



Macroeconomic Literacy Training

March 12-13, 2009

10 SOURCES ON ALTERNATIVE MACROECONOMIC POLICIES

1) Reclaiming Development Handbook

In an easy to read manual for civil society advocates, “Reclaiming Development: An Alternative Economic Policy Manual,” Ha-Joon Chang and Ilene Grabel explain the main assertions behind the dominant neoliberal school of thought. They combine data, a devastating economic logic, and an analysis of the historical experiences of leading Western and East Asian economies to question the validity of the dominant neoliberal development model. They then set out practical sets of policy alternatives in the key areas: trade and industrial policy; privatization; intellectual property rights; external borrowing; investment; financial regulation; exchange rates, monetary policy, government revenue and expenditure. The most useful proposals that have emerged around the world are combined with innovative measures of their own, in an empowering and accessible book. To learn more, visit: www.zedbooks.com/uk

2) Useful Training Modules: The International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth

The International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), formerly the International Poverty Center (IPC), is co-supported by the UNDP’s Poverty Practice, Bureau for Development Policy and the Government of Brazil. The Center facilitates South-South learning in development solutions by fostering policy dialogue; carries out policy-oriented research and conducts trainings and evaluations. Its vision is the attainment of high inclusive growth. IPC is directly linked to the Secretariat for Strategic Affairs (SAE), the Federative Republic of Brazil and SAE's Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), which is a distinguished research establishment. IPC-IG publishes regularly issues of Poverty in Focus magazine, One Pagers, Policy Research Briefs, Working Papers and Country Studies to encourage policy debate and dissemination of knowledge on key poverty topics. IPC also publishes a special series of Evaluation Notes, Technical Papers, Conference Papers. Importantly, it also offers three easy-to-read, accessible and introductory training modules to use in trainings and courses:

- Training Module # 1 Fiscal Policy
- Training Module # 2 Monetary Policy
- Training Module # 3 Financial Policy

To learn more, visit: www.ipc-undp.org

3) UN DESA Policy Notes

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) commissioned six Policy Notes designed to provide country level policy makers with a range of possible alternatives to the standard neoliberal policy solutions, rather than to prescribe any single course of action. The Policy Notes serve to help countries take advantage of and expand their policy space, i.e., their

effective room for maneuver in formulating and integrating their unique national economic, social, and environmental policies. The outcome document of the 2005 United Nations World Summit called on countries to prepare national development strategies, taking into account the international development goals agreed in the various UN summits and conferences of the past two decades. In order to assist countries in this task, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) commissioned six Policy Notes for easy use by policy-makers and policy-shapers both in the government and civil society, in major and interconnected areas relevant to the formulation of national development strategies: macroeconomic and growth policy, trade policy, investment and technology policy, financing development, social policy and state-owned enterprise reform. The Policy Notes, coordinated by Jomo K.S., Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development in DESA and reviewed by outside academics such as Columbia University's Prof. Joseph Stiglitz and other experts, provide concrete suggestions on policies to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals in the UN Development Agenda:

- Macroeconomic and Growth Policy
 - Policy Note
 - Background Note
- Finance Policy Note
- State-owned Enterprise Reform Policy Note
- Investment and Technology Policy Note
- Social Policy Note
- Trade Policy Note

The Policy Notes are available at: <http://esa.un.org/techcoop/policyNotes.asp>

4) Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) - Globalization and Macroeconomics

Established in 1998, PERI is an independent unit of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with close ties to the Department of Economics. PERI has become a leading source of research and policy initiatives on issues of globalization, unemployment, financial market instability, central bank policy, living wages and decent work, and the economics of peace, development, and the environment. PERI's Globalization and Macroeconomics program provides research to promote sustained full employment and widespread prosperity for advanced and developing countries. Some of its recent research provides useful information on: Pro-Growth, Pro-Poor Policies for Sub-Saharan Africa; PERI Resources on the Economic and Market Crisis; An Employment-Targeted Economic Program for Kenya; Critical analyses of microfinance as panacea; Alternatives to Inflation Targeting; Globalization, economic policy and employment: Poverty and gender implications; and a PERI Project with UNDP's International Policy Center to Develop "Workable Pro-Poor Economic Policies."

To learn more, visit: www.peri.umass.edu/globalization

5) Initiative for Policy Dialogue

Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz founded the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) in July 2000 to help developing countries explore policy alternatives, and enable wider civic participation in economic policymaking. IPD is now a global network of more than 200 leading economists, political scientists, and practitioners from the North and South with diverse

backgrounds and views. IPD recognizes that all economic policies involve trade-offs that benefit some groups more than others, and there is no one set of policies that is best for all countries. In response to government officials in many developing countries have expressed concern with the lack of policy options, IPD offers analyses of the trade-offs associated with different policies and offers serious economic alternatives, while allowing the choice of policy to be made by the country's political process. IPD efforts are also intended to strengthen national institutions and civil societies. IPD also recognizes that many diverse stakeholders with a legitimate interest in policy outcomes often lack access to the process, information, and even the language necessary to participate effectively, therefore IPD promotes broadening civic involvement in economic policy making.

