partnership for economic policy

pep

A review of pep **activities**, **progress** and **outputs**

2014 annual report

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Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

During this past year, PEP has seen significant development in implementing multiple initiatives and strengthening capacity in developing countries. The year 2014 has also marked a successful and natural transition of PEP from just an informal global network to a global partnership, linking researchers and institutions worldwide. As highlighted in this Annual Report,PEP has taken important steps towards institutionalizing and strengthening the network by establishing a new organization with a global reach and influence. With its four current regional partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America, collaborating to manage its activities worldwide, PEP has now evolved into a proactive global partnership. The fitting recognition of the new legal entity by the Government of Kenya and attainment of a tax-exempt public charity status in USA are important highlights of this transition during 2014. PEP also initiated a strategic visioning and realignment process during this past year and continued to lay the foundations for establishing an effective organization based on an open partnership model which can attract the best and brightest researchers from around the world to contribute to advance its mission.These achievements have opened new opportunities for better positioning PEP to make a visible contribution to the new global priorities under the post-2015 development agenda.

The work undertaken across the three regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America and elsewhere provides strong testimony to the mission and vision of PEP as a global organization that continues to strengthen capacity and generate locally relevant policy solutions to solve local development challenges. During the past year, the PEP teams successfully implemented several projects and made major contributions in building local capacity and informing development policy processes across developing countries. Many modest efforts initiated through competitive grants and collaborative research that links researchers from the low-income counties with advanced research institutions have started showing tangible results. The more enduring and sustainable contribution of PEP will continue to come from enhanced capacity and institution building in the developing regions and countries where it operates.

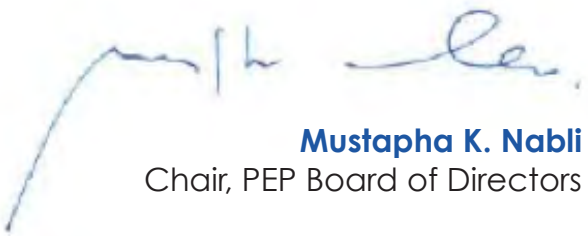
PEP continues to build from its very successful track record in research and capacity building during the past decade. By the end of 2014, PEP had helped build the scientific expertise of nearly 680 developing country researchers through the support of 212 projects in 56 developing and emerging economies – mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America.It has also contributed to enhancing the capacity of female and early career researchers - about 44% of the grantees are women. PEP support and capacity building activities have thus helped create a gender-balanced pool of young researchers equipped with cutting-edge skills to analyze local problems, generate high quality evidence and publish their research in peer-reviewed journals. PEP research has led to the publication of over 300 peer-reviewed research papers and 120 policy briefs, indicating the overall quality of the work undertaken.

While some people continue to question the relevance of policy research itself, PEP has demonstrated instances where governments have adopted new advice and information emerging from relevant, reliable and high quality research evidence. As countries demand new evidence, the best chance of success and effectiveness of policy research will therefore ultimately depend on the quality of the solutions proposed in addressing complex local development challenges. In an effort to enhance the links between research evidence and policy making, PEP has initiated a new annual platform for policy dialogue, involving researchers as well as high level policy makers, conducted during the Annual Conference.

As part of the global initiative on Policy Analysis of Growth and Employment (PAGE) implemented since 2012, PEP has made major contributions on how growth can contribute to inclusive development and job creation, especially for youth, women and the poor. During 2014, PEP supported 44 competitively selected projects in 29 developing countries –about half of which are from low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states, where the capacity development needs are extremely high. About 200 researchers have benefitted from PEP's unique capacity building approach, which combines technical training, mentorship, peer review and publications. The results from these path-breaking and locally led research efforts were discussed and widely shared during the PEP Annual Conference in Bolivia in May 2014.

PEP shall continue to strengthen its internal institutional development and complete the ongoing process of developing the new vision and strategy for 2015-2020. We are excited about the overall progress and achievements from the current PAGE initiative and strongly support a renewed effort to deepen the understanding of the remaining challenges and opportunities for growth and employment and policies for inclusive growth and sustainable development in the developing regions. This will bring fresh and solid evidence to the continuing policy debate at different levels.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I thank PEP, its management, its staff, all the partners and the donors for their commitment to enhancing the vision and global contribution of PEP. My sincere appreciation and encouragement goes to the large number researchers from the global south, for their commitment and determination, which are at the core of PEP's success and impact. As a Board, we are proud to be part of PEP's transformation and continued success, and to be able to support, in a modest way, your endeavors.



Mustapha K. Nabli
Chair, PEP Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

The Partnership for Economic Policy has achieved new milestones during 2014 in building and strengthening capacity, as well as generating rigorous evidence base, through locally-led development and economic policy research in developing countries. Since its emergence in 2002, PEP has dedicated its effort towards the development of contextualized policy solutions to key development challenges, while supporting and providing voice to local experts in the global south. A cohort of well-trained development policy researchers has emerged across countries through PEP's unique research funding, mentorship and peer-review mechanism. PEP maintains a growing and large pool of academic social scientists, researchers, practitioners and policymakers in its global network. This has helped establish a valuable platform for exchanging and debating ideas that shape current and future policies at different levels. PEP has also continued to contribute valuable tools and methods, as public goods, for the advancement of development research - including the family of PEP standard and dynamic CGE models and econometric tools for poverty analysis.

The year 2014 has seen further development of PEP as a global network and international research organization. The ongoing work on Policy Analysis of Growth and Employment (PAGE) was expanded both in terms of thematic coverage and number of projects. During 2014, PEP supported a total of 44 project teams in 29 developing countries, selected through the first and second funding rounds of the PAGE initiative – 21 of these projects are in low-income countries, fragile and/or transition states. Through these 44 projects, a total of 199 developing country researchers (52% female and 44% in LFCs) benefited from PEP's unique capacity building approach - which includes continuous training, mentorship, peer review, publications and generous grants to implement demand-driven projects.

Several of those teams selected through the first PAGE competition, in May 2013, submitted their findings and preliminary reports, which were discussed during the 2014 PEP Annual Conference in Bolivia. After a thorough peer-review and evaluation process, they have now been published into working papers and policy briefs. Some of the country teams also held their own national policy conferences to share these policy findings and conclusions with stakeholders at the national level. In 2014, PEP also selected 20 new project proposals through the second PAGE competition, and started supporting the teams in implementing these projects across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. The third PAGE call for competitive grants was also launched during 2014, for which PEP received a total of 120 proposals from 40 developing countries – indicating the growing demand for rigorous evidence and capacity building to support inclusive growth and development across the developing regions.

In 2014, PEP also held its 11th Annual Conference in Bolivia, where most research teams supported under the first two rounds of the PAGE initiative were invited to receive training and present their research outcomes or new proposals. The winners of the 2014 PEP Best Practice Awards were also recognized during this meeting. In collaboration with other regional organizations – including MIF-IDB, INESAD, CAF, etc., - a special High

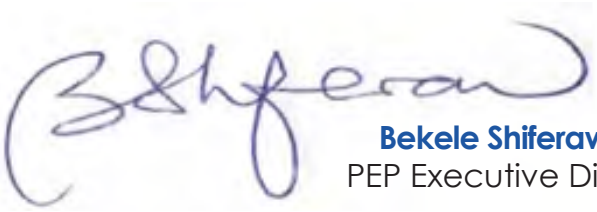
Level Policy Forum was organized on the theme "Fostering Entrepreneurship for Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction". The event featured discussion panels involving several international experts and practitioners, and resulted in the synthesis and dissemination of a set of recommendations to help define a more focused and effective research-policy action agenda.

Moreover, in collaboration with IDRC and several other institutions (including AfDB, OECD, IPAR, UEMOA, etc), PEP organized a highly successful international conference on Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa (YESSA) in Dakar, Senegal, which brought together hundreds of experts to deliberate on this pressing development challenge for Africa. The results were widely shared to inform policy choices in Africa.

This past year also marked the laying of important foundations towards establishing a vibrant institution, to continue to (and enhance its capacity) in supporting and undertaking policy research in the global south. The process of formal institutionalization of PEP was completed with the success of two major steps to secure important legal benefits and status. First, PEP obtained a tax-exempt public charity status in the USA. Second, PEP signed a host-country agreement with the Government of Kenya to establish its new headquarters in Nairobi. These are important milestones, which lay solid foundations to enable PEP to expand the breadth and scope of its activities and influence in the coming years. PEP has also launched a strategy review, to realign its mission and objectives with both the global and local development priorities, and to help guide and shape our work in the coming 3-5 years.

We also strengthened our communication to ensure that the global research and development a community will know more about the innovative and exciting research being undertaken within the wider PEP network. PEP participated in numerous global and regional fora and discussed opportunities for partnership with new donors and collaborating institutions.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of staff, local researchers, resource persons and all partners, we have achieved new heights during this past year and will continue to generate policy-relevant knowledge, training and support for developing country researchers in the years to come. We thank the donors and our development partners for their continued support and look forward to a productive partnership during the coming years.



Bekele Shiferaw, PhD.
PEP Executive Director

PEP Board of Directors

The PEP Board of Directors is composed of distinguished researchers, representatives of various stakeholders and independent global experts, who are responsible for providing managerial oversight and guidance while monitoring the overall performance of the organization.

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Indonesia

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Ex officio member

PEP Executive Director

Kenya

PEP Management Committee

The PEP Management Committee is responsible for strategic decisions related to the management of PEP, and the coordination of efforts amongst the partner institutions in the implementation of the annual program of activities, particularly in terms of thematic and regional coverage.

Bekele Shiferaw

PEP Executive Director

Kenya

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CBMS Network Leader
Angelo King Institute (AKI)
of De La Salle University

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Development Affiliates

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Marjorie Alain

Ex officio member

PEP Director of Communications
Université Laval

Canada

About pep

The **Partnership for Economic Policy** is a non-profit international organization that links researchers globally to enhance capacity for development policy analysis in developing countries. PEP research contributes to informing national and international debates related to economic policy, poverty, gender, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

PEP focuses on supporting and promoting locally-based analytical perspectives and researchers to ensure greater participation of local expertise in defining contextualized policy solutions to socioeconomic development challenges. The 'PEP Grant Plus' mechanism enables developing country researchers to overcome the usual impediments in conducting state-of-the art and reliable policy research that supports evidence-based policymaking in their home countries.

Moreover, with the continual support and interaction of world-leading experts and institutions – globally-linked through this venture – PEP has also become a veritable hub of expertise, knowledge and innovation in the field of economic and development policy analysis in developing countries. Indeed, some of the most valuable tools in the field of development research today have emerged directly from PEP research (see page 11), and the extensive experience of PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons in the analysis of poverty, gender and economic development in the specific context of developing countries.

Over the past few years, PEP has thus come to be regarded throughout the world as an important source of expertise, in terms both of its distinctive approach to research capacity building and the innovative research methodologies it utilizes.

As a reputed supra-national research institution, PEP also provides the necessary infrastructure for Southern experts to participate in (and bid for) major international initiatives; which, in turn, contributes to establishing their national and international reputations and level the playing field with their Northern counterparts. By catalyzing their in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP research favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.

Vision

A global network that brings together researchers and research institutions from around the world, to build capacity and undertake research that provides contextualized solutions to key economic and social policy challenges in developing countries.

