

PEP Talk

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DETAILED VERSION



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It is with great pleasure that we announce the launching of the **third phase of the PEP network!** With generous funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), PEP is embarking upon a phase of over four years running to December 31, 2011. This phase will build extensively on our past work in many new and challenging ways. In addition to our core grants and scientific support activities, a number of new joint research initiatives have already begun. The AusAID-funded Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI) was announced in the [previous issue of PEP-Talk](#) and we are delighted to follow this up with the announcement of a new PEP-OPHI Human Development and Capabilities Initiative ([see below](#)). Many other such research initiatives are currently under development. PEP is also pleased to launch a regular series of [training workshops on poverty analysis and policy modeling, which we call the PEP School](#) ([see below](#)).

As PEP seeks to expand and institutionalize its activities throughout the developing world, we are becoming increasingly dependent on our regional offices. In this context, we were very happy to learn that the [Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo \(GRADE\)](#), which so ably organized PEP's 6th general meeting ([see below](#)), has accepted to host our new Latin American office, with Martin Valdivia as the director. At the same time, our rapidly growing African office features a new director, Abdoulaye Diagne, who is also the director of its host institution, the Consortium for Economic and Social Research (CRES). In this third phase, the African office is taking on a number of important responsibilities, including handling the overall administration and all disbursements for the MPIA and PMMA networks, as well as the organization of the inaugural workshop of the PEP school ([see below](#)). In Asia, the Angelo King Institute continues to run the CBMS network from its office in the Philippines, while the PEP-GTAP South Asian Network of Economic Modelers (SANEM) focuses on developing MPIA activities in the region. Finally, the CIRPÉE office in Canada will continue to coordinate the scientific evaluation and support, as well as the overall development, of the MPIA and PMMA networks. All of our offices will work with PEP's steering committee, deputy network leaders and resources persons throughout the world to ensure the development and growing reputation of the PEP network.

Since the last issue of PEP-Talk, PEP has organized its largest and most ambitious [general meeting](#) (Lima, June 9-16, 2007), which included parallel two-day advanced training workshops on poverty dynamics (PMMA) and growth and poverty (MPIA), a two-day policy conference on "Trade and Poverty" and "Reaching the MDGs" (our first experience in organizing a policy conference) and three days of fruitful meetings involving the presentation of numerous research reports from PEP-funded projects, as well as exciting new research proposals. In this new phase, PEP has opted to

organize its general meetings every 18 months in order to provide more time to organize the increasingly busy agenda.

Finally, PEP recently launched its most ambitious call for proposals to date. For one of the competitions, the deadline for submitting an expression of interest is fast approaching: November 30, 2007. For all other competitions, the deadline is also quite soon: January 7, 2008. [See below](#) for more information.

We believe that PEP is on the eve of a major expansion in its continuing efforts to put developing country researchers at the heart of research on poverty in developing countries. We appreciate efforts from all of you - researchers, policy makers, government officials, bilateral and multilateral donor representatives, NGOs, civil society and all other stakeholders and members of the public interested in reducing poverty - to foster the development of our network.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Transient and Chronic Rural Household Poverty: Evidence from Kenya

Milu Muyanga, Research Fellow, Tegemeo Institute, Egerton University, Kenya

In Kenya, about 56 percent of the population is poor; implying that more than one in every two people is poor. About three quarters of the poor live in rural areas. Non-income indicators of poverty have also worsened. The education sector has been characterized by declining enrolment rates, high dropouts, grade repetition, low completion, and poor transition rates. Life expectancy declined from 58 years in 1986 to 48 years in 2004 while infant and child mortality rates have also worsened. The high poverty incidence in Kenya has created a desire for empirical studies and sustained generation of new knowledge and innovations to inform poverty reduction strategies.

Most of the earlier studies of poverty in Kenya have basically been static, focusing on poverty incidence, gap, and severity at a point in time. Whereas such studies provide very valuable information on poverty characteristics and distribution, they do not necessarily provide a good indicator of welfare stability over time. In our existence, there is the 'sometimes poor' (transient) intermingling with the 'always poor' (chronic). By definition, transient poverty is temporary with households experiencing movements into and out of poverty while the chronic-poor experience persistent poverty over a reasonably long period of time. Increasing research on welfare mobility has shown that the determinants of chronic poverty are likely to be different from those of transient poverty; and so are the appropriate respective policy responses.

Recently, a PEP-funded poverty dynamics study was carried out aimed at decomposing aggregate household poverty into its chronic and transient components in Kenya. The study also attempted to establish correlates of the poverty components using non-parametric and semi-parametric censored quantile regressions. The analysis used a panel data drawn from about 1500 rural households interviewed in 1997, 2000 and 2004 by Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University.

The results reveal that the magnitude of total poverty and its component are dependant on the estimation methodology used and the choice of the poverty line. A slight change of the poverty line significantly alters the ratio of the two poverty components. Regression results indicate that the vector of transient poverty correlates is a subset of a larger chronic poverty correlates set. While relatively large households are likely to fall into both transient and chronic poverty, female headed households and those with high dependency ratios are more likely to suffer from chronic poverty. The role of education in poverty reduction and especially on chronic poverty emerged as important. However, the success of education in reducing poverty hinges on primary graduates excelling beyond primary schools.

Land-intensification technologies such as fertilizer use is found to be critical to transient and chronic poverty reduction. Sustaining a transition out of poverty will require an increase in agricultural productivity. Households with small crop acreage are likely to be chronic and transient poor. However, with the land frontier shrinking due to population pressure, future growth in agriculture will have to come from yield increases. Access to credit is found to reduce chances of

households falling into chronic and transient poverty. Crop diversification guards against both transient and chronic poverty while households with diversified income sources are less likely to fall into chronic poverty. Households residing in the lowlands and other regions frequented by drought and crop failures are found to likely experience chronic and transient poverty.

The study concludes with a toolkit containing both chronic and transient poverty policy proposals. The chronic poverty policy proposals address the predicament of the chronic poor. The transient poverty toolkit will aid in reversing transient poverty as well as safeguarding victims of transient poverty from falling into the dire chronic poverty. Given the high household poverty incidences in the face of resource scarcity in the country, these results are very crucial.

This work was published as [PMMA working paper 2007-20](#)

Does the Indian Value Added Tax Reform Benefit the Poor? An Analysis of Data from Two Major States

Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Sudip Kumar Sinha and Poulomi Roy

India witnessed a switchover to the Value Added Tax (VAT) system from a sales tax regime in 2005. The change is widely anticipated to be not only welfare enhancing for the consumers, due to less cascading, but also revenue neutral through rate differentials on different commodities. The question that remains more or less unanswered is whether this tax reform is poverty reducing or not. This paper has addressed this issue by looking into available data from two major states of India, namely, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

After repeated interactions and discussions, most of the States have finally agreed and implemented a VAT in India with effect from April 1, 2005. A White Paper produced by the government sums up the goal of this switchover "The VAT will therefore help common people, traders, industrialists and also the Government. It is needed for a move towards more efficiency, equal competition and fairness in the tax system". In this study, we assume that the consumption pattern remained more or less the same over the period 1999-2000 and 2004-2005 during the Sales Tax regime in India. Thus this is truly an analysis of marginal tax reform.

