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Center for International Data

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- *Center for International Data*

The Center for International Data (CID) was established in the fall of 1999 under the leadership of Professor Robert Feenstra (Economics, Professor and C. Bryan Cameron Distinguished Chair). The center is housed at the Institute of Governmental Affairs and the Department of Economics.

The purpose of this center is to collect, enhance, create, and disseminate international economic data as described in its web site: cid.econ.ucdavis.edu or www.internationaldata.org.

The center collects and distributes the following major sources of international trade data:

- U.S. Imports and Exports (1972 -2006)
- World Trade Flows (1962-2008)
- Chinese and Hong Kong Trade (:1984-2010),
- Tariffs (1990- 2006).

Professor Feenstra is now a partner in the Penn World

Tables, the leading source of internationally comparable national accounts data. . One of the most widely used datasets in economics described the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries and is called the "Penn World Table," after its originators at the University of Pennsylvania.

That important project is now being taken over by Robert Feenstra at the CID, in conjunction with collaborators at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands. Their work will compute the real GDP of countries taking into account factor such as : (i) differences in exchange rates; (ii) differences in the prices paid by consumers in these countries; (iii) differences in the trading opportunities of countries as indicated by the prices for their imports and exports. The series for real GDP are used to measure the growth of countries as well as their relative poverty levels. The work by Feenstra and collaborators is an independent, academic check

on similar work that is done at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund,.

In recognition of the importance of this work, Feenstra has recently received grants from the National Science Foundation and the Sloan Foundation. Shared with collaborators at the University of Groningen and Pennsylvania, these grants total \$750,000 over three years (\$500,000 and \$250,000 respectively).

The most recent paper prepared for this project is "How Big is China?", which describes the real GDP calculations for China. In its calculations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund lowered the economic size of China by 40% in 2005, due to new data collected there. But Feenstra and his collaborators find that the new data was of suspect quality, and conclude that much of this reduction in economic size is due to measurement errors and should not be implemented.