

About	Countries	Data & Research	Learning	News	Projects & Operations	Publications	Topics
-----------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	---	------------------------------	------------------------

Search

[Home](#) > [Data & Research](#) > [ABCDE South Africa 2008](#) > **ABCDE 2008 South Africa** [Email](#) [Print](#)

- [About ABCDE](#)
- [Conference Program](#)
- [Conference Venue](#)
- [Steering Committee](#)
- [Participants](#)
- [Media](#)
- [ABCDE Support Grant](#)

Site Tools

- [▶ Contact Us](#)
- [▶ FAQs](#)

ABCDE 2008 South Africa

The next edition of the ABCDE conference will take place in **Cape Town (South Africa) on 9-11 June 2008**. It will be jointly organised by the [World Bank](#) and the [National Treasury of South Africa](#).

Title: People, Politics & Globalization



After four years of organizing a separate regional and global ABCDE, both events will be merged to combine the regional and the global focus in one single ABCDE.

The 2008 conference edition will focus on three broad themes:

- ◆ Globalization, Investment and Growth
- ◆ Human Development for Equitable Growth
- ◆ The Political Economy of Shared Growth

NEWS

Registration for ABCDE 2008 started on January 17!

Register Now!

[Media registration is now open!](#)

Applications for the **ABCDE Support Grant 2008** are accepted from February 1 till March 31. The application process is now closed.

Highlights



Researchers Alliance for Development



Essay Competition 2008



ABCDE South Africa 2008

Search

ABCDE-08

GO

Home > Data & Research > ABCDE South Africa 2008 > Conference Program

Email Print

About ABCDE

Conference Program

Conference Venue

Steering Committee

Participants

Media

ABCDE Support Grant

Site Tools

- [Contact Us](#)
- [FAQs](#)

Conference Program

ABCDE 2008, under the overarching theme of 'People, Politics & Globalization', will focus on three broad themes:

- ◆ Globalization, Investment and Growth
- ◆ Human Development for Equitable Growth
- ◆ The Political Economy of Shared Growth

[Download the draft program \(as of May 9\)](#)

The format of the conference will slightly evolve in order to take into account the diversity of participants' backgrounds and their expectations, and the willingness to engage a wide audience of development players. The objective is to provide both a platform for excellency in research on development economics and an innovative and inclusive forum on development issues.

Except for keynote speeches and roundtable debates that will take place in plenary, all sessions will run in parallel, with five series of three sessions:

- ◆ **five comparative sessions** - Global, Africa, South Asia:

1. Trade and Investment

Organizer: Tony Venables, Oxford University / DFID

2. Migration, Remittances, and the Transition from Foreign Aid

Organizer: Jean-Paul Azam, University of Toulouse

3. Higher Education and High-tech Industry

Organizer: Devesh Kapur, University of Pennsylvania

4. Human Development

Organizer: Paul Schultz, Yale University

5. Political Economy of Shared Growth

Organizer: Robert Bates, Harvard University

- ◆ **ten specific sessions** considered from a number of specific perspectives, i.e. social, business... focusing on the three broad themes of the conference, and organized by international financial organizations, NGOs, foundations, academic institutions, think tanks, the South African academic community etc. (identified through an open competition).

In August, September and October the Steering Committee was accepting specific session proposals. The deadline for submissions was October 22, 2007.



ABCDE South Africa 2008

Search ABCDE-08 GO

Home > Data & Research > ABCDE South Africa 2008 > Steering Committee

Email Print

- About ABCDE
- Conference Program
- Conference Venue
- Steering Committee**
- Participants
- Media
- ABCDE Support Grant

Site Tools

- Contact Us
- FAQs

Steering Committee

The ABCDE Steering Committee gathers a group of representatives from the World Bank (including the Chief Economist), the host institution (National Treasury of South Africa) and the academic community. The Steering Committee is responsible for drafting the agenda of the conference and more specifically, it is responsible for:

- ◆ Deciding on names for plenary session and keynote speakers;
- ◆ Deciding on topics for the program of parallel sessions (workshops, roundtables, etc.) and possibly organize some of these sessions;
- ◆ Deciding on side events, communication/outreach plan and media strategy.

During the period of preparation of the conference (from September to June) the Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis to review and discuss proposals for speakers and topics put forward by its members and external partners. Meetings normally take place via videoconference using the World Bank's videoconference network.

Members of the ABCDE 2007 Steering Committee:

World Bank:

Alan Gelb, Director, Development Policy
Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist, South Asia
John Page, Chief Economist, Africa
Boris Pleskovic, Research Manager, Development Economics
Jean-Christophe Bas, Development Policy Dialogue Manager, External Affairs; General Coordinator of the ABCDE
Zeinab Partow, Senior Economist, South Africa

National Treasury:

Christopher Loewald, Deputy General Director
Fundi Tshazibana, National Treasury

Academia:

Ingrid Woolard, University of Cape Town
Olu Ajakaiye, Director of Research, Africa Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Research Director, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway
Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade Law Center for South Africa
Rajiv Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi
Francois Bourguignon, Director, Paris School of Economics

Secretariat of the Steering Committee: Anna Kuznicka, Consultant, World Bank

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