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**Georgia Southern University Economics Professor  
Presents at International Conference**

STATESBORO, Ga. – July 9, 2008 – Representing Georgia Southern University, Dr. William A. Amponsah traveled to Seoul National University in Korea from June 30- July 2 to present his paper entitled *Economic Development Challenges Stemming from U.S. Textile Trade*.

Amponsah presented to colleagues from all over the world at the Globalization and the Rural-Urban Divide Conference organized by the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium and hosted by Seoul National University and the Korea Rural Economic Institute.

His paper, which was chosen from hundreds of submissions, and presentation, discussed the economic impacts of the recent trade policy changes, especially the World Trade Organization's decision to end remaining quotas on textiles and clothing imports established under the Multi-fiber Agreement, beginning on January 1, 2005.

“The latest WTO agreement coupled with the recent economic downturn in the United States has greatly affected many of our rural communities that are producers of textiles and clothing,” said Dr. Amponsah. “Foreign producers from China, Korea, Mexico etc. are able to pay their workers less and are now able to enter the U.S. to sell their cheaper products. Due to this occurrence, many U.S. manufacturers have relocated abroad. These sources of competition have caused many textile plants to close and we have seen an increase in unemployment rates in states such as Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama.”

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**Biography:**

Dr. William A. Amponsah is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Economic Development of the College of Business Administration. Prior to joining Georgia Southern University in July 2006 as Director of the SED, he taught at North Carolina A&T State University, where he served as faculty member and Director of the International Trade Center. He received a PhD from The Ohio State University in 1991 and while working on his dissertation, worked briefly as intern and research associate in the Latin American and Caribbean region of the World Bank.

Dr. Amponsah has trained and advised business practitioners and economic policymakers from Africa, the former Soviet Union, Central Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, China, etc. He has also provided testimonies to committees of the U.S. Congress, and advised African Governments and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on trade policy and market integration issues (especially during the formation of the African Union). After serving on the research panel of the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program for three years, he was appointed the national panel manager in 2001 and 2002. He served from 1998 through 2002 as the co-editor of the *Review of Agricultural Economics*, in 2002 he served as the program leader in the Food and Agricultural Marketing track of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and from 1999 through 2007 he also served on the six-member U.S. Council of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. He has received many awards and citations of excellence, including the 2005 Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist for research and related areas. He is credited with cooperating with peers to attract more than \$3 million in extramural research and program development grants focusing on entrepreneurship, economic development and international trade policies.