

top stories

2018 PEP Annual Conference

June 7-13 in Bangalore, India

The 2018 PEP Annual Conference in India brought together 125 researchers, practitioners, international experts, representatives of donor and international organizations, and policy actors from 43 countries for a highly successful event.

In addition to discussing findings from the [PAGE II initiative](#) and new policy research proposals with PEP-affiliated international experts, researchers attended intensive methodological and policy engagement and communications training sessions. The conference concluded with a high-level policy forum on "Women, Children and Climate Change". See the [Conferences](#) section to find out more.



2018 PEP Best Practice Awards

Two teams of researchers who conducted PEP-PAGE II projects in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia received the 2018 PEP Best Practice Award for their research quality and policy engagement achievements. [Find out more](#)

2017 PEP Annual Report available online

The report presents an overall review of PEP's activities, outputs, and achievements in 2017, as well as an overview of PEP as an organization. [Download it here](#)

14th CBMS Philippines National Conference

March 5-7 in Quezon City, Philippines

More than 800 delegates, including local chief executives and planning officers, officials and representatives of national government agencies, NGOs, academia, and development partner agencies attended the 14th CBMS Philippines National Conference on the theme of "Reducing Inequalities through CBMS". [Find out more](#)

Follow us on



New PEP impact story from Uganda

A new PEP impact brief tells the story of how the findings and new expertise of PEP-supported local researchers in Uganda have informed policy decisions relating to the Ugandan Government's Youth Unemployment Strategy. [Find out more](#)

current initiatives & collaborations

policy findings

PEP continually publishes the findings and outcomes of projects led by local research teams in developing countries who have been selected and supported through PEP's various research and capacity building initiatives.

PAGE II

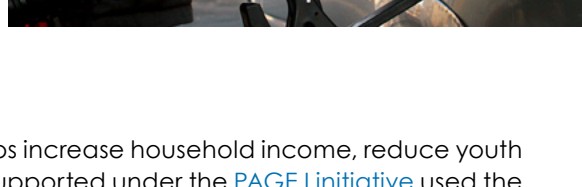
Policy Analysis on Growth & Employment – 2016-2020

With funding from UK Aid and the IDRC of Canada, the PAGE-II initiative (2016-2020) is currently supporting 47 policy analysis projects led by small teams of local researchers in 35 developing countries, including 22 low-income economies and fragile or conflict states.

The selected research teams receive support and training through PEP's unique "Grant Plus" program. As part of PAGE II, PEP introduced a series of new features to its capacity building approach, including [online training courses](#), mentoring in [policy outreach](#), as well as a new type of [institutionalisation project](#).

Economic and distributional impacts of fuel price subsidy changes in Mongolia

Mongolia imports 100% of its domestic demand for refined petroleum products, making the country's economy highly vulnerable to global fuel prices. Previously, the government managed excise taxes on fuel to mitigate the impact of fluctuating global fuel prices on domestic prices. However, the government's current fiscal consolidation measures make it difficult to maintain stable domestic prices. Through the first PEP-institutionalisation project, a team of local researchers examined how increased import fuel prices are likely to impact the Mongolian economy under different price subsidy policies. Their findings indicate that, without accompanying measures, poverty will become deeper and more severe. [Download PEP Policy Brief 176](#)



Youth Employment Scenario in Rural Areas of Bangladesh

An enabling environment for entrepreneurship in rural areas of Bangladesh helps increase household income, reduce youth unemployment and reduce related social unrest. A team of local researchers supported under the PAGE II initiative used the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to assess the personal attitudes of youth to the entrepreneurial environment in rural areas. Their findings indicate that low-level education, lack of skills, and poor networking are major barriers to people preparing or trying to enter the labour market. Family support, land ownership, and access to marketing and transportation were found to improve the entrepreneurial environment. [Download PEP Policy Brief 180](#)

PRESM

Productive Employment in Segmented Markets of fresh produce in Kenya

The PRESM project (2014-2018) investigates alternative approaches for modernizing the avocado sector in Kenya. It evaluates the impact of these approaches on the productive employment of small-scale avocado growers.

Avocado contract farming in Kenya: Does it work?