The commodities analyzed in this study were chosen based on two criteria. First is the weight of each commodity in the consumption basket. Second, given that government wants to maintain the same revenue as in the old tax regime, those commodities were chosen for which we can compare a rise in the tax rate on one commodity under the VAT regime, relative to the old sales tax regime, with a fall in the relative tax rate on another commodity. Consequently, we have focused our analysis on six commodities: rice (non-Public Distribution System or non-PDS), spice, liquid milk, biscuits, liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and sandals.

The analysis in the paper shows that LPG, liquid milk and biscuits are the items for which tax increases are progressive. However, although there was an increase in taxes on biscuits in both the states, taxes on LPG and liquid milk were reduced under the reform. This reduction in taxes on LPG and liquid milk will improve the condition of the richer households more than poorer households. On the other hand, the observed rise in taxes on sandals was found to be regressive in nature. The reduction in taxes on rice (non-PDS) and spice appear to be progressive, as the expenditure on these commodities is more concentrated among the poor than the rich. Finally, although most tax changes are found to be favoring the poorer sections of the population, the political economy factor clearly shows up in the case of petroleum products like LPG. LPG is a rich man's item but its tax is reduced (the argument given is that it is a nationally important good), while kerosene is taxed more despite the fact that it is consumed more by the relatively poorer groups.

This study is an initial contribution to tax incidence analysis and, hopefully, we will see future comparative studies among more states in India. Also, additional dimensions like gender, region and castes should be brought into the analysis, which will throw more information on the pro-poor dimensions in the design of VAT.

This work was published as [PMMA working paper 2007-18](#)

Ethno-cultural Diversity and Multidimensional Poverty Differential in Cameroon

Paul Ningaye, Hilaire Nkengfack, Marie Antoinette Simonet and Laurentine Yemata

The cultural environment of a population influences its perception of well-being and, consequently, of poverty. The objective of this research is to measure the influence of cultural aspects on poverty distribution from a multidimensional viewpoint.

Multidimensional indices and indicators proposed in the literature treat elementary indicators as if they were related to only one aspect of poverty and are essentially descriptive. This does not make it possible to fully consider the multidimensional nature of poverty in comparisons, nor to test the significance of observed differences. These limits have been overcome in this study by applying structural equation modeling (SEM). Multiple correspondence factorial analysis identified the relevant dimensions of poverty in the context of this research, as well as their indicators. SEM then allowed us to study interactions between these dimensions and their explanation of the subjective dimension. Finally, nested modeling techniques were used to explain the observed differences both in the objective dimensions, as well as in the subjective dimension.

Results show that :

- The cultural environment leads individuals to elaborate different poverty criteria from group to group;
- They then tend to use available or potential resources to improve the dimensions that they deem to be the most important to them;
- This leads to an unequal distribution of poverty dimensions without a group being superior to others in all the dimensions.

We propose decentralized and participative approaches in elaborating poverty alleviation strategies.

This work was published as [PMMA working paper 2007-03](#)

Why Do Women Have Longer Unemployment Durations than Men in Post-Restructuring Urban China?

Fenglian Du, Jian-Chun Yang and Xiao-Yuan Dong

In the past decade, China's public enterprises underwent dramatic labor retrenchment. The reform has affected men and women differently. Studies show that women have been laid off at much higher rates than men and experienced greater difficulty obtaining new employment. Women's non-employment rate is higher than men's, conditional on any given unemployment duration. The deterioration of the employment status of women has led to the feminization of urban poverty in post-restructuring China. Female poverty is also more likely to be transmitted from one generation to another through declining investment in education and health given the evidence from a diverse set of countries that increasing a woman's share of income in the household significantly increases the share of the household budget allocated to children's education, health, and nutrition-related expenditures. Gender discrimination in labor markets also creates new resource misallocation issues in that highly productive female workers are unemployed or forced to leave the labor force altogether.

This paper provides the first systematic analysis of the reasons why women endure longer unemployment durations than men in post-restructuring urban China using data obtained from a national representative household survey. Rejecting the view that women are less earnest than men in their desire for reemployment, the analysis shows that women's job search efforts are handicapped by lack of access to social networks, social stereotyping (that married women are unreliable employees), unequal access to social reemployment services, and greater earning reductions from job loss for women.

The results of our analysis have important policy implications. The main message is that policy measures must be taken to address the external constraints and structural features of China's urban labor market if the state hopes to reduce gender inequality in employment. Key measures include public interventions for reducing gender segmentation and discrimination in the labor market, narrowing the gender wage gap in the emerging private sector, making active labor policies such as skill-training and job replacement services more widely accessible and more sensitive to the

needs of unemployed female workers, and helping women develop connections to social networks. Beyond the concern about gender inequality, policies designed to provide skill training and a social safety net for unemployed urban workers and special assistance to individuals in poor health and the households with multiple unemployed members are also warranted in order to ease the pain borne by these workers in the face of labor market turbulence.

This work was published as [PMMA working paper 2007-23](#)

NEWS

General News

PEP-OPHI Human Development Capabilities Initiative

PEP is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI; www.ophi.org.uk). OPHI is a member of the Human Development Capabilities Association (HDCA, www.capabilityapproach.com), which promotes research from many disciplines on key problems including poverty, justice, well-being and economics. As a first step in this partnership, PEP will offer up to **five** grants of \$CAN 20,000 (plus up to \$CAN 30,000 in additional funding) for research on analyzing poverty in the multidimensional context of the capabilities approach. Two of these grants will be funded by OPHI and three will be funded by PEP. Scientific support for all grants will be provided jointly by OPHI and PEP staff under the leadership of Sabina Alkire (director of OPHI) and Jean-Yves Duclos (PMMA network leader). This initiative builds on the extensive work of OPHI on implementing Sen's capabilities approach in developing countries and of the PEP network on multidimensional poverty analysis.

Other joint activities are in the planning stages including a possible training workshop on implementing the capabilities approach in developing countries at the next PEP general meeting. PEP and OPHI staff have contributed to each others' general meetings beginning with Louis-Marie Asselin's participation in the HDCA 2006 Conference in Groningen, Netherlands. Sabina presented OPHI at the 6th PEP general meeting in Lima as well as acting as a discussant and chair in several sessions. Jean-Yves Duclos conducted one day of training at the HDCA summer school in New York this October, deputy PMMA network leader Jean-Bosco Ki attended this summer school and John Cockburn participated in the 2007 HDCA Conference that immediately followed.

Proposals are welcome (**deadline for submitting: January 7, 2008**) for one of two themes, listed below (see Call for proposals) :

Theme 1: Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data – Research teams are invited to undertake empirical analysis of all data from five modules of the proposed 'missing dimensions' (information and survey modules are available on www.ophi.org.uk). Teams are not asked to conduct a large survey. They may choose to use new data that are in the process of being collected, or to undertake qualitative, ethnographic and/or participatory work alongside a small quantitative survey in order to probe the validity and strengths and weaknesses of the survey instrument in particular contexts.

Theme 2: Identification and Multidimensional Poverty – Research teams are invited to critically examine identification techniques and weighting options for multidimensional poverty measures. They may choose to use a new identification method or various existing multidimensional poverty measures and intersection/union approaches. They may also choose to explore further issues of weighting and adjustments for interconnections between variables.

