The African Policy Summer Institute is organized by the Political Economy Research Institute, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in collaboration with selected African universities and research networks. The African Policy Summer Institute covers structural and emerging issues in African development including: illicit capital flows and development financing; natural resource management 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.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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.

APSI COURSES

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 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
- 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.

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

STRUCTURE AND TIMELINE OF APSI

APSI comprises a series of one-week courses that run between June and August. The courses are taught by economics faculty from PERI/UMass and partner African universities, complemented, as needed, by external experts from academia and experienced professionals from development institutions and think tanks.

The program has two components:

Classroom instruction consists of lectures with emphasis on participatory learning, drawing on the expertise of the instructor and the real-life experiences of the participants. Courses will offer practical illustrations drawing from country and sector case studies.

Special seminars on emerging issues will be taught by eminent external experts on selected issues.

Attendance fees: A fee of $2,000 will be charged per course per participant. Scholarships will be offered to qualified participants based on need and availability of funding.

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

Network of alumni: PERI and partner African universities 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.

TO APPLY

For more information or for application materials, please go to the APSI website: www.peri.umass.edu/apsi or email the Program Director, Léonce Ndikumana, at ndiku@econs.umass.edu.