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PEP partners
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

PEP has passed a new milestone in 2017, as it has completed its transition to a fully operational international organisation. A new three-year term for the Board of Directors has started. Four members have left the Board: John Harriss, Ponciano Intal Jr, Stephen Wainaina and Leonard Wantchekon. Again, my sincere thanks and appreciation for their great and valuable contributions to PEP during the difficult early years of its transformation. Four new members have joined: Fred Carden, Haroon Bhorat, Xiaobo Zhang and Nora Lustig, then replaced by Santiago Levy. A hearty welcome to all of them, and my appreciation for their commitment and continuous support to PEP. I have to express an even greater appreciation to Marie-Claude Martin and Pramila Krishnan, the continuing members of the Board.

PEP has developed a new strategic plan centered on diversification of its sources of funding, its partners and its thematic areas of activity. It has put in place a new procedures manual and revised its charter. It has made the concept of a global secretariat operational. PEP under the leadership of Jane Mariara, its new Executive Director, is now working smoothly and efficiently.

Building on the success of the first PAGE initiative, “PAGE II” got underway, introducing a number of features to continue the organization’s excellent work supporting local efforts to produce essential empirical evidence and link it to policy action. In 2017 PEP put innovation into practice and significantly raised our profile as an international source of high-quality research for policy.

PEP has worked diligently to promote the findings and expertise of our researchers as well as to strengthen partnerships with key research institutions in developing countries. Multiple publications in peer-reviewed journals and international conference presentations by PEP researchers and staff have raised our standing and those of PEP-supported researchers globally. By enabling and promoting the voices of developing-country researchers, PEP is making major contributions to national and international policy debates while helping to change the way these debates are defined and conducted.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all members of the PEP family: The Global Secretariat, the Program Committee, the resource persons and mentors, the donors, the Partners, the research fellows and teams of grantees. They are the ones making PEP a success. As a Board, we are proud to be part of PEP’s 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

I am pleased to say that 2017 has been a very successful year for PEP with the consolidation and stabilization of the organization. We have been working closely with our stakeholders for a more vibrant PEP, and we are seeing the results.

PEP has also been cultivating new partnerships with key research and donor institutions to increase capacity building and improve the dissemination of policy-relevant findings and recommendations in developing countries.

Following the 2017 PEP Annual Conference in June, we selected the first round teams to receive funding and support under the new PAGE II initiative, after which their projects began in earnest with ongoing support from PEP mentors. In July, a call for proposals was launched for the second round; by the end of the year, PEP resource persons had provided feedback on all submissions, allowing applicant teams to improve their proposal development skills.

The creation and introduction of online training courses, in partnership with Université Laval in Canada, has expanded PEP’s scientific capacity building. The online courses complement the training offered during the PEP Annual Conference and allow the precious “in person” sessions to be more productive. We are also excited to have enlisted international policy experts to form the new Policy Outreach Committee and mentor PEP researchers, ensuring a higher level of policy engagement from the outset of each project.

Furthermore, in 2017, we developed a new project evaluation framework, inspired by the IDRC, to better assess the progress and performance of PEP’s initiatives to develop research capacity and support policy outreach. The results of this evaluation will expand our Monitoring and Evaluation procedure to provide a deeper analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of PEP’s Grant Plus system.

We are proud of and grateful to the large number of PEP researchers in developing countries who, despite facing many and varied challenges, are providing an evidence base of the highest quality and bringing that evidence to strategic stakeholders and decision makers.

It is thanks to the dedicated efforts of PEP staff, Research Directors, resource persons and mentors, local researchers, and all of our partners that we have achieved so much over the past 12 months, and that we will continue to produce policy-relevant evidence and build capacities in developing countries.

I would also like to thank our donors, the PEP Board of Directors, management, collaborating institutions, and all other stakeholders for their continued support and look forward to working closely with you moving forward.

Prof. Jane Mariara
PEP Executive Director
2017 highlights

Innovations

New PEP online training program
110 participants in 2017, 53% women

New program to support policy outreach and communication in research including training and mentorship

1st CGE institutionalization project in Mongolia

Publications

21 papers from PEP projects published in international peer-reviewed journals
1 in 3 in highly-regarded publications

130,258 downloads of PEP research papers and policy briefs from the PEP website

PEP Annual Conference in Nairobi

Nearly 150 participants, including 63 developing country researchers invited to present new project proposals and complete advanced training

Featuring policy and research forums to discuss issues related to female/youth entrepreneurship and gender analysis in economic research

29 new projects supported in 22 countries

Countries where PEP has supported projects since 2002
Projects supported by PEP in 2017 - under the 1st round of PAGE II

15 projects supported in low-income economies, fragile or conflict situations

143 researchers trained and mentored by PEP-affiliated international experts including 84 women and 77 in low-income/fragile situations
About PEP

Connecting local with global, and evidence with users, from research design to policy action
**What we do**

**Building capacity for local development solutions**

The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to:

- **Building and promoting capacity in developing countries**
- **High-quality research**
  - Addressing specific knowledge gaps from a local perspective, with support from proposal to publication
- **Policy engagement**
  - Connecting local experts and evidence with users, from research design to policy action
- **Locally-defined and sustainable development policies**

**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**

To build research capacity in developing countries, and put this capacity to work where it is most needed, to generate a relevant evidence base for development policy.

**PEP is well-organized in its approach to building the capacity of young researchers in the developing world. Since the start of this project I have really learnt a lot.**

*Benjamin Abu, Ghana*

**PEP keeps high standards and pushed us beyond what we thought we were capable of achieving.**

*Nisha Arunatilake, Sri Lanka*

**“Our PEP project received unprecedented international attention. Many people and organizations approached us to try to get the results and to collaborate. These exchanges may lead to others replicating the project in Africa.”**

*Thierry Kame Babilla, Cameroon*
PEP has created and perfected a unique research "Grant Plus" support program that empowers developing country researchers to achieve the highest international standards of scientific quality, while building productive relationships with decision-makers at home.

We do this by:

Linking promising researchers with international experts for customized training, mentorship and support.

Providing continual mentoring, peer review, and a comprehensive support package to strengthen expertise in advanced methodologies.

Supporting dissemination and fostering engagement with policy stakeholders throughout the research process.

