New York University
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Decentralized Development Planning in Developing Countries

URPL-GP 2665 Fall 2012
Tuesday, 6:45-10:15 p.m. 25 W 4th St., C-20

Instructors:

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Description:
The last three decades have witnessed a global proliferation of public sector reform, decentralization, and democratization in developing countries. Traditional development planning has adapted to these trends as they have unfolded. This course presents an overview of the evolution of the theory and practice of planning in developing countries with a particular focus on subnational governments. A central theme is that the structure of a planning system and its success in producing good results depend heavily on the economic, political, institutional and cultural context of a particular country. The course outlines and evaluates conceptual planning models and systems, reviews approaches used by developing countries and international development agencies to support decentralization and local development planning, and introduces a range of practices and tools commonly used by local planners in developing countries. The overall focus is on how local planning systems can be strategically designed and implemented along with technical planning tools to work effectively in different country contexts. Detailed case studies and exercises based on them are an integral part of the course.

Goals:
The main goals of the class are:

1) To familiarize students with the evolution of the theory and practice of development planning in developing countries;
2) To provide students with an overview of common types of development planning systems and efforts to decentralize planning processes;
3) To introduce students a range of local planning tools commonly used in developing countries;
4) To familiarize students with the approaches of international development agencies to supporting local development planning, and,
5) To help students think about how to cope with real-world constraints on effective development planning and implementation.
Format:

The class will meet weekly in an intensive format for half of the semester. The format will blend lecture and discussion. Class participation is encouraged and expected. Some of the assignments will require group work. The last part of the course will involve student work on a range of case studies of local planning systems in developing countries.

Requirements:

The grade will be based on the following:

**Exercise 1** Covering Parts I and II (15%)
**Exercise 2** Covering Part III (15%)
**Exercise 3** Covering Parts IV and V (15%)
**Exercise 4** Covering Part VI (15%)
**Class Participation** (10%)
**Final Paper** (30%)

The assignments will involve a mixture of specific questions to be answered, analysis of policy situations, and application of planning tools and techniques. The final paper will require you to assess the system of decentralized development planning in a particular country or to do a paper on a topic or theme of your choosing subject to faculty approval. Details on all of the assignments will be provided in class.

Readings:

There are no required text books for the course. Relevant readings are provided on the Blackboard course site or can be downloaded from websites provided in the reading list. Please note that some websites for journals that the NYU Library subscribes to can only be accessed from your NYU email account. You cannot get into these sites from other email addresses unless you have a personal subscription to the journal.

The attached reading list also provides a number of additional background (optional) readings. Guidance about the required and optional readings will be given regularly.

Teaching Assistant:

The teaching assistant for the course is Gundula Loffler. She has some grading and instructional responsibilities and may be contacted for assistance. Her email is: gundula.loffler@nyu.edu.
URPL-GP 2665 Weekly Schedule  
Fall 2012

PART I: OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND SPECIAL ISSUES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (September 4)

Topic 1: The Evolution of Development Planning Paradigms and Cultures
Topic 2: Conventional and Alternative Approaches to Development Planning

PART II: DECENTRALIZATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF MULTI-LEVEL PLANNING AND FINANCING SYSTEMS (September 11)

Topic 1: Planning Levels, Institutions, Actors and Linkages
Topic 2: Decentralization and Participation
Exercise 1: Due September 18

PART III: BUILDING DECENTRALIZED PLANNING SYSTEMS (September 18)

Topic 1: Overview of Approaches to Developing Decentralized Planning Systems
Topic 2: Country and Development Partner Strategies for Developing Planning Systems
Exercise 2: Due September 28

PART IV: LOCAL PLANNING PROCESSES AND INSTRUMENTS (September 25)

Topic 1: Subnational Planning, Programming and Budgeting
Topic 2: Spatial Development Frameworks and Land Use Management Plans

PART V: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMMING (October 2)

Topic 1: Local Strategic Planning: Steps and Techniques
Topic 2: Local Investment Programming: Steps and Techniques
Exercise 3: Due October 9

