



**POVERTY &
ECONOMIC POLICY**

RESEARCH NETWORK



**JOINT
RESEARCH
INITIATIVES**

AKI

CRES

GRADE

 **UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL**

Joint Research Initiatives (JRIs)

Joint research initiatives are initiatives undertaken **jointly by PEP and partners** to provide financial and scientific support to teams of developing country researchers conducting research on a specific theme. **Scientific leadership is ensured by a coordinating committee of experts from both developing and developed countries.**

Once funding is obtained to launch a new JRI, teams are selected through **PEP's widely publicized open and competitive call for proposals.** Selected teams receive a core research grant of CAN 20,000\$, plus funding to attend two PEP general meetings (to present their proposal and final report), participate in a 3- to 4-week study visit in the foreign institution of their choice, present their results in an international conference, organize a policy conference in their country and publish a working paper and journal article.

How does it benefit donor partners?

The JRI mechanism provides an **opportunity** to support and become involved in **efficient, rigorous and policy relevant research and capacity-building on the theme of their choice.** At the same time, they contribute to the development of the PEP network as a tool for increased participation of developing country researchers in national and international academic and policy debates.

JRIs are

Easy

- *Managed through tried and tested PEP procedures*
- *No administrative burden for donors and scientific coordinating team*

Powerful

- *Proven scientific support mechanism*
- *High visibility (PEP network, general meetings, web site, etc.)*
- *Interaction with PEP researchers/resource persons (returns to scale)*
- *Institution (PEP) building*

Flexible

- *Funds can be managed by any of PEP's regional offices (Africa, Asia, Latin America or North America) or by the partner institution.*
- *Choice of themes according to donor priorities*
- *Possibility of targeting specific regions/countries*
- *Can be scaled up or down through number of grants funded*

JRIs in detail

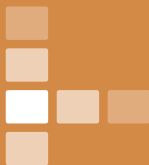
Typically, the cost of each individual research grant funded in a JRI ranges up to \$US 100,000, broken down as follows:

- Core research subsidy ▶ \$20,000
- Participation of one member of each team in two PEP meetings (proposal and final report) ▶ \$10,000
- Participation of a junior member of each team in one PEP meeting (final report) ▶ \$5,000
- Participation of one member of each team in a 3- to 4-week study visit ▶ \$6,000
- Participation of one member of each team in an international conference ▶ \$5,000
- Subsidy for the organization of a national conference ▶ \$2,000
- Grant for the publication of a PEP working paper ▶ \$2,000
- Grant for the publication of a journal article ▶ \$2,000
- **Sub Total: Direct grants to researchers ▶ \$52,000**

- Scientific support ▶ \$15,000
- Participation of 0.5 resource persons per project in two PEP meetings (proposal and final report) ▶ \$8,000
- Indirect costs (33 ⅓ %, including 18 ⅓ % as a contribution to the cost of PEP core activities) ▶ \$25,000

- Total per project ▶ \$100,000**

Child Poverty Research Network



Show that rigorous economics research can make important contributions to the development of policies to address child poverty.

The Child Poverty Research Network would bring together and provide financial, scientific and technical support to developing country researchers studying child poverty issues. In particular, the objective is to show that rigorous economics research can make important contributions to the development of policies to address child poverty. This initiative builds on important work by PEP researchers on a variety of child poverty issues: determinants of child/work schooling decisions; intrahousehold resource allocation and measurement of child poverty; multidimensional child poverty analysis, among others.

Child poverty is pivotal to the analysis of poverty as a whole.

- Child poverty tends to be substantially higher than adult poverty, due to the fact that children are more likely to live in poor households, i.e. households with a large number of dependents (children) and with younger household heads
- Household resources are known to be shared unequally within households so that we cannot assume that the poverty status of a child corresponds to that of the child's household
- Children represent a large share of the total population in many of the poorest countries, where fertility rates remain high
- Children are extremely vulnerable, both due to their lack of control over household resources and to the important implications poverty has for their health and education
- These health and education impacts can compromise the growth of the country as a whole, thus perpetuating poverty.

Leaders: John Cockburn (PEP), Sarah Hague (Save the Children UK)

Gender Challenge Fund (GCF)



Broaden the scope of gender analysis within the economics profession.

The Gender Challenge Fund aims to broaden the scope of gender analysis within the economics profession by ensuring gender contextualization, thereby promoting inter-disciplinary research in the economics of gender.

This initiative supports research on gender issues within the thematic focus of PEP's various research programs. It was established in 2004 with a financial contribution and scientific support from IDRC's Gender Network.

More than a dozen PEP research grants have been awarded to date under this initiative. A record 88 GCF proposals were submitted in response to a recent call for proposals, underscoring a strong demand for funding of gender research.

An initiative like the GCF assumes added significance in view of the limited understanding and exposure that professionally-trained economists generally have on gender issues as compared to researchers from most other social science disciplines. Much of the economic analysis of gender that exists to date also remains confined to the analysis of gender disaggregated data, bereft of an understanding of the social context of such information.