PRESM researchers using a mixed-methods approach found that contract farming is the best option for Kenya to transform its avocado sector, with exporters and many smallholder avocado farmers benefitting. Contract farming is where farmers commit to producing avocados in a given manner and buyers commit to purchasing the product. However, widespread side-selling and a lack of loyalty and trust were found to threaten contract sustainability. [Download PEP Policy Brief 178](#)



More PEP findings

conferences

June 7-13 | Bangalore, India

2018 PEP Annual Conference

The 2018 PEP Annual Conference, held in Bangalore, India from June 7 to 13, was a major PEP event and a highlight for the organisation. The 125 conference participants from around the world took part in a variety of activities including training, peer review, debates and exchanges.

Training and peer review

A key part of PEP's mission is to increase the technical knowledge and ability of developing country researchers. As such, PEP provided a series of intensive training workshops on the different research methods, techniques, and tools for PAGE II researchers, adapted to their stage in the research process. These included sessions on policy engagement, research engagement and scientific writing. [Find out more](#) below in the [Training](#) section.

Following the training sessions, the representatives of the 29 project teams currently being supported under the first round of the PAGE II initiative were invited to present reports on their progress and results to date. The 21 research teams shortlisted for second round funding then presented their proposals. All presenters received feedback from their peers and PEP-affiliated international experts. PEP annual conferences represent a unique experience and opportunity in terms of international peer-review and professional networking for invited developing country researchers.

[Read more about the 2018 PEP Annual Conference](#)



High-level policy forum



The conference concluded with a day dedicated to discussing Women, Children and Climate Change; Designing an economic policy research agenda. The event featured panel discussions on Children and Climate Change, and on Women and Climate Change. The expert panellists provided an overview of the importance of policy research and policy action on these topics, as well as highlighting key knowledge gaps. Following each panel discussion, a breakout session of table discussions organised by research methodology gave the audience an opportunity to review and propose research solutions to the highlighted knowledge gaps.

[Read more about the 2018 PEP Policy Forum](#)

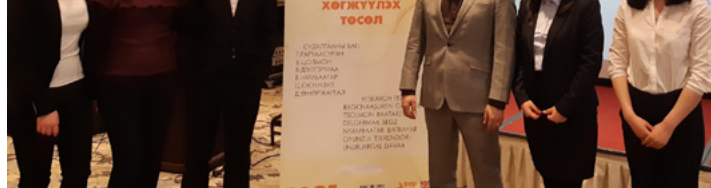
PEP national policy conferences

Through PEP's Grant Plus support program, local research teams receive support to organize conferences where they communicate and discuss their findings directly with policymakers and other key stakeholders at the national level.

March 13, 2018 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PEP researchers present project at ERI Annual Forum in Mongolia

PEP researchers in Mongolia hosted a session during the Economic Research Institute's annual forum in Ulaanbaatar to introduce the PEP-institutionalization project (ISP) to a wider audience. More than 50 people attended the session, including representatives from the National Development Agency, the Government of Mongolia, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Research Institute of Labour and Social Protection, the Bank of Mongolia, and the Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia. The event was an important opportunity for the team to raise their profile, particularly among non-academic audiences, thanks to the range of attendees and media coverage. [Find out more](#)



training

PEP continually offers training in the most up-to-date techniques and tools for economic policy analysis. These sessions aim to help local researchers contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies in their own countries.

Online courses (Jan-March)

PEP offers three [online distance-learning courses](#): [Policy Impact Analysis](#), [Computable General Equilibrium Modelling](#), and [Measuring and Alleviating Poverty and Inequality](#). There were 156 participants for the 2018 session, including 76 women and 63 from low income economies and fragile or conflict situations (LIE/FC).

Advanced technical training in PEP research methods (June 7-10, India)

During the 2018 PEP Annual Conference, 66 researchers from 32 countries, including 34 women and 25 from LIE/FCs, benefited from intensive training sessions.