Mission

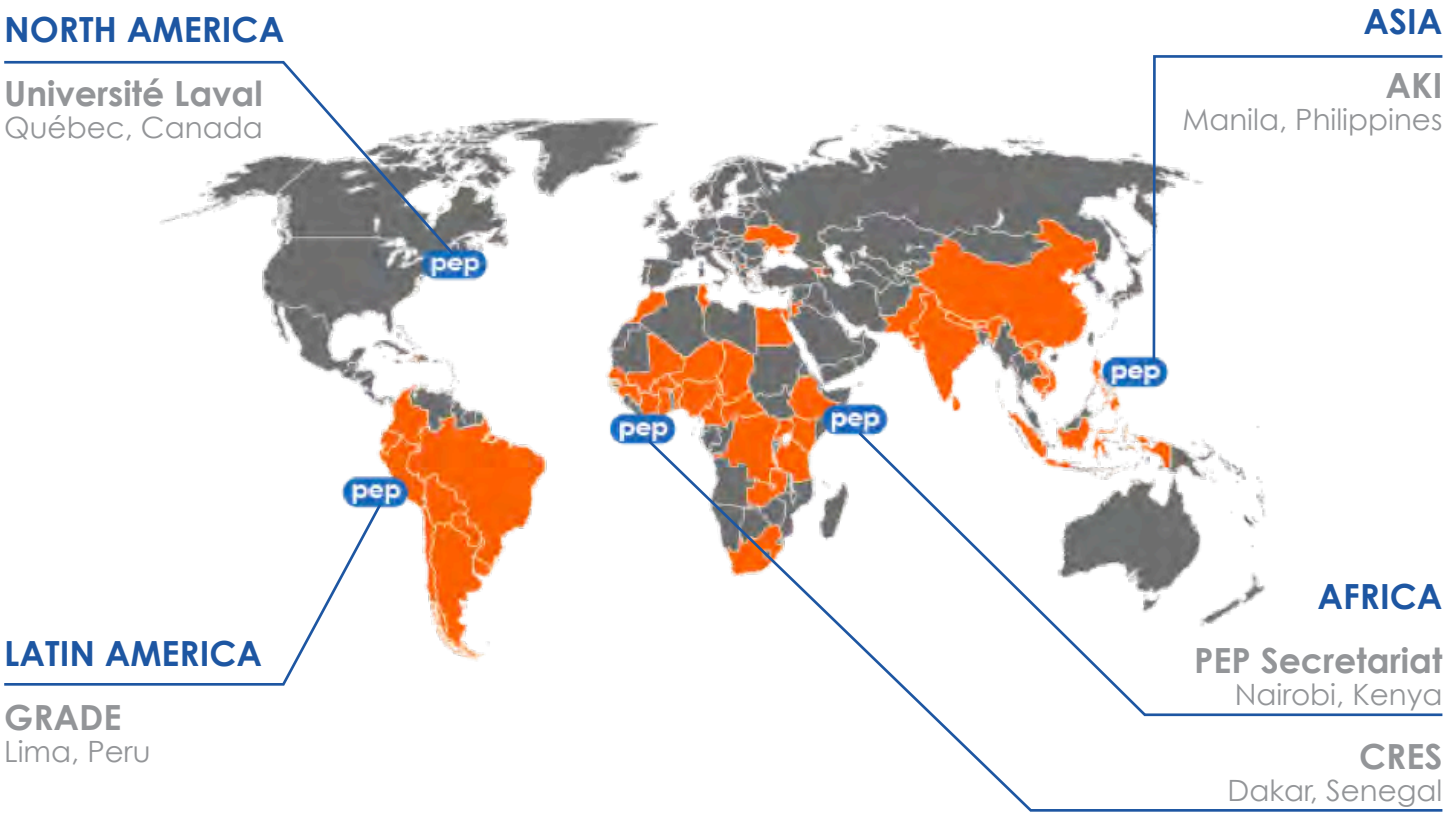
PEP's mission is to build research capacity in the South and to put this capacity to work, where it is most needed, to generate relevant evidence base for development policy.

Global scope and linkages

Since 2002, PEP has evolved into a global partnership, with regional partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America, collaborating to manage its activities worldwide.

To this day, PEP has contributed to building the scientific expertise of nearly **680** developing country researchers, through the support of **212** projects in **56** developing and emerging economies – mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also in Eastern Europe and the Middle-East.

By the end of 2014, over **11,000** people had registered on the PEP website – i.e. to participate in and follow PEP news and activities – worldwide.



From building to promoting local expertise in developing countries

In recent years, PEP has become increasingly active in going beyond its core capacity building activities to promote and facilitate the mobilization of local experts in key national and international research initiatives.

These special, often large-scale projects – usually focused on emerging development policy issues – are conducted either through joint research initiatives, in collaboration with specific donors, and/or as commissioned studies deputed by national or international institutions. Indeed, PEP initiatives around the world are also usually implemented in collaboration with other academic and/or governmental institutions – contributing to build a network of truly global scope.

In all cases, these initiatives are the result of institutions calling on PEP's unique expertise and extensive experience in managing international projects of high-quality research, producing reliable evidence for policy advocacy, providing scientific support and/or building related local capacity.

Started with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP is now a multi-donor funded international organization that receives support from a growing list of institutions. Since its establishment, PEP has received support from:

- Australian Agency for International Development — AusAID
- Canadian International Development Agency — CIDA
- Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom — UK Aid
- Inter-American Development Bank — IADB
- International Development Research Centre — IDRC
- International Food Policy Research Institute — IFPRI
- International Labour Organization — ILO
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research — NWO
- United Nations Children Fund — UNICEF
- United Nations Development Programme — UNDP
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women — UN Women
- World Bank Group — WBG

Several PEP initiatives have also been deputed directly by national governments in developing countries, especially in Africa – including the governments of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Uganda.

Research and capacity building

Among the several peerless features of PEP is the **breadth of analytical perspectives, tools and techniques** in which PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons specialize – and that granted researchers can choose to apply and be trained in via PEP support.

In several cases, the development of these tools and techniques – acknowledged worldwide as some of the most valuable tools in the field of development policy research - has been stimulated by their application in research projects supported by PEP, as well as through innovations introduced by PEP's teams of international experts – see programs' descriptions below.

PEP currently has four global research programs that contribute to capacity building of developing country researchers, while producing locally relevant knowledge and an evidence base through different methodological approaches.

PEP research programs

Community-based welfare monitoring systems

Developing and implementing local poverty monitoring systems to track a variety of welfare indicators at the household level, collecting data that will provide detailed measurement of poverty in a multidimensional sense. Often implemented in collaboration with local government units, community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) provide low-cost and reliable information in the absence of comprehensive national statistical databases for assessing the extent of multidimensional poverty and identifying the poor.

Macro-micro development policy modeling

Building and using economy-wide models as "laboratorie" to simulate macro policies/shocks and their impacts on welfare at the household level. This program combines sophisticated techniques of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling and household survey-based microsimulation. Research supported in this program has also led to the creation, by PEP-affiliated experts, of a series of reference CGE models which have since been uploaded and used by over 1373 researchers and policy analysts in 112 countries around the world. These models are now referred to as the some of the most advanced and relevant tools in the field of economic modeling.

Impact evaluations and RCTs

Using experimental or non-experimental approaches to provide rigorous assessments of the impacts – including both expected benefits and unintended effects – of programs and policies on a variety of outcomes. Impact evaluations can be done either "ex-ante"to assess the potential impacts, or "ex-post" to estimate the actual social gains after the program. Experimental approaches include the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and field experiments.

Microeconomic analysis of poverty, equity and development

Designing and applying concepts, techniques and tools to measure and analyze development issues at the microeconomic level in a multidimensional setting, primarily using household survey data. Through this program, researchers are enabled to use complex monitoring and measurement techniques to build comprehensive "profiles" of the state of welfare or development amongst target populations, which are then used to inform policy decisions. Research activities conducted through this program have stimulated the development, by PEP-affiliated experts, of innovative software tools for poverty and distributive analysis, DAD and DASP (for Stata) – these particular tools have been downloaded, respectively, by 6649 and 6012 users in all 197 countries of the world.

PEP "Grant Plus" mechanism

Helping local analysts meet the highest international standards

Once selected for support under the PEP program, and in addition to **research funding,** selected research teams are provided with **training** (PEP schools), **resources** (e.g. software tools, online journals, international databases, etc.) and **mentoring** (PEP resource person assigned to each project as mentor). They may also receive financial support for a 3-4 week international **study visit** at the institution of their choice.

The progress of each project's research work is carefully monitored through ongoing interaction with PEP resource persons (experts in the relevant methods and policy issues) and periodic progress reports. Interim and final research reports are requested and each receives detailed comments and suggestions – often resulting in several revisions.

Thanks to this ongoing support and review mechanism, as well as to the continued support of world-renowned experts in development economics, the evidence produced in the context of PEP-supported research is **guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality – with the unique trait of systematically providing a locally-based analytical perspective.**

Research themes and issues

Through these various approaches, PEP research can explore a broad range of policy issues related to development and poverty reduction, while producing comprehensive and disaggregated analyses to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of the evidence base.

The thematic coverage of PEP policy research has indeed widened over time, spanning several development policy challenges in support of broader social and economic development around the MDGs in the developing regions.

- **Analysis of poverty and inequality**
- **Gender & women's empowerment**
- **Inclusive growth**
- **Education**
- **Health**
- **Social protection**
- **Agriculture, food and nutrition**
- **Child well-being**
- **Labor markets**
- **Environment and sustainable development**
- **Youth employment**
- **Macro policy modeling and targeting**
- **Governance**
- **Impact of government programs**
- **Impact of crises**
- **Globalization, markets and trade**
- **Financial inclusion**
- **Fiscal policy**

Policy engagement

In order to ensure policy responsiveness of PEP research, all PEP projects are designed in consultation with policymakers, stakeholders and/or advisors, who help identify the most salient needs and gaps in terms of the evidence base.

PEP also devotes extensive resources to assist its researchers in creating strong policy linkages and implementing effective influence strategies, especially at the national level. Each supported project team is expected to demonstrate that relevant policymakers and stakeholders are being informed and consulted with on a regular basis, all throughout the project cycle.

Moreover, as part of the PEP "Grant Plus" support program, the research teams are provided with a series of complementary grants to organize or participate in activities related to the dissemination of their findings and ensuing policy recommendations.

These activities include the organization of national policy conferences, contacting national mass media, presentations in relevant international conferences and various publications (working papers, policy briefs, journal articles, etc.).

In addition to ensuring dissemination of their research findings to inform policy, these activities contribute to increasing the researchers' exposure, and thus building their reputation as experts in the field, at the national and international levels.

Finally, PEP also endeavors to link the research evidence with policy action through its annual conferences, which feature a special Policy Forum that brings together researchers and key policymakers to dialogue on the research evidence, lessons and implications for policy.

Recent institutional developments

In 2014, PEP has achieved new milestones towards its establishment as a global and go-to organization for high-quality development policy research and related capacity building in developing countries.

After becoming a legally incorporated international non-profit organization (in 2013), PEP has now been recognized as an IRC Sec. 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization with public charity status under Sec. 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Service of the US Department of Treasury.

As a legally registered and tax-exempt public charity organization, PEP is now qualified to receive tax-deductible funds, bequests, gifts and transfers for its non-profit research and capacity building activities.

The organization has also been granted residence in Kenya, based on a comprehensive host-country agreement signed with the national Government, to establish its global head office in Nairobi.

This hosting agreement gives PEP a full-fledged international status with certain diplomatic and tax-exemption privileges that facilitate recruitment of international staff as well as planning and implementation of its operations in Kenya and other target regions of the world.

A new senior Financial Officer has also been recruited and taken office at the PEP Global Secretariat in Nairobi, in December 2014.

PEP had initially emerged from a special research program, implemented in 1990 by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, to examine the micro impacts of macroeconomics and adjustment polices (MIMAP).

In 2002, the two main institutions involved in this joint initiative, Université Laval in Canada and the Angelo King Institute in Philippines, took the lead in transforming PEP into an international network of developing country researchers and institutions and, subsequently, into a global research organization.

PAGE

policy analysis on growth and employment

In 2012, with support from the **UK Department for International Development (UK Aid)** and **Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC),** PEP launched a new initiative to support a series of locally-led projects of "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment" (PAGE) in developing countries. This initiative draws on PEP's unique expertise and experience in building and promoting local capacities for economic and policy research, as well as in coordinating international research initiatives.

In addition to capacity building, the PAGE initiative aims to fill current evidence gaps on growth and employment, through the application of cutting-edge methodologies for analysis of local policy issues in selected countries.

The objective is to generate reliable evidence to assist in promoting inclusive growth through improved policies related to labour markets, social protection and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

To build and promote local capacities in target countries

In line with PEP's core mission, the PAGE initiative includes an important **capacity building component,** and thus the selection of a number of teams of individual researchers, based in developing countries, to benefit from the unique and manifold **PEP "Grant Plus" support program** in the conduct of high quality research projects.

As described on page 12, this includes the allocation of various resources, intensive training workshops (PEP Schools) in relevant research methods, ongoing mentoring and technical support, participation in an international study visit, as well as a unique international peer-review experience, from the inception to conclusion of the project.

Low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states

One particular feature of the PAGE program is that, although proposals are welcome from all developing countries, priority is given to researchers from and based in low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states (LFCs).

At least 40% of the projects supported under the PAGE initiatives are led by research teams based in LFCs.

For the analysis of specific and country-relevant policy issues

In order to ensure the policy relevance and responsiveness of the PAGE projects, PEP has called upon a group of five policy specialists and stakeholders from different regions of the world (the **PAGE policy group**) to identify a **list of priority issues,** under the broad theme of inclusive growth and employment, that are especially relevant to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of the evidence base.

Priority issues identified for each of the three PAGE calls for proposals include:

- **Providing social protection to the informal sector**
- **Safety net complementarities**
- **Youth employment and entrepreneurship**
- **Employment intensity of non-agricultural growth**
- **Entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender**
- **Discrimination in credit access for female entrepreneurs**
- **China's growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries**
- **Improving the targeting of public expenditures and social assistance**
- **Design of minimum wage policies and impact on youth and female workers**
- **The inclusiveness of growth: the role of labor markets**
- **Natural resources and employment**
- **Micro and small enterprises for economic empowerment and poverty reduction**

Selection and support of PAGE projects

PAGE research teams are selected on a highly competitive basis, through a series of open calls for proposals that were launched annually – in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Out of the 420 project proposals submitted (under these three calls) by applicant research teams in developing countries, over 36% (152) were from LFCs.

Both the selection process, which is still ongoing for the 3rd (and final) PAGE competition, and the evaluation of outputs before publication involve a unique system of international peer-reviewing. Each proposal and draft paper is reviewed and commented by at least four international experts (in relevant areas), including both PEP resource persons and external evaluators.

