Citation for Professor Kym Anderson AC
Distinguished Fellow Award, Economic Society of Australia

Kym Anderson has contributed mightily to the development of economics in the overlapping fields of international trade and political economy, with a strong focus on agriculture and products of importance to developing economies. His work and output, prodigious and varied, has been widely recognised for its quality and significance, not only within the profession, here and abroad—including by leading international agencies—but also by the wider community, in the award of Companion of the Order of Australia. It is appropriate that the Economic Society recognise him for what he has contributed to the discipline of Economics.

In addition to his long association with the University of Adelaide, and his lengthy and continuing connection with the ANU, Kym Anderson has held senior research leadership positions at the World Trade Organization and the World Bank; and a large number of significant research advisory positions, including in Australia.

What is remarkable is that Kym Anderson has covered such a wide range of types of work with, at one end, arbitration of international trade disputes for the WTO and broad agenda-setting pieces, and, at the other end, the compilation of huge data sets. In between are works analysing the world trading system, including the development and prospects for specific world markets; the estimation of effects of agricultural and trade policies at global, regional and distributional levels, mainly using CGE modelling; econometric explorations of the political economy of differential assistance in a number of countries, including Australia, as well as a prize-winning survey for the JEL; and description and analysis of specific commodity markets or policies, in a great variety of countries, mostly developing.

On Google Scholar, his top 10 publications have gathered over 3,500 citations. Kym Anderson is ranked in the top 0.5% of authors in terms of both total downloads and total citations of articles in ISI/Web of Science’s SSRN; and ranked no. 3 in the world in the field of agricultural economics, and no. 5 in Australia in all fields of economics, at https://ideas.repec.org/e/pan22.html.

Kym Anderson is a research team creator, team leader and team player. To illustrate: for articles published during the last decade, there are at least 33 different co-authors, a third of whom were co-authors of more than one article (and, for some, more than ten articles).

Everywhere he has worked, he has left behind long-lasting public goods. He largely conceived of and then directed and worked on a huge project to collect times series of sectoral rates of assistance for a large number of countries. He is co-editor of a large series of books collecting publications relevant to the workings and effects of the WTO. But he did not neglect his home university: as foundation director the Centre for International Studies, he ensured that working papers were readily available to a wide readership and that the
department’s name was prominent in international economics; he conceived of and co-wrote a centennial history of the department; and he published the Fisher Lectures (from 1904 to 2012).

Kym Anderson has worked mostly within the general area of agricultural economics, with a particular emphasis on distortions to agricultural incentives: their measurement, their effects on world trade flows and on incomes and inequality, and their causes in political economy.

In addition, he has become a world expert on the economics (and geography) of wine. For the Australian wine industry, he has been an expert voice of possibilities, and of caution.

Kym Anderson is a worthy recipient of the award of Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia.