

**Course on
Local Assets for Community and Economic
Development
2010**

April 6 – May 5,

Local economic development is a key strategy for poverty eradication, but not enough emphasis is given to the role of community development. In Israel, community and economic development are aimed at empowering local communities through employment and asset generation. It is increasingly recognized that the local community as an arena for economic development has a key role especially in poor communities.

Nevertheless, the scope and volume of economic activities in poor communities are limited. Poor communities hardly enjoy the fruits of economic growth; they are unattractive to private sector activities; and lack support systems for community and economic development. These factors lead to economic poverty and poor living conditions, as well as disempowered and disintegrated communities.

This course is based on the recognition that each and every community have assets and resources (including social networks) that can be harnessed for economic and community development, and that a resilient community can better meet the challenges of fighting poverty and managing crises.

Israel's Ministry of Social Affairs and Services is a leading partner in the design and delivery of this course. Through this partnership participants will benefit from the knowledge and experience Israel gained in the field of community and economic development. The course will include lectures and workshops, field visits, practical exercises and meetings with decision makers and top professionals in the field.

Objectives

The seminar is aimed at:

- Providing an analytical perspective on the links between community and economic development;
- Emphasizing community assets and social networks as keys for development;
- Providing tools for promoting local community and economic development;
- Sharing Israeli experience and best practice in poverty alleviation;
- Training participants in utilizing approaches and tools for local community and economic development.

Program Scope and themes

- **Local assets for community and economic development**
- Assets Based Community Development (ABCD) Approach
- Uncovering and mapping community assets
- Harnessing and utilizing local assets for development

- **Social networks and social capital**
 - Building social capital through social networks
 - Social networks for economic development and job-generation
 - Interventions for families coping with a changing economy
 - Job programs (or options) for the handicapped - improving social capital
- **Community resilience and crisis management**
 - Building community resilience
 - Coping with community crises
 - Effects of a crisis or crises on individuals families and communities
 - What to do for a community in an emergency
 - Managing conflicts in coalitions
- **Local economic development**
 - LED through strategic planning
 - Support systems for LED
 - Local assets for rural tourism development
- **Leadership partnerships and participation**
 - How to build and sustain local coalition of services
 - Community – business sector relations
 - Working with local leadership
 - Community participation in planning and development
 - Skills in negotiations
 - Building communication and marketing skills for community projects
- **Field visits, practical exercises and small groups assignments**

Pre course requirements

- Preparation of a presentation on local community and local economy of the participants' local area
- Background data and materials for project formulation at local level

Guidelines will be sent to participants in advance.

Admission requirements

The seminar is designed for professionals and decision makers working in the field of social and community development, poverty alleviation and local economic development, with practical experience in the field.

Application Process

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area not later than March 5, 2010.

Arrival and transportation

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to "Reisfeld Residence" of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the seminar. Transportation will **be free of**

charge only by this company.

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after the customs, at the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers' hall (look for the steps near gate No. 2 towards the Car-rental companies).

Responsibilities during the stay

MASHAV will assume responsibility of the participants (medical insurance) for the duration of the seminar.

Insurance of personal belongings

MASHAV, Weitz Center and the "Reisfeld Residence" are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

Medical Insurance

The participants will have a medical insurance for the duration of their stay in Israel, except for dental treatments, pregnancy, eyeglasses, and chronic illnesses.

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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and International Cooperation
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