So far, 44 research project teams in 29 developing countries have been selected and supported by PEP under the two first rounds of PAGE funding - 21 (48%) of these projects are in LFCs.

Together, these projects have contributed to building, strengthening and promoting the expertise of **199 developing country researchers, including 103 (52%) women and 88 (44%) in LFCs** – 87 of these researchers have benefited from intensive training workshops, 32 from an international study visit and 11 from a field visit of their PEP mentors in their home country. All of them have also benefited from the review of their work by international experts and peers.

Key findings from some of the projects supported under the first PAGE round are presented on pages 22 to 26., and a few example of the impact of PEP support through these projects on pages 29 to 32.

For evidence-based policymaking

Amongst the main criteria for selection of those project proposals to be supported under the PAGE program, applicant research teams must clearly demonstrate that the research issues/questions:

- are **responsive to specific needs in terms of evidence base** to inform policymaking in the concerned country;
- have been **identified following consultations with relevant national policymakers** and stakeholders.

The latter criterion ensures that all project teams selected for support have already established contact with the most strategic potential research users and decision-makers, who are thus informed of the project and its objectives at the earliest stage (to maximize chances of future collaboration and uptake).

The research teams must also provide a detailed "policy influence plan", including an approximate calendar for further consultations to be undertaken - with targeted policy stakeholders - all throughout the project lifecycle, as well as relevant dissemination activities (publications, conferences, media, etc.).

These activities and related progress in terms of policy outreach must also be reported periodically, and are closely monitored by PEP staff.

As a result, all research teams selected under the two first rounds of PAGE funding (in 2013 and 2014) have been actively engaged in the implementation of effective policy outreach and influence strategies, involving the most relevant and strategic users of their policy findings.

In fact, some of these projects, from the first PAGE round have even been rewarded for outstanding efforts in that regard, through the 2014 (and first) edition of the **PEP Best Practice Awards.** Theirs and other successful policy outreach and impact stories are presented on pages 26 to 37.

Projects supported under the PAGE initiative
Rounds 1 and 2

Below is the list of projects supported under the first two rounds of PAGE funding – all these research teams (involving a total of 199 developing country researchers) have benefited from the unique and manifold PEP support program - including ongoing mentoring and technical assistance from PEP staff - in 2014.

Country	Project title	Selected in
Macro-micro development policy modeling		
Burkina Faso	Assessing the Impact of China's Economic and Trade Expansion on Poverty in Burkina Faso	2013
Cambodia	Impacts of Macroeconomic Policies on Growth, Employment and Poverty: A CGE analysis for Cambodia	2013
Central African Rep.	China's Growth; an Opportunity for the Economy of the Central African Republic?	2013
Niger	Impact of Oil and Mining Sectors' Boom on Labour Market and Economic Development in Niger	2013
Cameroon	Socioeconomic Analysis of Informal Employment in Cameroon	2014
India	Trade Liberalisation and Employment Effects in Indian Manufacturing: An Empirical Assessment	2014
Cameroon	Macroeconomic Implications of Female Entrepreneurs Facing Financial Frictions to Access Credit	2014
Colombia	Dutch Disease, Informality, and Employment Intensity in Colombia	2014
Mongolia	A Static CGE Model of the Mongolian Economy	2014
Niger	Development of Extractive Industries and Public Spending Policies in Niger: A Dynamic CGE Approach	2014
Impact evaluations using randomized controlled trials (RCTs)		
Mongolia	The Impacts of Vocational Training Programs on the Duration of Youth Unemployment in Mongolia	2013
Nigeria	Randomized Evaluation of an Unconditional Cash Transfer Scheme for the Elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria	2013
Uganda	Beyond Technical Skills Training: the Impact of Credit Counseling on Entrepreneurial Behavior of Ugandan Youth	2013
Ghana	Enhancing Productive Firm Assets: A RCT on an Innovative Savings-Loan Product for Female Entrepreneurs in Ghana	2013

Country	Project title	Selected in
Microeconomic analysis		
Chad	School Choice and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad	2013
Argentina	Social Protection to the Informal Sector: The Role of Minimum Wage and Income Transfer Policies	2013
Cambodia	Labour Migration in Cambodia: Causes and Impact on Poverty, Inequality, and Productivity	2013
Nigeria	Is There Discrimination against Women Entrepreneurs in Formal Credit Markets in Nigeria?	2013
Occupied Palestinian Territory	Risk Tolerance, Gender, and Entrepreneurship: The case of the occupied Palestinian territory	2013
Macedonia	Youth Self-employment in Households Receiving Remittances in Macedonia	2013
Congo, D.R.	Internal Mobility and Youth Entrepreneurship in Democratic Rep. of Congo	2013
Bangladesh	Access to Credit and Women Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Bangladesh	2013
China	Land Tenure Policy and Women's Off-farm Employment in Rural China	2014
Niger	Spillovers from Self-employment Opportunities in Rural Niger	2014
Vietnam	Employment Intensity of Non-farm Growth: the Case of Vietnam	2014
Senegal	Migration, Remittances, Labor Market and Human Capital in Senegal	2014
Macedonia	Mismatch Unemployment: the case of Macedonia -with special reference to young adults	2014
Kyrgyzstan	Remittances Impact on Youth Labor Supply: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan	2014
Bolivia	A Propensity-Score Matching Evaluation of the Social Impacts of Micro-Financing on Municipalities and Households in Bolivia	2014
Macedonia	Voucher System for Social Protection of the Socially Vulnerable Remittance-Receivers in Macedonia	2014
Senegal	Female Entrepreneurship, Access to Credit, and Firms' Productivity in Senegal	2014
Nigeria	The Impact of a Rural Microcredit and Financial Inclusion Schemes Targeting Women, on Household Vulnerability and Economic Empowerment: Evidence from South West Nigeria	2014

Country	Project title	Selected in
Community-based welfare monitoring systems		
Bangladesh	Institutionalizing Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS)	2013
Bolivia	Toward a Community Based Monitoring System for Santa Cruz de la Sierra	2013
Haiti	Developing a System of Communal Statistics in Two Municipalities of Haiti	2013
Niger	Measuring the Impact of Economic Programs in Niger through a Mechanism of Poverty Monitoring at the Community Level	2013
Pakistan	CBMS Development Initiative to Reap the Demographic Dividend in the Helm of 18th Amendment in Pakistan	2013
Tanzania	The Link between Youth Unemployment and Vulnerability in Tanzania: Case Study of Bukoba Urban District	2013
Burkina Faso	Strengthening the Use of a "Community-based Poverty Monitoring System" to Provide Evidence Base for Policies Related to Social Protection and Child Welfare in the Communities of Diebougou and Koper	2013
Argentina	Expanding the Community-based Poverty Monitoring System in Argentina	2013
Ethiopia	Challenges and Prospects of Entrepreneurship and Job Creation for Youth Employment in Two Federal-administered Cities of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa).	2014
Togo	Willingness of the Togolese Informal Sector Workers to Pay for Access to Social Protection	2014
Kenya	Entrepreneurship as a Mechanism to Address Youth Unemployment and Poverty in Kenya: Case Study of Murang'a County	2014
South Africa	An Examination of Multidimensional Poverty, Youth Unemployment and Entrepreneurship in Limpopo Province	2014

Policy findings from PAGE projects in 2014

Below is a series of brief accounts summarizing the key findings from a sample of research projects supported under the first round of PAGE funding, and which were concluded in 2014.

Macedonia • Youth Self-employment in Households Receiving Remittances

While the youth unemployment rate is persistently high in Macedonia (around 55%) remittance inflows represent, on average, about 4% of the country's GDP. The usage made of such income by recipient households remain, however, largely unknown. Results from this analysis show that youth living in households receiving remittances have 28% to 33% higher probability to establish their own business compared to the non-youth non-receiving counterparts. The researchers propose various policy options to help channel remittances so as to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth.

PEP publications

Working paper 2014-08 | Policy brief 115

Research team and authors

Nikica M.-Blazevsk, Marjan Petreski, Maja Nestorovska and Edi Smokvarski

Nigeria • Is There Discrimination against Women Entrepreneurs in Formal Credit Markets?

Contrary to the results of other recent studies, this PEP-supported study did not find evidence of significant discrimination against women in formal credit markets in Nigeria. However, the results show that micro/small enterprises are significantly more "credit-constrained" relative to medium enterprises. And the fact that women entrepreneurs are mostly involved in small and micro ventures suggests that access to formal credit is, nonetheless, a big constraint to the growth of women enterprises at that level in Nigeria.

PEP publications

Working paper 2015-01 | Policy brief 116

Research team and authors

Emmanuel Nwosu, Anthony Orji, Chioma Nwangwu and Vivian Nnetu

Cambodia • Impacts of Trade Policies on Growth, Employment and Poverty

Results from this study show that tariff elimination leads to an expansion in production outputs and an increase in export/import volumes. Government policy for indirect tax-led revenue compensation results in the change of structural production output, favoring the manufacturing industry - versus agriculture and service sectors. However, in general, the gains in terms of welfare at the household level are small and, for some populations living in "remote" areas, the effects are in fact negative.

PEP publications Working paper 2015-08 | Policy brief 123

Research team and authors Dyna Heng, Kanga Em, Senh Senghor, Sokrachany Ngim, Sothy Ear and Theary Chan

Argentina • Social Protection to the Informal Sector: Role of Minimum Wage and Income Transfer Policies

The aim of this study was to produce evidence regarding the consequences that modifications of minimum wage and income transfer policies have had on the functioning of the labour market, over the period 2001 to 2012, with special emphasis on the informal sector. Among other things, the researchers have found that, in Argentina, increasing the minimum wage level does not reduce employment, nor increase informality, and that conditional cash transfers do not reduce the economic participation of beneficiaries.

PEP publications Working paper 2015-05 | Policy brief 120

Research team and authors Fernando A, Groisman, Maria Soledad Cubas, Albano B. Vergara, Santiago Boffi, Analia Calero and Maria Eugenia Sconfienza

Chad • Education Language Choice and Youth Entrepreneurship

This project examines the effects of the choice of language for education (French, Arabic or bilingual) on self-employment and firms' performance in Chad. Results from the analysis show that young people who choose Arabic instead of French as educational language are more likely to become entrepreneurs; however, such type of entrepreneurship is undertaken as a means for subsistence rather than profit-seeking activities.

PEP publications Working paper 2015-02 | Policy brief 117

Research team and authors Mallaye Douzounet, Urbain Thierry Togo, Eurydice Tormal Gosngar, Koulké Blandine Nan-Guer and Benjamin Fomba Kamga

Cambodia • Estimating the Effects of Migration and Remittances on the Left-behind

While the results from this analysis project show that emigration and remittances have positive impact on the poverty headcount (reduction of 2 to 5%) in Cambodia, the researchers also find that they can, in turn, generate a "dependency effect" among left-behind members, due to a decrease of 5 to 9% in hours worked by (employed) adults in the migrant-sending household, as well as a decrease in the total salary earnings.

PEP publications Working paper 2015-06 | Policy brief 119

Research team and authors Vutha Hing, Dalis Phann, Roth Vathana and Sreymom Sum

Niger • Impact of Oil and Mining Sectors' Boom on Labour Market and Economic Development

The results of this impact analysis – conducted using CGE modeling and simulation techniques - show, on the one hand, that the increase in mining and oil revenue does not systematically lead to Dutch disease if the government implements appropriate policies. On the other hand, the best policy option identified (through the simulations) as yielding the most benefits in terms of economic growth, employment and household welfare (i.e. development) is to use these revenues to subsidize electricity consumption for the industrial sector.

PEP publications Working paper 2015-04 | Policy brief 121

Research team and authors Saadatou Sangare Alkassoum, Youssoufou Hamadou Daouda, Mamane Boukari and Fatima Ousseini Falalou

Burkina Faso • Assessing the Impact of China's Economic and Trade Expansion on Poverty

Through a series of simulations conducted using a CGE model of their national economy, this team of PEP researchers has found that the increasing presence and relations of China in/with Burkina Faso have a generally positive impact on growth, employment and welfare in the country. However, these relations should be overseen by policy makers to ensure that Chinese investments will be directed in areas/ sectors of production that are most likely to generate positive effects for the whole of Burkina's economy and population.

