**The 2017 PEP Annual Conference** will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 8 to 14. PEP will invite representatives of nearly 30 shortlisted research teams from developing countries to present their new project proposals for support under the first funding round of PEP’s PAGE program. These participants will also be provided with intensive training in cutting-edge research methodologies, as well as best practices for policy engagement and scientific writing. The event will also feature a series of high-level panel discussions on the policy implications of PEP and related research on female and youth entrepreneurship, and on integrating gender dimensions into economic policy analysis.

PAGE II, launched as the first PEP institutionalization project gets underway

The first PEP project of the PAGE II program, and it also happens to be the first of its kind. The Economic Research Institute (ERI), based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia was selected as the first recipient of PEP’s institutionalization project grants. The aim of the grant is to establish the institution’s expertise in policy analysis using CEG models, while bridging research and policy through an institutionalized approach. In January, PEP Institutionalization Advisor, completed an initial field visit to meet the researchers and advise on the preliminary phases of the project. Find out more

A dozen national policy conferences held around the world to discuss PEP findings

PEP provides support for teams of local researchers to organize national policy conferences to present and discuss their findings and recommendations with key policy stakeholders and the general public (usually through the attendance of national media). The conferences held in various countries and regions – from Bolivia to India, Chad to Serbia, Uganda to Bangladesh – since the last issue of the PEP talk there are more to be featured. Over the same period, PEP has published the outcomes of more than 30 projects through its series of working papers and policy briefs.

**news and events**

**policy findings**

PEP continually publishes 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 are provided below. A full list, based on projects supported under the PAGE and other initiatives, can be found here: Recent policy findings from PEP-supported projects in developing countries

**Ghana**

PAGE – The role of unions in improving working conditions in Ghana

Despite non-wage benefits - such as sick leave, maternity leave, and paid holiday - being guaranteed by law in Ghana, few take advantage of them, particularly in the informal sector where noncompliance by employers is high. A team of local PEP researchers set out to investigate the determinants for access to non-wage benefits in the Ghanaian labor market, looking in particular at the role of trade unions. The team’s analysis indicates that union presence plays a significant role in promoting workers’ access to non-wage benefits. Specifically, unions play an important role in improving employees’ awareness of their statutory entitlements. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: Working paper 2017-08 | Policy brief 161
Research team: Michael S. Owofu | Monica Puama Lamboy-Quayefio | Samuel B. Manu

**Senegal**

PAGE – The impact of trade reforms on employment and well-being in Senegal

In 2014, West African countries negotiated an economic partnership agreement (EPA) with the European Union, cutting tariffs on EU imports. At the start of 2015, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted a common external tariff (CET) for imports from outside ECOWAS countries. A team of local PEP researchers set out to evaluate the effects of the EPA and CET on youth employment, well-being, and government revenues in Senegal (an ECOWAS country). Their analysis indicates that the CET would have a number of positive effects for Senegal, including improved household well-being and increased employment for young people and women, in contrast, the EPA is likely to be detrimental to the Senegalese economy, with GDP decreasing by almost 3.3% and leading to a deterioration in well-being, find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: Working paper 2016-26 | Policy brief 160
Research team: Salouma Diarra Middles | Rocky Balde | Thiere Malick Diallo

**Guatemala**

PAGE – The impact of climate change on food vulnerability in Guatemala

Guatemala relies heavily on agriculture, both for food production and for employment. Unfortunately, agricultural production is vulnerable to adverse climate conditions, such as droughts. Climate change scientists predict that extreme weather events are likely to become more common over the coming decades. A team of local PEP researchers set out to investigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and other social and economic factors, as well as to provide a reliable indication of what will happen to food security if climate change causes reduced agricultural productivity or drought. Their analysis indicates that climate change poses a significant threat to food security in Guatemala, particularly due to the agricultural sector’s reliance on rain-fed irrigation systems. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: Working paper 2017-01 | Policy brief 159
Research team: Renato Vargas | Javier Cabrera | Maynor Cabrera | Pamela Socabar | Vivian Guzmán Quiroa

**current initiatives and collaborations**

Through its multi-year “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...
These are the ongoing PEP research, capacity building and/or special collaboration initiatives:

**Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment II (PAGE II – 2016-2020)** – co-funded by DFID (or UK Aid) and the IDRC

**STAARS - Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces** – carried out with financial support from the Government of Canada through the IDRC. Other partners of the STAARS consortium include the African Economic Research Consortium, the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM), Cornell University and the World Bank.

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**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 policymakers and other key stakeholders at the national level. All the PEP national policy conferences that have been held since the last issue of PEP-talk are listed below.

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**November 17, 2016 – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

*Impact of mining operations and Chinese commercial expansion in Burkina Faso*

Three teams of local PEP researchers held a joint national policy conference in Burkina Faso to discuss the findings relating to the mining sector and China’s expansion in Burkina Faso, generating high attendance from government, NGOs, academia, and media. Find out more.