PART VI: DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLANNING AND APPRAISAL (October 9)

Topic 1: The Logical Framework Approach to Development Project Planning
Topic 2: Project Appraisal: Cost-Benefit, Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Utility Analysis
Exercise 4: Due October 19

PART VII: SYNTHESIS AND LOOKING FORWARD (October 16)

Topic 1: Synthetic Cases and Lessons
Topic 2: Open Discussion (driven by student questions submitted in advance)
Decentralized Development Planning in Developing Countries

Outline and Reading List

I. Overview of Development Planning and Special Issues in Developing Countries (September 4)

Overview of the theory and practice of development planning as it has evolved in developing countries

1. The Evolution of Development Planning Paradigms and Cultures


2. Conventional and Alternative Approaches to Development Planning

* D. Conyers and P. Hills, An Introduction to Development Planning in the Third World (Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, 1984), Chapters 5, pp. 67-87.

Readings marked with an "*" are required and are available on Blackboard. Readings marked with a "**" are required and can be downloaded from the internet site provided.


Case Material

For the **Kenya case**, please briefly review the materials posted in the sub-folder on Blackboard. It contains background papers, planning guidelines, and sample of national and local plans.

**Additional Background Reading for Section I**

D. Conyers and P. Hills, An Introduction to Development Planning in the Third World (Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, 1984).


II. Decentralization and the Transformation of Multi-Level Planning and Financing Systems (September 11)

Overview of decentralization and participation and their role in development planning in the context of diverse and complex multi-actor intergovernmental systems

1. Planning Levels, Institutions, and Actors and Linkages


* Conyers and Hills, Chapter 12-13, pp. 193-228.


2. Decentralization and Participation


**Case Materials**


**Additional Background Reading for Section II**

III. Building Decentralized Planning Systems (September 18)
Review of recent approaches to support local development planning and governance/capacity building and discussion of reform strategies with country cases.

1. Overview of Approaches to Developing Decentralized Planning Systems


2. Country and Development Partner Strategies for Developing Decentralized Planning Systems


Case Materials


**Additional Background Reading for Section III**


World Bank, *City Strategies to Reduce Poverty through Local Economic Development*  


**IV. Local Planning Processes and Instruments Systems (September 26)**
Review of national development planning principles and systems, the rationale and processes of subnational development planning, programming and budgeting, and the role of spatial development frameworks and land use management plans

1. Subnational Development Planning, Programming and Budgeting


2. Spatial Development Frameworks and Land Use Management Plans


   *Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (Philippines) Guidelines for the Application of the Strategic Planning Process in the Preparation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), (Manila, 2001).


Additional Background Reading for Section IV

V. Strategic Development Planning and Investment Programming (October 2)

Review steps and techniques used in local-level strategic development planning and investment programming

1. Local Strategic Planning: Steps and Techniques


2. Local Investment Programming: Steps and Techniques

*V. Elmer. Capital Improvement Plans and Budgets, (Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute, 2009).
VI. Development Project Planning and Appraisal (October 9)

Overview of development project planning and appraisal with a focus on the logical framework and results-based management approach to project planning and various project appraisal methods

1. The Logical Framework Approach to Development Project Planning


2. Project Appraisal: Cost-Benefit, Cost-Effectiveness and Multi-Criteria Analysis

*UK Department for Communities and Local Government, *Multi-criteria analysis: a manual,* (London, 2009), Ch. 2 pp. 9-13, Ch. 4 pp. 19-29, Ch. 6 pp 46-71.

**Additional Background Reading for Section VI**


**VII. Synthesis and Looking Forward (October 16)**

*The instructors will review some synthetic cases and lessons in the last class. This will be followed by an open discussion driven by student questions on key lessons from experience, ongoing debates and future directions and prospects for local and intergovernmental planning. Class members will be asked to submit questions one week in advance of the final class.*

1. **Synthetic Cases and Lessons**

   Readings TBA

2. **Open Discussion**