PEP publications Working paper 2015-03 | Policy brief 122

Research team and authors Boureima Sawadogo, Fidèle Bama, Tegawende Juliette Nana, Hama Maimouna Natama, Emma Tapsoba and Zerbo Kassoum

Bolivia • Implementation of a Community-based Monitoring System in Santa Cruz de la Sierra

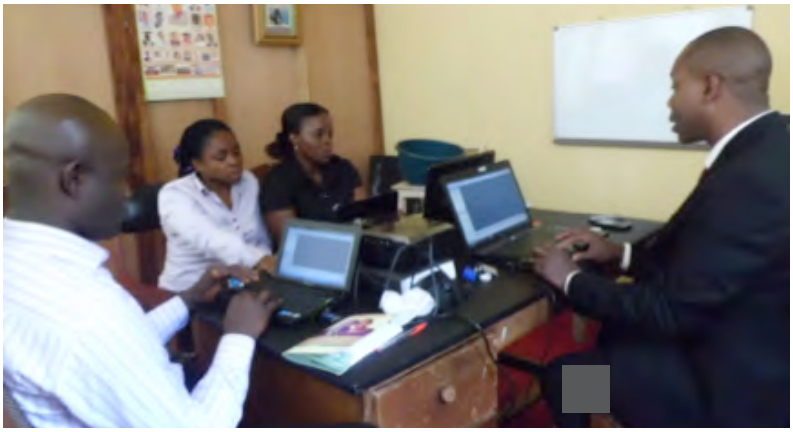
The implementation of a community-based monitoring system, as a multidimensional poverty assessment tool, in a community of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), has contributed to generating a unique set of disaggregated (household-level) data on various welfare indicators, which is expected to lead to more equitable resource allocations through targeted social assistance programs. The analysis of the data collected so far shows that the levels of deprivation in different (monetary and non-monetary) dimensions of welfare, and thus the related needs, vary significantly amongst populations living in different areas of the same municipality.

Moreover, the CBMS methodology has made it possible to assess the impact of the implementation of public policies in different areas, as well as associated risks and vulnerabilities. Indeed, the CBMS dataset represents a baseline and detailed observation of the conditions of multidimensional poverty, which can be evaluated and compared in the future against changes in the use of social programs. Finally, such data also allows for ex-ante analysis of the distribution of resources, types of prevention, both mitigating and coping strategies, as well as of the likelihood of future vulnerability to poverty, for specific groups of population.

Research team and authors

Project led by the Fundacion ARU, involving a team of researchers co-led by Werner Hernani-Limarino and Wilson Jimenez

Impact of PAGE in developing countries



Assessing the impact of development policy research – not to mention of related capacity building program - is one of the field's most challenging tasks, especially in terms of quantitatively measured outcomes. Over the past few years however, PEP has devoted extensive resources to develop and implement an effective "Monitoring and Evaluation" system to track the progress and achievement of its core objectives, based on a series of pre-determined performance indicators.

Through this M&E system, all PEP-supported research teams are required to complete (and update, periodically) a series of online "technical report forms", covering activities and progress achieved (through their PEP project) in terms of research, capacity building, consultation of policy stakeholders, dissemination of findings, promotion of local expertise and informing policy (or research uptake).

Only 18 months after their proposals were selected by PEP, reports from the research teams supported under the first round of PAGE funding suggest that these activities have already yielded impressive results in all of these areas. For example, in terms of career advancement for the beneficiaries, **69% have reported experiencing important career-promoting events** as a consequence of their involvement in the PEP project, and 30% have experienced career events **leading to increased access to/involvement in policy making and advisory processes.**

Indeed, testimonies from Round 1 teams suggest that their policy outreach activities – undertaken as a condition for initial project selection and subsequent grant payments, and monitored by PEP on a continual basis – have contributed to providing unprecedented exposure to the researchers and their research findings at the national/policy level. Indeed, they have **built their reputations as go-to experts amongst relevant stakeholders and institutions.** Several have even been hired directly by the Ministries and other government agencies with which they had initially established contact to discuss their PEP project.

Finally, according to the teams' reports, **38% of the Round 1 projects** (several of which are not yet even completed) **have already resulted in findings taken-up to inform and assist in policy debates or decisions.**

The tables on pages 27-28 present these and other statistics regarding the impact of the PAGE initiative on the beneficiary researchers and countries, followed by a few examples of successful policy outreach and impact stories.
involving a total of 136 researchers.

Both the statistics and narratives that follow were collected through the technical report forms submitted by 32 of the 44 research teams supported under the first and/or second round of the PAGE programme – involving a total of 136 researchers.

As their projects differ substantially in kind, those (12 teams) supported in the implementation/use of community-based monitoring system (CBMS) are not required to submit online technical reports. However, examples of CBMS projects' outcomes are provided (in the form of narratives) on pages 32 and 36.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Average age of supported researchers (at the time of project selection)	35
Supported female researchers	55%
Female project team leaders	26%
Researchers who have learned and/or taken up new research practice:	
New research methodologies[1]	98%
New analytical concepts	96%
New software tools[2]	90%
New scientific literature	92%

1. *Related to methods of impact evaluations (including randomized controlled trials), CGE modelling and macro-micro policy simulations, as well as various techniques of microeconomic (distributive) analysis.*
2. *Mainly STATA, GAMS, SPSS, CSPro and Optimal design.*

PROMOTION OF LOCAL EXPERTISE

% of researchers who have experienced:	
a "career-promotional event" due to their involvement in this PEP-PAGE project[1]	56%
Round 1 researchers (selected in 2013)	69%
Round 2 researchers (selected in 2014)	40%
a "career-promoting event" leading to increased policy influence	22%
Round 1 researchers (selected in 2013)	30%
Round 2 researchers (selected in 2014)	8%

Projects that resulted in:	
• research team members getting hired or promoted	38%
• the undertaking of parallel research studies, commissioned by other institutions	25%
• further funding for researcher(s) or their institution(s)	25%

1. *Any event that has contributed to or resulted from the acknowledgement, promotion or exposure of their new expertise, e.g. recruitment or promotion to a higher position (in either academic or policy institutions), winning a scientific award, earning an important research grant, presentation of their work/findings in a national or international event, or in a stakeholders meeting, etc.*

DISSEMINATION and IMPACT

Projects presented at a national-level policy conference	
Round 1 projects	44%
Round 2 projects	20%
Projects presented at an international conference	
Round 1 projects	38%
Round 2 projects	13%
Projects that benefited from media coverage (reported in radio, newspapers, television, etc.)	
Round 1 projects	38%
Round 2 projects	13%
Project findings taken-up to inform/assist in policy decisions or debates (Round 1 only[1]).	38%

1. *Those projects supported under the second round of PAGE had not yet produced findings by the end of 2014. However, is it important to note also that only 10 (63%) of the 16 projects supported under Round 1 (whose teams were monitored through PEP technical reports, and thus part of this survey) were, in fact, completed by that time – as 4 of them involve long term data collection (with project lifecycles that can last up to three years) and 2 were granted a one-year delay to present their findings, due to special constraints. This would suggest that more than half (60%) of those projects completed under the PAGE initiative so far have resulted in findings taken-up to inform policymaking.*

PAGE impact stories

The following section presents a few examples of PAGE projects in which the initiatives of the research teams for policy outreach have been successful and resulted in significant benefits in terms of promotion of local expertise and better-informed policymaking at the national level.

Argentina • Direct feed from PEP research to government consultations and debates over minimum wage and income transfer policies

This project analyzes the characteristics of minimum wage and income transfer policies implemented in Argentina, over the period of 2001 to 2012. The objective is to produce evidence regarding the incentives/ disincentives that these policies might have generated in the labour market, as well as to assess their effects on employment, wages and distribution, with special emphasis on the informal sector (their key findings are summarized on page 23).

All throughout the project lifecycle, the research team was called upon by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security to participate in periodic consultation meetings with top officials from the Ministry (including, at some point, the Minister himself), as well as invited representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office in Buenos Aires and other relevant institutions. Through these meetings, they were asked to provide inputs (based on the evidence produced in their PEP project) to inform discussions and debates regarding the «formulation/revision of the national labour policy» - in order to enhance the quantity and quality of employment in Argentina.

As a result of these consultations, two national observatories were created: the "Minimum Wage Observatory" and the "Social Protection Observatory". Through these Observatories, the PEP researchers were mandated to produce monthly reports in order to provide information on the evolution, characteristics and scope of the minimum wage and social protection policies. These reports were sent to several institutions - including government agencies, such as the Ministry of Labour, Working Committees of the Senate, but also international agencies (such as ILO), chambers of commerce and trade unions - in order to provide inputs for decision-making.

In addition, the consultations held between the research team and the Ministry of Labour have resulted in the decision to develop a special research programme on income transfer for youth. Through this initiative, the researchers will collaborate with Labor Ministry officials to exploit the database of the more than 700,000 young beneficiaries of the Ministry's employment programs.

Other consultation activities with academics from different universities – of Kassel and Berlin (in Germany), of Campinas (Brazil), and of California (US) – as well as the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (of Germany) have resulted in projects of cooperation (between the PEP research team and these institutions) for the study of issues related to minimum wage and income transfer policies.

Furthermore, the research team has been invited by ILO to contribute to an upcoming publication (book) with a full chapter on minimum wage, as well as to participate in a series of conferences to be organized in order to discuss in depth about the various issues and implications of their research findings.

The team has also had the opportunity to present their project in several conferences at both the national and international levels, and for both academic and policy audiences – including a special policy conference, organized by the team, in November 2014 (see page 53). Finally, their continual interaction with national-level mass media has resulted in numerous reports, interviews, etc. via press, radio and television.

Cambodia • A PEP project brings a wind of change in the field and practices of policy analysis

As it prepares for the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC, by the end of 2015), trade liberalization and economic integration (both regional and international) have become top policy priorities for the Royal Government of Cambodia in recent years. This strategy has been elaborated in a number of Government policy frameworks and yet no evidence from in-depth analysis had yet been produced to support such policies, i.e. to measure the potential costs and benefits, especially in terms of growth and employment, of increased trade liberalization.

In this context, a team of local researchers sought PEP support to build and apply tools of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling and simulation techniques, in order to produce a rigorous assessment of the impacts of Cambodia's trade liberalization (and related changes in fiscal policy) on growth, employment and poverty in the country. Their key findings are summarized on page 23.

Throughout the project lifecycle, the team has held several consultation meetings with the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the National Institute of Statistics and UNICEF-Cambodia. The SNEC, in particular, is a highly strategic audience, as the top economic think tank for the Royal Government of Cambodia, and the main and most influential institution in economic policymaking, with direct access to the Prime Minister.

These meetings and discussions have contributed to raising keen interest, amidst those institutions, for the researchers' new expertise and the potential uses of the CGE model they have developed. UNICEF decided to sponsor a CGE training workshop (held in collaboration with the PEP team) for economists at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC) – both institutions are thus currently building their capacity in the CGE methodology, to promote evidence-based policymaking in Cambodia. The research team members have also been asked (e.g. by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training) to lead new research projects using the same tools and methods, while UNICEF has advocated for the application of the new CGE tools to analyze the impact of fiscal efficiency on child welfare and social protection.

As a result of the interactions and networking with policymakers and Cambodian economists during the PEP study, the project team leader was appointed president of Cambodian Economic Association in January 2014. He was also invited, in September 2014, to join the IMF Economist Program in Washington DC – the first Cambodian economist to ever participate in this program. Dr. Heng commented: "My knowledge, experience,

and confidence on the analysis of macroeconomic issue and sectoral interaction built during the PEP study period have helped me to be one of the successful applicants out of 1500 PhD applicants in economics from around the world". Other team members were also offered important positions at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as well as in major banks and think tanks in Cambodia.

In November 2014, the team organized a policy roundtable - as described on page 53 - to officially present and discuss their findings and related policy implications with relevant stakeholders at the national level. Several high-level attendants who participated in the discussion, including the Minister of Commerce himself, acknowledged the importance of both the evidence produced, to inform current and future policies, and the expertise built through this project, as well as the need to maintain the channel of communication between the local experts and decision-makers.

Central African Republic • Research tools and expertise built with PEP support draw attention amidst government institutions

The objective of this PEP-supported study is to assess the impact of Chinese investments in Central African Republic (CAR), through the construction and use of a CGE model of the national economy, to conduct various simulations. The team has also been working on building the country's first Social Accounting Matrix (SAM), which will be used in further research initiatives, as will the CGE model.

From the onset of the project, the team has held several consultation meetings in which an impressive number of high-level government officials (including three Ministers) have taken part – from the Presidency of the Republic, as well as from the Ministries of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, Economy of Solidarity and Microfinance, Finance and Budget, and Agriculture. These meetings have contributed to raising considerable interest, amidst government, in both the project itself and the new expertise and tools being built with PEP support.

In March 2014, the team presented its progress report during a special meeting held at/with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, during which the Minister herself offered help to assist the team in gathering data and overcoming any obstacles they may encounter. The Director of Cabinet has also requested to work with them again in the future. In the same month, the project leader was contacted by the Ministry of Agriculture and asked to support analysis of rural issues, with the new tools build through the PEP project (SAM and CGE model), as well as to provide training in CGE modelling for the Ministries' senior analysts and officials.

A few months later (August 2014), a similar meeting was held at the Ministry of Finance and Budget. The team's advocacy within this Ministry, especially with the "Monitoring of Economic/Financial Reforms Unit", has resulted in the incorporation of new objectives/agenda for analysis/research initiatives as part of the Unit's 2015-2016 Action Plan, to use and develop tools and expertise for CGE modeling and simulation techniques.

Meanwhile, thanks to his new expertise in CGE modeling, the project leader has also been recruited to assist the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CAEMC) in the elaboration of the member countries' macroeconomic models.