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Launch of the PEP School (Training on Poverty and Economic Policy Analysis)

The PEP African office and the *Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale* in Dakar, Senegal have launched the first session of the [PEP school](#) on modelling the impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks.

The PEP School is a training program on techniques and tools for the analysis of poverty and economic policies. It includes distance learning, training workshops as well as technical support components. PEP school offers a series of 16-week training programs organized by the PEP network in partnership with southern institutions. These programs will deal with poverty monitoring, measurement and analysis on one hand, and with modelling the poverty and other impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks on the other hand. As a first step, a French language modeling school was launched in October 2007 for researchers in francophone Africa. The PEP school aims to:

- Enhance local capacity in monitoring, measuring and analyzing poverty;
- Improve the understanding of the poverty impacts of macroeconomic policy and shocks through training in the theoretical foundations and empirical implementation of their analysis;
- Contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies

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Opening of a Latin American office

PEP has just opened a regional office for Latin America based at the *Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo* (GRADE) in Lima Peru.

Research capacity development in Latin America is constrained by the lack of funding sources for high quality research, even for research efforts with potential important implications for policy making associated to crucial topics such as poverty and inequality. Although, there is a large group of highly qualified researchers in Latin America, there is also a high inequality in their distribution across countries. Larger and richer countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico have relatively more resources for research, while smaller, poorer countries face a clear deficit that affects their capacity to set a framework for evidence based policy making. In this context, PEP has decided to develop a mechanism for research capacity development in Latin America that features south-south cooperation between countries with more and less research capacity.

All these facts justify the creation of a regional office in Latin America that can promote research capacity development in the region by strengthening their ability to raise research funds, and by increasing the academic interaction among them, allowing for some south-south components.

The Latin American office has the mandate to work with researchers in Latin America in identifying specific topics associated to poverty in which high quality research with a strong comparative component is needed in different countries, and then to work these researchers in developing a proposal and seeking funding for a regional initiative with the help of PEP.

Martin Valdivia, the director of the Latin American office, will be in charge of identifying prospects and researchers, of working as a liaison between the regional initiatives and PEP coordinators and technical resources, and of coordinating fundraising efforts. Martin has developed contacts in the course of his work that will enable him to successfully pursue this role. GRADE's good reputation in the region is also a good asset to attract high quality researchers for the different potential initiatives. In turn, PEP's reputation should help us identify potential researchers in the region that can play a role in transmitting research capacities to their less trained counterparts, and reach funding options that has been scarcely available for Latin American researchers.

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PEP's African office takes on new responsibilities

One of the major innovations in the PEP network third phase is the acceleration of the devolution of PEP's activities to its African office at the *Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale* (CRES), which will take on responsibility for some key PEP-wide activities. In particular, it will be responsible for: the disbursement of all MPIA and PMMA grants and payments to researchers; the organization of the inaugural training session of the PEP School; as well as the conception and launching of new PEP initiatives in Africa. Administrative responsibilities will incumb

to Aissatou Diop (MPIA-PMMA administrator), her assistant, Awa Diop, and a full-time accountant. The new director of our African office, Abdoulaye Diagne, who is also the director of CRES, will take the responsibility for developing new initiatives.

The main objective of this innovation is to contribute to the creation of a critical mass of researchers who are well-trained and able to provide new ideas to African policy makers on how to enhance national and regional economic policies to face the development challenges confronting Africa at the beginning of the 21st century. In this sense, PEP will develop and implement, over the course of PEP's third phase, an African strategy with the following main components: establishing the institutional framework and human resources for the African office; development of partnerships with African policy makers, researchers and donors; effective dissemination of research results; conception, fundraising and implementation of new research initiatives; increased participation of African researchers in the activities of the international scientific community.

At the beginning of 2008, PEP Africa will work out a development plan through a two-day workshop in Dakar with leading African PEP researchers representing the main subregions of the African continent. The goal of this workshop is to define the objectives and means of a progressive devolution strategy of a substantial part of the scientific and management activities of PEP network to African institutions and individuals, as well as the overall expansion and development of PEP's African office. During the first year, PEP Africa will focus on launching a number of initiatives aimed to establish its visibility in Africa, while at the same time reinforcing its existing management system.

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New Policy Brief series on the PEP Website

In our continuing efforts to share the results of PEP-funded researchers with policy makers and other potential research users, PEP has recently launched a series of one-page policy briefs. These policy briefs outline important policy issues and provide evidence-based insights and recommendations in their regard. Each policy brief features a link to an underlying working paper, which develops the arguments in more detail for interested readers. These policy briefs can be downloaded free of charge from the PEP Website by clicking on the "Policy Brief" link on our home page: www.pep-net.org.

CBMS News

PEP has continued to support the development, pilot test/implementation and institutionalization of community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) in developing countries in Asia and Africa. This is particularly made possible through the CBMS Research Grants Program. From 2002 to date, PEP was able to provide research grants for CBMS work in developing countries in Asia and Africa. Current CBMS research partners of PEP are the *Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI) of De La Salle University in the Philippines*, the *Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)*, *National Statistical Centre in Lao PDR*, *National Institute of Statistics in Cambodia*, *SMERU Research Institute in Indonesia*, *Socio Economic Development Centre (SEDEC) in Vietnam*, the *African Institute for Health and Development in Kenya*, the *Dodoma Municipal Council in Tanzania*, and the *Zambia Research Development Center*. Proposals for new CBMS initiatives from research partner institutions in China, Peru, Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone and for expansion of CBMS work in Benin and Indonesia are undergoing final revisions.

CBMS work entails the design and pilot test of indicators of poverty or well-being, development of data collection, processing and validation instruments, development of CBMS-related training modules on the use of data collection and processing systems and on the analysis and use of CBMS data. Furthermore, PEP supported CBMS initiatives involve capacity building of national and local stakeholders on their adoption and use of CBMS in development processes. Among the current applications of CBMS are on poverty diagnosis, localizing the millennium development goals (MDGs), local development planning and budgeting, and program-design and targeting, and impact-monitoring. Further details on recent developments in line with the CBMS country initiatives may be obtained from the quarterly publication of the CBMS Network which is available on-line at www.pep-net.org

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CBMS meeting in 2008

Community-based monitoring system (CBMS) practitioners and other stakeholders in the Philippines will gather together on January 30-February 1, 2008 for the CBMS conference. The 3-day conference will convene national and local planners, policymakers and program implementers to share recent experiences, strategies and lessons learned from their CBMS work, and to present findings on the use of the CBMS for localizing the millennium development goals (MDGs), program targeting and impact monitoring at the national and local levels.

The conference is being organized by the PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies in collaboration with CBMS partners from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP). Updates on the said meeting will be continuously posted at the CBMS section of the PEP website (www.pep-net.org).

MPIA News

A new training document by Ismael Fofana on [Building a Social Accounting Matrix for Economic Policy Impact analysis](#)

Ismael shows how two national accounts tables, i.e. the Supply and Use Table (SUT) and the Integrated Economic Accounts (IEA) are brought together to build a standard Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). To use a SAM in the analysis of the poverty impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks requires an appropriate representation of the labour market and a suitable disaggregation of household categories. Thus, a SAM must be developed so as to take into account the concerns of its designers as well of its users. The features (structure and dimensions) of the SAM are established according to data availability and research objectives. A SAM with more disaggregation of the factors of production and representative household categories is better able to capture the heterogeneous impacts of macroeconomic shocks and policies on household and individual well-being. Available on the PEP web site (www.pep-net.org) under "MPIA", "Training Material".

