy of a country is an excellent source of ideas for policy makers. The economics of education is, therefore, a field whose relevance becomes more and more important every day. It is also a genuinely interdisciplinary subject in which theory, empirics and practice can help each other.

I can only wish you a successful meeting with profitable discussions and relevant conclusions. I hope you will find our University helpful in this endeavour.

The University of Alicante is a young but mature university that has inherited all the background from the XVII century University of Orihuela.

At present time, we offer 49 degrees held by 5 Faculties and 6 Schools and doctoral and postdoctoral studies run by 7 University Institutes and 53 departments. Our students, at about 30,000, belong to 30 different nationalities. We keep 6 outreach offices in the province and one more in Havana, Cuba. One of our aims for the next years is to develop the Scientific Park, that will double the size of the present campus.

Anyway, do not wait till then, if you have the time, let me suggest to visit the present one, which we believe is really worth from architectural viewpoint.

Have a good time here.