South Africa • A PEP-CBMS project contributes to both strengthening and informing local governance

The decentralized structure of the South African governance demands for accurate and timely data for identifying the poor and eligible beneficiaries, to assist local government authorities in budgeting, delivery of basic social services and the implementation of development projects.

Between 2011 and 2013, a Pilot phase of a "CBMS multidimensional poverty baseline profiling study" was undertaken in Mutale and Greater Tzaneen local municipalities in Limpopo province. In addition to providing the necessary data for effective planning budgeting and beneficiary identification and targeting in those municipalities, the exercise demonstrated that participation of grassroots community members is vital for the success of such initiative. Indeed, one of the main long-term positive effects of the implementation of community-based monitoring systems is to strengthen local governance through building sustainable partnerships amongst various community groups, parties and levels of government authorities.

Following several consultation meetings and presentations by the local CBMS team, throughout and upon conclusion of the initial pilot phase, the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) eventually made a resolution to replicate the project in the rest of the municipalities, starting with three Wards in Limpopo province. The consultation and implication of local partners have also resulted in mobilizing additional financial support to expand CBMS further into the municipalities.

Amongst several outcomes of this initial phase, the CBMS project in South Africa contributed to stressing the gaps in national statistics, and the need for accurate and timely baseline data collected through local-level and participatory census tools, such as CBMS, in order to enhance effective poverty reduction planning by municipal authorities.

In 2014, several municipalities have started to use CBMS data to inform local planning decisions and programs - such as those of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), as well as road building and upgrading projects to better connect localities of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Municipal programs and policies in the sectors of agriculture and primary education are also currently under review, based on CBMS data and findings.

Best practice awards

The ultimate goal of PEP activities - both in terms of building/promoting local capacities and producing high quality research - is for the resulting evidence and new expertise to serve to inform policy debates/decisions, in favour of poverty reduction and socioeconomic development in beneficiary countries.

Indeed, the vocation of researchers is not one that is naturally inclined to engage in activities related to communications, media and public relations. PEP has thus made it a fixed component and requirement of all granted research teams to undertake initiatives that will maximize chances for their findings to be acknowledged and taken-up by relevant policy makers, advisors or stakeholders, especially at the national level.

Along with the implementation of the PAGE program, PEP launched a new "Best Practice Award scheme" to reward (on an annual basis) those research teams who would most actively engage in the implementation of an effective policy outreach strategy in the context of their PEP-granted projects – i.e. to link their PEP research findings to policy action/influence.

PEP's monitoring and evaluation of the teams' related activities and performance is achieved through the analysis of information submitted (and updated periodically) by the research teams using online technical report forms, in the PEP intranet system.

The winners of the first (2014) edition of the PEP Best Practice Awards were selected out of the 24 research teams granted under the first round of PAGE funding.

For this first edition, the performance evaluations did not include criteria related to the progress or quality of the research work nor the actual impact/influence of their findings on policy. Indeed, none of the teams had yet completed their PEP project research cycle – i.e. results had not yet been published nor officially disseminated. The evaluations were rather focused on the efforts made by the teams, throughout the year, to achieve policy engagement and linkages with the purpose of linking their PEP research work to policy action.

The awards were presented during the closing dinner of the 2014 PEP Annual Conference, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) on May 7, 2014. The 2014 awards included three prizes and their winners are presented in the following pages.

1st prize

Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia

Led by a team of local researchers in Macedonia, this was (at the time) the first project to be supported by PEP in the region of the Balkans. It aims to explore if remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth in households receiving remittances in Macedonia. The key findings are summarized on page 22.

From the earliest project stage (i.e. proposal design) the team has exerted outstanding efforts in the creation of strong linkages with relevant national government agencies - contacting and meeting with the highest officials, including ministers - as well as to engage national and regional mass media, in order to raise awareness amongst both the decision-makers and the general public. Early initiatives were also taken to participate and present their work in national and international conferences.

As a result of these efforts, the team managed to launch a nation-wide debate on policy options to help channel the large amount of remittances received in Macedonia into job creation or productive ventures for youth. Several national government institutions have committed to support and contribute to strategic dissemination and use of the research findings, including uptake in the formulation of various strategic policy documents, such as the "Strategy for Employment 2015-2020" of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP).

In December 2014, the team was invited to participate in a special meeting of the ECOSOC - the highest economic committee in the country, involving several other government institutions chaired by the Prime Minister - to provide inputs for the re-design of national employment policy strategies and programs, based on the outcomes and findings from their research work.

2nd prize

Implementing a community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

This project is implemented by members of a locally-based policy research institute in Bolivia, Fundacion ARU. It essentially aims to strengthen capacities of local/sub-national governments in data collection and analysis, as well as to design social protection policies that address risks and multidimensional poverty, through the implementation and use of Community-based Monitoring Systems (CBMS). Find out more about the project's objectives and outcomes on page 26.

From the onset of the project, the CBMS-ARU team was able to mobilize support and establish partnerships with both the Autonomous Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the municipal government of Concepcion, for the implementation of CBMS, as well as to engage participation of (and thus «empower») various members of these communities in the process.

For instance, in collaboration with the Education Units of Concepcion, the CBMS project team of ARU has contributed to build capacities of students in collecting household census data using tablets (or tablet computers). In terms of dissemination and public access of the outputs, the project team developed a web platform (www.comunidad-i.info) to provide access to CBMS data for key policy stakeholders, including local government officials, as well as to document the impacts of the project. The platform allows visualization of CBMS data in tabular, chart and digitized map forms.

In 2014, the team finished collecting and processing CBMS data on vulnerability and multidimensional poverty in Concepcion. Their results were presented to local authorities and other stakeholders - local actors, authorities and civil society, linked to the town and the municipality – during two main events, which are described on page 51. These initiatives resulted in an agreement to replicate the CBMS methodology in other locations in Santa Cruz as part of the Department's statistical activities.

3rd prize

Randomized evaluation of an unconditional cash transfer scheme for the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria

Led by a team of local researchers in Nigeria, and in collaboration with the Ekiti State authorities, this project aims to assess the impacts of one of the first cash transfer program for the elderly to be implemented in sub-Saharan Africa, using the experimental approach of «randomized controlled trial» (RCT).

From the beginning of the project, the team organized and participated in several consultation meetings with various government agencies at the state level - including the Ministry of Labour, the Governor's Office and the Commissioner of Intergovernmental Relations - the national level - including the National Planning Commission - as well as with some institutions at the international level – UK-based HelpAge International and Pension Watch.

As a result, the project team has mobilized the full support and collaboration of the (Ekiti) State's Ministry of Labour, Productivity and Human Development, in charge of implementing the cash transfer program and thus first-hand user of the results.

The project leader has also been asked by the National Planning Commissioner to advise on the scaling-up of the project, and it is expected that the research findings will serve as input for the development of a national policy on social protection in Nigeria (targeting the most vulnerable groups of the population).

Finally, although the final results have not yet been produced – as an experimental evaluation with a planned duration of two to three years -, information regarding the progress of the project has already been disseminated at the international level, through a series of blog pieces on the website of HelpAge International, as well as the national level, through mass media reports. In the end of 2013, the Ekiti State Governor used reference to the project amongst the slogans of his election campaign, and the team leader has since been contacted directly by international experts on pension issues, who have asked to be kept informed of the outcomes of the evaluation.

Testifying to the impact and importance of CBMS in the Philippines

The establishment of new technical collaborations – as well as strengthening of existing partnerships - between PEP and local/national stakeholders in the Philippines, has contributed to expanding the implementation and use of CBMS data for evidence-based policymaking and program development in 2014.

A number of officials from local government units (LGUs), who had previously implemented and adopted CBMS (as a tool for development planning, identification of priority needs and service delivery, localizing MDGs, disaster risk reduction management and/or climate change adaptation, among others), have also publicly testified to the benefits of CBMS through various platforms in 2014. For example:

"With the use of CBMS, I am more confident that all our programs will be evidence-based, responsive, and custom fitted to the needs of the people"

Honorable Casimiro A. Ynares III - Mayor of City of Antipolo

Excerpt from Message in publication "The Many Faces of Poverty Volume 5"

"The absence of a city-level database of Naga's household population during its early years hampered the program[(Innovative Service and Value Entitlement), a program that seeks to improve service delivery and accountability at the supply side thereby saving limited government resources}. The CBMS data addressed this critical gap"

Honorable John G. - Mayor of Naga City

Shortened Excerpt from Message in publication "The Many Faces of Poverty Volume 5"

"In the light of the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda in the City of Tacloban, the CBMS plays a major role in our city's rehabilitation. Despite the depletion of our already limited resources, the CBMS continues to enable us to create and implement programs and projects aimed at addressing the basic needs of our constituents"

Honorable Alfredo S. Romualdez - Tacloban City

Excerpt from Message in publication "The Many Faces of Poverty Volume 5"

"CBMS is a very useful tool to respond effectively to the identified needs of the basic sectors on reducing poverty through participatory processes"

Ms. Raquelita Umali - Municipality of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

Excerpt from Presentation on "Uses of CBMS for Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process"

during the 10th CBMS Philippines National Conference

"CBMS data is used in the Municipality of Torrijos in identifying the gender-related issues on health that affects women and children and implementing for the utilization of the 5% GAD budget of the municipal local government unit. CBMS data should be considered as a very useful reference in the formulation and design of PPAs to address GAD related issues and in formulating GAD plan and budget towards sustaining women empowerment"

Engr. Eugenia de Leon Cruzado - Municipality of Torrijos, Marinduque

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

Excerpt from Presentation on "Promoting Gender Equity in Local Development"

during the 10th CBMS Philippines National Conference

With the dissemination and sharing of experiences on the uses of CBMS, several provinces, cities and municipalities in the country have decided to invest their own resources in implementing or expanding the CBMS methodology to update their official databases.

Their commitments are manifest through the official policy issuances from the local development councils of these LGUs, which cite the value of implementing CBMS to their locality. As of November 2014, the "combined contributions" of all LGUs for the implementation of CBMS in the country amounted to **PhP 322 million (about USD7.2 million).** This budget excludes counterpart contributions of key partners, such as the the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) who provides technical personnel, from the central and regional offices, to be trained and accredited for their deployment of the CBMS training modules (including the CBMS APP) in various localities.

National government agencies have also continued to provide support for the scaling up of use of CBMS throughout the country, in 2014.

"Formulation of MDG reports using CBMS data have helped increase ownership of MDGs at the local level, reoriented local planning towards the achievement of the MDGs and more importantly improved capacities of LGUs in data generation and monitoring as a result of their involvement in the preparation of these reports"

Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan - National Economic and Development Authority
Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and Director General

"The NAPC's (National Anti-Poverty Commission) special attention to CBMS is not just based on its usefulness in poverty reduction planning and monitoring, but more so on the mechanisms it provides to directly involve citizens and basic sector organizations in the collection and validation of data pertaining to their own communities."

Secretary Jose Eliseo Rocamora - National Anti-Poverty Commission
Secretary and Lead Convenor

In October 2014, CBMS was cited as one of the core sources of information for poverty analysis, through a national policy that provides guidelines for implementing the "grassroots participatory budgeting process", in preparation of the forthcoming annual budgets. The said policy was formulated and issued jointly by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

Meanwhile, the DILG has continued to include CBMS as a major tool for building capacities of LGUs in assimilating various priority issues related to poverty and the environment, such as disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation.

Other initiatives

Building on twelve years of experience and a unique network of development experts around the world, PEP has, in recent years, been increasingly called upon – by a number of international organizations, donor institutions and/or national government agencies – to coordinate research and/or capacity building initiatives around the world.

Below are described those new initiatives that PEP has been called on to lead in 2014.

Assessing the impact of segmented markets of fresh produce on productive employment in Kenya

Funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)

In June 2014, PEP was awarded a special research grant by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) - WOTRO Science for Global Development, through a competitive call for research proposals on «Productive Employment» under the «Research for Inclusive Development in Sub-Saharan Africa» (RIDSSA) programme.

As the lead institution of a consortium, formed especially for this project, PEP will be working in close collaboration with several partner institutions to conduct an analysis of the impact of structural transformations within the dynamic fresh produce sector on productive employment in Kenya, with a focus on the avocado production sector.

Besides PEP, the institutions involved in this consortium include two in the Netherlands - VU University Amsterdam (VU), the Amsterdam Institute for International Development (AIID); two in Kenya (local stakeholders) - the University of Nairobi (UoN), the Fresh-Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK); and PEP's Latin American partner institution, Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE), based in Peru.

Foresight for food security in selected countries in Asia and Africa

Funded by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

This project involves analysis of alternative futures for food security in selected countries in Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia) and Asia (India and Pakistan). Through the application of economy-wide dynamic CGE modeling techniques, based on the existing family of PEP reference CGE models, the study will assess the potential futures of, and alternative policy options to enhance, food security in these four countries, with a focus on major food staples.