PMMA News

Overview of PMMA projects

With 29 **working papers** published so far and several others soon to be out, and with 21 ongoing research projects (and 27 completed projects), the PMMA network continues to build momentum. The current geographic coverage of the ongoing projects is large: 12 projects in Africa, 6 in Asia and 3 in Latin America.

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Upcoming publication from Louis-Marie Asselin on **Multidimensional Poverty Measurement, Theory and Applications**

Louis-Marie Asselin is launching a new book that proposes an operational methodology for measuring multidimensional poverty, independently from the conceptual origin, the size and the qualitative and quantitative nature of the primary indicators used to describe poverty. A comprehensive definition of poverty is proposed, for which the ethical foundations are briefly presented in an annex. The focus of the methodology is on a solution to the issue of the aggregation across the multiple sub-dimensions of poverty. The rationale of the proposed solution consists in exploring the internal structure of the relationships between these sub-dimensions of poverty. A factor technique is used, Multiple Correspondence Analysis, with an algorithm allowing to go beyond the first factorial axis and to integrate the poverty relevant information from all the factorial axes.

The first part, which is theoretical, develops the rationale underlying the proposed methodology illustrated with numerical examples taken from an empirical study in Vietnam. The second part presents three case studies using partially or fully the methodology of the first part. These three case studies, carried out in collaboration with several co-authors from Africa and

Vietnam, are applied, respectively, to Senegal, to a group of seven sub-Saharan countries and to Vietnam.

The book has been financially supported by the IDRC, MIMAP and PEP programs. It is expected to appear in the first semester of 2008.

EVENTS

6th General Meeting, 14 - 16 June 2007 in Lima, Peru



The 6th PEP general meeting was hosted by Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE; www.grade.org.pe) and the Universidad del Pacifico (www.up.edu.pe) in Lima, Peru from June 11 to 16, 2007. The meeting gathered 274 persons (124 PEP-funded researchers, resource persons and invited speakers; 60 Peruvian researchers and 90 representatives of Peruvian NGOs and public institutions). A total of 18 research reports and 22 proposals were presented during the meeting. The meeting was a great success with eight new PMMA projects and five new MPIA projects approved for funding. The meeting also featured the launching of the PEP-AusAID Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI) and the newly established PEP School for training on poverty and economic policy analysis.

The meeting also included a two-day policy conference on two separate themes: "Trade and Poverty" (co-organized with and sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB; www.iadb.org) and "Reaching the MDGs: An International Perspective" (co-organized with GRADE and the Network on Income and Poverty (NIP; www.nip-lac.org) and sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP; www.undp.org), the Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF; www.caf.com) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Peru (MEF; www.mef.gob.pe). These policy conferences featured presentations by policy makers and researchers from around the world. Proceedings from these policy conferences are in preparation.

The MPIA and PMMA networks also took the opportunity to organize two days of advanced training workshops for the participants on the themes of "Growth and Poverty" and "Poverty Dynamics" respectively. See the "Events" section of the PEP web site (www.pep-net.org) for programs, papers and other information concerning the meeting and training workshops.

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LACEA meeting in Bogotá, Colombia - First Meeting of the Impact Evaluation Network, October 3rd, 2007

The 2007 LACEA-LAMES meetings took place in Bogotá, Colombia, on October 4-6, 2007. The meetings were hosted by *Fedesarrollo* and *Universidad de los Andes*.

The day before, the **Impact Evaluation Network (IEN)** organized its first parallel meeting. This meeting is an initiative that aims to advance the state of knowledge and expertise regarding impact evaluation of different policies. The meeting program included presentations by two keynote speakers (Dean Karlan and Orazio Attanasio) and papers selected on the basis of academic merit.

Moreover, the Colombian Director of the National Planning Department and the Director of the Office of Public Policies evaluation also were present. They spoke about the importance of evaluating public policies in developing countries.

PEP was one of the three sponsors of the event, with PEP researcher **Maria Laura Alzua** playing a leading role in the organization. Also, some other PEP funded researchers were present at the initiative: **Miguel Jaramillo** (GRADE) presented his paper "Do the Poorest among the Poor Benefit Less from Active Labor Market Programs? Evidence from Peru's PROJOVEN" and **Ignacio Franchescelli** participated as a discussant. **Martin Valdivia** (Director PEP Latin American office) also participated in the meeting.

The organizing committee for this meeting was: **Maria Laura Alzua** (IERAL de Fundación Mediterránea, Buenos Aires, Argentina), **Felipe Barrera** (Human Development Network, The World Bank) and **Ana Santiago** (Evaluation Economist, Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE), Inter-American Development Bank).

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Training Workshop on Application of DAD 4.4 Software in Inequality and Poverty Measurement.



A workshop on DAD 4.4 was held on Tuesday September 18, 2007 at the Agricultural Economics Graduate Students Association (AGEGSA), University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr Abayomi Samuel Oyekale presented a practical session on *the Application of DAD 4.4 in Inequality Analysis* and Taiwo Timothy Awoyemi's presentation was on *Poverty Analysis*.

The attendance at this workshop was unprecedented and extensive. All the levels of the graduate programme in the Department of Agricultural Economics were adequately and evenly represented. There was also a number of participants outside the university environs. In fact 29% of the participants came from outside Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, of whom 81% were from outside the State. The implication of this result is that one can effectively mobilize participants from other States and campuses in the country for future training workshops. With this kind of attendance and participation, it is expected that many researchers will use the software in their future dissertations, research and reports.

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Research Findings Dissemination Conference – Dr. Boèvi Kouglo LAWSON BODY, Economist, Lecturer and Researcher, and Team Leader of the Faculté de Sciences Économique et de Gestion (FASEG), University of Lome (TOGO).

The Auditorium Hall of the University of Lome was the venue on 16 May 2006 of a Conference on the Dissemination of the findings of a study carried out by the FASEG Research Team. The study, which has been published as PMMA Working Paper 414, was entitled "**Comparative Analysis of the Status of Poverty and Inequality in Togo: A Multidimensional Approach Based on the Wealth Index**". The Proceedings of the abovementioned conference, organized within the framework of the activities carried out by the Department of Scientific Research (DRS) of the University of Lome, ran for a period of two and a half hours.

The conference, which was widely publicized in the media, brought together some 150 participants including:

- researchers from the three PEP Teams presently working in Togo;
- officials and lecturers from the University of Lome and the University of Kara;
- researchers and senior staff from the public sector (ministries, technical departments, etc.);
- officials and senior staff from civil society (NGOs, trade unions, religious institutions, associations);

- senior staff from the “Poverty Reduction Emergency Programme”, which is a World Bank's support agency;
- graduate (DEA, DESS), as well as third and fourth year, students;
- journalists from both the public and private media (Television, Radio and Print Press).

The conference was marked by four salient items, notably:

- the welcome address by Professor Gbeassor;
- the presentation of the PEP Network;
- the roundtable discussion; and
- the research prospects of the Team.