The program is combined with a sophisticated web-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, which enables PEP to oversee the progress and assess the impact of supported projects in three key areas:

- **capacity building**
- **research quality**
- **policy outreach**

M&E data from PEP projects supported between 2013 and 2017 reveals that:

- **1 in 3** projects results in findings taken up to influence policy
  - Another **20%** elicit official statements that findings will be used for policymaking

- **1 in 2** researchers experiences a major career promoting event
  - **40%** of these events result in their increased involvement in policy processes

- **1 in 4** papers is published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal
  - Including **35%** in high impact factor journals, with standard rejection rates as high as **95%**

- **60%** teams organize national policy conferences
- **55%** projects reported in national news media
- **42%** teams present findings at international conferences
- **95%** teams discuss findings in person with decision-makers
- **75%** teams receive new funding or contracts to pursue related research
- **69%** teams engage policy stakeholders in dissemination of findings
The geographic scope of PEP activities, combined with a “networking” type of organizational structure, provide a unique opportunity for locally-based, often isolated, Southern researchers to share and learn from experiences with international peers. These exchanges allow comparisons of research results, conclusions, and methodological applications among countries and regions, promoting increased South-South knowledge transfer.
The “Poverty and Economic Policy Research Network” was established in 2002, emerging from a special research program implemented by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada to examine the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies (MIMAP). The main institutions involved in this initiative, Université Laval in Canada and De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) in the Philippines, were joined by other partners in Senegal (CRES, in 2005) and Peru (GRADE, in 2007) to help manage the activities regionally and globally. In 2011, the Network was renamed the “Partnership for Economic Policy”.

In 2014, PEP was legally incorporated as a non-profit international organization (registered in the US) and soon after was granted residence by the Government of Kenya, based on a comprehensive host-country agreement, to establish the new PEP global head office in Nairobi.

PEP is governed by an international Board of Directors and managed through the Global Secretariat, based in Nairobi and led by the PEP Executive Director.

### Reach

**14,699** registered members on the PEP website  
11,403 of whom receive PEP’s quarterly newsletter, the "PEP-talk"  
2,191 new members registered in 2017  

**55,000** users visited the PEP website in 2017  
82% of whom were first-time users  
35% from Asia, 30% Africa, 20% Americas, 13% Europe  
Total of 203,000 page views

### Also in 2017

**93,450 downloads** of PEP working papers*  
**36,808 downloads** of PEP policy briefs*  
**112,500 impressions** of PEP tweets  
**732 new followers** on the PEP Facebook page

*By the end of 2017, there were 402 working papers and 177 policy briefs published on the PEP website. These downloads were from the PEP website alone; PEP working papers are also posted on other repositories, such as RePEc and SSRN.

**A bit of history…**

The “Poverty and Economic Policy Research Network” was established in 2002, emerging from a special research program implemented by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada to examine the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies (MIMAP). The main institutions involved in this initiative, Université Laval in Canada and De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) in the Philippines, were joined by other partners in Senegal (CRES, in 2005) and Peru (GRADE, in 2007) to help manage the activities regionally and globally. In 2011, the Network was renamed the “Partnership for Economic Policy”.

In 2014, PEP was legally incorporated as a non-profit international organization (registered in the US) and soon after was granted residence by the Government of Kenya, based on a comprehensive host-country agreement, to establish the new PEP global head office in Nairobi.
Over the past few years, PEP has come to be regarded throughout the world as an important source of expertise, both in terms of its distinctive approach to research capacity building and the research methodologies it utilizes (p.10).

As a reputable 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.

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.

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)

In 2017, most PEP activities were supported by DFID (UK Aid) and IDRC through the second PAGE initiative (see pages 12-18).

Besides international donors, several PEP initiatives have been commissioned directly by national governments or other organizations (e.g. locally-based UN agencies, statistical offices, etc.) in developing countries, especially in Africa – including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Morocco and Uganda.
PEP has four global thematic research groups (TRGs) that offer technical research support on the specific analytical approaches the researchers choose to be trained in and apply during their PEP project. These approaches allow PEP researchers to analyse a broad range of policy issues related to sustainable development.

Each group is supported by world-leading experts in the relevant methodologies (pages 42-43). In many cases, their support of PEP researchers has led them to develop innovative tools and techniques for developing-country-specific applications, which are now acknowledged as some of the field’s most valuable contributions.

**Community-based monitoring systems**

Developing and implementing the CBMS methodology to provide disaggregated data for multidimensional poverty analysis. CBMS data helps improve policy formulation, program targeting, and impact monitoring, while empowering communities.

As of December 2017, CBMS has been implemented in 23 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin and Central America. It has been widely adopted by local government units in the Philippines as a tool for improving local governance and implementing programs that address key thematic concerns (pages 22-23).

**Experimental research**

Using experimental research methods to provide rigorous assessments of the impacts of policy interventions on a variety of outcomes – including both expected benefits and unintended effects.

Experimental impact evaluation methods include randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and field experiments, and thus the collection of primary data.

As of December 2017, PEP has supported 16 experimental research projects in 13 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin and Central America.

**Macro-micro policy modelling**

Building and using economy-wide models as “laboratories” to simulate macro policies/shocks and their impacts on welfare at the household level. This program combines sophisticated techniques of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling and household survey-based microsimulation.

Through research under this program, PEP-affiliated experts have developed a series of reference CGE models and related tools that have been used (downloaded) by 777 researchers and policy analysts in 114 countries.

**Microeconomic analysis**

Designing and applying rigorous techniques of microeconomic non-experimental analysis to understand the effectiveness and distributive effects of public interventions in developing countries. The program also focuses on measuring and analysing multidimensional poverty and inequality, primarily using household survey data.

Research activities conducted through this program led PEP-affiliated experts to develop innovative software tools for distributive analysis: DAD and DASP (for Stata). As of 2017, these tools have been downloaded by 7,806 and 9,106 users, respectively, in 210 countries.
Innovations from PEP research in 2017

A top-down behaviour (TDB) microsimulation toolkit for distributive analysis

Macro/CGE models are often combined with microsimulation (MS) models to perform distributive impact analysis for fiscal or structural policies, or external shocks. In line with the core mission of PEP, a group of PEP resource persons have joined efforts to develop a user-friendly "Stata-based toolkit (and user manual) to perform microsimulations combined with CGE models in a top-down fashion".

This material, the TDB-microsimulation toolkit and manual, is freely distributed and available to download on the PEP website.
Policy analysis on growth and employment
In 2012, with support from the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP launched a new initiative to support research and build local capacities in “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE) in developing countries.

The initial phase (PAGE I) was completed by the end of 2016 and highly successful in achieving, even surpassing, its objectives for research and scientific quality, capacity development, and policy influence—as illustrated by the numbers below.