**November 26, 2016 – Gwówal, India**

“The positive effects of the national rural guaranteed work scheme in India”

Local PEP researchers presented findings and recommendations regarding the government’s rural guaranteed employment scheme, raising keen interest with the Ministry of Rural Development. Find out more.

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**December 13, 2016 – Khokhar, Bangladesh**

“How can microfinance loans support female entrepreneurship in Bangladesh?”

PEP researchers discussed findings and recommendations regarding the impact of microfinance on poverty and inequality in Bangladesh. More than 65 stakeholders attended the event, including representatives from the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, the CCBFP, and the Office of the President. Find out more.

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**December 15, 2016 – Kathmandu, Nepal**

“How do mobile phones affect agricultural productivity in Nepal?”

A PEP national policy conference held in Kathmandu to present findings on women’s access to credit and entrepreneurship attracted more than 160 attendees. The audience included top-level government and banking sector policymakers, as well as leaders of the largest MFIs in Bangladesh. Find out more.

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**December 14, 2016 – Skopje, Macedonia**

“Improving youth entrepreneurship through credit counseling in Macedonia”

PEP researchers discussed their findings on the impact of credit counseling on entrepreneurship and educational attainment of youth. During the event, the team was invited to discuss further, and individually, with top officials from the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Planning, to inform upcoming policy decisions. Find out more.

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**December 14, 2016 – Nairobi, Kenya**

“How does running a credit shop affect women’s income in Kenya?”

A PEP national policy conference held in Nairobi to present findings from three projects relating to agricultural technology adoption and supported by PEP under the STAARS initiative. Findings were presented and discussed by representative of various facets of agricultural technology adoption and impact of agricultural technology adoption in Kenya and Tanzania, with a particular focus on gender. Findings were presented and discussed by representatives of various academic institutions, NGOs and industry, and media. Find out more.

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**January 12, 2017 – Khartoum, Sudan**

“Women’s empowerment and land rights: The case of MGNREGS”

PEP researchers discussed the findings from the stakeholder roundtable workshop held in Khartoum. The workshop helped improve policymakers’ understanding of structural changes in agriculture. Find out more.

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**January 22, 2017 – Nairobi, Kenya**

“How do rural women’s social networks affect agricultural productivity and innovation?”

A PEP-supported research team hosted a workshop to share the findings from their study using a Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to track the different dimensions of poverty and other indicators of employment and entrepreneurship in Murringo County to inform policy across Kenya. The findings were then discussed with officials from the Youth and Planning Departments of Murringo and other counties, as well as with development partners and NGOs. Find out more.

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**February 22, 2017 – Nairobi, Kenya**

“Presenting CBMS findings on youth unemployment and entrepreneurship in Muringo’s County”

A PEP-supported research team hosted a workshop to share the findings from their study using a Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to track the different dimensions of poverty and other indicators of employment and entrepreneurship in Murringo County to inform policy across Kenya. The findings were then discussed with officials from the Youth and Planning Departments of Murringo and other counties, as well as with development partners and NGOs. Find out more.

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**March 17, 2017 – Nairobi, Kenya**

“Discussing gender and agricultural production in East Africa”

Organized jointly by PEP and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, STAARS researchers presented their findings investigating various facets of agricultural technology adoption and impact in Kenya and Tanzania, with a particular focus on gender. Find out more.

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**International Conference Presentations**

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

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

- IMF Conference on Gender and Macroeconomics, in Washington D.C. March 23, 2017
- *The macroeconomic implications of female entrepreneurs facing financial frictions* to access credit in Cameroon*
- 7th Bolivian Conference on Development Economics in Bolivia, December 8-9, 2016
- *The impact of minimum wage rises on the Bolivian labor market*
The following section lists all new papers and briefs published by PEP since the last issue of PEP-talk in December 2016

Impact of the Peruvian conditional cash transfer program on women's empowerment: A quantitative and qualitative approach

By Lorena Alcacer, Maria Bathum, Karen Espinoza (WP 2016-25)

Impact des stratégies commerciales sur l'emploi et la bien-être dans les pays de la CEEAO : le cas de Sénégal

By Sokhna Diama Ndiaye, Racky Bâlde, Thierno Macky Diallo, Christian Arnault Emilvi (WP 2016-26)

Evidence of the impact of children's domestic and market labor on learning from school census data in Brazil

By Ana Lucia Kassouf, Luca Tiberi, Marcos Garcia, Ido Ono (WP 2016-27)

Chute du cours de l'or, recettes fiscales et emploi: quelle stratégie d'adaptation pour le Burkina Faso?