The Coordinator of PR PMMA 414, Boèvi Kouglo LAWSON-BODY, presented the conference paper and conducted the resulting discussions in collaboration with Dr. Kokou BANINGANTI. Professor BLIVI of the *Laboratoire de l'Erosion Côtière de l'Université de Lomé* or the « Laboratory in charge of Coastal Erosion of the University of Lome », on his part, officiated as the Moderator of the discussions. In his presentation, the speaker laid emphasis on four aspects that notably included the objectives of the study, the methodological approach used, the findings of the study and the implications of the policies related to the findings.

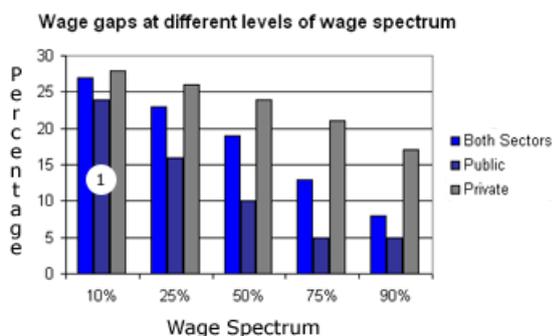
Dr. Akouété Ega AGBODJI, Team Leader of the “PR-MPIA-676” Project, introduced the PEP Network, thereby allowing all the participants to be better acquainted with the Network, its objectives, its three Sub-networks as well as their major themes. Dr. AGBODJI ended his presentation by introducing the research themes of the two other PEP Teams based in Togo, which are:

- **PR-MPIA-676:** *Politique industrielle de zone franche au Togo et effets sur le revenu des ménages pauvres: Une approche basée sur le modèle d'équilibre général calculable* or « Free trade zone-related industrial policy in Togo and its impacts on the incomes of poor households : an approach based on the computable general equilibrium model ».

- **PR-PMMA-489:** *Profil de la pauvreté infantile dans les pays de l'UEMOA: une analyse comparative basée sur l'approche multidimensionnelle de la pauvreté* or « Child poverty profile in the UEMOA countries : a comparative analysis based on the multidimensional approach of poverty ».

The organization and the holding of this conference culminated in concrete actions and achievements that were perceived in at least two dimensions: a better acquaintance with the findings of the study and an increased visibility of the PEP Network, as well as the three Togolese PEP teams.

A study from a PEP researcher from Sri Lanka (Dileni Gunewardena) is incorporated in a TV programme, Lanka Business Review, on May 24, 2007



The study was first presented at the Centre for Poverty Analysis' (CEPA) Open Forum series in March. Following that, CEPA assisted the team disseminate the findings of the study. A TV journalist took up the press release written by Ms. Gunewardena and decided to do a programme on the subject. As the team could not go down to Colombo on the day required, Fiona Ransome from CEPA undertook to talk about the study on TV.

The questions were emailed to the team beforehand, for them to prepare the answers and provide statistics from their study which Fiona used. The results of the study and the Secretary to Women's Empowerment Ministry's response to it made it to the national radio (Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation) news in all three national languages, a few days later.

Here is the summary of the programme that was posted on Lanka Business Online :

Wage Gap

Sri Lankan women still earn less than men

May 24, 2007 (LBO) – Women with qualifications and experience similar to males get paid an average 18 percent less, according to research, but the government says otherwise.

Women with similar education, location and experience as men were employed in lower paying jobs, says Dileni Gunewardena of Peradeniya University, using data from the Statistics Department's quarterly labor force survey.

But Indrani Sugathadasa, Secretary of Ministry of Women's Empowerment, says there are no wage disparities at present, in either the public or private sectors, because wages are handled by the wages board and collective agreements.

Despite the government's denial, the wage gap among public sector officials averages at seven percent. The lower wage grades have a 24 percent disparity. Private sector disparity is an average of 23 percent but the lower wage grades have a 28 percent gap.

Disparity was highest among the ten percent of lowest paying jobs where women earned 27 percent less than their male colleagues.

The wage gap narrowed to an average of eight percent in the highest paying category with the public sector showing a low of five percent difference and the private sector, 17 percent.

Private sector officials say females need to portray themselves and demand more to get better paying jobs in the industry.

"It could be we are not selling ourselves or we are not asking for more whereas men would be asking for the increments and promotions," Kimarli Fernando, head of client relationships, Standard Chartered Bank, said.

"If I interview ten boys and ten girls, the boys would be asking more about their salary, car and prospects while the girls would be not asking more. I think we have to blame our selves a little bit."

According to the Census Department, over 16 percent of unemployed women tend to have more than advanced level (A/L) qualifications compared to seven percent of the opposite sex.

Unemployment in Sri Lanka declined 6.5 percent in the last year with more women entering the workforce but men make up more than three-fifths of the seven million labor force.

While women tend to be better educated, men are physically stronger and are usually flexible on working odd and long hours.

"Women tend to choose jobs like teaching and working in garments. This is a very complex set of choices but it has partly got to do with the flexibility that is available for them," Fiona Remnant, a poverty analyst at the poverty alleviation agency, CEPA, says.

Research shows women tend to look for jobs that allow them to raise families, giving employers the opportunity to recruit women for lesser pay and stereotyped positions such as clerks and secretaries.

Lack of policies addressing issues with regard to wage gaps allow companies to keep on giving lower salaries to women.

"Equal pay and access are issues that are difficult to legislate and enforce. We have lot of rules and regulations but there are problems in enforcing them," Sugathadasa said.

As a result women in some sectors where pay results in living conditions that border poverty have to work harder and longer hours than men to make the same amount of money.

In rich countries women who raise families and want to continue working are helped by employers and government grants.

Governments and companies in poor countries like Sri Lanka can't afford that level of intervention.

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The 2007 Poverty reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet) Conference

This Conference was held in the GTZ-office (an international cooperation agency for sustainable development with worldwide operations) in Berlin on September 6-7 and was the occasion for **Xiaohua Li** to present the final report of her team's PEP-funded study entitled: *"Effects of Education on Wage Inequality in Urban China, 1988-2003"*. This conference was co-organized by the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin), the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW). At this conference, Xiaohua received many comments from the participants, especially Martin Ravallion from the World Bank, the invited keynote speaker of this conference, who provided very detailed comments and valuable suggestions.

Study visits

When submitting their interim research report, PEP-funded teams are invited to submit the candidacy of one team member to participate in a three to four week study visit at the institution of their choice. The goal of the study visit is to provide the researcher ongoing scientific support and a first-rate research environment in order to complete a draft of the team's final report. For 2008, the study visits will generally take place in May-June.