A team of international and national collaborators based in the four target countries, and coordinated by PEP secretariat in Nairobi, have been working together to develop the models and simulation scenarios, using social accounting matrices (SAMs) and CGE models of their national economy that had previously been developed in the context of past PEP-supported initiatives.

Assessing the impacts of water infrastructure development in Kenya

Funded by the World Bank Group

PEP was selected and awarded this special research grant by the World Bank Group, to assess the multi-level economic effects of water infrastructure (irrigation) development in the coastal region of Kenya. Coordinated through the PEP global office in Nairobi, a team of PEP researchers are using a combination of CGE modeling framework and micro-simulation techniques to link the economywide impacts to the distributional and poverty effects of planned infrastructure projects.

This initiative is also coordinated with the CGE modeling work led under the Food Security Foresight Project described above (see page 41); the national survey data from Kenya will be used to undertake the micro-simulations.

Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad

Funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Following the participation of Chadian economists in a PEP school held in Dakar in 2010, the Ministry of Finance and Budget of the Republic of Chad requested the assistance of PEP in further strengthening its institutional capacity in the use of CGE modeling and simulation techniques.

In 2013, a team of PEP resource persons – with extensive expertise in economic modelling - were officially engaged to train and assist a team of selected local economists (from the Ministry) in building a CGE model of the Chadian national economy (reflecting its specific structures and policy frameworks), while strengthening their capacity in the use of related techniques – from the collection of basic statistical data to the analysis of final policy options. Assistance and training were provided, by the PEP team of CGE experts, through both field visits - including six intensive training workshops - and ongoing distance support, and through a "learning by doing approach" – developing a series of increasingly sophisticated models.

Funding for this initiative was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the first phase was completed in December 2014. Given the great success and general appreciation of its outcomes by the Chadian and UNDP authorities, however, an extension (or second phase) has been requested. This new phase will include activities related to both the development and application of the tools and methods for policy analysis, over a period of 18 months.

CBMS special initiatives in 2014

Expanding the development and use of the CBMS-APP

IIn 2014, the PEP Asia-CBMS coordinating team supported the deployment and implementation of the CBMS-Accelerated Poverty Profiling in three new countries: Argentina, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The CBMS-APP entails the organized, systematic and efficiently combined use of the latest ICT tools and the standard CBMS instruments for data collection (core household profile and village questionnaire), processing (StatSim), poverty mapping and data management instruments. It was built to fast-track the generation of CBMS results in order to serve as timely inputs in local development planning and budgeting. It uses both web technology and mobile devices to collect household and community data. The collected data, using the application Scan, are then transmitted to the CBMS web Portal that serves both as the data repository and as a hub for managing user accounts and workgroups.

By integrating together household and GPS data capture and data entry, the CBMS APP is expected to enhance data collection procedure and data quality, integrating interviews with encoding of household and barangay profile questionnaires (HPQ and BPQ).

Subnational MDG Reports

In 2013, a technical collaboration was established by the PEP Asia/CBMS network, with support of the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), to build capacity of local government authorities of seven provinces and three cities in the Philippines, for the systematic measurement, monitoring and reporting on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The initiative was implemented in pursuit of the following three objectives: (i) to track the status on the attainment of the MDGs in the identified provinces and cities; (ii) to assist these provinces and cities in preparing their MDG Reports; and (iii) to increase local awareness on how these reports can bridge local and national development strategies. The "Subnational MDG Reports" were published in 2014 - as a comprehensive 10-volume report - and launched during the 10th CBMS-Philippine national conference (see page 49-50)

Past initiatives

While several new initiatives are expected to be launched in 2015, the following table presents a list of previous collaborations that were implemented, with various international partners, up to 2013.

AusAID

Simulating the distributive impacts of different growth strategies in China, Pakistan and the Philippines.

AusAID – CIDA – IDRC – IFPRI

Analyzing the impacts of the global financial crisis on poverty and appropriate policy responses in developing countries.

EEPSEA

CBMS support in generating vulnerability index and maps at the village level to assist local government units in preparing appropriate plans and programs to address evolving pressures on the environment particularly that of climate change.

IFPRI

African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium.

ILO

Using CBMS to monitor and analyze child labor conditions in the Philippines.

UNICEF

Assessing the impacts of the global financial crisis and appropriate policy responses for children in West and Central Africa.

Assessing the impact of a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) program in rural Mali.

Simulations of fiscal space and public spending on children in Burkina Faso.

Child situational analyses in Uganda and Burkina Faso.

Long-term partnership agreement to support UNICEF's work on social policy and social protection reform in MENA countries.

UNDP

Strengthening capacities for poverty and social impact analysis in sub-Saharan Africa.

CBMS Development Grant Program in the Philippines.

Using CBMS for localizing the MDGs.

CBMS: Monitoring household coping strategies during complex crises and recovery (with UNICEF).

Conferences and training

2014 PEP Annual Conference

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia - *April 30 to May 7*

The 2014 PEP Annual Conference was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from April 30 to May 7, and featured several activities and discussions on the broad theme of **"inclusive growth and employment in developing countries".** The event was hosted and organized in collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Development Studies (**INESAD** - Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo) based in Bolivia.

As it occurred at the heart of the current PEP research and capacity building program initiative for "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment" (**PAGE,** see pages 16 to21), the event was thus made possible thanks to the support of the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) - co-funders of the PAGE programme.

Once again, PEP succeeded in gathering quite a large and international attendance - of developing country researchers, international experts and development practitioners, policy advisors, etc. from 31 different countries - to discuss various research and policy issues related to the PAGE themes.

The event featured three main sets of activities: intensive training workshops, the 11th edition of the PEP general meetings (i.e. presentation and review of research findings and new proposals), and a special high-level policy forum - all described below.

PEP schools

April 30 to May 3

Advanced training in PEP research methods and tools

As PEP annual meetings involve the participation of dozens of developing country researchers selected to benefit from its research support program (in this case, through the PAGE initiative), PEP takes advantage of such gatherings to provide series of (parallel) intensive training workshops in cutting-edge methods, techniques and tools of development research and policy analysis.

During the 2014 conference specifically, training was provided in techniques related to CGE modeling and macro-micro policy simulations, micro-econometric analysis and non-experimental impact evaluations, as well as related to community-based monitoring systems.

PEP general meeting

May 5 - 6

Presentation of new proposals and research findings for PAGE projects

On May 5-6 was held the 11th edition of the PEP general meetings, of which the purposes are:

1. To complete evaluation and selection of project proposals contending for support in the current PEP research grant competition, or call for proposals. In this case, the call was launched in the fall of 2013, as the second funding round of the PAGE programme.

2. To present and discuss the research findings/outcomes from projects that were granted/supported under the previous round of funding (in this case, under the first round of the PAGE programme).

The 2014 PEP general meeting featured a series of three parallel sessions in which representatives from 33 research teams (grouped according to different research methods/approaches), from 21 developing countries, were invited to present and discuss their respective research proposals or results with an audience of peers and international experts.

High level policy forum

May 7

Fostering entrepreneurship for inclusive growth and poverty reduction

The final feature of the 2014 PEP annual conference was a high-level policy forum on the specific theme of «fostering entrepreneurship for inclusive growth and poverty reduction». This special event was organized in collaboration with the Multilateral Investment Fund (**MIF**) of the Inter-American Development Bank (**IDB**), and also benefited from the support of other partners, namely **INESAD,** the local host institution, and the development bank of Latin America (**CAF**).

Opening remarks were followed by a **keynote presentation** from Dr. Jeffery S. McMullen.

Dr. McMullen is an Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Kelley School of Business (Indiana University), whose research - widely acknowledged and published in premier journals - focuses on entrepreneurial cognition and action, entrepreneurial opportunity, and development entrepreneurship.

The keynote was followed by two subsequent **discussion panels,** involving a variety of (academic and policy) stakeholders with different perspectives and engaged in various initiatives involving the promotion of entrepreneurship as a strategy for poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Facilitated by Dr. Yuri Soares, Chief of Development Effectiveness Unit at MIF-IDB, these "dialogues" presented a unique occasion to reflect and draw some important lessons through sharing of experience, evidence, policy and practice.

The first panel was entitled **"What we know: current knowledge of best practice, based on experience and research",** and involved the following groups of panelists:

- **Xavier Gine,** *World Bank*
- **Mayra Buvinic,** *United Nations Foundation*
- **Martin Valdivia,** *Grupo de Analysis para el Desarrollo (GRADE)*
- **Dino Linares Scarcerieau,** *Colectivo Integral del Desarrollo (CID)*
- **Sarah McMillan,** *Youth Business International*

The second panel was entitled **"Defining a more focused/effective research-policy action agenda",** and involved the following panelists:

- **Amadou B. Diallo,** *African Bank of Development (AfDB)*
- **Cesar Sevilla,** *United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*
- **Lucia Sanchez,** *Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), SME initiative*
- **Ponciano Intal Jr.,** *Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia*
- **Pablo Sanguinetti,** *CAF - Banco de Desarrollo de America Latina*

Each session - both panels and the keynote presentations - was followed by interventions (comments and questions) from the audience.

The main objective of this event was to produce, collectively, **a set of specific recommendations** for the general improvement of the research-policy action agenda related to the issue. An initial draft, based on the conclusions ensued from the discussions, was presented by the forum's facilitator, Yuri Soares, during the event's final session.

This draft was later circulated amongst all participants of the PEP conference, to receive final inputs and comments before publication. The final version was then published and made available on the PEP website, and widely disseminated by PEP and its partners, to both maximize and globalize impact of the outcomes.

10th CBMS Philippines national conference

March 24 to 26 - Manila, Philippines

Building safe, resilient and proactive communitie

Over 500 participants - from the academia, local government units, nongovernment organizations, and national government agencies - attended the 10th CBMS National Conference held on March 24-26, 2014, at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria.

With the devastating effects of typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) still fresh on the public mind in the Philippines, the objective of this conference was to highlight how the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) can be harnessed to build safe, reliant and proactive communities.

The three-day event featured discussions on the uses of CBMS for grassroots participatory budgeting process, disaster risk reduction and management, local governance, vulnerability mapping, program design and targeting, as well as impact monitoring.

Among those highlights of the conference, were the launching of:

- The **"Subnational Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Reports"** of the provinces of Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Sur; and the cities of Pasay, Puerto Princesa, and Tobaco City - see page 43.

- The **"Many Faces of Poverty: Volume 5,"** which features the statistical tables and poverty maps of the cities of Antipolo, Legazpi, Marikina, Naga, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban, and Valenzuela—generated using the CBMS methodology.

This latter book series aims to both identify and locate the poor, while providing a comprehensive picture of the different faces of poverty in various parts of the country. The data contribute to identifying the most pressing needs of the communities, assist in prioritizing interventions to address these needs, as well as facilitate the targeting of programs for those most vulnerable.

Several high-level speakers emphasized the contributions and critical importance of CBMS data and reports. For example:

- Mar Roxas, the Interior and Local Government Secretary, stated in his keynote address (which was delivered by Undersecretary Peter Irving Corvera) *"Yolanda has all the more stressed the importance of data, before and after disasters, not only to track people and communities, but also to match risk profiles with CBMS data and to make real-time information available for disaster preparedness. And, in the case of Eastern Visayas and neighboring regions, for early recovery, rehabilitation and development." Secretary Roxas also called for a broader CBMS that would include relevant information on disaster preparedness, to help "national and local governments invest more on the preparedness side instead of the response side."*

- Maurice Dewulf, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office Director, said that the Subnational MDG reports are *"a testament to the relevance of the MDGs in this era where growing inequalities, climate change, natural disasters and conflict have taken the forefront as the main obstacles to the achievement of the MDGs."* He pointed that *"the great power of the MDGs was in their global agenda setting and in their capacity to unite diverse actors around a common cause"*, while encouraging action so that *"rather than remaining mere rhetoric, these must be translated into action at the national and local levels, and make a difference for people."*

The conference was organized by the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University-Manila, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (**DILG**), the National Anti-Poverty Commission (**NAPC**) and the National Economic and Development Authority (**NEDA**).

PEP co-organizes a major international event
IDRC conference on Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa (YESSA)

On January 28-30, 2014, the PEP Africa team and the International Development Research Center (IDRC), together with other partners, hosted the international conference on Youth and Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa (YESSA), held in Dakar, Senegal.

The objective of the the YESSA conference was to provide a platform for reflection, exchange and experience sharing, in order to assess knowledge gaps, and revisit current practices and strategies for youth employment. The conference brought together national, regional and multilateral policy actors, African researchers and think tanks, as well as key relevant stakeholders, to reflect on current opportunities and challenges for youth employment, related policy options and research agenda grounded into local realities.

The conference was also meant to serve as a prelude to the special session of the African Union's Conference of Labour ministers - held in Windhoek in April 2014, and which led to the adoption of a new declaration and plan of action for job promotion in Africa.

Dissemination of PEP research findings worldwide

All PEP-supported research teams are provided with guidance and support to communicate their findings effectively, through a variety of platforms and to the widest possible audience, both nationally and internationally.