Key outcomes from PAGE I 2012-2016

65 projects in 34 countries

- 29 projects in low-income economies, fragile or conflict situations

274 local researchers trained

- 54% women
- 34% female team leaders
- 35 years average age at project selection

48 % Africa
25 % Asia
18 % Latin America
9 % Eastern Europe & Middle East

Publications

- 81 working papers
  - 65,740 downloads by the end of 2017

- 52 policy briefs
  - 32,552 downloads by the end of 2017

- 15 scientific journal articles
  - Accepted or published by 2018

Dissemination

- 39 organize national policy conferences
- 27 present at international conferences
- 55 reported in national news media

Impact

- 144 researchers (54% women) experienced major career-promoting events

- 40% leading to their increased involvement in policy processes

- 21 projects resulted in findings taken up to inform policy decisions

- 13 projects elicited official statements that findings would be considered

Continued support under PAGE II 2016-2020

Given the success of the first phase, both donors decided to grant new funding to build on and extend this unique program through a second phase (PAGE II) up to 2020. PAGE II funding will allow PEP to support 45 new projects for locally-led policy analysis on growth and employment issues in developing countries.

To identify the projects to be supported under each of the PAGE II funding rounds, calls for proposals were launched in 2016 and 2017. Together, the calls generated an impressive response of 467 applications from more than 80 developing countries, including 181 proposals from low-income economies, fragile or conflict situations. PEP international experts carefully evaluated all proposals and provided detailed comments to help applicants improve their proposal development skills. See pages 14-15 for the results of the selection process to date.
The shortlist

In 2017, the projects to be supported under the first round of PAGE II funding were selected.

January-March 2017 - Online courses

Expanding PEP’s capacity-building efforts under PAGE II (see Innovations, page 17), all team members with short-listed projects (except under the CBMS TRG, page 10) must complete an online technical training course on the methodology they wish to apply. Round 1 teams completed this training at the beginning of 2017.

Two distinct courses:
- CGE modelling
- Evaluation of public policies

For those who successfully completed the online courses:

June 2017 - Presentations and in-class training at the PEP annual conference

Up to two members per team were invited to present and discuss their project proposals with an audience of peers and PEP-affiliated international experts during the 2017 PEP Annual Conference (pages 26-27), where they received additional in-person training.

In-class training provided in:
- Advanced research techniques
- Scientific writing
- Policy engagement

63 participants from 23 developing countries
- 34 female researchers
- 31 from low-income, fragile/conflict situations
- Representing 34 finalist research teams

The presentations allowed PEP evaluators to complete their appraisal and selection of grant recipients.

"I have really benefitted from thinking to put the policy context at the initial stage of the research."
Yesuf M. Awel, Ethiopia
29 projects selected for support under the first round of PAGE II funding

- 22 developing countries
- 143 researchers, including 83 women (58%)
- 11 female project leaders

More than half are in low-income economies & fragile/conflict situations

- 15 projects, 77 researchers (42 women)

Geographic distribution of Round 1 projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Middle East</td>
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Thematic priorities

Under the broad theme of inclusive growth and employment, the first round projects investigate a range of more specific sub-themes. Among them:

- 13 projects focus primarily on gender issues
- 7 on agricultural and rural employment
- 7 on entrepreneurship & financial inclusion
- 7 on youth employment

Analytical approaches

The projects are divided between PEP’s four Thematic Research Groups (page 10), according to methodology:

- 9 projects use microeconomic analysis techniques
- 8 use community-based monitoring systems
- 8 use macro-micro policy modelling techniques
- 4 use experimental research methods (randomized controlled trials - RCTs)

July-December 2017 - Supporting Round 1 and processing Round 2 applications

While supporting Round 1 teams in conducting research and engaging stakeholders, PEP also evaluated 116 applications submitted under the Round 2 call, resulting in a shortlist of 21 proposals.

"The experience with PEP is so valuable. Learning and applying new scientific techniques and writing skills leads us to conduct an international-level study."

Soumana Harouna Ide, Niger
International study and field visits

January, April and September 2017
PEP mentors visit PAGE researchers in Mongolia

At the beginning of 2017 (January and April), PEP resource persons Bernard Decaluwé and Hélène Maisonnave (also Research Director), for Macro-Micro Policy Modelling, travelled twice to Mongolia to visit the Economic Research Institute (ERI), recipient of the first PEP institutionalization project grant (page 18). In addition to setting the project’s milestones and objectives, these initial visits allowed the ERI team to get valuable assistance and advice regarding both implementation and more technical aspects of the project.

In September 2017, PEP Research Director for Experimental Research (PIERI), Maria Laura Alzua travelled to Ulaanbaatar to support another team of four researchers conducting a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to assess the “Impact of access to free childcare on women’s labour market outcomes and children’s cognitive development”. While there, Dr Alzua and the project team leader, Altantsetseg Batchuluun, visited childcare centers and presented their research at the Labor Research Institute of the Ministry of Education.

November 2017
Training and study visit for CBMS research teams in the Philippines

Sixteen researchers from the eight CBMS (community-based monitoring system) project teams supported under PAGE II participated in a five-day multi-team study visit in the Philippines from November 20 to 24. The researchers travelled from seven African countries—Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Togo, and Uganda— and Nicaragua to the CBMS Network Office in Manila, where they received technical support to finalize their methodology and instruments for data collection, CBMS implementation, and thematic study.

During the visit, the researchers participated in an intensive training workshop on using and implementing the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) tools, including CBMS-SCAN (tablet-based CBMS questionnaires). The training also included strategies to implement the CBMS process (such as community engagement and local capacity building), poverty mapping, database management and processing poverty and SDG indicators using Stata. The researchers also had the opportunity to present and discuss their final research questions and methodology with each other and CBMS Resource Persons.
Innovations under PAGE II

Capacity building

Through the PAGE II initiative, PEP aims to expand capacity-building activities for a wider and longer-lasting effect in the countries of supported teams.

The capacity-building innovations introduced under PAGE II include:

**Online courses in specific analytical approaches (page 24)**
- All members of shortlisted teams benefit from PEP training
- More advanced and team-specific training can be offered at the PEP Annual Conference

**Two members per team attend the PEP Conferences and study visits**
- Instead of one member per activity (as in PAGE I and before)
- More researchers benefit from direct interactions with PEP experts and in-class training activities

**New training activities (at PEP Conferences) review best practices in:**
- Scientific writing
- Policy engagement
- Research communication

**New institutional capacity building support (page 18)**
- Create a locus of recognized local expertise in CGE modelling for policy analysis, as well as better visibility for the institution.

Policy outreach

While projects supported under the first phase of PAGE had a significant policy impact (page 13), the experience also generated important lessons that informed further innovations under PAGE II - i.e., for more complete and better-tailored support of policy outreach initiatives. These innovations include:

At proposal stage (for shortlisted teams):
- Guidance in developing a (mandatory) policy context analysis, submitted alongside the proposal
- One-day workshop to review best practices in policy engagement

During the research cycle of selected projects:
- Periodic advisory support from a regional PEP Policy Outreach Committee mentor (page 44), to help design effective policy engagement and communication strategies
- One-day workshop to review best practices for research communication
Innovations under PAGE II

First PEP institutionalization project - Mongolia

This new type of support, also called an institutional support project (ISP), is conceptualized and channelled through the Macro-Micro Policy Modeling group (pages 10 and 43).