Related Events Outside PEP

A continuously updated list of events outside PEP that are judged to be of potential interest to PEP and other poverty researchers is available on the PEP web site ("Related Events Outside PEP"). Here is the current listing :

- UNICEF - The Graduate Program in International Affairs (GPIA), New School University - [Call for proposal](#) - International Conference - New York, April 21-23, 2008 - www.equityforchildren.org. (January 31, 2008 – Deadline for paper proposal submissions)
- GDNews - [Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimizing the Economic and Social Impacts of Migration](#) (Deadline for submitting proposals : November 26, 2007)
- 2020 Conference - [Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People](#) - Beijing, China, October 17-19, 2007 <http://www.ifpri.org/2020chinaconference/index.htm>
- [CSAE 2008 CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA](#), St Catherine's College, Oxford, 16-18 March 2008 (Deadline for submissions: Friday 14 December 2007).
- [Call for Proposals](#) for Phase II of a Research Program on Social Protection in Asia Supported by the Ford Foundation (Concept notes must be submitted by November 15th, 2007)
- The GDN Regional Research Competition [Call for Proposals](#) on: "Social Policies for More Equitable Outcomes in MENA" (Deadline for submission of proposals is November 30th, 2007)
- [2nd research cycle of CUTS Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum](#) (Deadline for submission of abstract is 30th September 2007)
- [Call for Letters of intent](#) - The Economic Globalisation, Growth and HIV/AIDS Initiative: Research Grants - Link to Call for LETTERS OF INTENT: <http://www.heard.org.za/research/IDRC/> - (Deadline for submission of LETTERS OF INTENT: 01 November 2007)
- [International Conference on "The Unemployment Crisis in the Arab Countries](#), March 17-18, 2008 (Deadline for paper submission : on or before 30th November 2007).
- [Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative \(OPHI\) Launch](#), May 30-31, 2007 at Queen Elizabeth House (3 Mansfield Road, Oxford).

- [Seeking New Scholarship in Migrant Remittances: A Call for Dissertations, Theses and Faculty Research](#) (final selection will be made by December 31, 2007)
- 2007 LACEA and LAMES, <http://economia.uniandes.edu.co/lacealames2007.htm>, meetings will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, on October 4-6, 2007 (Submissions will be accepted until May 18th, 2007).
- Other lists of upcoming events are available at:
 - Inomics: www.inomics.com/cgi/conference
 - AERC: www.aercafrica.org/html/announcements.asp
 - IDEAS: <http://www.eldis.org/news/announce.htm>

JOB OPENINGS

- [Research Officer and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow](#) - Microcon Project: Microeconomics of Violence and Poverty, research centre THEMA of the University of Cergy-Pontoise
- University of Oxford, Department of International Development, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) - [Research Officer in Poverty and Human Development](#)
- [US International Trade Commission](#) - The USITC Office of Economics is interested in meeting with you at the [ASSA meetings](#). U.S. citizenship required. USITC is an equal opportunity employer
- [IDRC - Think tank Program - Program Leader](#) - IDRC is a Canadian Crown Corporation, headquartered in Ottawa, with Regional Offices located in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- [CEPII - The French Research Center in International Economics in Paris is Looking for an Economist](#)
- [ILEAP seeks two outstanding, talented professionals to provide support to the Executive Director;](#)
- [The Institute for World Economics \(IFW\)](#) Person with experience with GAMS, GTAP and CGE trade modelling.

NEW PEP RESEARCH GRANTS

Following PEP's June 2007 6th annual meeting in Lima, Peru, **thirteen new PMMA and MPIA research grants** were awarded. In addition to substantial scientific and technical support, the recipient teams will receive a CAD 20,000\$ grant, as well as up to 30,000\$ in funding to participate in a PEP General meeting (to present their final report) and are eligible to apply on a competitive basis for funding to participate in a three to four-week study visit to the institution of their choice, in an international conference, to bring a junior member of their team to a PEP general meeting and to organize a national policy conference. Congratulations to them all!

PMMA

- [Milu Muyanga, Kenya, Intergenerational Poverty Transfer: Evidence from Kenya](#)
- [Taiwo Timothy Awoyemi, Nigeria, Spatial Inequality, Polarization and Poverty in Nigeria](#)
- [Chukwuone Nnaemeka, Nigeria, Analysis of Impact of Remittance on Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria](#)

- **Assogba Hodonou, Bénin**, Dynamique de la pauvreté au Bénin: Approche par l'analyse des processus stochastiques de type markovien
- **Hung Thai Pham, Vietnam**, Is Nonfarm Diversification a Way Out of Poverty for Rural Households? Evidence from Vietnam in 1993-2004
- **Dandan Zhang, China**, The Dynamic Labor Market Performance of Rural Migrants in Urban China
- **Paola Vargas, Peru**, Connecting Rural Communities for Development: An Impact Evaluation of a Rural Roads Program in Peru
- **Andrea Vigorito, Uruguay**, Family Allowances and Child School Attendance: An Ex-ante Evaluation of Alternative Schemes in Uruguay

MPIA

- **Nadia Belhaj Hassine, Tunisia**, Agricultural Trade Liberalization, Productivity Growth and Poverty Alleviation: A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis
- **Cecilia Llambí, Uruguay**, Assessing the Impact of the 2006 Tax Reform on Poverty and Inequality in Uruguay
- **Vaqar Ahmed, Pakistan**, Taxation Reforms: A CGE-Microsimulation Analysis for Pakistan
- **Samir Cury, Brazil**, The impacts of Income Transfer Programs on Income distribution and Poverty in Brazil: An Integrated microsimulation and Computable General Equilibrium Analysis.
- **Thi Thu Tra Pham, Hai Le Thanh, Quan LTT, Vy NTT, Vietnam**, Trade liberalization, labour allocation and gender inequality: The case of Vietnam

NEW WORKING PAPERS

Four new working papers have been published since our last PEP-Talk, including one MPIA working paper and three PMMA working papers.

MPIA

Joaquim Bento de Souza Ferreira Filho, Carliton Vieira dos Santos and Sandra Maria do Prado Lima, Tax Reform, Income Distribution and Poverty in Brazil: An Applied General Equilibrium Analysis

PMMA

Kojo Appiah-Kubi, Edward Amanning-Ampomah, Christian Ahorator, Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Poverty in Ghana Using Fuzzy Sets Theory

Fenglian Du, Jian-chun Yang, Why Do Women Have Longer Unemployment Durations than Men in Post-Restructuring Urban China?

Xiuqing WANG, Shujie YAO, Juan LIU, Xian XIN, Xiumei LIU, Wenjuan REN, Measuring Rural Poverty in China: A Case Study Approach

PORTRAITS OF PEP MEMBERS

Martin Valdivia, Peru



Martin Valdivia was the lead researcher for the PEP project “Business Development services for female microfinance clients in Peru: a randomized impact evaluation”. He and his team used an experimental design to evaluate the impacts on female microfinance clients of including business training in the regular payment meetings of village banks in Ayacucho and Lima. In particular, they focused on the impacts on the sustainability of the microfinance institution (FINCA-Peru), the growth of the client's business and the welfare of her household. The study showed that such intervention benefited not only the clients through increased sales and profits but also FINCA, the microfinance institution, as they saw improved repayment and client retention.

Martin obtained his BA in Economics at Universidad del Pacifico, Lima, Peru, and later his Ph.D. in Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. He returned to Lima in 1993 to work at the Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE), one of the most prestigious research centers in the country and the region. He moved in 2000 to work at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE) in Mexico where he was professor of Economics and Academic Co-Director of the Masters in Health Economics that was jointly run with the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP). He returned to GRADE in 2001, where he is now a senior researcher and Director of Research. His research interests include poverty and social policies, microfinance, health and rural development. His current work has two main areas of focus. The first one relates to the promotion and implementation of the most rigorous impact evaluation methodologies for the reform of social policies in the region, and is connected to the PMMA project he led. The second one uses multidisciplinary approaches to explore the roots of the persistent health inequities prevalent in Peru, in particular the connection between poverty, health inequalities and the ethnic background of the Peruvian population.