PEP national policy conferences

To facilitate effective dissemination and policy influence at the national level, PEP provides financial and logistical support for researchers to organize **policy conferences,** through which they can directly communicate and discuss their PEP research findings to an audience of policy makers, advisors and other stakeholders, in their home countries.

Moreover, as these events are often **widely publicized in national mass media** (radio, television, press), the researcher's findings and recommendations are thus transmitted to the general public as well, enhancing chances to exert influence over policy decisions.

Among those national policy conferences organized in 2014 by research teams supported by PEP under the first round of PAGE funding, include:

Santa Cruz, Bolivia - May 3-6, 2014

Two events were organized by the CBMS-Bolivia team to present the outcomes of their project (see pages 26 and 36), and discuss the potential of CBMS data to inform local governance.

The first is a forum entitled **"Informing Policy Dialogue through CBMS",** organized in collaboration with the Concepcion Gobierno Autonomo Municipal, on May 3, 2014. It was attended by planning officials of the Municipal Government of Concepcion, zone and indigenous group leaders, as well as students from Concepcion, and was the occasion to get feedback from the community on the possible use of CBMS outputs for improving local governance.

The second event was a **special policy conference** organized in collaboration with (and at the office of) the Autonomous Department of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, with the objective to secure government support in scaling up the implementation and use of CBMS in the entire Department of Santa Cruz. The Government of Santa Cruz was represented by the Secretary of Treasury, Jose Luis Parada, and Secretary of the Bureau of Statistics, Naya Eid.

The PEP-CBMS Bolivia initiative was presented by the project team leaders, from the Bolivia-based Fundacion ARU, who provided a demonstration of the online platform (Comunidad-I) developed by the team to give access to the data generated from the CBMS household census, while documenting the activities conducted in relation to the project.

Aside from local authorities, the conference was also attended by directors, researchers and resource persons of the PEP-CBMS Network.

Skopje, Macedonia – November 28, 2014

A national policy conference was organized by a team of local research in Macedonia, to share the outcomes of their PEP-supported study. Their research aimed to explore if remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth in recipient households in Macedonia. The findings and main conclusions are summarized on page 22.

As a result of several previous consultation meetings and dissemination efforts from the research team, the event attracted a number of very high-level participants including, among others, the main advisor for self-employment measures from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Director of the Employment Service Agency and the Chief Economist of the National Bank of Macedonia. Given that the team had targeted these three institutions as the main potential users of the research findings for policymaking, they were invited as panelists to take active part in the discussions around the issues and findings.

Other noteworthy attendants included members the Cabinet of the Vice-Minister for Economic Affairs, as well as representatives from the World Bank Office and the International Labour Organization (ILO), who also actively participated in the discussions.

In addition to the policy recommendations ensued from the PEP research project findings, the participants also discussed their feasibility and related implementation issues. Comments from the key attendants suggest strong commitment to take account of the findings in their policy agenda and/or advisory work, as well as to incorporate some of these recommendations into various strategic policy documents - including (but not limited to) the National Strategy for Employment 2015-2010 and its first annual (2015-2016) Operational Plan, as well as the National Strategy for Diaspora. Find more information on the initiatives of this PAGE project in terms of policy engagement and influence on page 35.

Finally, the event and presented PEP research findings benefited from wide media coverage, with the publication of an impressive list of at least 20 (TV and press) news reports during the following day(s). To ensure accurate report of their findings and recommendations, the research team held a special pre-conference meeting with all (21) attending press and news agencies, who were also provided with a detailed information package. A week later, two of the team members were invited as guest speakers on the Economic magazine TV show of the national TV station Alsat-M.

Buenos Aires, Argentina – November 26, 2014

A team of PEP Argentinian researchers organized a special seminar in Buenos Aires, to present and discuss the outcomes of their PEP-supported analysis of minimum wage and income transfer policies implemented in Argentina, from 2001 to 2012. This project also aimed to assess the consequences that modifications of these policies might have on the functioning of the labor market, employment, wages and income distribution, with special emphasis on the informal sector. The key findings are summarized on page 23.

The event was organized as part of series of conferences held in 2014 by CITRADIS – Centro de Investigación en Trabajo, Distribución y Sociedad – where most of the PEP research team members work, in collaboration with the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET). The conference was structured around four panels, during which the research results were presented to and discussed with high-level representatives from the Ministry of Labor (Secretary of State for Employment) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Director), senior experts from the International Labor Organization (ILO - Office in Buenos Aires) and national union organizations (Confederación General del Trabajo, Unión Industrial Argentina), as well as specialists from other academic institutions.

The outcomes of these and previous discussions held between the team and national policy stakeholders, in terms of informing policy debates, are described in detail on page 29.

Finally, the event received important media coverage, with the attendance and reports from journalists from the national newspapers «Pagina 12», «Clarin» and «ArtePolitica», as well as from the Director of the international monthly newspaper Le Monde Diplomatique.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia – November 26, 2014

A team of local Cambodian researchers organized a special "policy roundtable" in Phnom Penh, to present and discuss the outcomes of their PEP-supported project, which aimed to assess the impacts of Cambodia's trade liberalization and related changes in fiscal policy on growth, employment and poverty in the country. The key findings are described on page 23.

The event was organized as part of series of seminars held, periodically, by the Cambodian Economic Association (CEA), and with the special collaboration and support of the Ministry of Commerce, and Chamber of Commerce. The event attracted and benefited from the active participation of high-level government officials, including the Minister of Commerce, the Director General of International Trade, the CEA President and Director General of the National Bank of Cambodia, the IMF Resident Representative, as well as major actors of the private sector (including three of Cambodia's top exporters).

Overall, the comments collected during the event suggest that these participants and other attendants were generally impressed by the quality and relevance of the PEP research work and findings. Several participants also stressed the importance of this project's contribution to building a bridge between the government and the research community, as well as to make further use of the expertise and tools built through this project. Find out more on page 30.

PEP presentations at international conferences

In acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers are invited to present their work in **international academic and policy conferences** around the world. In some cases, these researchers may be awarded a special PEP grant (made available on a competitive basis) to support their travel and participation.

Through these activities, as well as via PEP annual meetings and networking experience, researchers benefit from **increased international exposure and credibility as development policy experts.**

Below are listed the presentations of PEP-supported research work and findings in international conferences in 2014:

- **Dakar, Senegal** – January 2014: "Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa" (YESSA) Conference, organized by the International Development Research Center

- **Santiago, Chile** - January 2014: "2014 GEM Annual Meeting and Research Bootcamp", organized by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

- **Bogota, Colombia** - March 2014: international seminar on «Labor Market, Informality and Social Protection», organized by the University of Colombia

- **Bordeaux, France** - June 2014: 5th GREThA International Conference on Economic Development, organized by The Gretha Research Center-Bordeaux

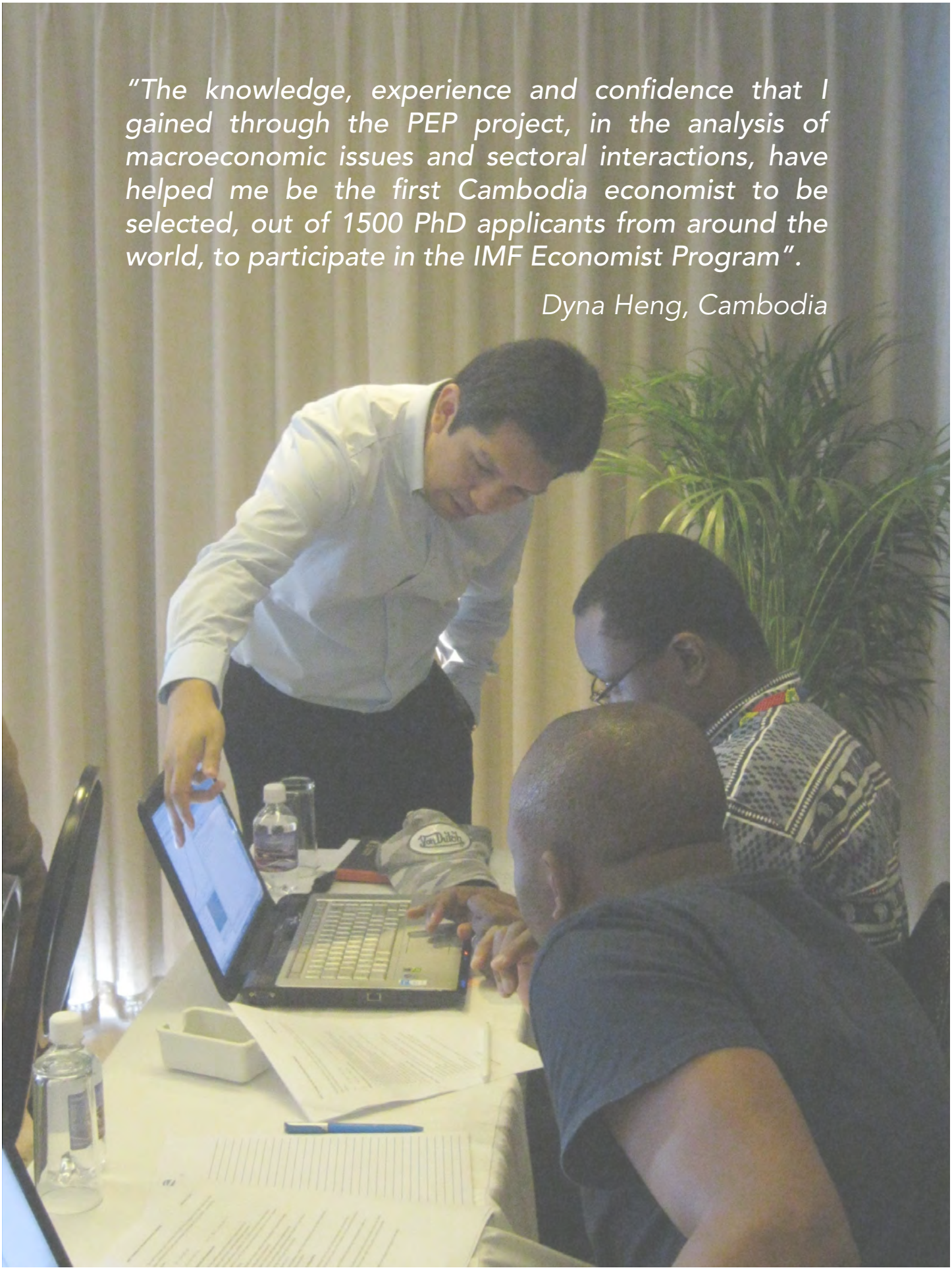
- **Kassel, Germany** - July 2014: annual thematic conference of the International Center for Development and Decent Work (ICDD)

- **Manila, Philippines** - Sept. 2014: "Making Impact Evaluation Matter: Better Evidences for Effective Policies and Programmes", organized jointly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3iE).

    - Two PEP-supported research teams were invited to present their work during this conference, and one of them, Altantsetseg Batchuluun, won the second prize for "best presentation by a low and middle income country researcher".

- **Atlanta, USA** - November 2014: Annual Conference of the Southern Economic Association

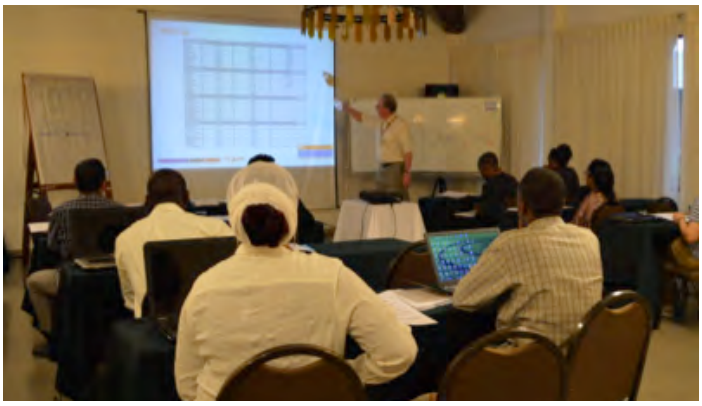
- **Bir Zeit, Palestine** - November 2014: "Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship Conference", organized by Birzeit University



"The knowledge, experience and confidence that I gained through the PEP project, in the analysis of macroeconomic issues and sectoral interactions, have helped me be the first Cambodia economist to be selected, out of 1500 PhD applicants from around the world, to participate in the IMF Economist Program".

Dyna Heng, Cambodia

PEP school



As an organization that focuses mainly on strengthening research capacities in the South, PEP has naturally developed a unique expertise in providing training workshops that can be adapted to a variety of needs and contexts.

The "PEP Schools" are a series of programs that provide intensive, advanced and flexible training in the understanding and promotion of social and economic development. PEP School participants learn how to apply the most recent concepts, techniques and tools in development economics to help design effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies in their respective countries.

Courses are conducted by PEP-affiliated world leading experts in each of the methodologies fostered in PEP research – see the PEP toolbox on page 11 – and usually tailored for country-specific applications, in order to maximize engagement and benefits for local recipients.