Through this project, PEP aims to develop and establish expertise in policy analysis using Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models within selected research centres, and to bridge research and policy through an institutionalized approach.

Out of 37 institutions (from 27 countries) that responded to PEP’s call in 2016, the Economic Research Institute (ERI) in Mongolia was selected to benefit from the first PEP institutionalization project grant, between 2017 and 2019.

In January and April 2017, PEP MPIA resource persons visited the ERI to advise on project implementation and targets, as well as to provide training and technical support. Following this visit, the ERI constructed a new Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for Mongolia, based on the most recent data available.

The team members who were not familiar with CGE methods followed and successfully completed the relevant PEP online training course at the beginning of 2017.

In June 2017, two ERI representatives presented their preliminary results during the 2017 PEP Annual Conference (pages 26-27). They also completed the technical training sessions offered as part of the event.

In October 2017, the research team organized their first stakeholder consultation workshop in Ulaanbaatar. There, they introduced the PEP ISP, the methodology, and the expertise being developed to a select group of key policy actors. They also discussed the issues being analysed in the initial project phase.

Following feedback received during the workshop, the team conducted a new series of simulations to address the specific needs and concerns of the stakeholders. The results were then published as a policy brief (page 33) and circulated widely for the benefit of all relevant stakeholders in the country.
Other initiatives
In 2014, PEP was invited by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Cornell University and the World Bank to participate in the Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS) consortium. STAARS is a major African initiative promoting high-quality research and capacity building for agricultural transformation as a key pathway to reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth and sustainable development on the continent.

In recognition of its extensive and successful experience in strengthening and promoting local expertise for high-quality research across the developing regions, PEP was invited by the consortium to lead activities and efforts related to capacity development. Acknowledging the value of this important continental initiative, as well as the importance of PEP’s contribution, IDRC extended funding to PEP to lead these efforts for two years.

Through STAARS, PEP created a special “Fellowship program” to help provide mentorship and capacity building to promising early-career African scholars, selected on a competitive basis. Eight STAARS Fellows (from Ethiopia, Niger, Benin, Ghana and Kenya, and of whom two are women) were paired with international experts (mainly from Cornell University, but also from PEP and icipe) to receive personalized mentoring and support. This included a two-week study visit at Cornell University (USA) for five of the Fellows.

A total of 10 research projects were completed through this program, resulting in the publication of 12 working papers, and as many policy briefs, discussing issues including agricultural technology adoption and labor productivity, household welfare and dietary diversity, food insecurity, and child nutrition.

In 2017, several of these projects were presented to targeted academic audiences, policymakers and other development practitioners during high-level international conferences and national policy workshops (page 29), and four were accepted for publication in highly-regarded scientific journals (page 37).
The Productive Employment in Segmented Markets of fresh produce in Kenya (PRESM) project investigates alternative approaches for modernizing the avocado sector in Kenya, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of the country’s fresh fruit exports. It evaluates the impact of these approaches on the productive employment of small-scale avocado growers.

The project was completed in 2017. The findings and policy messages were discussed during knowledge-sharing and dissemination workshops held in Kenya in November (page 29) and translated into policy briefs. The results show that contract farming is the best option for Kenya to transform its avocado sector, benefitting exporters as well as many smallholder avocado farmers. Contract farmers benefit from higher prices, more training, greater productivity and better-perceived income stability. However, several challenges remain. There are significant gender and age gaps, particularly because many women and youth are ineligible for contracting and thus training. Side-selling is widespread, attributed mainly to food insecurity, poverty, and lack of trust among farmers and with contracting companies. Also, farmers show little loyalty to long-term contracts with buyers, threatening the sustainability of contracting schemes.

The findings suggest that policies are needed to create market opportunities, increase investment in training and trust, innovate contract design, and discourage side-selling. These may include regulatory changes, infrastructure investments, and competitive funds for exporters or farmer groups.

The project is part of the research agenda of the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies. In 2014, The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)–WOTRO Science for Global Development programmes, awarded a special research grant to the PRESM consortium of PEP, Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD), University of Nairobi, Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE) and the Fresh Produce Exporter Association Kenya.

PEP provided overall leadership and management while Remco Oostendorp and Menno Pradhan of VU provided technical leadership for conceptual and analytical aspects of the project. The Wageningen Economic Research also collaborated in PRESM.
Leaving no one behind:
Using the CBMS to monitor the SDGs

The commitment to “leave no one behind” is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the community-based monitoring system (CBMS, page 10) can provide the data needed to operationalize the SDG mantra.

The CBMS Network Office works with local governments in the Philippines, and beyond, because local governments provide frontline services to the population. However, local plans and budgets tend to give a low priority to some development goals, such as climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.

The CBMS can be used as a tool to monitor the SDGs at a local level. By collecting data on the different dimensions of poverty for each and every individual in the community, we are able to show the extent of multidimensional poverty that each individual experiences. Additionally, the CBMS provides disaggregated data. As such, we can monitor the SDGs at the local level by gender, age group, ethnic origin, with or without disabilities, income group, and any other relevant profile.

The Panabo City local government unit (LGU) in the Philippines has piloted a program to localize the SDGs using the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Local Governance Diagnostic (LOGOD) tool with CBMS data. Panabo City is a CBMS site and the CBMS Network Office in Manila is leading this technical collaboration research initiative, supported by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH).

The project examines the capacities of the local government to prioritize, plan, allocate, and deliver services that address the deprivations their population faces and achieve the SDGs. It uses the CBMS as a platform to conduct socioeconomic data mapping and to generate the data needed to prepare a local-level SDG report for the LGU. Meanwhile, the LOGOD is used to identify policy, capacity, and implementation gaps in localizing the SDGs.

The LOGOD tool kit has three main components: 1) socioeconomic data mapping, 2) budget and expenditure analysis, and 3) local administration assessment. It uses primary and secondary data, both quantitative and qualitative.
The UNDP Regional Hub for Asia and the Pacific invited CBMS Network Director, Dr Celia Reyes, to present the key findings from the Panabo City pilot during the Regional Knowledge Exchange: Supporting Policy Coherence for Accelerating Progress towards the 2030 Agenda, in October 2017. Dr Reyes highlighted the use of LOGOD with CBMS for socioeconomic data mapping and analysis to identify capacity building and program needs for local governments so they may achieve the SDGs in their area. She also said that greater coordination between national and local governments is needed to ensure programs reach the targeted beneficiaries.