Martin has continued collaborating with the PEP network in two important activities. One is the organization of the GRADE-hosted VI Annual Meeting of the PEP network held in Lima June 8-16, 2007. He is also on the coordinating team of the Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI) for which PEP recently received funding of over \$1 million from AusAID. Finally, he is now the director of the newly-created PEP Latin American Office, trying to support research on key poverty and inequality issues by raising funds for regional initiatives involving experienced PEP researchers together with other quality researchers in the region.

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Margaret Chitiga, South Africa



Margaret Chitiga is Associate Professor in the economics department at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She obtained her PhD in economics at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. She teaches Microeconomics and has taught public sector economics, development economics and mathematics for economists. She has also been involved in intensive teaching at the Joint Facility for Electives at the African Economic Research Consortium, teaching public finance, and at the Collaborative MSc in Agricultural and Applied Economics teaching economic modelling. She was invited to be part of a 5

member international team of resource persons to run an international course for the Ecological and Environmental Economics Programme, a joint programme of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics This was an advanced course on CGE modelling and

the Environment. The Course was held in Miramare-Trieste, Italy, from the 1st to the 12th of December 2003 and the again December 1 to 12 2005 and included participants from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Her research interest is in investigating the effects of policies on welfare and the economy. She uses computable general equilibrium models and input-output models to do such investigations. In the past one and half years, she has been involved in a research project collaboration between her department, the agricultural economics department, the CSIR and partners from the IVM in the Netherlands. The project was a CGE research in search of dividends from taxing carbon emissions, and water use and recycling the revenue to alleviate poverty. Recently she has worked with a CGE microsimulation model for Zimbabwe developed under a PEP funded project. The work was to analyse the effects of trade liberalisation on poverty and inequality in Zimbabwe. This same model has now also been used to analyse the effect of land reforms in Zimbabwe. She was also involved in another PEP project that developed a dynamic microsimulation CGE model for South Africa that was used to analyse dynamic trade and poverty issues for South Africa. Several publications as referred journal articles and book chapters have already come out of all these projects. She envisages that she will continue to be curious and intrigued by the general equilibrium effects of policies and shocks on economies and welfare.

Margaret Chitiga has been part of the PEP network since its inception as a researcher.

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Ramos Mabugu, South Africa



Ramos Mabugu obtained a Ph.D. degree in Economics from Gothenburg University, Sweden. He has taught and supervised at postgraduate level at the University of Zimbabwe (1996-2002) and University of Pretoria in South Africa (2003-2006). While at Pretoria University, Ramos was instrumental in setting up a collaborative environmental economics M.Sc. and Ph.D. training program, served as consultant for many organisations and external examiner for several universities.

In 2006 Ramos joined the Financial and Fiscal Commission of South Africa, a statutory body that makes recommendations and gives advice to organs of state in the national, provincial and local spheres of government on financial and fiscal matters. He manages the Macroeconomics and Public Finance Unit and is tasked with the development of 'state of the art' macroeconomic frameworks used to assess the necessary macro-micro links of public policy in such a way that issues of poverty, equity, growth and macro dynamics are better understood. He has published in international and local journals as well as contributing chapters to peer reviewed books and conference proceedings.

Ramos was the leader of a PEP Network project for South Africa, visited Laval University in 2005, and was a plenary session speaker at the PEP General Meeting in Sri Lanka and a discussant at the June 2007 policy conference on MDGs co-organized by PEP in Peru. Most of Ramos' economic modelling work is on the application of computable general equilibrium (CGE) models to Zimbabwe and South Africa. In collaboration with Margaret Chitiga and funded by PEP grants, Ramos has pioneered one of the first applications of CGE microsimulation (static and dynamic) techniques in these countries. Recently, papers based on these pioneering works funded by PEP have been published by the Journal of Development Studies and the Journal of African Economies.

Ramos has taught economic modeling courses on two occasions at the Ecological and Environmental Economics Programme at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy (2003 and 2005). In 2003-04, Ramos gave technical advice at the Environmental Economics Program for South Eastern Asia (EEPSEA), Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and Sida. In 2006 Ramos received a visiting fellowship from Curtin University in Australia where he worked on the development of a constitutionally mandated basic services simulation model for South Africa to be used in the sharing of nationally raised revenues among national, provincial and local government spheres.

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Marie Odile Attanasso, Benin



Marie Odile Attanasso has been both lecturer and researcher at the University of Abomey Calavi in Benin since 1996. She is a holder of a Doctorate Degree in Economics, majoring in Demography, which she obtained from the Paris-based *Institut d'Études Politiques*, or "Institute of Political Sciences". She has occupied the positions of Assistant Director of the *École Nationale d'Économie Appliquée et de Management (ENEAM)* or the "National Advanced School of Applied Economics and Management (formerly known as the National Advanced School of Economics), from 1998 to 2003, and Director of the *Fonds National pour l'Environnement du Benin*, or the "National Environment Fund of Benin" from November 2004 to May 2005. Besides these administrative duties, Marie Odile Attanasso joined the MIMAP-Benin Team in 2001, for which she has been the Assistant Coordinator since 2003. She also is a staff member of the *Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Population (CEFORP)* - or "Centre for Demographic Training and Research" - which is an inter-faculty research centre of the University of Abomey Calavi (UAC). She is highly interested in research work focusing on various developmental aspects and particularly on gender-related poverty as well as population-related issues. She has equally monitored the gender aspects of the 2003-2005 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and was a member of the team responsible for drafting the 2007-2009 Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility Paper (PRGFP). Marie Odile Attanasso has been co-author of several collective works and has as well written a number of scientific papers. All these activities have made it possible for her to be admitted in the Corps of the CAMES Associate Professors since July 2007.

Marie Odile Attanasso is fond of matching research with action, and it is for this reason that she joined the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Group of the Poverty and Economic Policy Network (PEP) in spite of her current membership with the PMMA-MIMAP Group. She has, in her capacity as Team Leader of the Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System of Benin (SSCP/Benin) since 2004, under which a project has been launched thanks to funding from the PEP Network, developed this system in three communities in Benin. These achievements have provided the opportunity for SSCP/Benin Initiative to be recognized at national level as a medium capable of contributing efficiently to the strategy aimed at combating poverty, especially at the local level. The SSCP/Benin Initiative, as per its approach, assists locally-elected officials in defining their own development strategies.

Besides her research activities, Marie Odile lectures in the University of Abomey Calavi (UAC), the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences (FASEG) and at the National Advanced School of Applied Economics and Management (ENEAM). She equally provides training in gender and development issues, notably in areas relating to gender and budgeting in some French-Speaking African countries. Marie Odile Attanasso continues to carry out her research activities on intra-household poverty, as well as on poverty and microfinance in collaboration with the PEP Network.

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Anne Bernadette Mandap, Philippines



Anne Bernadette Mandap or "Badette" as she is fondly called by friends and colleagues is currently the Research and Administrative Officer of the PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team based at the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI) of De La Salle University in the Philippines. She has been with the team since the start of the PEP Network Program. Aside from providing research and management support for the smooth conduct of Network activities, she also serves as a Resource Person for the CBMS network, and conducts other poverty-related research studies together with the CBMS-Philippines Research Team.

