



PRESS RELEASE

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18TH ANNUAL RENCONTRES ÉCONOMIQUES D'AIX EN PROVENCE TO FOCUS ON "THE WORLD'S METAMORPHOSES"

July 6 - 8, 2018 – created by the *Cercle des Economistes*

A unique opportunity to share perspectives on solutions for the major issues facing the world,
today and tomorrow

- 3 days of debates, open to the public for free, on site and streamed via Internet
- 250 speakers from around the world: executives, academics, economists, authors, sociologists, political figures, artists, representatives of civil society, and more
- 33 nationalities represented
- 120 students invited
- 45 round tables to generate 45 ideas for solutions
- 1 Start-Up village
- 4000 people expected
- A Declaration and proposals from the 30 members of the *Cercle des Economistes*

In a context of global tensions, one priority: re-establish dialog!

We are entering a new phase in human history. Change is disrupting our societies and creating fragmentation in the world, sometimes with violence. The tension can be felt by everyone, even at the highest levels of governance. In this context of extreme tension and with the geopolitical, economic, technological and social revolutions rocking existing models, the *Cercle des Economistes* is creating a space for calm reflection about possible solutions at *Les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix en Provence*, between July 6 and 8, 2018.

This 18th annual edition of the *Rencontres* will discuss such crucial challenges as artificial intelligence, blockchain, the city of tomorrow, education, healthcare systems, green finance, climate change, extreme poverty and migrations.

"Each of the 45 round tables on key themes is expected to generate ideas for potential solutions," declared Jean-Hervé Lorenzi, President of the *Cercle des Economistes* and Founder of the *Rencontres*.

On July 8th, he will present the closing Declaration with proposals from the *Cercle's* 30 members.

Innovation, start-ups and thinktanks figure among the program highlights

Masterclasses Offer Keys to Innovation

In a changing world, innovation plays a decisive role. In a “masterclass” format, experts will share their views on sustainable and humanistic technical and technological progress.

Speakers on Friday morning, July 6, include Jean-Paul Moatti of the Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and Jeremie Pellet of the French development agency AFD, who will discuss **“What innovation for sustainable development?”**

In addition, Etienne Klein, physicist and research director at the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), will speak on the theme, **“Can innovation do justice to the idea of progress?”**

A Start-Up Village with Bpifrance

This year, public investment bank Bpifrance and the *Cercle des Economistes* are bringing their ecosystems together to raise awareness about the transformative potential of start-ups.

A start-up village created specifically for the *Rencontres* will feature demonstrations of creative technologies and innovations throughout the three-day event. For the first time, several start-ups will be invited to participate in *Rencontres* sessions, to propose their solutions to economic and societal issues.

Thinktanks Take the Stage With “Les Voix de l’Economie” (Voices of the Economy)

On Friday, July 6 from 3:00 to 5:30pm CET, a series of debates will take place in parallel with the *Rencontres* sessions, with 17 thinktanks facing off on crucial topics. These no-holds-barred discussions will address the major political issues related to current and future disruptions, under the theme: **“What New Deal in the age of technological evolution?”**

An Innovation for Journalists in 2018: The Media Studio

To facilitate the work of journalists on-site, the *Cercle des Economistes* has arranged for a working studio to be set up in the heart of the *Rencontres* during the three days of debates. The fully equipped studio and crew (cameramen, director and editor) are at the disposal of journalists wishing to record their web TV and radio programs. **Journalists interested in using the Media Studio should contact the Media Relations team as soon as possible to reserve their space.**

MEDIA CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, VISUALS, ETC:

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For the complete program and to register:

<https://lesrencontreseconomiques.fr/2018/?lang=en>