In addition, CBMS Network Team resource persons presented the CBMS as a tool for monitoring and localizing the SDGs at the 2017 International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals Statistics (also held in Manila, October 2017) hosted by the Philippines Statistics Authority, and during the National Consultation Workshop on SDG initiatives organized by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (November 2017). The resource persons discussed how the CBMS approach can be used by LGUs for local planning, budgeting, and program implementation in their efforts to meet the SDGs. They explained that the CBMS methodology and tools can support SDG localization by providing disaggregated socioeconomic data and geospatial data.

As well as being used for SDG monitoring, the CBMS has been widely adopted by LGUs in the Philippines to inform programs for multi-dimensional poverty monitoring and analysis, gender-responsive planning and budgeting, disaster-risk reduction and management, and impact monitoring. Additionally, eight PEP research teams in Africa and Latin America are currently using this methodology to generate local level data for SDG profiling as part of their thematic studies under the PAGE II initiative (page 15). Earlier PEP projects used the CBMS to examine the micro-level impacts of the global financial crisis and the food and fuel price hike on poverty.
In 2017, PEP completed the development of a new online training program, composed of three distinct courses in the most up-to-date techniques and tools for economic policy analysis.

Course 1: Policy Impact Analysis
Course 2: Computable General Equilibrium Modelling
Course 3: Measuring and Alleviating Poverty and Inequality

These distance-learning courses aim to help local researchers contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies in their own countries. The pedagogical approach is founded on narrated presentations, accompanied by readings, guided exercises, and forum discussions. Evaluations are based on frequent quizzes and tests, practical work, and a final exam.

Courses 1 and 2 were offered for the first time in 2017, to the first cohort of PAGE II shortlisted applicant teams as a mandatory phase of the selection process. Meanwhile course 3 was being developed and was completed by December. Together, these three courses form a graduate microprogram accredited by (and provided in collaboration with) Université Laval in Canada and also accessible to external (non-PEP) participants. The program, to which PEP aims to add new courses in the future, will be offered during the first quarter of 2018, 2019, and hopefully for many years to come.

What researchers have to say about PEP

“PEP is a well-organized research-based institution interested in building the capacity of young researchers in developing countries. They are gender sensitive in their approach. They provide tailor-made training packaged for young researchers. They are always willing to make learning and research a way of finding solutions to problems facing developing economies.”

Yazidu Ustarz, Ghana

“PEP support helped us attract the attention of key national policymakers for both our findings and our research methods.”

Altantsetseg Batchuluun, Mongolia

“PEP’s approach to supporting research while building local expertise is unique and results in long-term and potentially large-scope effects, especially through junior researchers.”

Damilola Olajide, Nigeria

“The online training program has built my policy evaluation capacity and I am already applying the lessons in other projects.”

Benjamin Abu, Ghana

“The PEP project is a very useful experience for my career. We have received tremendous guidance and support from our mentor and others in the PEP team.”

Eleni Yitbarek, Ethiopia

“Learning how to implement the CBMS method has been very enriching, giving its capacity to provide useful information at local level which will contribute to better design of poverty reduction policies. The process has been also enriching - I have improved my skills in construction of indicators and design of related questionnaires, which facilitates the processing of information and improves the quality of the research.”

Ana Rostran, Nicaragua
Conferences & workshops

To share and discuss research results, to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, and to enhance the visibility of its work and researchers, PEP organizes, supports, and participates in a variety of conferences and workshops, at the international, regional, and national levels in all regions of the world.
The 2017 PEP Annual Conference in Kenya brought together around 150 researchers, practitioners, international experts, representatives of donor and international organizations, and policy actors from 39 countries for a highly successful event.

In line with PEP’s core mission, the PEP Annual Conference presents a unique opportunity for global networking, international peer-review and capacity building.

**Strengthening research capacities in developing countries**

Capacity building activities included advanced technical training sessions, a policy engagement workshop, and a scientific writing workshop that discussed the art of getting a scientific paper published.

To increase the technical knowledge and ability of developing country researchers, PEP resource persons and experts provided a series of (parallel) intensive training workshops on the different research methods, techniques, and tools that funded researchers will use in their projects.

Under the PAGE II initiative (pages 13-18) PEP has increased features to encourage policy engagement and ensure the long-term impact of PEP research. The new Policy Engagement Workshop discussed best practices for policy outreach and communication, from the project’s outset, to maximize the chances of research uptake.

**Presentation of new project proposals**

As PEP’s first Annual Conference since the launch of the second PAGE initiative (pages 13-18), PEP invited the research teams that were shortlisted for the first funding round to present their project proposals.

Representatives of 35 research teams from 22 countries, including 11 low-income economies and/or fragile or conflict-affected situations, presented their proposals during parallel sessions grouped by methodological approach.

An audience of their peers and international experts discussed the proposed research questions and methodologies. These sessions provided valuable feedback to the teams to improve their proposals. Following the presentations, the final selection of proposals was made.

The 2017 PEP Annual Conference was organized by the PEP Global Office in Nairobi and thanks to support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID, or UK Aid) and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC).
On June 14, PEP hosted a high-level policy forum and a research forum to conclude the 2017 PEP Annual Conference. More than 110 people from 37 countries attended, including researchers, international experts, stakeholders, donors, and decision makers. The Policy Forum discussed evidence-based policy options to promote youth and female entrepreneurship while the Research Forum looked at how to integrate gender analysis into economic policy research.

Policy Forum

Promoting youth and female entrepreneurship: Evidence-based policy options

Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs officially opened the event. The Hon. Sicily Kariuki emphasized the need for evidence-based policymaking.

Professor Michael Chege, Public Policy Consultant, delivered the keynote address. He focused on why nearly half of start-ups owned by women and youth in Africa fail in the first year. He highlighted training and education as a key area where policy can support entrepreneurship.

The results and recommendations from PEP projects investigating the constraints to female entrepreneurship in seven developing countries were then discussed with policymakers, researchers, and practitioners. The issue of structural discrimination was identified as a key barrier, particularly to women’s entrepreneurship.

Karin Fueg, of UN Women Kenya, said: “Policies need to go further than being gender sensitive; they need to be feminist.” The speakers agreed that policies are needed to reduce and remove structural discrimination and that research should support this aim.

Research Forum

Gender analysis in economic policy research

The question of how to produce gender-sensitive research, including how to recognize structural discrimination, was explored during the Research Forum. Moderated by Arjan de Haan from Canada’s IDRC, three expert panellists discussed the importance of gender analysis and offered useful insights and practical advice to PEP researchers who are required to incorporate gender analysis into their research.

The discussions showed that research without gender analysis is not gender neutral but gender-blind. However, being able to accurately analyse gender issues or produce gender-sensitive research is difficult. Though more challenging, time-consuming, and expensive, structural gender biases can be accounted for using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

The key lessons and recommendations drawn from the policy forum and research forum discussions were synthesized, published as a report and widely circulated by PEP following the conference to benefit all PEP researchers and subscribers. They are available on the PEP website.
The 13th CBMS-Philippines National Conference brought together more than 1000 delegates including key officials and representatives from the government, non-government organizations, private organizations and academia.

