



Rift Valley Institute Field Courses 2014

11 years • 10 countries • 21 courses • 850 participants • 175 teachers

THE SUDANS
THE GREAT LAKES
THE HORN OF AFRICA

What former course participants say



In general an excellent course. Many extremely knowledgeable teachers able to communicate their expertise effectively, covering a wide range of issues. I especially enjoyed sessions on the economy, China, the external environment, Sudanese politics, and several more. I also thought the informal meetings with teachers and participants worked well. Thank you.” - Peter Tibber, British Ambassador to Sudan. Sudan and South Sudan Course 2013.

“Very informative and enlightening: both the lectures and offline conversations with both the lecturers and fellow participants. I go away with a better understanding and picture of the issues and a larger network on which to draw to work on the issues.” - John Kelley, Political Counselor, US Embassy, Kinshasa. Great Lakes Course 2013.

“I could learn from scratch in the areas I am less familiar. Where I knew the subject well, I still learnt new perspectives.” - Shaun Hughes, Head of Livelihoods and Humanitarian Team, DfID Ethiopia. Horn of Africa Course 2013.

“[The course was] very intense. But that’s why we came. Good balance of overview vs. specific, Government of South Sudan vs. Republic of Sudan, theoretical vs. practical.” - Sidney Iles, Engagement Team South Sudan/Chad, International Mission Board. Sudan and South Sudan Course 2013.

“A fantastic, stimulating and highly educational week! I’d love to come back for another one.” - Jan-Petter Holtedahl, Somali Affairs Counselor, Norwegian Embassy, Nairobi. Horn of Africa Course 2013.

“Congratulations to the RVI for setting the standard for this type of event.” - Richard Cornwell, Senior Consultant, British Peace Support Team, South Africa. Great Lakes Course 2013.

“Depth of knowledge of teaching staff is impressive and, occasionally, humbling. I dare say I have done nothing comparable in so comprehensive a package.” - Bob Snyder, Senior Program Officer, CIDA. Horn of Africa Course 2013.

“Content was excellent with a lot of ground covered on really pertinent topics. The speakers were of an excellent caliber, a good mixture of overview, in-depth knowledge, and thought-provoking topics. I particularly enjoyed the African speakers [...] I will leave with a much deeper knowledge of a complex region. The quality of RVI Great Lakes exceeds other courses in terms of depth reached and width of subjects covered and wide range of experts present.” - Ian Harvey, Founder and Director, Kimbilio Congo. Great Lakes Course 2012.

“The course helped me understand issues that I came across in my work in parts of the Horn in the last few years. The analysis from the teaching staff was very helpful, and the course was designed very well.” - Gautam Chatterjee, Head of Somalia Mission, Médecins Sans Frontières. Horn of Africa Course 2012.

“Intellectually, and from a policy perspective, it has helped frame a number of issues that will enable me to properly locate my research and advocacy. The level of teaching was high, and very balanced with real empirical data and focus on events on the ground.” - Comfort Ero, Africa Program Director, International Crisis Group. Horn of Africa Course 2011.

“The course exceeded my expectations in several ways, not least the extensive in-depth knowledge of the panellists... What I learned from the course will be an enormous help in my continuing work as Editor of International Affairs at Chatham House and with furthering links and the exchange of information with outside organizations and with the Africa Programme at Chatham House.” - Caroline Soper, International Affairs Editor, Chatham House. Great Lakes Course 2012.

“I found it extremely informative, with a good variety between lecture style, question panel and discussions. The teachers were great – very enthusiastic and knowledgeable – and the course was very well organized. Overall, I found the course very informative, with lots of valuable academic information presented both enthusiastically and objectively. The opportunity for scheduled and unscheduled discussion was great, and it was great having everyone stay in the one location, as conversations continued into evenings.” - Antonia Wynne-Hughes, Advocacy and Bilateral Affairs Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada. Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.



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It's been invaluable - very well designed, with excellent content. This sort of thing should be mandatory pre-posting for development and diplomatic staff working in Africa. - **Jeremy Armon, Senior Governance Advisor, UK Department for International Development.** Horn of Africa Course 2011.

"I was impressed with the range of subjects, the dedication and preparation of the instructors, and the personal experiences I had – I have met some wonderful people with whom I will keep in touch. I also feel it has prepared me very well to take up post in Juba this summer." – **Tony Calderbank, South Sudan Country Director, British Council.** Sudan Course 2011.

"Outstanding – well beyond expectations. Great course, great team, great location. A sincere thank you for everything." - **Tristan Lovering, European Union Naval Force.** Horn of Africa Course 2012.

"I was impressed by the excellent organization throughout the week of the lectures and more. The course is intensive but there is also enough freedom to rest. It was a very useful and fulfilling experience. I have learn a lot and established good contacts both with colleagues and lecturers – very relevant for my PhD." - **Benedetta de Alessi, Doctoral, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.** Horn of Africa Course 2011.

"Content was excellent with a lot of ground covered on really pertinent topics... The speakers were of an excellent caliber, a good mixture of overview, in-depth knowledge, and thought-provoking topics. I particularly enjoyed the African speakers, who provided a unique insight not always gleaned from history books... Thanks to the whole team for a superb week! Thoroughly exhausted, but a great first African experience and a considerable amount of lessons learnt. I will leave with a much deeper knowledge of a complex region." - **Yvonne P., Ministry of Defense, United Kingdom.** Great Lakes Course 2012.

"An impressive amount of information, perspective, history, and contemporary dynamics covered. The teachers were brilliant - I was truly impressed and inspired by the depth of knowledge and ability to transmit in (relatively) short lectures. I've never attended a course quite like this one. I found the quality of both the instructors and the participants much higher than other training programs, and the latter, I think, is particularly striking. Very good mix of nationalities, levels of experiences, backgrounds, sectors, age - well done." - **Christina Hawley, Political Analyst, Crisis Action.** Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.

"The course exceeded my expectations. The teachers were well selected and the diversity made the course more interesting. The academic level of the course was rigorous. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity – I am your new convert!" - **Abraham Awolich, Director of Administration and Finance, Sudd Institute.** Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.

"I thought it was exceptionally well planned and thought out, including the pacing and sequencing of the 'fun' events. I liked the mixed format and I thought the teaching standard was consistently very high. A big thank you for a very special week. The combination of teaching excellence, subject knowledge, and likeability of all the staff made for a fantastic experience. I feel very lucky to have done it." - **Richard Haviland, Head of South Sudan team, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development Sudan Unit.** Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.

"I came to gain a deeper and more holistic knowledge of the Sudans, and I believe that has been achieved. I honestly can't think of a topic which I felt was missing. I will be recommending." - **Fraser Ronald, Analyst, Department of National Defense, Canada.** Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.

"The training was excellent – a mini university course. The discussion forums were particularly good as a way of examining the content of the lectures. Much better than other courses."
- **Tarig Hilal, Senior Program Manager, Conflict Dynamic International.** Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.

"All course teachers were very experienced in the field, knowledgeable, and I have benefitted a lot from each one of them. Well organized, scheduled, planned and executed. Excellent." - **Salma Soliman, DDR Gender Analyst, UNDP Sudan.** Sudan and South Sudan Course 2012.

"The lectures were of a very high academic level—balanced, comprehensive and insightful." - **Zara Riaz, Student, Davidson College.** Horn of Africa Course 2013.