Leader: Swapna Mukhopadhyay (India)

Human Development and Capabilities Initiatives



Implementing the capabilities approach to poverty analysis in developing countries.

PEP has recently launched a JRI with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI; www.ophi.org.uk) on empirically implementing the capabilities approach to poverty analysis in developing countries. This initiative provides support to developing country research teams analyzing the issue of poverty in the multidimensional context of the capabilities approach.

This initiative builds on the extensive work of the PEP network on aggregating multiple poverty dimensions into a single index, as well as PEP research on establishing the robustness of poverty measures over a range of poverty lines in a multidimensional framework. Research focus on two core themes:

Theme 1: Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data – This involves empirical analysis of all data from five modules of the proposed ‘missing dimensions’: employment, empowerment, physical safety, freedom from shame, and psychological/subjective well being. (information and survey modules are available on www.ophi.org.uk).

Theme 2: Identification and Multidimensional Poverty – This theme aims to critically examine identification techniques and weighting options for multidimensional poverty measures.

Leaders: Jean-Yves Duclos (PEP) , Sabina Alkire (OPHI)

PEP Schools: Poverty Impacts of Macro Shocks and Policies



Respond to the overwhelming demand for training from developing country researchers.

The poor are affected in important and complex ways by macro policies and other macro shocks (changes in world prices, droughts, etc.). In order to anticipate these effects and develop alternative or accompanying policies to protect the poor and allow them to participate fully in emerging opportunities, it is important that local researchers be familiar with the most recent methods to analyse the poverty impacts of macroeconomic policies.

The PEP network has developed considerable expertise in the organization of training workshops in this field: basic macro-micro modeling, micro-simulation techniques, dynamic (growth) modeling, gender-specific macro-micro modeling, among others. These workshops draw on our extensive training material.

PEP is now seeking funds to organize these workshop in a more regular and systematic manner to respond to the overwhelming demand for training from developing country researchers eager to participate fully and effectively in research and policy debates on poverty in their countries. These workshops will progressively be organized in all regions of the developing world. Training is provided by experienced trainers from both the South and the North. Participants will be trained in basic and advanced techniques. Workshops will be eventually organized in several languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic...

Leaders: Bernard Decaluwé (PEP), Ismaël Fofana (PEP), Abdoulaye Diagne (PEP-CRES), and others

Macroeconomics and the Millennium Development Goals



Encourage a substantial participation of developing country researchers in emerging country-level policy analysis on poverty reduction and human development.

The objective of the Macroeconomics and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) initiative is to encourage a substantial participation of developing country researchers in emerging country-level policy analysis on poverty reduction and human development.

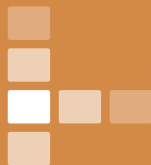
Many institutions, including the United Nations and the World Bank, are engaged in a large number of country studies aimed at assessing the feasibility of national development strategies to achieve the MDGs. These studies use economy-wide, sector and household level data to analyze the macro-micro interactions at play when larger amounts of resources are allocated for the achievement of the MDGs as well as for the analysis of other policy scenarios under which the impact on poverty and human development indicators is of interest.

There is considerable scope for extending this analysis to permit in-depth analysis of various strategies to ensure the achievement of the MDGs and other aspects of poverty reduction and human development. Researchers are encouraged to submit proposals that could contribute to this analysis through, among other things, alternative applications or specifications of the economy-wide framework and micro- or sector-level studies.

Leaders: John Cockburn and Bernard Decaluwé (PEP)



Gender-sensitive policy analysis



Model-based simulations to help in the formulation of policies that are both growth enhancing and gender equitable.

A full assessment of the impact of macroeconomic shocks and reforms on poverty reduction and well-being requires analysis of the ways in which resources and responsibilities are distributed between women and men, and how they consequently adapt their behavior, both in the market and the household. Model-based policy simulations can help in the formulation of policies that are both growth enhancing and gender equitable.

The Gender Modeling Initiative draws on past work by both PEP members and researchers associated with PEP. It seeks promote gender-sensitive policy analysis that is innovative in either introducing new techniques or in applying existing approaches to new policy issues and new country contexts.

Focus areas include :

- gender-specific wage and employment analysis
- domestic work and labor supply response
- intra-household allocation
- female bargaining power
- gender-specific human capital accumulation.

Leaders: Marzia Fontana (Sussex, UK), Ismaël Fofana (PEP)



PEP Schools: Poverty measurement and analysis



Respond to the overwhelming demand for training from developing country researchers and government officials.

As developing countries combat poverty, local researchers and policymakers must master the latest analytical techniques in order to be able to participate actively and effectively in this process.

The PEP network has developed considerable expertise in the organization of training workshops on a wide variety of techniques of micro poverty analysis techniques: poverty measurement, robustness analysis, poverty profiling, multidimensional poverty analysis, public spending and benefit-incidence analysis, policy impact evaluation, and poverty dynamics, among others. These workshops draw on extensive training material and world-renowned PEP softwares (DAD and DASP).

