Training Program for African Policy Makers
Political Economy Research Institute
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The Political Economy Research Institute University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in collaboration with selected development institutions, universities and research networks in Africa, offers training for African policy makers focused on structural and emerging issues in African development.

The topics covered include: illicit capital flows and development financing; natural resource management; climate change and green growth; macroeconomic policies for pro-poor growth and employment creation; policies for post-conflict recovery; agriculture sector policies and food security; inclusive finance and private sector development; Africa in the global policy arena; and others based on demand and reality on the ground in Africa.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training program are the following:
- Expose African policy makers to frontier knowledge in policy analysis and design, as well as best practices in development policy;
- Provide African policy makers with technical and conceptual tools to assess country-specific development challenges and growth potential, and design strategies to address challenges and harness opportunities;
- Provide a framework for experience sharing and learning from success stories in Africa and beyond, so as to generate practical solutions to African development problems;
- Promote innovative development policy analysis by providing a practical approach to policy making aimed at exploiting the full potential of macroeconomic and sectoral policies to promote high, sustained, and shared growth.

LIST OF TRAINING COURSES

The list of courses will evolve in response to demand, the reality on the continent and global development policy discourse. The current list of courses follows:

Illicit financial flows and development financing
This course discusses the problem of illicit financial flows and policies for sustainable and responsible external borrowing and transparency in the global financial system. It covers the following topics:
- illicit financial flows: typology, scope, magnitudes, actors and channels
- capital flight and its impacts
- tax evasion: magnitude, costs and solutions
- illicit flows from and to safe havens

Natural resources, the environment, climate change and green growth
The course discusses strategies to improve natural resource management and achieve green growth. The course covers the following topics:
- natural resource management and economic transformation in Africa
- managing climate change for growth and food security in Africa
- green growth: challenges and opportunities
- financing green growth

Macroeconomic policy for inclusive growth, employment creation, and poverty reduction
This course presents strategies for fiscal and monetary policies to achieve growth, employment and poverty reduction. The class covers the following topics:

- pro-poor fiscal policy; its potential and limitations
- flexible and employment/growth oriented macroeconomic policies
- exchange rate policy and management of capital flows
- common currency areas: the CFA zone and others
- domestic resource mobilization
- policies for private sector development
- access to finance and inclusive growth
- gendered macroeconomic policy

**Labor markets, population dynamics and household welfare**

This course discusses strategies for addressing unemployment in the formal and informal sectors. The course covers the following:

- structure of the population and employment
- transition of labor across sectors
- addressing youth unemployment
- living wage policies
- gendered labor market policies

**Growth, inequality and poverty**

This course discusses strategies for increasing equitable growth. The course covers the following topics:

- analyzing binding constraints to economic growth in Africa
- growth-inequality-poverty nexus
- policies to address poverty in rural and urban areas
- gender, growth, inequality and poverty
- aid and growth: aid effectiveness and sustainability

**Post-conflict and fragile countries**

This course examines strategies to increase the effectiveness of development assistance in fragile states. The course covers the following:

- state fragility and graduation from fragility
- fiscal policy for state building
- institutional reforms and state building
- country systems and the Paris Declaration
- evaluation of effectiveness of aid allocation
- women and the youth in post-conflict recovery
- HIV/AIDS and other health emergencies

**Financial sector management, inclusive finance and poverty reduction**

This course discusses policies to stimulate financial sector development and inclusive finance for poverty reduction. The course covers the following themes:

- financial sector policies for promoting investment and employment creation
- central banking to promote development financing
- inclusive finance and poverty reduction
- financing private sector development, employment and poverty reduction
- financing small and medium enterprises
- development banks, resource mobilization and private sector financing

**Sectoral policies for growth, economic resilience, and poverty reduction**

*Private sector development policies and strategies*
- private sector development and inclusive growth
- regulatory framework for private sector development
- gendered private sector development
- private sector development and international competition

*Agriculture sector development policies*
- technological progress and productivity in agriculture
- agriculture and economic transformation
- land policy and other institutional issues
- strategies to achieve food security
- strategies to increase market access for Africa’s agricultural products
- financing agriculture development

**Africa and the global policy architecture**
This course reviews developments in the global policy arena and implications for African development. The following themes are explored:
- globalization of policy making and Africa’s representation
- international aid architecture, aid coordination, emerging new donors
- Africa’s voice in global emerging issues; e.g., climate change; regulation of the global financial system

**Other topics**
Courses on other topics that fall within PERI’s line of work will be offered based on demand. These include: leadership and development; gender and development; corruption in the public and private sector; etc.

**STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY**

Each course is offered over a one-week period. The program adopts a participatory approach to learning, with a mix of presentations by the experts and group discussions that enable participants to share their country-specific experiences. The courses build heavily on practical illustrations drawing from country and sector case studies.

**Course completion award**: A course completion award will be jointly issued by PERI and the relevant partner African institution for each successfully completed course.

**Network of alumni**: PERI and partner African institutions will establish and facilitate a network of laureates to facilitate continued exchange of experiences among alumni and access to knowledge resources on African development policy.

**INFORMATION**

For more information on the program, please go to: [www.peri.umass.edu/africa](http://www.peri.umass.edu/africa) or send an email to the Program Director, Léonce Ndikumana, at ndiku@econs.umass.edu.