

2016 PEP Annual Conference

Growth and employment for shared prosperity and social resilience

On **June 4-8**, 2016, will be held the 13th edition of the PEP annual conference and general meetings in Manila, Philippines, where approximately 150 participants – development researchers and practitioners, eminent scholars, representatives of various donor/international organizations and policy makers/stakeholders – from at least 30 different countries, will gather to discuss a variety of research and policy issues under the broad theme of “growth and employment for shared prosperity and social resilience”.

Together with the regional stakeholders, the event will be hosted and co-organized by the PEP Asia office based in Manila. This meeting occurs in the context of the global PEP research and capacity building initiative for Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) in developing countries, which is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID, or UK Aid) and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Objectives:

- Review of research evidence on specific policy issues related to growth, employment and poverty in developing countries
- Training and building capacity of developing country researchers in best known practices for research communication
- Policy dialogue to catalyze effective research-policy action agendas
- Enhance opportunities for global collaboration and networking, amongst researchers and practitioners, to generate evidence and support policy implementation.

Program of activities:

June 4-5	Pre-conference workshop Training and advisory in research communication for PEP-PAGE grantees
June 6-7	Review of research evidence on growth, employment and poverty reduction Presentation and discussion of research results from ongoing PEP-PAGE projects Individual meetings between grantees and resource persons
June 8	Policy forum: “From policy engagement to research uptake : Lessons for and from developing country researchers” Poster session: presenting selected outputs of PEP-PAGE projects Closing dinner
May 9-10	PEP staff, management and board meetings

Context: the PAGE program

The 2016 PEP annual conference occurs in the context of the ongoing PEP research and capacity building initiative for **“Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE)**¹ in developing countries, co-funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID or UK Aid) and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Through this initiative, PEP is supporting a series of projects led by local research teams in developing countries (with priority given to low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states), selected through competitive calls for proposals. A total of 65 projects have been supported under three rounds of PAGE funding; they were selected following the presentation of finalist proposals during PEP annual meetings held in South Africa in 2013, in Bolivia in 2014, and in Kenya in 2015.

The 2016 PEP meeting will allow for 33 of those project teams, supported under the previous PAGE rounds, to present their final research reports and outcomes, to be evaluated before publication). The presentations will be discussed and commented in length with their peers, as well as with/by PEP resource persons and evaluators (i.e. international lead experts in the relevant research methods and themes). This is scheduled to take place on **June 6-7, 2016**.

The 33 projects to be presented during these technical sessions are being supported in 24 different countries, for the analysis of specific and country-relevant policy issues related to growth and employment (see page 3), from a variety of methodological approaches².



Training and capacity building

As the core mission of PEP is to enhance capacity of local researchers in developing countries, the PEP annual conferences (as part of the PEP manifold research support/grant program) also comprise an important training component.

June 4-5: As all projects to be presented in the 2016 meeting will be entering dissemination stage shortly after, a special (one-day) training workshop will be provided to review skills and best practices for effective policy communication. This will be followed by individual meetings between the grantees and PEP communication specialists, to revise the objectives and strategy of their key dissemination activities.

June 6-7: Finally, the researchers will also benefit not only from peer-review (through the group presentations, as described above) but also from the personal and customized mentoring by international leading experts, through individual meetings with PEP’s global resource persons with distinguished expertise in selected areas.

PAGE

policy analysis on growth and employment



pep
partnership for
economic
policy



IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada



UKaid
from the British people

¹ Find out more about the PAGE initiative and supported projects here : www.pep-net.org/page

² E.g. microeconomic analysis, CGE modeling and policy simulations, experimental and non-experimental impact evaluations, community-based monitoring system, etc. Find out more about the methods fostered in PEP research (i.e. PEP toolbox) here : www.pep-net.org/programs/

Review of research evidence

During the sessions of **June 6-7**, researchers from dozens of different countries will be presenting and discussing research issues and findings related to policies on growth and employment, offering a unique opportunity in terms of international peer-reviewing experience for developing country participants. Discussion of these technical papers will also lead to an intense review of research evidence and knowledge gaps in relation to the identified priority issues for policy analysis under the PAGE program.

Those priority issues, listed below, were identified by an international group of policy experts, in the context of the three PAGE calls for proposals (each call with a different set of priorities), as especially relevant to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of evidence base:

- **Providing social protection to the informal sector**
- **Safety net complementarities**
- **Youth employment and entrepreneurship**
- **Employment intensity of non-agricultural growth**
- **China's growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries**
- **Entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender**
- **Discrimination in credit access for women at the SME level**
- **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**



PEP Best Practice Awards

This annual conference will also feature a ceremony to present the winners of the 2016 PEP best practices awards.