The three-day event featured presentations and discussions on the role and uses of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as part of emerging policy developments and key issues relating to meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs), strengthening public accountability through results-based monitoring, and fostering resilience through adaptive governance.

Vice President of the Philippines, Leni Robredo led the roster of distinguished conference guest speakers. Opening the first day’s discussions on Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, she spoke about The Science and Numbers Behind Empowerment. Vice President Robredo highlighted the importance of baseline data in crafting transformative policy and program responses to the nation’s war on poverty.

The second day focused on Strengthening Public Accountability through Results-Based Monitoring and Assessment. Undersecretary Janet Abuel of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Local Government and Regional Operations Group discussed the role of development indicators for local government units (LGUs) in strengthening public financial management systems at the local level, and improving local governance and delivery of public services.

Director Anna Liza Bonagua of the Department of the Interior Local Government, Bureau of Local Government Development, started the final day’s policy discussion on Fostering Resilience Through Adaptive Governance. While looking at the way forward, the CBMS Network Team presented the latest developments and next steps on the use of the CBMS methodology, particularly the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP).

The conference also featured presentations from selected LGUs on their development initiatives, good practices and lessons learned on the uses of CBMS, and the presentation of the 6th CBMS Special Awards for LGUs.

The conference was organized by the CBMS Network Office of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) in collaboration with the Department of the Interior Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP). The conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria in Quezon City.
Discussing PEP research worldwide

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

This includes support for organizing national workshops and conferences, and for presenting at high-level international events.

These events raise the profile of developing country researchers and democratize the findings and policy implications of research projects supported by PEP.

International conferences

In 2017, local researchers and PEP staff were selected or invited to present PEP, their research work and findings at a number of international conferences.

Washington, D.C., USA – March 23
2017 IMF Conference on Gender and Macroeconomics

Dublin, Ireland – April 24-26
91st Agricultural Economics Society Conference

Nairobi, Kenya – July 6
CGIAR Conference on Impacts of International Agricultural Research: Rigorous Evidence for Policy

Chicago, USA – August 1
2017 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting

Richmond, USA – October 6
8th Annual Conference on Business and Entrepreneurship in Africa

Washington D.C., USA – October 19-20
3rd IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Conference on New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – October 23
Putting Children First: Identifying solutions to tackle poverty and inequality in Africa

Lima, Peru – November 7-8
6th Regional Meeting on Public Policy Analysis with CGE Models

PEP national policy conferences

Organized by local researchers with PEP support. During these events, PEP researchers disseminated findings from research conducted under three PEP initiatives.

PAGE

Channai, India – January 21
Impact of MGNREGS on intra-household bargaining

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – October 18
Institutionalization project stakeholder workshop

STAARS

Kampala, Uganda – February 9
Impact of agricultural technology on productivity and welfare

Nairobi, Kenya – March 17
Policy implications of gender and adoption of agricultural technology in East Africa

PRESM

Thika, Kenya – November 23
PRESM knowledge-sharing workshop

Nairobi, Kenya – November 24
PRESM dissemination workshop
To reach a wide audience, findings from PEP-supported research are published in a variety of formats. These include PEP working papers, PEP policy briefs, and books. Additionally, PEP-supported studies are frequently published as articles in international peer-reviewed journals, testifying to the increasing acknowledgement of their scientific rigour and contribution by the international development research community.
PEP published 23 working papers in 2017 (listed below), mostly from projects supported under the PAGE I (2012-2016, see page 13) and STAARS (page 20) initiatives. By the end of 2017, PEP had published a total of 376 working papers, including 31 papers published in two languages.

In addition to the PEP website, all working papers are listed with both SSRN (Social Sciences Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics) to ensure extensive worldwide circulation.

**In 2017, PEP working papers were downloaded 93,450 times from the PEP website.**

- **2017-01** Food vulnerability in Guatemala: A static general equilibrium analysis
  By Renato Vargas, Pamela Escobar, Maynor Cabrera, Javier Cabrera, Violeta Emiline Hernández Castellanos, Vivian Guzmán Quiroa, Martín Cicowiez

- **2017-02** Assessing the impacts of a training program for women in Peru: Are there social networking effects?
  By Eduardo Zegarra, Angie Higuchi, and Ricardo Vargas

- **2017-03** Land tenure policy and women’s off-farm employment in rural China
  By Hongqin Chang, Jing Liu, Yanyun Gao

- **2017-04** Reduction of child poverty in Serbia: Improved cash-transfers or higher work incentives for parents?
  By Nicholas-James Clavet, Luca Tiberti, Marko Vladisavljevic, Jelena Zarkovic Rakic, Aleksandra Anic, Gorana Krstic, and Sasa Randjelovic

- **2017-05** Cambodia macroeconomic impacts of public consumption on education: A computable general equilibrium approach
  By Sothy Ear, Sokcheng Sim, and Khiev Pirom

- **2017-06** The impact of oil exploitation on wellbeing in Chad
  By Gadom Djal Gadom, Armand Mboutchouang Kountchou, Gbetoton Nadege Adèle Djossou, Gilles Quentin Kane, and Abdelkrim Araar

- **2017-07** Optimal policy design: A CGE approach
  By Martín Cicowiez, Bernard Decaluwe, and Mustapha K. Nabli

- **2017-08** An empirical assessment of the union “facilitation effect” in the Ghanaian labor market
  By Nkechi S. Owoo, Monica Puoma Lambon-Quayefio, Jorge Davalos, and Samuel B. Manu

