

Call for Papers: Fourth Annual Conference on Development and Change (ACDC)

Mission: Promoting Development in a Globalized World

Johannesburg, South Africa, April 9-11, 2010

Conference Theme: The global economic crisis and the restructuring of the financial and trading system: implications and prospects for the developing world.

The world economy is currently in the throes of a global economic crisis reminiscent of the great depressions of the 1930s and possibly that of the 1870s. As back then, the crisis resulted from major structural imbalances in financial and credit markets ultimately resulting in a retreat from free trade. Emergent debates about resurgent protectionism, alternative reserve currencies, stimulus packages and climate change policies suggests that the world economy has entered a phase of heightened change which will transform the development "equation" in varied and diverse ways. It is imperative at this time that development economists should engage with two crucial questions: the implications of these changes for the developing world and the prospects for "development" for the majority of people in the developing world.

The forthcoming conference invites submission of academic papers representing original and critical research focusing on the various aspects of the current global economic crisis:

- its origins, viz., the financial crisis in the USA and the OECD, as well as the spillover into the developing world;
- the consequences: recession and slowdown of growth, deflation, contracting trade flows, unemployment, rising inequality within and between countries, and
- the possible ways out of the crises as well as prescriptions on how developing countries can minimize the fallout and capitalize on the unfolding opportunities.

Papers are encouraged to employ historical and comparative perspectives where possible, on the impact of the current global financial and trade crises and its impact on the economic performance of developing countries. A focus on policy relevance and prescriptions for developing countries is highly recommended. The current economic crisis presents us with an opportunity for reforming the global financial system. In this respect we encourage papers that promote innovative ideas on how to restructure the global and regional financial and trading systems such that in the future developing countries are better equipped to deal with economic downturns. Papers are encouraged to also focus on policy relevance for international organizations, NGOs and other key development stakeholders and their role in addressing international and regional financial cooperation, enhanced development assistance, the food crisis, climate change adaptation and mitigation and trade financing for developing countries, among other key challenges.

#### Objectives of ACDC

Discontent with the impact of modern-day globalization on economic growth and human development in developing countries and regions have generated much critique of the dominant orthodox neo-liberal perspective and its standard package of prescriptions. While there is ample theoretical and empirical evidence that points to the disastrous consequence of mainstream policies, there is also a sense of frustration stemming from the lack of a coherent alternative from heterodox perspectives and limited access to scholarly work that explains the underlying structural and systemic causes of uneven growth, global inequality and underdevelopment.

Across the globe, a number of initiatives have emerged over the last few years that bring together heterodox research and thinking. The goal of the Annual Conference on Development and Change (ACDC) is to build upon these initiatives by creating a global network of scholars and activists whose work is not only challenging the mainstream but is also creatively engaged in formulating and promoting policy alternatives that countries, advocacy groups, civil society, international organizations and other key stakeholders can adopt.

#### About ACDC

ACDC started as an initiative funded by the Ford Foundation, New York, and was housed at the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs for the first three years. It targets young scholars that have participated in specialized training programmes such as the Cambridge Advanced Program on Rethinking Development Economics (CAPORDE), the Association of Caribbean Economists Professional Training Institute, the Equator School and the Andean School of Advanced Development Economics, the Knowledge Networking Program on Engendering Macroeconomics and International Economics hosted by the University of Utah and so forth. As a part of this arrangement, three annual ACDC conferences were organised in three different continents: India 2005, Brazil 2006 and South Africa 2007. The proceedings of the first conference were published as "Globalisation and Development: A Handbook of new perspectives", Oxford University Press, 2007 and the proceedings of the second conference are forthcoming as "Capital without borders: challenges to development", to be published by Anthem Press. The ACDC is run by a steering committee consisting of Ashwini Deshpande (Chair) (India), Keith Nurse (Barbados), Luiz Niemeyer (Brazil), Codrina Rada (USA) and Peter Jacobs (South Africa). See <http://www.policyinnovations.org/calendar/ACDC>

This conference is supported by DTI, South Africa, and is in partnership with African Program on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE).

#### About the Conference

The three-day conference will comprise mainly of paper presentations and discussions, interspersed with key note addresses from development economists associated with APORDE as well as other leading scholars working on these issues. The aim is to have nine panels (three per day) with at most 3 papers per session. Each session will have a chair/moderator and one discussant who will critically comment on all the three papers.

#### Submitting a Paper

An executive summary of not less than 2-3 pages should be submitted that should clearly state the following: the problem being investigated, hypothesis, approach, methodology, theoretical framework, recommendations, expected results and should include a short bibliography. Simple literature surveys will not be accepted. A select number of papers may be published in a book and on the ACDC website.

Applications must reach the conference chair by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The final selection will be announced on March 1, 2010. Completed papers will have to be submitted by March 20, 2010. Once an executive summary has been selected, the final paper cannot substantially deviate from the summary.

The executive summary should include full name, institutional affiliation, full postal address,

phone/fax numbers and email address. Applicants should specify which training workshop/network they have attended and in which year. If applicants are CAPORDE or APORDE alumni, the year should be stated.

The summary along with all the other information should be sent in *one single file*, in MS-Word format and should be named "lastname\_acdc09.doc". So if your name is Ashwini Deshpande, your application should have the filename: deshpande\_acdc09.doc.

First time applicants to ACDC will be given preference. The airfare, accommodation and meals of selected panelists will be fully funded. Third and fourth timers are not eligible for funding. However, if they are self-financed, their application *might* be considered, depending on the spaces available, *after* the first and second timers have been selected.

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