Prior to her work with PEP, she served as Research Associate for the Research and Project Management Team of the IDRC Research Program on the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP)-Project in the Philippines from 1995

until its completion in 2002. She has also been involved with related research projects in the country such as the IDRC supported initiative of the Institute for Social Studies Trust (ISST) on the Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies-Gender Network Project, and the UN-ESCAP Women in Poverty initiative. From 2002-2004, she was a part-time lecturer on Special Topics in Economics and Finance and on Development Economics at St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

Born in Las Piñas City, Philippines, Badette has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and a Master's Degree in Development Economics at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Hot PEPpers: News of PEP members

Congratulations to Paul Ningaye, Université de Dschang, Cameroun, whose paper entitled "*Ethno-Cultural Diversity and Multidimensional Poverty Differential in Cameroon*" was recently listed on SSRN's Top Ten download list for ANTH Anthropology Subject Matter Journals and HRN Anthropology Research Network. To view the top ten list for the journal click on its name [ANTH Anthropology Subject Matter Journals Top Ten](#) and [HRN Anthropology Research Network Top Ten](#) and to view all the papers in the journals click on these links [ANTH Anthropology Subject Matter Journals All Papers](#) and [HRN Anthropology Research Network All Papers](#). To view the Top Authors lists: <http://ssrn.com/TopAuthors>

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Congratulations to Jean-Yves Duclos (Quebec), PEP PMMA network leader, who has become Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Economic Inequality in August 2007 (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/111137/>),

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Congratulations to Margaret Chitiga (South Africa) for the publication of her paper: *The impact of tariff removal on poverty in Zimbabwe: A computable general equilibrium microsimulation* in the [Journal of Development Studies](#), Volume 43, Issue 6, August 2007.

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Congratulations to Jane Mariara from Kenya for her appointment as an **Associate Director (or Vice Dean) of the School of Economics of the University of Nairobi**. The School is a successor of the former Department of Economics. They were granted autonomy from a larger faculty two years – thus upgrade to a school headed by a Director. It is a challenging position because institutions do not work too well in most developing countries, but Jane says she will try to give it her best. We wish her the best.

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Congratulations to **Luc Nembot Ndeffo** from Cameroun for his appointment, through a Cameroon Higher Education Ministerial order, as Assistant-Dean of research and cooperation at the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences of the Dschang University. According to Luc, his activities within the PEP network have contributed to this promotion. We are happy to hear that and we wish him the best for the future.

ABOUT PEP

Call for proposals

The deadline for submitting proposals for the 2008 competition is **January 7, 2008** in the cases of:

- MPIA-PMMA Core Program
- CBMS Network Research Grants

- PEP-OPHI Human Development Capabilities Initiative

A selection committee determines a shortlist of proposals based on their scientific contribution, capacity building, policy relevance, concordance with PEP thematic areas and feasibility. These teams are generally asked to revise their proposals before final decisions are made on the teams that will be receive funding to have one member of their team present and discuss their proposals at the December 2008 PEP general meeting in Manila. Following the presentation, a final decision is made to finance the project or not.

As for **PEP-AusAID Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI)**, the deadline for submitting expressions of interest was **November 30, 2007**. Teams with shortlisted expressions of interest will have until March 30, 2008 to develop a full proposal. Funding decisions will be made following a PIERI meeting in June 2008.

Proposals and expressions of interest should be submitted directly through the PEP Web site. For more information and deadlines, consult "Call for Proposals" on the PEP web site.

Other Funding for PEP Researchers

All PMMA- and MPIA-funded research teams are reminded that they are eligible to apply for additional funding, provided on a competitive basis, for the following activities:

- To finance the participation of a team member in a study visit or, following approval of the final report, to present their PMMA/MPIA-funded research in an international conference.
- To organize a policy conference to share the results of their research with policy makers in their country.

Details are provided in the **PEP Grants Manual**, which is available through a link on the "About PEP" page of the PEP web site.

Online Literature Search Tools

The PEP web site offers a guide to [on line research tools](#). In particular, this page outlines the Research Database Service offered by our funder, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to all PEP-funded research teams.

A Brief Overview of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research

PEP's Vision: A world in which developing country researchers contribute substantially to efforts to understand and combat world poverty.

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network brings together and provide technical and financial support to developing country researchers working to reduce poverty. PEP is managed by three principal partners:

- Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI), De La Salle University, Philippines
- Centre Interuniversitaire sur le Risque, les Politiques Économiques et l'Emploi (CIRPÉE), Université Laval, Canada
- Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale (CRES), Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal

and is composed of three sub-networks:

- Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA);
- Poverty Measurement, Monitoring and Analysis (PMMA);
- Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS).

The PEP team is composed of three [administrative offices](#) (Manila, Dakar and Quebec), with the help of a steering committee and a number of resource persons from around the world.

[Abdoulaye Diagne](#) is the new director of the African office, where he replaces Ismael Fofana who has moved back to Quebec City. Professor Diagne is responsible for developing new research and capacity-building activities in the region. He has a long experience with the PEP network as the director of the Senegalese MIMAP project and organizer of PEP's 2004 general meeting in Dakar.

[Martin Valdivia](#), for his part, becomes director of the new Latin-American office. He will be in charge of identifying prospective initiatives and researchers in the region, working as a liaison between the regional research network and PEP coordinators and technical resources, and coordinating fundraising efforts. Dr. Valdivia led a PMMA project and is currently participating in a second project. He also organized PEP's June 2007 general meeting in Peru. [His portrait](#) appears in this issue of PEP-Talk.

We wish them lots of success!

The PEP team

As a member of the PEP Network, you join the ranks of more than 4,000 policy makers, researchers, civil society representatives and other individuals interested in reducing poverty worldwide who interact and network on the PEP website! Our website has registered over 200,000 visits to date. In order to ensure that we can keep in contact with you and share our newsletters and calls for proposals, we kindly ask that you keep your account information on the website. To do so, please follow these simple steps:

- Open a PEP session (www.pep-net.org)
- Login with your username and password (If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, click on the "Forgot your password or username?" link and follow the instructions.)
- Click on My profile and then, on Update personal information.
- Update your information and then click on the button "Update my information"
- You may also indicate the e-mail addresses at which you would like to receive PEP announcements and PEP-TALK.
- If you do not wish to be part of this mailing list any more, please deselect the box "want to receive the PEP-TALK".

Thank you for taking the time to update your account and do not hesitate to contact us at pep@ecn.ulaval.ca if you have any questions.

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For more information or to register, please visit: www.pep-net.org

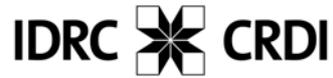
If you have news you would like to share, please email us at pep@ecn.ulaval.ca and it will be our pleasure to publish it in the next edition of PEP-TALK.

Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues!

Reminder: In order to be able to contact you, we invite you to update your personal information on the PEP web site (www.pep-net.org, My profile, Update personal information). You can also select the email addresses at which you receive PEP-Talk and PEP announcements by clicking on «Authorize PEP mail». If you no longer want to be on PEP's mailing, please uncheck the "I want to receive PEP-Talk (Bi-Annual Newsletter)" box.

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- The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID; www.ausaid.gov.au).

