

Preface

Hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), the members of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network participated in the annual 4th PEP Research Network Conference. The conference, which gathered together the members of its three subnetworks, namely, the Policy Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis (PMMA), the Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA), and CBMS, was held on June 13-17, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

With financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada), the conference was organized by the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University in cooperation with the Laval University of Canada and the IPS-Sri Lanka.

Profile of participants

The conference was the biggest meeting of the network with about 150 participants from 40 countries around the world including countries from South East Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The participants reflected a wide variety of backgrounds in poverty research which augured well for sharing of knowledge and fruitful interactions among researchers and experts.

Host country

Only less than 6 months after it devastated by the tsunami triggered by the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman earthquake, Sri Lanka played a gracious host to the conference.

Prof. Wiswa Warnapala, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the conference came at an opportune time given the recent tsunami that put millions into poverty where recovery may take many years to happen. On his part, Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Finance

of Sri Lanka, urged the conference participants to help his country in formulating appropriate policies that can jumpstart rehabilitation efforts.

Addressing the call of the two Sri Lankan national government officials, a session on the impact of the tsunami on poverty was conducted wherein two papers were presented and discussed with focus on the initial assessment and scenario analysis of the effect of the disaster and ways on how communities can recover.

Highlights of the proceedings

For the members of the CBMS subnetwork, it was another opportunity to learn about the experiences of other countries and researchers regarding the study of poverty. One of the topics during its subnetwork's meeting was on multidimensional poverty and policy assessment issues wherein two papers from Vietnam and one from the Philippines presented how CBMS can be used for this purpose. On the other hand, utilizing CBMS for poverty profile was the focus of the presentation from Bangladesh while the results of the pilot test were presented by Cambodia, Lao PDR and Pakistan. On the other hand, various methodologies used in the implementation of CBMS in their countries were discussed by country researchers from Indonesia, Thailand, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal. Representative from Tanzania was also in attendance to present a proposal for CBMS implementation in their country.

Meanwhile, three papers from representatives of private and government organizations from Sri Lanka were also presented highlighting the important role of CBMS in the country.

Underscoring the increasing role of CBMS, a session on impact assessment and gender responsive budgeting was likewise included in the meeting.

A joint session of the CBMS and MPIA Networks was also held where the invited resource person, Mr. Guntur Sugiyarto of the Asian Development Bank, presented how CBMS data can be used in computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling.

These various papers presented during the parallel sessions of the CBMS Network are all included in this volume. Aside from these, the papers presented by guest researchers during the plenary sessions on topics on the role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking, normative ways of integrating the different approaches to impact analysis among the MPIA, PMMA and CBMS networks, and the impacts of tsunami on poverty are also incorporated in this volume.

As part of the CBMS Network Meeting, a field visit to Sri Lankan CBMS sites was conducted and a documentation of this visit is included in this volume as well.