As the ultimate goal of PEP research support activities is for the yielded evidence and new expertise to serve to inform decisions-making in the beneficiary countries, PEP has created this parallel competition to reward those research teams who, in addition to conducting high-quality research, would most actively engage in the implementation of a successful policy outreach strategy, i.e. to link their PEP research findings to policy action/influence, at the local/national level.

See for example the description of the 2015 awardees: www.pep-net.org/2015-pep-best-practice-awards



Research-policy dialogue

The gathering of such a variety of stakeholders is also the occasion to discuss the policy relevance and implications of PEP-supported research, through “thematically-focused” sessions, that aim to define and inform the research-policy action agenda.

During the sessions of **June 6-7**, those projects involving the use of community-based monitoring system (CBMS) will be discussed in detail with invited policy makers from each of the project countries.

On **June 8**, with the support of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA¹), PEP is planning a special event on the theme:

“From policy engagement to research uptake: lessons for and from developing country researchers”²

Over the past few years, in addition to supporting high-quality research projects, PEP has dedicated increasing resources to encourage, advise and support its grantees in engaging relevant policy actors and other stakeholders in their home countries. Periodical surveys of the research teams have yielded a great number of remarkable success stories, in which local independent researchers in developing countries manage to influence key development policy debates at the national level, and even beyond.

Regardless of their outcomes, the compilation of these stories suggests that there are key lessons to be learned from the researchers’ various experiences, both in terms of best practices and main obstacles to overcome for effective policy engagement.

The June 8 event begin with a **keynote address** by **Mustapha Nabli**, Chair of the PEP Board of Directors, who cumulates outstanding achievements as an accomplished researcher, senior World Bank economist and high-level policy-maker (including Central Bank Governor and twice Minister) in Tunisia. This first session will be followed by an open Q&A period with the audience.



PEP Policy Forum in 2015 - Nairobi, Kenya

In the second session, a **roundtable discussion** will provide an opportunity for researchers from different regions (Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe) to share and draw lessons from their own experiences related to policy engagement and communication.

The discussion will be moderated by **John Young**, one of the world's leading experts in the field (i.e. evidence-based policy), who will also allow ongoing interaction with the audience.

Efforts will also be made to connect with an external audience online, through a “live webcast” and social media.

The main lessons and recommendations drawn from this dialogue will be compiled, published and publicized by PEP and its partners for wider impact. See, for example, the recommendations published and circulated following the 2015 PEP conference: <https://www.pep-net.org/2015-policy-forum-recommendations>

Finally, a complementary **poster session** will showcase selected research outputs from PEP-PAGE projects, both in terms of research quality and impact, and also allow for participants to interact directly with the researchers.

1. ERIA: <http://www.eria.org/>

2. Find out more about this event here: <https://www.pep-net.org/2016-pep-annual-conference-policy-forum>

Opportunities for global collaboration, networking and knowledge transfers

In all dimensions and component activities, the PEP annual conferences provide a unique international networking experience, and opportunity to share/compare knowledge and experience, amongst development researchers and practitioners from all around the world.

Historically, PEP annual conferences attract about 100 to 200 participants, from 30 to 50 different countries - mostly from developing regions, but also from developed countries. These meetings thus lead to substantial knowledge transfers (South-South, North-South, and South-North), as well as greater coordination and/or collaborations between various institutions and initiatives worldwide

In addition, as they are organized in the context of ongoing funded programs, PEP also leverages its annual conferences to nurture new ideas and identify young scientists who can be mentored or assisted through its manifold support program.

Beyond scientific qualifications, PEP competitions tend to favour the inclusion of women and young scholars, as well as those from low-income countries. Their participation in PEP conference and research activities contributes to creating and building a growing pool of locally-based male and female researchers, to nourish and influence current and future debates related to economic policy, poverty, gender, inequality and sustainable development.

Technical advisory group:

- Bekele Shiferaw (PEP, Kenya)
- Celia Reyes (PEP/CBMS, Philippines)
- Marjorie Alain (PEP, Canada)
- Pramila Krishnan (Oxford, UK)
- Ponciano S. Intal Jr. (ERIA, Indonesia)
- John Young (ODI, UK)

Contacts

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Venue

The event will take place in the renowned **Dusit Thani Manila**, Philippines

Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City, Philippines
Website:
<http://www.dusit.com/dusitthani/manila/>



This event will benefit from the support of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC)

Find out more via the PEP conference webpage :
<https://www.pep-net.org/2016-pep-annual-conference>