Depending on the methodology of the participants' projects, technical training in policy analysis techniques included sessions on:

- CGE modelling, the PEP models, and interpretation of simulation results
- Endogenous switching regression models
- Panel data, fixed effects and instrumental variables estimation
- SDG indicators and CBMS poverty mapping



Research dissemination and outreach training (June 8-10, India)

To complement the scientific training and ensure the outreach of PEP research findings, PEP provided training on best practices for research dissemination and outreach at the 2018 PEP Annual Conference: [policy engagement](#) for shortlisted grant applicants, [research communication](#) for grantees with concluding projects, and [scientific writing](#) for all attending researchers.

other PEP news

PEP welcomes two new members, [Xiaobo Zhang](#) and [Santiago Levy Algazi](#), to the Board of Directors. [Read more](#)

Volume 9 of [The Many Faces of Poverty](#) is launched during the 14th CBMS Philippines National Conference. [Read more](#)

PEP Resource Persons organize an international workshop at the Université des Antilles in Guadeloupe. [Read more](#)

PEP Executive Director presents at 2018 CSAE Conference in the UK. [Read more](#)

PEP-PIERI Research Director participates as panellist at 2018 International Tech4Dev Conference. [Read more](#)

related events

PEP also publicizes events from the development research community that may be of interest to its members:

Job openings, training or research funding opportunities, calls for papers, international conferences, etc.

[CLICK HERE](#) for related events and opportunities

The June 2018 issue of the CBMS Network Update is now available online featuring:

- Evidence on Youth Unemployment and Entrepreneurship in Ethiopia
- CBMS Data Collection Training Workshop in Ghana
- CBMS Data Collection in Uganda
- CBMS-Botswana Team Finishes Training and Data Collection
- CBMS project teams present local SDG reports at 2018 PEP Annual Conference

[Download the newsletter](#)

publications since the March 2018 issue of PEP-talk

working papers

Validating the Collective Model of Household Consumption Using Direct Evidence on Sharing

By Olivier Bargain, Guy Lacroix, Luca Tiberi (WP 2018-06)

[All PEP working papers](#)

policy briefs

<b>Policy Brief 176</b>	Economic and distributional impacts of fuel price subsidy changes in Mongolia	By Ragchaasuren Galindev, Isolmon Baatarzorig, Nyambaatar Botbayar, Delgermaa Begz, Unurjargal Davaa, Oyunuzul Tserendorj
<b>Policy Brief 177</b>	Challenges and Prospects of Entrepreneurship Development and Job Creation for Unemployed Youth: Evidence from Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa City Administrations, Ethiopia	By Abel Tewelde Mehari, Christian Feleke, Kassahun Mamo Geleta, Hayat Fentaw, Sanyit Seyoum Yilima
<b>Policy Brief 178</b>	Avocado contract farming in Kenya: Does it work?	By Remco Oostendorp and the PRESM team
<b>Policy Brief 179</b>	The booming Peruvian avocado export sector: Lessons for Kenya	By Ricardo Fort and the PRESM team
<b>Policy Brief 180</b>	Youth Employment Scenario in Rural Areas of Bangladesh: A Case of Mohammedpur West Union	By Ranjan Kumar Guha, Abdullah Al Mamun
<b>Policy Brief 181</b>	Abstruse business registration process impeding youth entrepreneurship: A case of Katakwi District in Uganda	By Johnson Kagugube

[All PEP policy briefs](#)

