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THE BUSINESS OF CRIME

Twenty five years ago the University of London, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Chamber of Commerce, established the Cambridge Symposium on Economic Crime at Jesus College, Cambridge. In the early days the annual symposium ran for three days and attracted about 200 participants, mainly from Commonwealth governments. It has grown in recent years and now runs for a full week, attracting well over 800 participants from across the world. With over 300 speakers and panellists, it is the most significant non-governmental meeting of experts involved in the prevention and control of criminal and abusive conduct which has the potential to undermine the integrity and stability of national economies.

The Cambridge symposium is now organised by the Centre for International Documentation on Organised and Economic Crime (CIDOEC) on behalf of 30 or so leading academic and research institutions around the world, including the IALS. Its significance is underlined by the fact that last year some 31 ambassadors and high commissioners attended. The Twenty Fifth International Symposium will take place at Jesus College, Cambridge from September 2-9, 2007. The title of the programme, which has 30 plenary sessions and over 40 specialist workshops, is 'The wealth of nations – at risk.' However, as in previous years the programme addresses a very broad spectrum of issues, ranging from the risks presented by and to Shari'ah finance by organised crime and terror to the impact of anti-money laundering laws on those who handle, innocently or otherwise, other people's money. Details of the programme may be viewed at www.crimesymposium.org or on the IALS website.

The annual symposium is organised on a non-profit making basis, and constitutes a unique opportunity for those interested academically or otherwise in the control of economic crime, and the impact of such control on others, to meet with experts from around the world. Many of the papers presented at the symposium are published in the *Journal of Financial Crime* or the *Journal of Money Laundering Control*.

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