

Building Leadership in Regional Economic Development

4 – 9 November 2012
Townhouse Hotel, Cape Town



Why is regional economic development important and why do we need regional economic development course?

Regional economic development refers to the sustained, concerted actions of policymakers, businesses and communities that promote the economic health of a specific geographic region. The goal varies from region to region but in South Africa needs to include raising living standards and creating more employment in the region.

Regional economic development is increasingly recognised as a critical area of intervention and many nations have developed a clear approach and set of regional economic development instruments and tools. In South Africa, however, this has been a neglected area that now needs to be addressed.

The Economies of Regions Learning Network, a collaborative effort between the Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape regions, was recently established as a first step to address this gap. ERLN is partnering with the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice and the Technical Assistance Unit at National Treasury to offer a regional economic leadership course.

The course

The course is intended to put regional economic leadership on the national agenda. It also seeks to consolidate a network of regional economic leaders in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape and to provide a stronger common intellectual base to support regional economic development processes in South Africa. The course will contribute to this by setting up a dialogue between leading international and national thought leaders in the field and local public and private sector leaders to reflect on local and global practice and how regional economic development capabilities can be built in South Africa.

The programme

Participants must arrive on Sunday evening for the course opening. Teams will also be expected to compile regional displays on Sunday evening.

The teaching programme starts on Monday 5 November at 8am.

Mon 5-11 Understanding regional economies	Tues 6-11 The regional leadership challenge	Wed 7-11 Collaboration	Thurs 8-11 Innovation and sustainability	Fri 9-11 Delivering change
Welcome and introductions	The instruments for regional economic development	Understanding leadership styles using case studies	Understanding regional innovation systems	Consolidating the lessons and toolbox
Understanding regional economic development	South Africa's regional economic development path.	Structuring relations and dealing with accountability, conflict and sustainability: case studies	Central City walkabout on innovation	Regional group presentations to national and provincial Minister
Understanding your region: Key note address.	Regional leadership challenges and opportunities	Understanding the local regional economic stakeholder map	Identifying regional innovations and needs	Certificate ceremony and closing address
Defining the role of different stakeholders	Leading in contested environments	Values and ethics and using these to deal with the wicked issues	TEDx type event on economic, social and environmental regional innovation case studies	
The relevance or irrelevance of national plans: A debate.	What makes investors invest in a region	Jazz tour with facilitated reflection on what jazz teaches us about leadership	Free evening	

What are some of the burning regional economic questions the course will address?

- How does intervening in the economy at a regional scale differ from local or national economic development?
- How does intervening in the economy differ from other public policy areas?
- The different approaches to regional economic development – regulatory, incentive, co-investment, infrastructure and network driven and the pros and cons of each?
- What can be done to make political and corporate leaders do the right thing for regions?
- How do businesses and government make genuine connections and effect change?
- What makes an investment-friendly region and how do you optimise your regional positioning?
- How can national planning enhance regional economic development?
- Is there a specific leadership role for cities in regional economic development?

More about some of the proposed resource people:

A range of local and international experts drawn from the public, private and academic sectors will provide input on the course including:

- **Michael Enright** is a leading expert on competitiveness, regional economic development, and international business strategy. He joined the University of Hong Kong as Sun Hung Kai Professor of Business Administration in 1996 after six years as a professor at the Harvard Business School. Enright also directs the Asia-Pacific Competitiveness Program at the Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy and was a Founding Director and current Advisory Board Member of The Competitiveness Institute (a global professional body with members in 40 countries). As an advisor, Enright has consulted to companies, governments, and multilateral organizations. This work focuses on thought leadership and regional strategies for clustering and investment in Asia Pacific and the Chinese market.
- **Greg Clarke** is the chair of the OECD forum on Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) and the former head of the London Development Agency. He is a regional and local economic development expert who has worked in over 40 countries.
- **The National Planning Commission**

The full list of speakers will be circulated with the final programme.

How do you apply to be a participant?

Applications close on Monday 8 October.

Participants will be informed of selection by 12 October.

The course is open to public, private and community sector actors. If you are a decision-maker, leader or entrepreneur working at the regional scale then this is the course for you. Join us from 4-9 November and help formulate South Africa's Regional Economic Development agenda.

To participate you need:

- Substantial experience and track record in economic development
- To be in a position to lead, influence, direct and guide regional economic strategies at a regional scale
- To apply and motivate why you should be selected for the course.

A panel drawn from UCT and TAU will select the final list of participants, with input from the Economies of Regions Learning Network Reference Group.

Costs:

Participants are responsible for their own travel to Cape Town. All course and accommodation costs are covered by funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and National Treasury.

For more information or to apply please contact:

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