- **2017-09** Agricultural transformation in Senegal: Impacts of an integrated program
  By Abdoulaye Diagne, and Francois Joseph Cabral
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-10</td>
<td>Evidence of the impacts of minimum wages on labor market outcomes: The case of Bolivia</td>
<td>By Marcelo Nicolas Claure Ramirez, Alejandra Leyton, Christian Valencia, Karenth Vanessa Sánchez Bohórquez, and Jorge Davalos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-11</td>
<td>Macroeconomic impact of MGNREGA in India: An analysis in CGE modeling framework</td>
<td>By Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Atul Sarma, Charanjit Kaur and Deeksha Tayal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-12</td>
<td>Impact of short term vocational training on youth unemployment: Evidence from Mongolia</td>
<td>By Altantsetseg Batchuluun, Bayarmaa Dalkhjav, Soyolmaa Batbekh, Amartuvshin Sanjmyatav, and Tsogt-Erdene Baldandorj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-13</td>
<td>Gold exploitation and socioeconomic outcomes: The case of Burkina Faso</td>
<td>By Agnès Zabsonré, Maxime Agbo, Juste Somé, and Irene Haffin</td>
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<td>2017-14</td>
<td>Minimum wage impacts on wages and hours worked of low-income workers in Ecuador</td>
<td>By Sara Wong</td>
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<td>2017-15</td>
<td>Social media instruments and the promotion of financial inclusion in Peruvian rural areas</td>
<td>By Martin Valdivia, and Alberto Chong</td>
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<td>2017-16</td>
<td>Trade bust, labor and wage policy in Bolivia: a CGE approach</td>
<td>By Rolando Morales, Danilo Agramont, Erick Gomez, Estefany Parisaca Quispe, Franz Gomez-Soto, Jazmin Illanes-Yujra, Monica Cueto, and Ximena Soruco</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-17</td>
<td>The dynamics of microcredit borrowings in Cambodia</td>
<td>By Vathana Roth, Abdelkrim Araar, Bopharath Sry, and Phann Dalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>The role of micro and small scale enterprises in the Ethiopian economy, government intervention and alternative strategies: A CGE analysis</td>
<td>By Ermias Engida, Mekdim Regassa, Ibrahim Worku Hassen, Feiruz Yimer and Saba Yifredew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-19</td>
<td>The major bottlenecks of micro and small scale enterprises’ growth in Ethiopia</td>
<td>By Ermias Engida, Mekdim Regassa, Ibrahim Worku Hassen, Feiruz Yimer and Saba Yifredew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-20</td>
<td>Heterogeneity in survey response according to gender: A survey experiment in rural India</td>
<td>By Maria Laura Alzua, Noemi Katzkowicz, and Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-21</td>
<td>Peer effects and risk-taking among entrepreneurs: Lab-in-the-field evidence</td>
<td>By Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena, and Steeve Marchand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-22</td>
<td>The effects of minimum wages on the labor market and income distribution in Kenya</td>
<td>By Tabitha Mwangi, Florence Nelima Simiyu, Lulit Mitik Beyene, and Albert Onderi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-24</td>
<td>A top-down behaviour (TDB) microsimulation toolkit for distributive analysis</td>
<td>By Luca Tiberti, Martin Cicowiez, and John Cockburn</td>
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</table>
A PEP policy brief is a short, non-technical summary of the research conducted and is based on the peer-reviewed PEP working paper. It presents the main conclusions and policy implications of the research project. The briefs are widely distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders.

In 2017, PEP published 20 policy briefs (listed below), the majority of which summarized key policy findings from projects supported under the PAGE I (2012-2016, see page 13) and STAARS (page 20) initiatives. By the end of 2017, the total number of PEP policy briefs published was 177.

**In 2017, PEP policy briefs were downloaded 36,808 times from the PEP website.**

154 The impact of child and youth work on school performance in Brazil
   By Ana Lucia Kassouf, Ida Ono, Marcos Garcias, and Camila Rossi

155 Evaluating risk and vulnerability to poverty using community-based monitoring system data: The case of Concepción in Bolivia
   By Werner Hernani-Limarino and Carola Ruth Tito Velarde

156 Developing entrepreneurship evidence from Argentina
   By Sebastian Auguste, and Alejandro Ernesto Bricker

157 Togolese informal sector workers’ willingness to pay for access to social protection: The case study of CSNN
   By Esso-Hanam Atake, Akoété Ega Agbodji, Malb Ama N’Danida Yagninim, André Melachio Tameko, Luc Armand Totouom Fotuè, Yevesse Dandonougbo, and Abdul-Fahd Fofana

158 Land tenure policy and women’s off-farm employment in rural China
   By Hongqin Chang, Jing Liu, Yanyun Gao

159 The impact of climate change on food vulnerability in Guatemala
   By Renato Vargas, Pamela Escobar, Maynor Cabrera, Javier Cabrera, Violeta Emilene Hernández Castellanos, and Vivian Guzmán Quiroa

160 The impact of trade reforms on employment and wellbeing in Senegal
   By Sokhna Diarra Mboup, Racky Baldé, Thierno Malick Diallo, and Christian Arnault Emini

161 The role of unions in improving working conditions in Ghana
   By Nkechi S. Owoo, Monica Puoma Lambon-Quayefio, Samuel B. Manu

162 Agricultural productivity and rural household welfare in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Nigeria and Uganda
   By Mulubrhan Amare and Bekele Shiferaw

163 The impact of agricultural technology adoption on farmer welfare in Uganda and Tanzania
   By Bethuel Kinyanjui Kinuthia and Edward Mabaya
PEP policy briefs

164 The impact of minimum wage raises on the Bolivian labor market
By Marcelo Nicolas Clauire Ramirez, Jorge Davalos, Alejandra Leyton, Karenth Vanessa Sanchez Bohorquez and Christian Valencia

165 The role of micro and small enterprises in reducing unemployment and poverty in Ethiopia
By Ermias Engida, Mekdim Regassa, Ibrahim Worku Hassen, Saba Yifredew, and Feiruz Yimer

166 The impact of increased public spending on education in Cambodia
By Sothy Ear, Sokcheng Sim, and Khiev Pirom

167 Impact of microcredit borrowing on wellbeing in Cambodia
By Vathana Roth, Abdelkrim Araar, Bopharath Sry, and Phann Dais

169 Does gender matter in adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies? A case of push-pull technology in Kenya
By Beatrice Muriithi, Menale Kassie, Gracious Diro, Geoffrey Muricho

170 Do safety net transfers improve household diets and reduce undernutrition? Evidence from rural Ethiopia
By Tagel Gebrehiwot and Carolina Castilla

171 The impact of an unconditional non-contributory cash transfer scheme on the wellbeing of the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria
Damilola Olajide, Maria Laura Alzua, Ana Dammert, Olusegun Sotola and Thompson Ayodele

172 Locus of control and technology adoption in Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia
By Kibrom Abay, Garrick Blalock and Guush Berhane

173 Strengthening social protection in the informal sector through CBMS: Case of the communes of Diébougou (Province of Bougouriba), Koper (Province of loba) and To (Province of Sissili)
By Lassina Konate, Prosper Somda, Michel Kone, Omer Combaray, Samandoulgou Rasmata, and Ouedraogo Jeannette

174 Minimum wage raises contribute to rural-urban inequality in Kenya
By Tabitha Mwangi, Florence Nelima Simiyu, Lulit Mitik Beyene, and Albert Onderi

Books

The Many Faces of Poverty, Volume 7
Edited by: CBMS Network Office, DSLU-AKI
Published and distributed by: De La Salle University Publishing House
Journal publications

From PEP-supported researchers and projects

Following the publication of a PEP working paper, PEP’s Grant Plus system (pages 5-6) encourages teams to prepare and submit their work to high-level scientific journals through collaboration with their PEP project mentor.

