

Sustainable development goals: what difference will they make to international development?

Start date 18 March 2016**End date** 20 March 2016**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** John Birchall**Course code** 1516NRX078**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Co-ordinator
01223 746237, clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk**To book** See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

John Birchall is a Development Economist with over 30 years' experience working mainly in Africa. His most recent assignments have been involved with teaching and assisting young leaders to plan for the future. In recent years his work has taken him to Ghana, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He is an Affiliate of The Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge and assists MBA, MSt International relations and other relevant postgraduate students to widen their appreciation of global issues and in particular those related to the developing world.

He has lectured at LSE, SOAS, Warwick and several other universities on issues concerning development, conflict and resolution and cultural awareness. He regularly supervises Master's and PhD students working on African issues, especially those relating to Southern and Western Africa. He is a Guest Lecturer at the Universities of Sierra Leone, Zambia and at a number of universities in Zimbabwe. He delivered the 60th Anniversary Lecture of The British Council in Sierra Leone. During that visit he addressed the Parliament – to-date the only non-politician to have done so.

He writes Expert Witness Statements for people facing deportation for matters relating to asylum claims - this normally concerns Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe and he is Editor of The Journal of Sierra Leone Studies.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 **Session 1** – We will start by looking philosophies and theories that have shaped 'international assistance' over the past few decades. An introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) will be set against a brief analysis of the events in the twentieth century that helped shape the geo-political climate within which development is situated – including pre-World War 1, post-World War 2, the Cold War, the creation of the United Nations, European Union and the rise of the BRIC and MINT countries.

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 2** – Both the objectives and outcomes of international assistance since the beginning of the post-colonial era are explored. In particular we will examine the reality of access to education, health care, secure food supplies, clean water and other Human Development Index measurements for the millions living in absolute poverty.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 3** This session will include an analysis of the 'Washington Consensus', the financial crisis of the late twentieth centuries and what was achieved as the planet worked towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's 2000 - 2015). How has the outcome of this fifteen year 'experiment' affected the lives of the average citizen of the developing world?

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 **Session 4** The SDG's are examined in greater detail, looking at the criteria which shaped these goals and what is hoped for by 2030. As in all sessions the focus will be on real-life examples and the impact of international assistance on the environment. We will explore what else will be required to be focused on if the SDG's are to be achieved

18:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5 – This session focuses on key aspects to sustainable development: food security and access to clean water, widening the access and ways of generating energy sources, the use of new forms of building materials and techniques, the provision of basic education and primary health care and the continued use of information technology in achieving the SDG's.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion
Sunday	
07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 – This session will look at how those charged with delivering the SDG's are developing new ideas to achieve the targets. We will also examine how respect for the belief systems, cultures and traditions of peoples and communities can be mixed with the best of what is broadly known as 'modernity'.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7 – The last session will conclude with a discussion about what lies ahead and how life will change for the billions of people affected by poverty.
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The main aims of this course are to introduce and develop an awareness of the core content of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implanted since September 2015. At the end of the course, participants should have an understanding of:

- How the former Millennium Development Goals have influenced the new SDG's
- What new challenges will the SDG's contain
- How the various stakeholders might react to these new challenges

Content:

The main topics to be covered in this short course will be: the history of 'development' post 1945 and how the decline in colonialism affected the ways in which the 'developed' world worked with the developing nations. The introduction of the MDG's (2000 -2015) and how these have influenced to content and objectives of the new SDG's (2015 -2030). An exploration of what objectives are being pursued, the policies being applied and how each part of this complex process is adjusting to the challenges posed by the inequalities illustrated by the daily lives of those living in poverty.

Presentation of the course:

The course will use a range of teaching methods. These will include:

Discussions on the main aims of development – the focus, financing and delivery of development assistance. Exercises designed to allow participants to explore the complexity of development planning and delivery and to evaluate the real outcome of development assistance. Case Studies that allow participants to see beyond the surface issues and discuss what other aspects of life in the developing world affect decisions and why. Presentations, videos and other forms of social media and their uses in developing a greater and wider understanding of the challenges which lie ahead and how these might be addressed

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- have an increased awareness of the underlying reasons for poverty and possible solutions at the international level
- critically analyse a variety of issues related to development assistance and planning
- feel more confident in debating complex issues

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

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