

# EGAT

 Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture & Trade

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## EGAT Roundtable Aims to Improve Teaching of Economics

EGAT's Economic Growth and Education Offices sponsored a roundtable on the "Relevance in the Teaching of Economics: In and For Developing Countries" on May 15-16. The roundtable discussed whether the highly technical and mathematical approach currently used to teach economics in PhD programs at leading U.S. universities adequately prepares students for careers in development policy, be it in the United States or, as is more often the case, for careers in government service in the students' country of origin. The discussion was moderated by [USAID's Chief Economic Advisor Professor Arnold Harberger](#). Participants included several renowned U.S. economics professors, including [John Taylor from Stanford University](#) and [Anne Krueger of Johns Hopkins University](#), as well as representatives from the International Monetary Fund. The assembled group of economists contributed reflections of their experiences applying economic theory to policy applications, discussed their academic preparation for work in international development, and offered recommendations for a more policy relevant economics curricula. The event resulted in recommendations for a new sample curriculum for a graduate level economics program. A collection of vignettes discussing participants' discontent with the current state of teaching this topic is under preparation.

The roundtable, which was held at the American Council on Education, was organized by EGAT's Higher Education for Development program.



Catalyst and moderator Prof. Arnold Harberger, who serves as USAID's Chief Economic Advisor, brought together leading economists to discuss how economics is currently being taught in graduate programs in leading US universities and its relevance to work in development policy. Seated left to right are: Pablo Lopez Murphy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Stanford University's John Taylor, Vito Tanzi formerly of the IMF, and Anne Krueger of Johns Hopkins University.

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