external publications

Recent journal publications by PEP grantees

Based on research conducted with PEP support in developing countries

Article title	Journal & references	Authors
Gold exploitation and socioeconomic outcomes: The case of Burkina Faso	World Development Volume 109, September 2018, pp 206-221 <a href="#">Online</a>	Agnès Tabor, Maxime Agbo, Juste Somé
Gold Price Volatility, Tax Revenue, and Employment: Can Burkina Faso's Adaptation Strategy Avoid Resource Curse?	Environment & Development Economics <i>(forthcoming, available online)</i>	Delphine Carole Sisso, Olivier Beaumais
Mining and Petroleum Boom and Public Policy in Niger: A Dynamic Computable General Equilibrium Analysis	Environment & Development Economics <i>(forthcoming, available online)</i>	Saadatou Sangare, Hélène Maisonnave
Effects of Ups and Downs of the Mongolian Mining Sector	Environment & Development Economics <i>(forthcoming, available online)</i>	Tsolmon Baatarzorig, Ragchaasuren Galindev, Hélène Maisonnave
Impacts of Agricultural Incentive Policies on Socioeconomic and Environmental Variables in Guatemala	Environment & Development Economics <i>(forthcoming)</i>	Renato Vargas, Martin Cicowiez, Maynor Cabrera, Pamela Escobar, Violeta Hernández, Javier Cabrera, Vivian Guzmán
The Impact of Oil Exploitation on Well-being in Chad	Environment & Development Economics <i>(forthcoming)</i>	Djal-Gadom Gadam, Armand Kountchou Mboutchouang, Abdelkrim Araar
Reduction of child poverty in Serbia: benefit or employment strategy?	The Economics of Transition <i>(forthcoming)</i>	Nicholas-James Clavet, Luca Tiberi, Marko Vladislavjevic, Jelena Zarkovic Rakić, Aleksandra Anić, Gorana Krstić, Sasa Randjelovic
Food insecurity and family structure in Nigeria	SSM - Population Health Volume 4, April 2018, pages 117-125 <a href="#">Online</a>	Nkechi S. Owoo

[All external publications from PEP-supported researchers and projects](#)

Recent journal publications by PEP resource persons, staff, and research fellows

Article title	Journal & references	Authors
A Structural Equation Model of Female Empowerment	Journal of Development Studies Volume 54, 2018 - Issue 8, pp 1303-1320	Paola Ballon
Monetary and multidimensional child poverty: Why they differ	Journal of Development Economics <i>(forthcoming, available online)</i>	Paola Ballon, John Cockburn, Sylvain Dessy, Setou Diarra
Financing the sustainable management of Rwanda's protected areas.	Journal of Sustainable Tourism 2018. <a href="#">Online</a>	Onil Banerjee, Martin Cicowiez, Thomas Ochuodoc, Michel Masozera, Bernabás Wolde, Pankaj Lal, Sebastian Dudek, Janaki R.R. Alavalapati
Boosting tourism's contribution to growth and development: analysis of the evidence	Review of Development Economics 2018. <a href="#">Online</a>	Onil Banerjee, Martin Cicowiez, Emily Morris, Adela Moreada
Misperceptions about Tax Audits	AEA Papers and Proceedings Vol. 108, May 2018, pp. 83-87	Marcelo Bérigolo, Rodrigo Ceni, Guillermo Cruces, Matias Giacobasso, Ricardo Perez-Truglia
Vulnerability and policy responses in the face of natural resource discoveries and climate change: Introduction to a PEP special issue on Natural Resources and Economic Development	Environment and Development Economics <i>(forthcoming)</i>	John Cockburn, Martin Henseler, Hélène Maisonnave, Luca Tiberi
Energy Subsidy Reform and Poverty in Arab Countries: A Comparative CGE-Microsimulation Analysis of Egypt and Jordan	Review of Income and Wealth. <i>(forthcoming, available online)</i>	John Cockburn, Véronique Robichaud, Luca Tiberi
Trade openness effects on informality and the real exchange rate channel	Applied Economics Letters 2018. <a href="#">Online</a>	Jorge Davalos
Rethinking Measures of Psychological Agency: A Study on the Urban Fringe of Bamako	Journal of Development Studies Volume 54, 2018 - Issue 8, pp 1284-1302	Elise Klein, Paola Ballon
A Top-Down with Behaviour (TDB) Microsimulation Toolkit for Distributive Analysis	International Journal of Microsimulations <i>(forthcoming)</i>	Luca Tiberi, Martin Cicowiez, John Cockburn

Other recent publications by PEP resource persons, staff, and research fellows

Title	Reference	Authors
Do Demographics Matter for African Child Poverty?	World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 8426 2018, Washington D.C. <a href="#">Online</a>	Yélé Batana and John Cockburn
Economywide and distributional impacts of water resources development in the coast region of Kenya: implications for water policy and operations	World Bank Group W17104 2018, Washington, D.C. <a href="#">Online</a>	Lulit Mitik Beyene, Regassa Eberemu Namara, Amar Sahoo, Bekele Ambaye Shiferaw, Helene Maisonnave, Gustavo Saltiel