

Thinking differently about Africa's economic recovery post COVID-19

The seismic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic requires policy makers to consider different options in their approach to economic and social development – falling back on past approaches without looking at the new context and challenges will result in inappropriate policy responses.

Over the next two weeks the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE) brings together leading international and local economists and researchers to deliberate on Africa's economic development and social responses in the context of COVID-19.

This APORDE seminar series will include engagements between international economists such as Dr Carlos Lopes (currently based at UCT), Professor John Sender (SOAS), Professor Léonce Ndikumana (director of the African Development Policy Programme –Peri), Jayati Ghosh, (Chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharal Nehru University, New Delhi and Dr Jose Gabriel Palma (Cambridge university) and local economists and researchers such as Duma Gqubule (Centre for economic development and transformation), Neva Makgetla (TIPS), Basani Baloyi (OXFAM), Ruth Castel-Branco (Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, Wits University), Kate Philip (development strategist) and Busi Sibeko (Insitute for Economic Justice).

The virtual seminar series will start on Monday 31 August and will be spread over a period of a week until 8 September (see programme attached). These interactions are being organised by Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the department of trade industry and competition (dtic), and the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI) at UJ.

The key topics include industrialization in Africa and African economic development, the economic and social policy responses to the pandemic, and dealing with income inequality.

This series of engagements form part of the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics, which is a training initiative which was started in 2007 aimed at building capacity in the South (particularly in Africa) around development economics. APORDE's aim is to broaden perspectives on economic development issues and train policy makers, researchers, academics and civil society representatives. APORDE is a joint initiative between the dtic, the IDC and co-facilitated by TIPS.

Meanwhile, TIPS is also involved in a seminar series which is will focus on 'Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System to Promote Inclusivity and Development' which will occur over an extended period of time from 2 September through to November. This seminar series is being organised by the South Centre, Geneva; Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi; Third World Network, Geneva; Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town.

The APORDE programme and the details of the trade seminar series are attached. For further information, please contact Rozale (TIPS) on rozale@tips.org.