



Economic Research Southern Africa

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African Development Finance Policy Workshop

7 - 8 August 2012

The Institute of Global Finance and Development at The Lancashire Business School of the University of Central Lancashire in collaboration with the University Of Stellenbosch Business School and the Economic Research Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa is organizing a two-day Workshop to provide a platform for deliberation on what matters for the Development Finance in Africa.

Background

Well-functioning financial systems are crucial for ensuring sustainable growth and development. It is also generally accepted that well-founded financial structures can have beneficial effects on more equitable distribution of wealth and poverty alleviation. And yet large portion of the population on the developing world are effectively excluded from the formal financial system. It is therefore important to properly assess and understand the mechanisms and processes that could improve financial inclusion. Due to the high connectedness between financial and social exclusion, extending access to finance should be expected to also bring about wider societal benefits. Thus, an all-inclusive financial system enhances efficiency and welfare by establishing a 'functional' equilibrium between the financial and real sectors of an economy. In a wider context, financial inclusion contributes to economic growth through value creation of small entrepreneurship and businesses, positive spillovers, improvements in human development indicators (health, nutrition, and education), reduction in inequality and poverty.

Papers addressing both the micro and macro causes and effects of the finance-development nexus are welcome. In particular we are interested in papers dealing with the issue of access to finance and its role in development, but papers discussing other such as e.g. political or social constraints on development will also be considered.

The conference will give excellent opportunities to exchange experiences and promote networking. We welcome papers, articles and case studies on topics related to the core issue of financial sector development in Africa and invite all interested academics, researchers and policy-makers to attend the workshop.

The conference organizers request the participants to send either an expression of interest to attend or an abstract of 500 words relating to the central theme. In the case of the latter both theoretical and empirical papers are welcome.

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstracts: 28 February 2012

Notification of Acceptance: 30 March 2012

Submission of Full Papers: 30 June 2012

Conference Dates: 7-8 August 2012

Conference Organisers: Professor Thankom Arun and Prof Meshach Aziakpono

Key note speakers are: Professor Ernest Aryeetey (Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana) and Dr. Vencatachellum, Désiré, (Director of Development Research Department, African Development Bank).

Submission of Abstracts:

Abstracts should be submitted to Professor Charles Adjasi: charles.adjasi@usb.ac.za

Sponsorship:

ERSA is able to offer financial support to cover travel and accommodation expenses to a limited number of research active members of any South African tertiary institution. Applications for financial supports should be submitted to Yoemna Mosaval (Yoemna.Mosaval@econrsa.org)