PEP is now seeking funds to organize these workshops in a more regular and systematic manner to respond to the overwhelming demand for training from developing country researchers and government officials eager to participate fully and effectively in research and policy debates on poverty in their countries. These workshops will progressively be organized in all regions of the developing world. Training is provided by experienced trainers from both the South and the North. Participants will be trained in basic and advanced techniques. Workshops will be eventually organized in several languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, etc.

Leaders: Jean-Yves Duclos (PEP), Abdoulaye Diagne (PEP-CRES) and others

Poverty and Intrahousehold Allocation



Undertake a more sensible treatment of inequalities within households in poverty measurement, analysis and policy design.

Poverty is a concept that concerns the individual. Of course, poverty can be aggregated at higher levels such as the household, the community, and others. Fundamentally, however, it is a reality experienced by the individual. The most common poverty indicator – income (or expenditures) – is measured at the household level though and then divided by the number of “adult equivalents”. This way of measuring poverty assumes that all members share the fortunes and misfortunes of the household equally.

Some individuals living in “non-poor households” may in fact be poor due to inequities in the intrahousehold allocation of resources. Likewise, some individuals living in “poor households” may not be poor. Standard poverty analysis may therefore give a misleading picture of poverty. This was indeed the finding of an IDRC-funded household survey and research project on poverty and intrahousehold allocation in Bangladesh.

The objective of this initiative is to build the capacities of developing country researchers to undertake a more sensible treatment of inequalities within households in poverty measurement, analysis and policy design.

Leader: Anyck Dauphin (UQO, Canada)



Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI)



**Rigorous evaluation of programs and interventions
to foster human capital investment in rural areas.**

The Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI) funds a series of evaluations of programs that seek to foster human capital investment in rural areas.

This initiative was launched as part of the PEP general call for proposals in November 2007. After several rounds of competitive selection, nine teams were offered financial and scientific support to develop impact evaluations of various programs and interventions aiming at improving health, education and labor opportunities of the rural poor. Four of these projects involve the design and implementation of randomized experiments and surveys and the collection of original data.

This initiative aims to

- encourage the development of rigorous policy impact evaluations in the research community in developing countries
- inform policy in each of these countries by encouraging the dissemination of the results to policy-makers.

This initiative builds on past policy impact evaluations by PEP researchers using non-experimental data in Argentina, Peru and Vietnam. Selected projects will run over a course of three and a half years. PEP is seeking funding to expand this initiative in specific regions or worldwide.

Leaders: Habiba Djebbari (PEP), Deborah Cobb-Clark and Christopher Ryan (ANU, Australia), John Hoddinott (IFPRI, US), Martin Valdivia (GRADE, Peru)

Current partner: AusAID

PEP-GTAP Network of Economic Modelers (SANEM)



Promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of regional integration, multilateral and domestic trade liberalization, environment and poverty in South Asia.

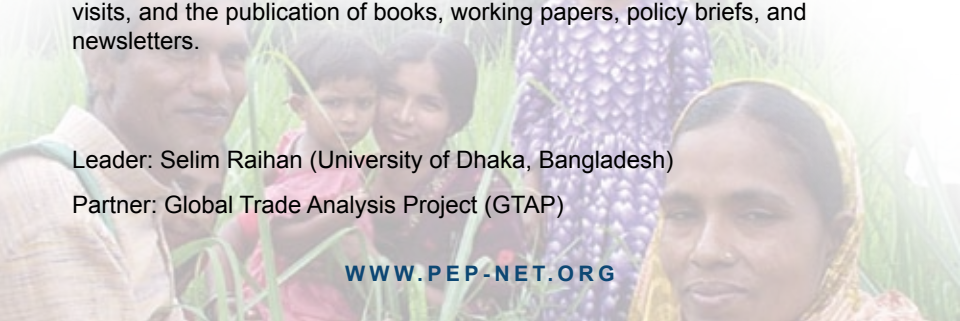
SANEM was launched on January 1, 2007. It is a network of economic modelers in South Asia. SANEM aims to promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of regional integration, multilateral and domestic trade liberalization, environment and poverty. There is no denying the fact that these issues are of the utmost importance for all South Asian countries.

It has been observed that, though there are a good number of economic modelers in the South Asian countries, there is no effective network to foster collaboration amongst these individuals. As a result, much of the research conducted by these economists is rarely shared and remains unnoticed, not only by other modelers, but also by the policy makers for whom much of this work is ultimately intended. This network seeks to link not only the economic modelers but also the policy makers, teachers, students, research institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders interested in the aforementioned issues for South Asia.

A striking feature of SANEM is that both the PEP and GTAP networks have come forward to firmly endorse this network. There are a large number of activities under SANEM, including research grants, regional policy conferences, annual conferences, training programs, study visits, and the publication of books, working papers, policy briefs, and newsletters.

Leader: Selim Raihan (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Partner: Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP)



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