New features, including a scientific writing workshop, brought in under the PAGE II initiative (pages 13-18) aim to increase the number of project papers published in peer-reviewed journals.

As part of PEP’s mission to build capacity for local development solutions, this support is provided to PEP researchers to ensure high-quality research that can address specific knowledge gaps from a local perspective.

The increasing number of PEP-supported researchers whose findings are published in top development economics and policy journals demonstrates the success of these capacity building initiatives and challenges the near monopoly of these journals by researchers working in Europe or North America.

In 2017, papers from 12 PEP-supported projects were published or accepted for publication in international peer-reviewed journals. A further seven papers were featured in DLSU Business & Economics Review, one of the most distinguished Philippine journals.

Journal articles published (or accepted for publication) in 2017 and based on PEP-supported research include:

Published in 2017

Vathana Roth and Luca Tiberti
Economic Effects of Migration on the Left-Behind in Cambodia

Yogo Urbain Thierry, Douzounet Mallaye and Abdelkrim Araar
Education Language and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad

Emmanuel O. Nwosu and Anthony Orji
Addressing Poverty and Gender Inequality through Access to Formal Credit and Enhanced Enterprise Performance in Nigeria: An Empirical Investigation

By the end of 2017, one in four projects supported by PEP since 2012 (under the PAGE or STAARS initiatives) produced a paper that was later published or accepted for publication in scientific journal.

A third of these publications are in highly-regarded journals that reject up to 95% of submissions.
Journal publications

Jorge Dávalos, Kamalbek Karymshakov, Burulcha Sulaimanova, and Raziiakhan Abdieva
Remittances and Labor Supply of the Left-Behind Youth: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Rolando Gonzales, Patricia Aranda and Joel Mendizabal
A Bayesian Spatial Propensity Score Matching Evaluation of the Regional Impact of Microfinance

Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojoska-Lazevski and Marcelo Bergolo
Labor-Market Scars When Youth Unemployment Is Extremely High: Evidence from Macedonia

Kibrom Araya Abay, Garrick Blalock and Guush Berhane
Locus of Control and Technology Adoption in Developing Country Agriculture: Evidence from Ethiopia

Mulubrhan Amare and Bekele Shiferaw
Nonfarm employment, agricultural intensification, and productivity change: empirical findings from Uganda
Agricultural Economics, 2017, Vol 48 (S1): 59-72

Seven additional projects supported under PAGE I and involving the CBMS methodology were published in:


Sebastian Auguste, and A. Bricker
Gender Gap in Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Argentina

Atake, E. & Agbodji, A
Togolese Informal Sector Workers’ Willingness to Pay for Access to Social Protection

Cabuay, C. R
The Impact of Remittances on the Youth’s Human Resource Development, Employment, and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Philippine CBMS Data

Edralin, D. M., Castillo, P. J., Conchada, M. P. & Tiongco, M.,
Evaluating Government Programs for Enhancing the Welfare of the Youth Towards Entrepreneurship

Rivera, J. R. & Gozun, B. C.
Role of Education in Encouraging Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship.

Perez, J. A., Alarcon, D. C. & Umali, M. S
Determining the Credit Risk Factors in Accessing Debt Financing for Entrepreneurial Activities

Conchada, M. P. & Tiongco, M.,
Making Social Health Insurance and Micro-Savings Programs Work for the Informal Sector in the Philippines
Accepted for publication in 2017

Sénakpon F. A. Dedehouanou, Abdelkrim Araar, Aichatou Ousseini, Abdoulaziz Laouali Harouna, and Maimounata Jabir
Spillovers from Off-farm Self-Employment Opportunities in Rural Niger

Abdoulaye Seck, Abdelkrim Araar, Karamoko Camara, and Founy A. Fall
Gender, Access to Credit, and Productivity of Firms in Senegal
Journal of African Development, Forthcoming

Hongqin Chang, Ping Ai, and Yuan Li
Land Tenure Policy and Off-farm Employment in Rural China
IZA Journal of Development and Migration, Forthcoming

Beatrice Muriithi, Gracious M. Diiro, Menale Kassie, and Geoffry Muricho
Does gender matter in the adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies? A case of push-pull technology in Kenya
Food Security, Forthcoming
Journal publications

From PEP staff and resource persons

Below is a selection of scientific articles published in 2017 and based on the work and findings of PEP-affiliated international experts or PEP resource persons

Luis Huesca Reynoso and Abdelkrim Araar
Comparison of Fiscal System Progressivity over Time: Theory and Application in Mexico
Estudios Económicos, El Colegio de México, Centro de Estudios Económicos, Vol 31 (1) : 3-45

Erwin L. Corong, Thomas W. Hertel, Robert McDougall, Marinos E. Tsigas, and Dominique van der Mensbrughe
The Standard GTAP Model, Version 7

Hans Lofgren and Martin Cicowiez
A Proximity-based Approach to Labor Mobility in CGE models with an Application to Sub-Saharan Africa

Onil Banerjee, Martin Cicowiez, Renato Vargas and Mark Horridge
A Conceptual Framework for Integrated Economic-Environmental Modelling

Onil Banerjee, Martin Henseler, Hélène Maisonnave, Lulit Mitik Beyene and Mercedes Velasco
An Integrated Model for Evaluating Investments in Cultural Heritage Tourism in the Dominican Republic

Martin Cicowiez, Javier Alejo, Luciano Di Gresia, Sergio Olivieri and Ana Pacheco
Export Taxes, World Prices, and Poverty in Argentina: A Dynamic CGE-Microsimulation Analysis

Onil Banerjee, Martin Cicowiez, and Jamie Cotta
Economics of Tourism Investment in Data Scarce Countries

P. Ruben Mercado and Martin Cicowiez
Crecimiento argentino en el largo plazo: un modelo intertemporal y una agenda empírica

Til Feike and Martin Henseler
Multiple Policy Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in Crop Production - A Modeling Study for the Chinese Aksu-Tarim Region
Bruno Larue, Sébastien Pouliot and Mohamed Jedd
On the Number and Heterogeneity of Bidders in Livestock Auctions

André Lemelin

María Laura Alzúa and Cecilia Velázquez
The Effect of Education on Teenage Fertility: Causal Evidence for Argentina

Michael Harris, María Laura Alzúa, Nicolas Osbert and Amy Pickering
Community-Level Sanitation Coverage Is More Strongly Associated with Child Growth and Household Drinking Water Quality Than Access to a Private Toilet in Rural Mali
Environmental Science and Technology, 2017, Vol 51 (12): 7219-7227

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The following pages present the experts who have contributed to PEP activities in 2017, grouped according to their research methodology of specialization (page 14).

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