

# **Empowering Local Economic Development: Lerd/Reds program (NESO/Bappenas project)**

**Course manager : Bartjan W. Pennink,**

The purpose of Regional economic development Support is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. More specific LERD/REDS program strengthen human resources in economic development planning at the regency and provincial levels, especially in government planning institutions (Bappeda). In the decentralising Indonesian government, capacity building in the regions is essential, enabling added-value generation and community involvement in the regions. It is a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation. Canzanelli (2001: 9) describes LED as a process in which local actors shape and share the future of their territory. He defines LED as a process in which local stakeholders work closely together. Such a process will stimulate and facilitate partnership between local stakeholders, enabling the joint design and implementation of strategies. This will be mainly based on competitive use of the available local resources with the final aim of creating decent jobs and sustainable economic activities.

Every year, teams of key players in regional economic planning (public servants, Entrepreneurs, producers, university staff) have been taking intensive short courses in Bandung and Groningen since the inception in 2003. The teams are set the task of making a realistic ("SMART") and detailed business plan leading to a concrete action plan. In Groningen, the teams follow courses at RUG and engage in "seeing=believing" visits to relevant Dutch public/private enterprises.

In order to support this process a Lerd program has been developed at the University of Groningen based on the LED frame work of the world bank

**Key issues in the REDS PROGRAM::** Entrepreneurship; Business planning; Regional economic planning; Financing; Business environment analysis; Strategic decision-making; Quality control and TQM; Export & channel management; Stakeholder commitment and negotiation; Action planning; Bureaucracy & innovation.

# **Strengthening Financial Decentralisation and Local Financial Governance in Tanzania (Nuffic project)**

**Project manager: Bartjan W. Pennink**

This project focuses on financial decentralization. Financial decentralisation involves granting the LGAs more financial discretionary powers to levy taxes and raise local revenue, to make and approve their own budgets according to their own priorities as dictated by local conditions and needs of residents, while observing certain mandatory expenditure requirements to attain national standards and improving the inter-governmental fiscal transfer system to ensure that LGAs receive adequate unconditional and other grants in a timely and efficient manner

The problem which the project sets to address is directly related to both capacity building on fiscal decentralization, good governance and poverty alleviation initiatives and has a wide spectrum ranging from IFM to sector ministries, local authorities and the citizens. It is also a problem which covers policy and strategic postures of the Institute of Finance Management in Dar es Salaam

The main objective of the project is to “Strengthen the capacity of IFM to support LGA’s implementation of financial decentralisation and local financial governance “

Derived from this objective are four specific objectives

*1. IFM is capable of offering quality training that is relevant and applicable to the needs of LGA staff to support financial decentralisation and local financial governance.*

Topics expected to be provided in this training include soft skills, accounting and financial management, internal auditing, taxation, effective and gender sensitive budgeting, local governance, understanding and use of ICT applications in financial reporting and expenditure monitoring

*2. IFM can deliver this training to sufficient numbers and in a timely manner to meet the demands of the local authorities.*

*3. Gender knowledge and sensitivity of IFM staff improved to support LGA’s and IFM in addressing and mainstreaming gender.*

Institutionalise gender knowledge and sensitivity including gender budgeting and increase the proportion of recruited, trained and absorbed female staff into managerial position both within IFM and LGAs

*4. Strengthen IFM staff capacity to institutionalize and undertake tracer studies as well as to translate labour market demands into the Institute’s short and long term programmes and on the job-support.*

Tracer studies and labour markets analysis are institutionalised within IFM so that they are undertaken after every 3 years and used for reviewing and developing short and long term programmes in a timely manner and in the numbers required

## **Mobile Bio-Diesel (MBD) Project in Cental Kalimantan, Indonesia (KNAW project)**

### **Projectmanager for the subproject: Local Economic Development: Bartjan Pennink**

The project consists of seven steps, starting with the development of the mobile bio-diesel and the last step is the implementation of the mobile bio-diesel in the Central-Kalimantan area. The project is still in the early stage of developing the bio-diesel, which can serve small, rural areas to get electricity. This mobile bio-diesel converts rubber tree, oil palm or jatropha (a plant) into electricity. The waste streams contain a lot of protein and can be used as animal feed for example. The main goal of the subproject I am involved in, is to support together with the Institute of Technik in Bandung local economic development in these areas facilitated by the usage of these mobile bio-fuels.

## **Yemen, University of Taiz, Development of a course: Research Methods**

Yemen curriculum development:

Since spring 2010 I am participating in a NUFFIC project under supervision of CICAT of Delft University of Technology for the development of the course: “Research Methods” in the Master programs in Engineering & Management and IT & Management for Taiz University in Yemen. For these master programs there is an official website <http://taizu-cgs.net/en/> which contains formally approved information about these programs e.g. regulations, fees and schedule.