Of particular interest for advocates of increased public health spending may be a useful book from the IPD book series, "Stability with Growth," (Stiglitz, et al 2006). This book presents the current debates on macroeconomics, capital market liberalization, and development and begins to develop a new framework to assess alternative policies. The authors share the belief that the Washington consensus has advocated for narrow goals for development (with a focus on price stability), prescribed too few policy instruments (emphasizing monetary and fiscal policies), and places unwarranted faith in the role of markets. The new framework focuses on real-sector stability and long-term sustainable and equitable growth, offers a variety of non-standard ways to stabilize the economy and promote growth, and accepts that market imperfections necessitate government interventions.

To learn more, visit: www0.gsb.columbia.edu/ipd

6) Network IDEAS

Network IDEAs, or the Network of the International Development Economics Associates, is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world engaged in research and teaching, and offers social justice advocates and others updated critical analyses of economic policy and development issues. Its members are motivated by the need to strengthen and develop alternatives to the current mainstream economic paradigm of neoliberal orthodoxy. Since it was founded in 2001, Network IDEAs is based in the South and led by economists based in several developing countries, but membership of the network is open to all those committed to developing and using alternative non-orthodox tools of economic analysis appropriate for meeting development challenges.

To learn more, visit: www.networkideas.org

7) Third World Network

Third World Network (TWN) is an independent nonprofit international network of organizations and individuals involved in issues relating to development, Third World and North-South affairs. Formed in 1984 and based in Penang, Malaysia TWN coordinates and consolidates cooperation among development groups in the South. Its mission is to bring about a greater articulation of the needs and rights of peoples in the Third World, a fair distribution of world resources, and forms of development which are ecologically sustainable and fulfill human needs. Its main objectives are: to conduct research on economic, social and environmental issues pertaining to the South; to publish books and magazines; to organize and participate in meetings and

seminars; and to provide a platform representing broadly Southern interests and perspectives at international fora such as the UN Conferences and processes.

To learn more, visit: www.twinside.org.sg

8) Center for Development Policy and Research

The Center for Development Policy and Research (CDPR) draws on the broad range of development expertise at the School of Oriental and African Studies, to engage in innovative policy-oriented research and training on crucial development issues. Based in the Department of Development Studies, the Center also partners extensively with specialists in the Department of Economics and other SOAS departments and actively collaborates with the London International Development Centre, a six-college consortium at the University of London geared to multi-disciplinary research. CDPR also collaborates on research with an extensive global network of researchers, based principally in developing countries. Its main areas of concentration include globalization, international political economy, economic policy alternatives, conflict and development, food security and agrarian change, labor markets and employment, and governance and institutional change. CDPR regularly provides accessible working papers and discussion papers produced by SOAS faculty research, as well as Development Viewpoints and will begin publishing Policy Briefs and Development Digests. These popular formats are designed to be more easily accessible to social justice advocates to support critical thinking, spark discussion and debate, and highlight policy-relevant advances in research on major development issues.

To learn more, visit: www.soas.ac.uk/cdpr

9) New Rules for Global Finance

New Rules for Global Finance is a coalition of development, human rights, labor, environmental, and religious organizations and scholars dedicated to the reform of the global financial architecture in order to stabilize the world economy, reduce poverty and inequality, uphold fundamental rights, and protect the environment. Formed in 1998, New Rules promotes technically expert and inclusive dialogues to analyze existing financial institutions and processes to propose alternatives to the current Washington Consensus policies that will bring about more equitable and environmentally responsible results.

To learn more, visit: www.new-rules.org

10) South Center

The Geneva-based South Center is an intergovernmental organization of developing countries established in 1995 in order to provide analysis of development problems and experience, as well as intellectual and policy support for developing countries to use in collective and individual actions, particularly those taken in the international arena. The South Center was formed in the wake of the South Commission Report, which recognized that developing countries were not well organized at the global level and has thus not been effective in mobilizing their considerable combined expertise and experience, nor their collective bargaining power, and called for enhanced South-South cooperation. The Center assists in developing points of view of the South on major policy issues, and generates ideas and action-oriented proposals for

consideration by the collectivity of South governments, institutions of South-South cooperation, inter-governmental organizations of the South, NGOs and the community at large. The Center also responds to requests for policy advice, and for technical and other support from collective entities of the South such as the Group of 77 (G77) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

To learn more, visit: www.southcentre.org

