

Press Release: Brief presentation of the international symposium

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohamed VI, the Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences Ain - Chock - Hassan II University - Casablanca, organizes from 21st to 23rd of March 2018 an International Symposium on "The Logic and Scope of Economic Models: Towards an Explanation of the Moroccan Model".

The initiative to organize the symposium follows our King's interpellation of various spheres in our country, with the aim to reflect the foundations of the economic model for Morocco and the reasons of its limits.

To contribute to this reflection, our faculty has mobilized academics from Morocco as well as from abroad and the sessions included in this symposium promise to cover the broad spectrum of areas.

The organizers of the symposium base on the observation that in the last decade, we have witnessed a major financial crisis that had impact on the real sphere of the economy and resulted in a serious and extensive economic recession.

However, as it is often the case with crises that bring about change, the crisis at the end of the first decade of the millennium has given rise to a profound reflection on the suitability of the economic models adopted in the countries affected by the crisis. It has thus revived debates on the issues such as sustainability of growth and development, and it has put the question of the distribution of wealth back on the table. Authors like Piketty, for example, have shown the worsening inequalities in both industrialized and richer countries.

The questioning of the patterns in which economies operate can be also justified by political issues, but it is mainly legitimized by persistent social imbalances, which the crisis has only exacerbated. Now-a-days, in the case of developing countries like Morocco, the issue of inequality is more systemic because of its long-term consequences.

As a result, the King's rhetoric has encouraged to deepen these questions and to consider the economic realities of our country, especially their social impact which creates a challenge for multiple spheres:

- **Academic researchers** that try to understand the behaviour of economic agents and explain why the observed economic growth manages to mitigate poverty rates but does not manage to mitigate insecurity nor inequalities. Indicators apprehending inequalities, such as the Gini coefficient show the most worrying limits of the Moroccan economic model; this coefficient stagnates around 39.5.
- **Public institutions:** the work of the HCP, the reports of the Economic, Environmental and Social Council or the National Observatory of Human Development. The Central Bank (Bank Al Maghrib) also provides relevant information and analysis; as well as the implemented monetary policy has a significant impact on the economy, which over time outlines the economic model. There are also the various ministerial departments, which set up propositions during the preparation of the Finance Law, and define strategies that ultimately lead to forge an economic model.
- **Political authorities,** concerned with the social stability and the improvements of well-being of the population.

In this context, the Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences Ain Chock of Hassan II University organizes the symposium, with objectives to nourish the public debate in Morocco and to contribute to the understanding of the mechanisms according to which public policies end up as the diagnosis mentioned above. With the interventions and the debates during this symposium, the Faculty aims to supply the decision-makers with useful benchmarks for the strategies that they establish.

We also emphasise that the symposium is open to contributions about the experience from various countries in Africa, Europe and Asia, experts from the World Bank and international

development institutions. Therefore, the purpose of the discussions and debates together with the analyses of various experiences, is to shed light on the Moroccan model.

The Opening ceremony of this important scientific event is scheduled on the 21st of March at 2:30 pm at the Palace Anfa Hotel. 171, Anfa Bld - Casablanca.

The Plenary sessions and various sessions of the symposium are held at the Faculty's headquarters, El Jadida Road - Km 8 - Lissassfa.