The Financial Development and Economic Growth conference was held in Monash Caulfield campus on Friday April 4, 9:00am - 5:30pm. The conference was organized by Dr. James Ang. ABERU and the Department of Economics provided generous financial support for the conference. The focus of the conference was very specific, and it was therefore a great pleasure to see such as a good show-up of presenters and audience. The keynote address was given by Professor Panicos Demetriades, who spoke about the political economy perspectives of financial development. Other speakers presented a range of topics which were closely related to the conference theme. The conference concluded by highlighting several possible directions for future research.

Below is the conference review provided by the keynote speaker:

"This one-day conference provided a great opportunity for researchers in the area of finance and development to interact and exchange ideas. The conference covered a range of topics that are at the frontier of the academic literature in this field, such as the political economy of financial development, the role of institutions and legal origins, the effects of financial openness and banking efficiency. The conference was well organised and intellectually very stimulating.

The participants I spoke to, including many graduate students who were present, felt it was an excellent conference and they had learned a great deal. Personally, I enjoyed very much being part of this conference and I would like very much to thank James Ang for putting together such an excellent programme and Monash University for its generous support and hospitality.

Panicos Demetriades
Professor of Financial Economics
University of Leicester