The 2016 PEP Annual Conference was held in Manila, Philippines, from June 4 to 8. The 2016 PEP Annual Conference in the Philippines saw another successful gathering of approximately 120 development researchers, and practitioners, eminent scholars, representatives of donor/international organizations, and policy actors from more than 30 different countries.

The event featured several activities including intensive training workshops, the PEP general meeting (where PEP researchers supported under the PAGE initiative presented their final results), a special high-level Policy Forum and the 2016 Best Practice Awards.

Best Practice Awards

Each year during the PEP Conferences the three winners of the annual PEP Best Practice Awards are announced. This competition aims to reward the PEP-granted research teams who have most actively engaged in the implementation of a successful “policy-engagement strategy” - i.e., linking their PEP research findings to policy action at the national level, while achieving high-quality research. This year’s prizes were awarded to research teams conducting projects in Burkina Faso, Togo and Kenya. Find out more about the award winners.

Policy Forum

From policy engagement to research uptake: Lessons for and from developing country researchers

The final day of the 2016 PEP Annual Conference was dedicated to discussions around the challenges of linking research to policy action in developing countries, which took place during a high-level Policy Forum involving researchers, policy actors, practitioners, donors and international experts. The main objective of this event was to produce, collectively, a set of specific recommendations to improve research uptake in policy making. These conclusions will soon be compiled, published and distributed by PEP.

The 2015 PEP Annual Report is available online

The report presents a review of PEP activities and achievements in 2015. Download it here.

CBMAS Policy Forum

A policy forum was held on April 29 to present the results of the CBMS-AKI supported studies on emerging issues related to the provision of social protection for the informal sector and youth unemployment and entrepreneurship. These studies were conducted by research teams from De La Salle University, using CBMS data from selected sites in the Philippines. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Croatia

Policy findings

PEP continues to publish the findings and outcomes of projects led by local research teams in developing countries, who have been selected and supported through its various research and capacity building initiatives. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues. A few examples from projects supported under the PAGE initiative are provided below, and several more (including Cameroon, Nigeria, Bolivia, Colombia and Vietnam) can be found here: Recent policy findings from PEP-supported projects in developing countries

Policy findings

Macedonia

PAGE – Simulation of a voucher policy to improve the social conditions of remittance-recipients in Macedonia

A team of local researchers investigates the impact of cash remittances on health and poverty indicators and the impact a remittances voucher policy for social protection would have. The team uses a conditional mixed policy framework to analyze data from the 2008 Dutch Remittance Survey. The researchers find that remittances serve as an informal source of social protection in Macedonia and that a voucher system to formalize remittances as social protection would improve the population’s health while also reducing poverty, particularly amongst the most vulnerable groups. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications:

Working Paper 2016-15  |  Policy brief 129

Research team:

Blagica Petekski  |  Darko Tumanoski  |  Despina Tumanoski  |  Natasa Jagurovska

Bangladesh

PAGE – Women’s entrepreneurship and access to microcredit: Evidence from Bangladesh

A team of local researchers investigates the impact that microcredit currently has on female entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. They also compare the entrepreneurial status of women to that of men to find out how much gender influences entrepreneurship. The team uses an instrumental variables technique to analyze data from a 2010 national household survey. The researchers find that access to microcredit has a significant and positive impact on both male and female entrepreneurship, with men benefitting more, even when women are the recipients of the loans. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications:

Working paper 2016-13  |  Policy brief 139

Research team:

M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury  |  Shabnaz Amin  |  Taslima Rahim

Mongolia

PAGE – A static CGE model of the Mongolian economy

A boom in the Mongolian mining sector has meant significant growth for the country, but this concentrated success has also led to increased economic dependence on mining. A team of local researchers builds and uses a static CGE model of the Mongolian Economy, with data from various national surveys, to assess the economy’s vulnerability. The researchers find that rapid expansion in the coal sector may have many positive effects, including increased GDP, exports and employment. On the other hand, they also find that a drop in the world price of metal ore may have various negative effects: in the short run, including reduced employment and a decrease in GDP. Based on these results, the team makes several recommendations for policy to protect against vulnerabilities. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

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current initiatives and collaborations

Through its manifold “Grant plus” support program, PEP promotes the mobilization and expertise of local researchers 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 deployed by international institutions calling on PEP’s extensive experience to provide scientific support and coordinate activities.

These are some of the ongoing PEP research, capacity building and/or special collaboration initiatives.

“Policy Analysis in Growth and Employment (PAGE)” – co-funded by DfID (or UK Aid) and the IDRC

“Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment II (2014-2020)” – co-funded by DfID (or UK Aid) and the IDRC

“STAKEX – Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces” – funded by the IDRC and in collaboration with the World Bank, Cornell University, the African Development Bank and the African Economic Research Consortium.

“Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad” – PEP-Chad-UNDP

“Productive employment in the segmented market of fresh produce” – PEP-led consortium, funded by NWO/WOTRO

Conferences

PEP National Policy Conferences

Through the PEP Grant Plus mechanism, local research teams are given support to organize conferences where they communicate and discuss their findings directly with policy-makers and other key stakeholders at the national level.

February 24, 2016 – Skopje, Macedonia

“Recipients of remittances under the social umbrella? Ideas and opportunities for Macedonia”:

A team of Macedonian researchers presented their PEP findings on the potential use of remittances as a source of social protection (through the implementation of a new policy instrument) to an audience of high-profile participants from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Health, the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia, several embassies, the UNDP, and the academia, as well as members of both the public and private sectors during their national policy conference. The discussions led to the invitation of the team members to participate in further, high-level consultation meetings with, among others, the Macedonian EU delegation and the Minister of labor himself.

Find out more

May 21, 2016 – Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo

“Internal mobility and youth entrepreneurship in the DRC”:

PEP researchers in the DRC organized a policy seminar to present their PEP findings on the relationship between the internal mobility of young people and their engagement in entrepreneurship. Attending government representatives included officials from the Employment and Work Department, the Provincial Department for Youth, the Provincial Planning Department, the Provincial Department for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and an advisor to the Office of the Prime Minister. The event also attracted a strong academic and media presence, and provided great visibility for both the researchers’ findings and expertise.

Find out more

June 14, 2016 – Hanoi, Vietnam

“Impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector in Vietnam”:

A team of local researchers in Vietnam shared their PEP findings regarding the impact of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) on the Vietnamese agricultural sector with selected government representatives from the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Central Economic Committee (CEC), as well as a number of academics and journalists during their policy conference. The CEC representative stated that the team’s findings would be used to advise the national government.

Find out more

June 16, 2016 – Yaoundé, Cameroon

“Analysis of labor and tax policies on informal employment in Cameroon”:

PEP researchers in Cameroon organized a policy conference where they presented their findings on the impact of co-dependent government poverty and informality education policies. Participants included representatives of the Ministries of Employment and Professional Training, of the Economy of Finance, of Work and Social Security, and of Scientific Research and Innovation, as well as of government programs supporting youth and informal workers, of the academia and civil society. The event also benefited from extensive media coverage in national newspapers, and on radio and television stations.

Find out more

International conference presentations

In acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers are also invited to present their work in international academic conferences around the world. When needed, PEP awards special grants to support their travel and participation.

Since the last issue of the PEP-talk, findings from PEP-supported research were also presented at the following international events:

- 50th Annual Conference of the CEA in Canada, on June 2-5
- 17th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in the USA, on March 14-18
- CSAE 2016 Annual Meeting in the United Kingdom, on March 20-22
- ILUQA Conference in Switzerland, March 23-24

Other PEP news

Special PEP issue of the International Journal of Microsimulation (IJM) on the subject of “CGE Micromodelisation in Developing Countries”. Read more or see “extraordinary publications” below for article details.

Special SCSE session in honor of Bernard Decaluwé. Read more

Congratulations to Hélène Maisonnave on 5 years with PEP!

PEP researcher Biagiola Patreschi selected for the Young Transatlantic Leader Initiative and to take part in the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in the USA. Read more

CEDLAS wins three Konex prizes – PEP collaborator in Latin America, CEDLAS, wins prestigious awards at the 2016 Premios Konex. Read more

The March 2016 issue of the CBMS Network Update is now available online, featuring the following articles:

- Access: to social protection of Tongolese Informal Sector Workers
- Strengthening collaboration among the DUSP, the City Government of Bago, and the CBMS Network
- Kenya: CBMS team starts data collection in Mutchiri location, Kung’ar County, in central Kenya
- CBMS: Philippines Network holds its 12th National Conference
- 2016 PEP Annual Conference held in the Philippines

Download the newsletter here

Related events

PEP also publicises news and events from the development research community that may be of interest to its members:

Job openings, training or research funding

Enter contributions, calls for contributions, international conferences, etc.

CLICK HERE to find all related news

Including current opportunities for the Jobs and Development Conference and the AfCONE2015

Follow PEP’s daily newsfeed
**Simulation of a voucher policy for improving the social condition of individual remittance receivers in Bangladesh**
By Bagraca Pilavski, Jorge Davalos and Despina Turmanakos (WP 2016-15)

**Access to microcredit and women’s entrepreneurship: evidence from Bangladesh**
By M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Shabnur Amin, Tahmina Farash (WP 2016-13)

**Les investissements chinois, une nouvelle dynamique économique centrale?**
As Chinese investments an opportunity for the economy of the Central African Republic? (in French)
By Roger Yele, Jean-Bertrand Kolondo Penguel, Rissla - Théodile Aubouzakolo, Caprice Olivia Wili-Koe (WP 2016-12)

**The effect of input-trade liberalization on nonfarm and farm labour participation in rural Vietnam**
By Hoang Xuan Tung, Luca Tiberi (WP 2016-11)

**Migration, remittances, labour market and human capital in Senegal**
By Amelie Saloum Ndiaye, Oumar Khayt Niang, Sessinou Dadawattou, Yao Cor Ndiaye (WP 2016-10)

PEP has also recently published papers from three country studies led in the context of a special initiative supported by CGIAR/CIMMYT, entitled "Foresight for food security: economy-wide impacts of promising technologies".

