FUNDAMENTALS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Announcement in Brief

Course Type: Short Term Course
Programme Area: Development Planning
Date: 2 – 13 May 2016
Duration: 2 Weeks
Language: Bilingual (English & French)
Location: Dakar, Senegal
Fee: $2,500 (Excluding air travel and subsistence costs)
Scholarships: Yes (IDEP offers a limited number of partial and full scholarships)

Application Deadline: 24 March, 2016
There has been a revival across the world of a preoccupation with development questions. Only a few years earlier, at the height of the neo-liberal hegemony in socio-economic thinking and policy making, some of the most ardent advocates of the ideology of the unrestrained free market were to triumphantly pronounce the death of development and the dawn of a new era of low-inflation economic stability mediated by liberalized and self-governing markets. It was, however, to turn out to be a pronouncement that was both premature and misguided for, not so long after it was made, serious intellectual, policy, and political challenges began to be posed to the neo-liberal agenda of the rapid and unidirectional liberalization of markets - and the financialisation of economies that went with it. The challenges were made inevitable by the repeated episodes of market failure that shook economies across Africa, Latin America, and East Asia at different points during the 1980s and 1990s, crises which wreaked considerable havoc to citizen wellbeing and carried considerable developmental costs.

The periodic crises that have been a permanent and recurrent feature of the neo-liberal era eventually came to rock the United States and Western Europe, emerging in 2008/2009 in the form of a financial meltdown that quickly translated into a generalized economic collapse. The crises compelled policy officials and politicians to scramble to bring the state back into the governance of the economy and regulation of financial markets, doing so by resorting to much-maligned Keynesian policies which the neo-liberals had sought to discredit. Long-standing policy preoccupations such as employment creation, the nurturing of the productive base of economies, the promotion of intra- and inter-sectoral balances, the pursuit of equitable income distribution policies, the articulation of broad social policy and welfare goals, and the quest for a generalized sustainability that had been discarded as inconsequential came back forcefully to the agenda, reviving preoccupations with long-term development goals and the role of public policy and the state in helping to secure them.

On the back of the return of development thinking and policy, there has also been a revival of development planning and with it the theory and practice of the developmental states. In Africa, as in other regions of the world, the failings of the neo-liberal framework to policy-making combined with other factors to bring planning back to the fore of strategies for building economies, sustaining growth, improving citizen welfare, and promoting all-round progress in society. During the course of the first decade of the new millennium, as confidence in neo-liberal structural adjustment waned, one African country after the other took steps to reinstate planning institutions and processes. Where they had been dismantled completely, they were re-introduced. Where they had been downgraded in the bureaucratic hierarchy, they were upgraded again to a prime place in the policy process, sometimes given an overall economic coordination role or deliberately located in the office of the president or prime minister. In a number of countries, a further step was taken to establish planning institutions as constitutional bodies.

Across Africa, the design of three, five, or seven-year national development plans derived from new long-term national visions was also made a policy and political priority by most governments. Several countries declared their aspiration to be (new) developmental states and many more launched blueprints aimed at ensuring that they become emerging economies/markets in the not-too-distant future. Beyond the country level, some of the regional economic communities active in Africa also developed long-term plans covering the countries/areas for which they have jurisdiction. Continentally, an Africa 2063 agenda under the auspices of the African Union was announced in May 2013 on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African
Unity and its successor, the African Union. Clearly, development is back on the agenda of nations around the world and across Africa, development planning is once again de rigueur.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to strengthen the capacities of planners, economists and other policymakers involved in the formulation of national development plans to ensure that they have a clear understanding of development planning approaches, processes, the different actors involved and the key stages and crucial steps in the development planning process.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- Support African countries to equip the staff of their planning institutions with updated knowledge on the historical and contemporary dynamics of development thinking and development policy-making and planning;
- Provide officials of African countries with the requisite skills and tools for designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating development plans;
- Contribute to the deepening of the comparative knowledge of African planners on global experiences of development planning;
- Explore alternative institutional arrangements and mechanisms for development planning, both globally and across Africa;
- Share knowledge and experiences among African officials on on-going efforts at development planning and long-term national visioning across the continent; and
- Introduce officials to new trends and techniques in development planning.

EXPECTED RESULTS

After the training, participants will be equipped with sufficient knowledge of the development planning process and practical skills to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate development plans in their respective countries/regions.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

The course is structured as a participatory one in which the full-time presence and active contribution of all those who are admitted will be demanded and assessed. In line with the IDEP pedagogical philosophy, the presentation of the course modules will combine a knowledge-building component with experience-sharing among participants and a practical, hands-on technique designed to impart core skills. Each module is accompanied with a number of exercises aimed at testing the depth of the understanding which participants have gained of the key messages delivered and their readiness to apply the skills that were thought in a manner as to be able to engage independently in problem-identification and solving. IDEP will also organize panel discussions involving specially-invited senior development planners and other development practitioners to allow for an open exchange of ideas and experiences with course participants.

Participants’ performance will be assessed throughout the duration of the course. This will be done through discussions, individual work, group work and general tests which will be graded by various resource persons. On the basis of the average grades obtained by each participant, three different
certificates will be awarded, depending on performance: (1) **Certificates of Competence** (with Excellent, Very Good and Good), (2) **Certificates of Participation** or (3) **Certificates of Attendance**.

**MODE OF DELIVERY**

- **Language:** The course will be delivered in English and French (simultaneous interpretation services will be available).
- **Duration:** Two (2) weeks.
- **Number of participants:** A total number of twenty-five (25) participants will be admitted into the short course.
- **Resource persons:** Experts with a substantial experience in development planning in Africa will be delivering the course modules.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION AND NOMINATIONS**

Applications and nominations are on the basis of a form which all interested participants are expected to complete and send back to IDEP along with their CV and copies of the main pages of their passport. The forms are available on the IDEP website ([http://www.unidep.org/go/?l=13](http://www.unidep.org/go/?l=13)) and can be submitted online or downloaded for transmission by fax or as e-mail attachment. Candidates are advised to complete all the relevant sections of the forms; incomplete applications will not be processed.

**TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

The training is targeted at mid-level to senior level public sector officials engaged in the formulation and management of the development planning process in Africa.

**COURSE TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS**

The cost of this course is USD 2,500 (this fee excludes air travel and subsistence costs). Please note that IDEP offers a limited number of partial and full scholarships to those admitted to participate in its programs. Thus, self-sponsored candidates are also encouraged to apply to this capacity development and training programme. Please note that priorities are given to self-sponsored applicants.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: **Thursday 24th March 2016**
- Course Period: **2 – 13 May 2016**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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