



the dti
Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Call for applications for the

African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE)

**13 to 25 May 2007
Stellenbosch, South Africa**

**Organised by The Department of Trade and Industry with
The Embassy of France in South Africa and the French Institute of South Africa**

The African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE) is inspired by and draws on the experience of the Cambridge Advanced Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (CAPORDE). Ha-Joon Chang (University of Cambridge), CAPORDE course director, is a member of the APORDE steering committee, along with Christopher Cramer (SOAS, University of London). APORDE is a joint initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry (The Dti), the Embassy of France and the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS). Nicolas Pons-Vignon (IFAS) is the APORDE Course director and Nkosimyozi Madula (The Dti) is Deputy Course director.

Background

While there has been an increased questioning of the neoliberal domination in policy making, the supply of critical and constructive responses remains poor. The situations in most developing countries are particularly preoccupying, since governments and civil societies are weakly equipped to respond critically to external initiatives aimed at *their* development and to generate endogenous strategies. Due to, among other things, resource constraints, researchers and students from developing countries tend to rely on a small number of standard textbooks and the publications from the multilateral financial institutions, which severely restricts their exposure to alternative approaches. Sub-Saharan Africa is probably most affected by the poor availability of cutting-edge research and teaching in non-orthodox economics. The influence of neoliberal economics in the continent has precluded the exploration of more proactive state involvement to support economic development and reduce poverty. The tide is, however, gradually turning: the need for “more” (rather than merely “better”, which in neoliberal terms has proved to mean “less”) state intervention in economic affairs is increasingly recognised. Crucially, economic take-off appears bound to remain a pipedream if it is premised on unabated liberalisation rather than developmental trade and industrial policies. The latter would represent a qualitative leap in the nature of state intervention, which is currently typically limited to “creating favourable conditions”.

The shortcomings of “populist”, or neopopulist, alternatives to the neoliberal orthodoxy will also be discussed. These alternatives, which tend to focus on specific issues, for instance the environment or “extreme poverty”, have caught the public’s attention and contributed to the ongoing reformulation of the mainstream development discourse. One of the most striking examples of the (sometimes combined) failure of both

neoliberal and neopopulist theories is land reform, which will be addressed in APORDE.

APORDE

APORDE will allow talented academics, policy makers and trade unionists to gain access to alternatives to mainstream thinking on development issues and to be equipped in a way that will foster original thinking. Participants will receive intensive high-level training, interact with some of the best development economists in the world and with other participants from Southern Africa and beyond. Costs incurred by participants – travelling, accommodation, conference fees and per diem – will be covered.

The seminar will be held in Stellenbosch in May 2007 (from the 13th till the 25th). The venue will be confirmed at a later stage.

APORDE will cover essential topics in development economics, presenting views that are critical of the mainstream and neopopulist views. Topics will include industrial policy, poverty, financial crises and violent conflicts. Lectures will equip participants with key information pertaining to both mainstream and non-mainstream approaches to each topic. Day lectures will last for three and a half hours, while a number of shorter evening lectures will also be organised. Three research workshops gathering several lecturers will be held around overarching themes.

[Provisional Programme: www.ifas.org.za/research/pdf/Aporde-programme.pdf]

Applications

It is necessary that participants demonstrate first-class intellectual capacity and (at least some) prior knowledge in economics, as well as proficiency in English. However, the objective of APORDE is to draw participants from a broad range of backgrounds. People with no formal qualifications, but who have demonstrated exceptional capacity in their professional lives, are invited to apply.

The main body of participants will be drawn from Southern Africa, understood to cover all SADC member countries (Angola; Botswana; the Democratic Republic of Congo; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe), but we welcome applications from other African countries and those who are from developing countries outside Africa but have research or work experience related to Africa.

Prospective applicants should send

- a Curriculum Vitae;
- an official transcript (showing courses taken and grades obtained);
- 2 (two) letters of reference, where possible 1 academic referee and 1 professional, which should be sent directly to aporde@ifas.org.za or faxed to +27 11 836 5850;
- an essay of no more than 1500 words stating how they would benefit from APORDE.

Applications should be accompanied by a covering letter indicating the applicants' full contact details (including the e-mail address and telephone numbers).

For students whose main medium of instruction during their education was not English, some proof of English proficiency will be necessary. Results of standard English proficiency tests (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS) will be preferable, but other proof may also be accepted (e.g., a sample of written work in English).

Applications should be sent to aporde@ifas.org.za to the attention of Nicolas Pons-Vignon. The application should **actually reach** Nicolas Pons-Vignon by **Wednesday 20th December** at midnight at the latest.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Please note that individual acknowledgement of applications will be sent by e-mail only. Candidates will be notified by e-mail of the outcome of their applications by the end of February 2007.