PEP School are provided in all regions of the world, often at the request of and in collaboration with local host institutions, or in the context of specific PEP initiatives.

April 30 - May 3 – Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

Macro-micro policy simulations using computable general equilibrium (CGE) models
Microeconomic measurement and analysis
Non-experimental impact evaluations

Series of parallel training workshops provided in the context of the 2014 PEP Annual Conference, for researchers to be supported under the second funding round of the PAGE programme

June 3-21 - Quebec, Canada

Development policy modeling
Dynamic impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks
Microeconomic analysis of welfare and policy

Series of consecutive training courses provided in the context of an Intensive Graduate Schools in Development Economics, organized in collaboration with Université Laval

Publications

In order to reach out to different and wide audiences, PEP research findings are published (by PEP) in a variety of formats - such as working papers, policy briefs and books. Moreover, PEP-supported studies are frequently published as articles in international peer-reviewed journals, testifying to the increasing acknowledgement of their scientific rigor and contribution by the international development research community.

PEP working papers

PEP working papers are published on the PEP website and listed with both SSRN (Social Sciences Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), which ensures wide circulation worldwide.

According to access statistics provided by RePEc, the 148 PEP working papers listed on this website alone have resulted in 59,265 abstract views and 17,113 downloads to date (5,261 views and 1,558 downloads in 2014 alone).

In 2014, PEP published the following list of working papers:

2014-01 Impact of increased public education spending on growth and poverty in Uganda An integrated micro-macro approach.
By Véronique Robichaud, Helene Maisonnave and Luca Tiberti

2014-02 Estimating the impact on poverty of Ghana's fuel subsidy reform and a mitigating response
By Sarah Hague, Edgar Cooke, John Cockburn, AbdelRahmen El Lahga and Luca Tiberti

2014-03 Situation analysis of child poverty and deprivation in Uganda
By Yele Batana, Jane Kabubo-Mariara, Gemma Ahaibwe, Ibrahim Kasirye, John Cockburn and Luca Tiberti

2014-04 Business training plus for female entrepreneurship? Short and medium-term experimental evidence from Peru
By Martin Valdivia

2013-06 Endogenous savings rate with forward-looking households in a recursive dynamic CGE model: application to South Africa
By André Lemelin

2013-07 Assessing the evolution of sanitation and welfare amongst children and women in Niger, following the implementation of the national Sanitation Development Plan (2005-2009)
By Moctar Seydou, Ali Madai, Boubakar Djibo Boukar and Malam Souley Salissou

2013-08 Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia
By Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski, Edi Smokvarski, Maja Ristovska, Marjan Petreski

Most projects supported under the first round of PAGE funding have published their findings through working papers and policy briefs in early 2015. These publications will be listed in the 2015 PEP Annual Report

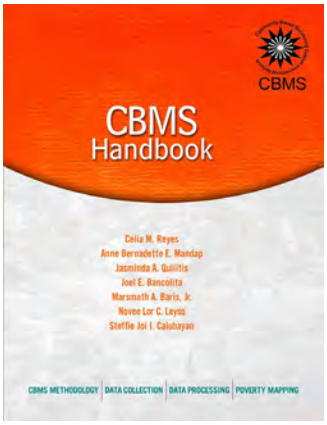
PEP books

On occasion, PEP also publishes the outcomes of special initiatives as a book. These collective works are usually put together under the supervision of (and edited by) PEP resource persons, and made available for download, free of charge, via the PEP website.

Two of these books (or collective works) were published in 2014:

The Many Faces of Poverty: Volume 5

Produced by:
The PEP-CBMS network office



CBMS Handbook

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Data collection, processing and poverty mapping

PEP newsletters

News from PEP activities and projects are also disseminated periodically via two quarterly newsletters;

- PEP-Talk - an e-bulletin covering all of PEP international news
- CBMS Network Updates - covering all news related to CBMS activities

…from PEP-supported researchers and projects

The success of PEP initiatives in terms of building and promoting research capabilities in the South is also demonstrated by the increasing number of PEP researchers whose findings are being published in top development economics journals – challenging the near monopoly of these journals by researchers working in Europe or North America. When needed, PEP also provides support and assistance to the process – either in the form of subsidies, review and/or co-authorship.

Some examples of journal articles published in 2014 and based on PEP-supported research:

Luc Nembot Ndeffo, N. Ngwen, K.C. Bergaly, M. T. Marienne and P. J. Nguetse Tegoum
Impact of Equivalence Scales on the Spatial Distribution of Poverty in Cameroon: A Dynamic Approach
Journal of Developing Areas, Volume 48, Number 1 (Winter 2014), pp. 253-273

Reuben Adeolu Alabi and O. O. Adams
Who Benefits from Spending on Water and Electricity in Nigeria?: A Benefit Incidence Analysis
Journal of Developing Areas, Volume 48, Number 1 (Winter 2014), pp. 177-197

Veronica Amarante, M. Ferrando and A. Vigorito
Did the Key Priority Forestry Programs affect income inequality in rural China?
Land use policy, Volume 38, May 2014, pp. 264-275

…from PEP-supported researchers and projects

Below is a sample of scientific articles published in 2014, from the work and findings of PEP-affiliated international experts (or PEP resource persons).

Bekele Shiferaw, M. Kassie, M.Jaleta, and C. Yirga
Adoption of improved wheat technologies and impacts on household food security in Ethiopia
Food Policy, Volume 44 (2014), pp. 272-284

Bekele Shiferaw, K. Tesfaye, M. Kassie, T. Abate, B.M. Prasanna and A. Menkir
Managing Vulnerability to Drought and Enhancing Livelihood Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Technological, Institutional and Policy Options
Weather and Climate Extremes, Volume 3 (2014), pp. 67-79

Bekele Shiferaw, S. Bezu, G.T. Kassie and J. Ricker-Gilbert
Impact of Improved Maize Adoption on Welfare of Farm Households in Malawi: A Panel Data Analysis
World Development, Volume 59 (2014), pp. 120-131

Bekele Shiferaw, S. Wagura and M. Kassie

Are There Systematic Gender Differences in the Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Practices? Evidence from Kenya

Food Policy, Volume 49 (2014), pp. 117-127

Jean-Yves Duclos, P. Makdissi and A. Araar

Pro-Poor Indirect Tax Reforms, with an Application to Mexico

International Tax and Public Finance, Volume 21, No. 1 (2014), pp. 87-118.

Jean-Yves Duclos and A. Zabsonre

Social Evaluations When Populations Differ in Size

Canadian Journal of Economics, Volume 47, No. 2 (2014), pp. 605-633

John Cockburn, J.-Y. Duclos and A. Zabsonre

Is Global Social Welfare Increasing? A Critical-Level Enquiry

Journal of Public Economics, Volume 118 (2014) pp.151-162

John Cockburn, J.-Y. Duclos and A. Zabsonre

Quality and Quantity" of Lives: What Trade-o Should There be between Economic and Population Growth?

Revue d'économie du développement, Volume 27, No. 2/3 (2014), pp.149-170

John Cockburn, L. Tiberti and C. A. Emini

Impacts of the Global Economic Crisis and National Policy Responses on Children in Cameroon

Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Volume 35, No. 3 (2014), pp. 396-418

Luca Tiberti, J. Cockburn and L. Savard

Macro-Micro Models - Handbook of Microsimulation Modelling

Ed. C. O'Donoghue, Emerald Insight, Bingley, UK, 2014

pep staff and partner institutions

PEP partner institutions

As a partnership, PEP is composed of four partner institutions, contributing to manage its activities worldwide, through a regional coordinating (PEP) office established within each institution. These four institutions are presented below.

AFRICA

Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale

Dakar, Senegal

North America – UL

Université Laval

Quebec, Canada

Latin America – GRADE

Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo

Lima, Peru

Asia - AKI

Angelo King Institute (AKI) for Business and Economic Studies

Manila, Philippines

PEP coordinating teams

PEP Global Office - Nairobi, Kenya
Bekele Shiferaw, PEP Executive Director
Philip Ade, PEP Senior Finance Officer
Rose Shaviya, Administrative Assistant
Amarendra Sahoo, Research Fellow
Brian Chiputwa, Consultant
Abdoulaye Djido, Consultant

PEP Africa Office - CRES, Senegal
Abdoulaye Diagne, Director - partner representative
Aissatou Diop, PEP Senior Administrator
Awa Diop, PEP Administrator
Marie Celeste Diouf, PEP Administrative Assistant
Jean-Jacques Badji, Finance officer

PEP Asia/CBMS Office – AKI, Philippines
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Marsmath Baris Jr., Research Associate
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Steffie Joy Calubayan, Research Analyst
Jezha Lee Nabiong, Project Finance Assistant

PEP North America Office - Université Laval, Canada
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John Cockburn, PEP PAGE Program Manager
Marjorie Alain, PEP Director of Communications
Sonia Moreau, Communications Officer
Manuel Paradis, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Clermont Gauthier, Finance Officer

PEP Latin America Office - GRADE, Peru
Martin Valdivia, Research Fellow - partner representative
Celeste Paz, Administrative Assistant

PEP program committees and scientific support coordinators

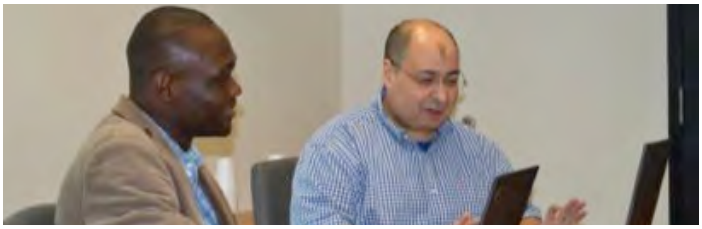
The success of the PEP program/activities in terms of high-quality research and capacity building is due, in great part, to the engagement and support of world-renowned international experts in the field of development research. Those experts who have contributed to PEP activities in 2014 are listed below, according to the different research methods that they specialize in:

MPIA program – Experts in macro-micro policy modeling and simulations

Hélène Maisonnave	**Program Scientific Support Coordinator** Professor, Université Le Havre	**France**
Bernard Decaluwé	President, Program committee PEP resource person Professor, Université Laval	Canada
Martin Cicowiez	PEP resource person Professor, Universidad Nacional de la Plata Researcher, CEDLAS	Argentina
Sandrine Mesple-Somps	PEP resource person Research Fellow, IRD/DIAL Lecturer, Université de Paris	France
Adeola Adenikinju	Senior Lecturer, University of Ibadan	Nigeria
Lulit Mitik Beyene	PEP resource person Managing Director, IESD Research	Ethiopia
Erwin Corong	PEP resource person PhD Candidate, Monash University	Australia

PIERI program – Experts in impact evaluations

Maria Laura Alzua	**Program Scientific Support Coordinator** President, Program committee PEP resource person Senior Researcher, CEDLAS	**Argentina**
Christopher Ryan	Assistant Professor, University of Melbourne	Australia
Ana Dammert	PEP resource person Assistant Professor, Carleton University	Canada
Martin Valdivia	Senior Researcher, GRADE	Peru
Jose Galdo	PEP resource person Assistant Professor, Carleton University	Canada
Maria Adelaida Lopera	PEP resource person PhD candidate, Université Laval	Canada



PMMA program – Experts in microeconomic analysis

Jean-Yves Duclos	**Program Scientific Support Coordinator** PEP resource person Director, Department of Economics, Université Laval	**Canada**
Guy Lacroix	President, Program committee PEP resource person Professor, Université Laval	Canada
Luca Tiberti	PEP resource person Researcher, Université Laval	Canada
Dileni Gunewardena	PEP resource person Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya	Sri Lanka
Jane Kabubo-Mariara	Director, School of Economics, University of Nairobi	Kenya
Paola Ballon	PEP resource person Research Associate, OPHI/University of Oxford Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru	Switzerland
Abdelkrim Araar	PEP resource person Researcher, Université Laval	Canada
Jorge Davalos	PEP resource person Econometrician, ILO Regional Office for LAC	Peru
Sosina Bezu	PEP Resource person Research Fellow, Norwegian University of Life Sciences	Canada

CBMS program – Experts in community-based monitoring systems*

Celia Reyes	**Program Scientific Support Coordinator** CBMS Network Leader Senior Research Fellow, PIDS and AKI-DLSU	**Philippines**
William Randall Spence	President, Program committee Economic and Social Development Affiliates	Canada
Tomas Africa	Regional Consultant for the Asia and the Pacific Paris 21 - OECD	Philippines
John Caventa	Coady International Institute	United Kingdom

* The CBMS resource persons are the same as the PEP-Asia Office coordinating team (page x).

We wish to express our gratitude to all donor and partner institutions who have made our work possible in 2014

PEP partner institutions

De La Salle University
AKI
Angelo King Institute
for Economic and Business Studies

CRES
CONSORTIUM POUR LA RECHERCHE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE (CRES)

GRADE
Group for the Analysis of Development

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

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Canada

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Other donors and special collaborators

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Editorial team

Marjorie Alain - Director of Communications
Jean-Philippe Paulin - Graphic Designer
Bekele Shiferaw - Executive Director

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