**Evidence-wide impacts of technological change in food staples in Ethiopia: A macro-micro approach**
Luli Milk Bayeina, Bekele Shiferaw, Amarendra Sahoo and Ska Gbelegbe (WP 2016-17)

A CGE analysis of the implications of technological change in Indian agriculture
By Joydeep Ghosh, Shabnur Amin and Tahmina Farash

**Economy-wide impacts of promoting maize and wheat technologies on food security and welfare in Kenya**
By Amarendra Sahoo, Bekele Shiferaw and Ska Gbelegbe (WP 2016-14)

Policy briefs

**Policy brief 143** Patterns of labor productivity and income diversification in the rural farm and non-farm sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa
By Abdouloue Ibrahim Djido and Bekele Shiferaw

**Policy brief 142** Non-farm employment, agricultural intensification and productivity change: Empirical findings from Uganda
By Mulubhah Amare and Bekele Shiferaw

**Policy brief 141** Trade liberalization and employment effects in Indian manufacturing
By Sunita Rajo, Bibeck Rai Choudhuri and Midula Sureti Mahra

**Policy brief 140** Skills transformation and unemployment spells: the case of Macedonia’s youth
By Blagica Petreski, Jorge Davalos and Despina Tumanoska (WP 2016-11)

**Policy brief 139** Women’s entrepreneurship and access to microcredit: Evidence from Bangladesh
By M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Shabnur Amin and Tahmina Farash

**Policy brief 138** A static CGE model of the Mongolian economy
By M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Shabnur Amin and Tahmina Farash

**Policy brief 137** Impact des politiques fiscales et d’emploi sur le secteur informel et la pauvreté au Cameroun
By Ouolfeni Obembe, Daminol Djadjev, Kalsindo Ndou and Ngozi Ibeji

**Policy brief 136** Is it true that microfinance is useless in the pursuit of poverty reduction and female empowerment? The case of Bolivia
By Ricardo Arguello, Dora Elena Jiménez Giraldo, Ricardo Salguero-Gonzalez and Joel Mendizabal

**Policy brief 135** The impact of a rural microcredit scheme on women’s household vulnerability and empowerment: evidence from South West Nigeria
By Riccardo Boni, Victor Nwosu and Anthony Onyeji

**Policy brief 134** Dutch Disease, informal employment and poverty intensity in Colombia
By Neurama Dijema, Analedo Gonzales, Joel Mendizabal and Urbain Thierry Yogo

**Policy brief 133** The effect of input trade liberalization on farm and non-farm labor participation in rural Vietnam
By Ameth Saloum Ndiaye, Ya Cor Ndiaye, Dejene Aredo and Dejene Abekay

**Policy brief 132** Migration, remittances, labour market and human development in Senegal
By Belay Fekadu, Tijana Angelkova and Viktorija Misheva

**Policy brief 131** La croissance chinoise: une aubaine pour l’économie centrafricaine?
By Olivier Borel, Dominique Djajé, Kalsindo Ndou and Ngozi Ibeji

Find all PEP policy briefs here

Books

**The Many Faces of Poverty – Volume 7 is available online**
Featuring information about the many faces of poverty in Escalante, General Tais, Tabon, Tacuare, and Tandang
Download Volume 7 here

Find all PEP books here

External publications

**Recent Journal publications by PEP grantees** – i.e. based on research conducted with PEP support in developing countries

**Title of article** | **Journal and references (link)** | **Authors**
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**Economic Effects of Migration on the Left-behind in Cambodia** | Journal of Development Studies Forthcoming | Rith Vathanh and Luca Tiberi

**Education Language and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad** | Journal of Development Studies Forthcoming | Malalaye Dzouonet, Alain Thiyani Yogo and Abdulkrim Afarr

**Access to Formal Credit And Enterprise Performance in Nigeria: A Gender Perspective** | Argumenta Geonomica 2016, No 1 (38), pp.191-224 | Emmanuel Nwosu and Anthony Olji

**Cash Transfer Policies, Taxation and the Fall in Inequality in Brazil An Integrated Microsimulation-CGE Analysis** | International Journal of Microsimulation Volume 9(1) Spring 2016 Online | Sariu Cury, Euclides Pedrazo and Alexandre Mor Coelho


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<td>Lulit M. Beyene and Ermias Engida</td>
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<td>Why aren’t Sri Lankan women translating their educational gains into workforce advantages?</td>
<td><em>Brookings Institution Report</em> December 4, 2015 Online</td>
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