By Delphine Carole Siso, Boureima Sawadogo, Hamo Maimouna Natoma (WP 2016-28)

Food vulnerability in Guatemala: A static general equilibrium analysis

By Renato Vargas, Pamela Escobar, Maynor Contreras, Javier Castaneda, Violeta Hernandez, Vivian Guzman, Martin Clicicz (WP 2017-01)

Assessing the Impacts of a training program for women in Peru: Are there social networking effects?

By Eduardo Zegama, Angela Hipusci, Ricardo Vargas (WP 2017-02)

Labour tenure policy and people's off-farm employment in rural China

By Hongying Chang, Jing Liu, Yanyun Gao (WP 2017-03)

Reduction of child poverty in Serbia: Improved cash-transfers or higher work incentives for parents?

By Nicholas-James Clavet, Luca Tiberi, Marko Vlasavlevic, Jelena Zarkovic Rakić, Aleksandra Ancić, Gorana Krstić, Sasa Randjelovic (WP 2017-04)

Cameroon macroeconomic impacts of public consumption on education: A computable general equilibrium approach

By Sothy Ear, Solicheng Sim, Khiêv Pnom (WP 2017-05)

The impact of all exploitation on wellbeing in Chad

By Bodom Ojial-Gadom, Ammad Boubouchaou Konchout, Gbélétou Nadège Djossou, Gilles Quentin Kane, Abdellah Arar (WP 2017-06)

Optimal policy design: A CGE approach

By Martin Clicicz, Bernard Decouloué, Mustapha K. Natoli (WP 2017-07)

An empirical assessment of the union 'facilitation effect' in the Ghanaian labor market

By Nechti S. Owos, Monica Puima Lambum-Quispe, Jorge Davalos, Samuel B. Muzu (WP 2017-08)

Agricultral transformation in Senegal: Impacts of an integrated program

By Aboubalaye Diagane, Francois Joseph Cabral (WP 2017-09)

Evidence of the impacts of minimum wages on labor market outcomes: The case of Bolivia

By Marcelo Nicolas Cloure Ramirez, Alejandro Leyton, Christian Valencia, Karenh Vonessi Sanchez Bohónquez, Jorge Davalos (WP 2017-10)

Macro-economic impact of MGNREGA in India: An analysis in CGE modeling framework

By Achikhet Kumar Sharma, Atu Sarma, Charanjit Kaur, Deeksha Tayal (WP 2017-11)

Impact of short term vocational training on youth unemployment: Evidence from Mongolia

By Altanbatsa Batzulchuu, Bayarsaikhan Datsogt, Soyambreng Batbakh, Amartuvshin Sanjmyatav, Tsetser Erendagabal (WP 2017-12)

Gold exploitation and socio-economic outcomes: The case of Burkina Faso

By Agnès Zabsonré, Maxime Agbo, Jute Somé, Irène Haffin (WP 2017-13)

Minimum wage impacts on wages and hours worked of low-income workers in Ecuador

By Sara Wong (WP 2017-14)

Social media instruments and the promotion of financial inclusion in Peruvian rural areas

By Martin Valdivia, Alberto Chong (WP 2017-15)

Trade bust, labor and wage policy in Bolivia: A CGE approach

By Rolando Morales, Darío Agramont, Rick Gomez, Eslanya Paicaca Quipe, Franz Gomez-Soto, Jazmin Illanes-Yuya, Monica Cucto, Ximena Socuro (WP 2017-16)

The dynamics of microcredit borrowings in Cambodia

By Vathana Roth, Abdellah Arar, Bopharam Syl, Dalis Phann (WP 2017-17)

The role of micro and small scale enterprises in the Ethiopian economy: government intervention and alternative strategies: A CGE analysis

By Bumeno Tena, Mekidim Regassa, Ibrahim Woro Hassan, Feiruz Yimer, Saba Yifredew (WP 2017-18)

The major bottlenecks of micro and small scale enterprises' growth in Bhutan: An econometric analysis

By Ermias Engida, Mekidim Regassa, Ibrahim Woro Hassan, Feiruz Yimer, Saba Yifredew (WP 2017-19)

Entrepreneur gender gap: Evidence from Argentina

By Sebastian Auguste, Alejandro Ernesto Bricker (CBMs 2016-08)

Challenges and prospects of entrepreneurship development and job creation for unemployed youth: Evidence from Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations, Ethiopia

By Abal Tewodrah Mehari, Christian Fellke, Hayat Fentaw, Kassahun Mamo Geleta, Senayit Seyoum Yilma (CBMs 2016-07)

Poverty profile of the District of Tokoin

By Dire Muntia, Jane Matharo, Michael Mutiga, Mumia Phyllis Mochmo, Patrick Chege Karuki (CBMs 2016-13)

Development and Implementation of CBMs in Murang’a County, Kenya

By Diana Kimari, Jane Matharo, Mutigah Muthiga, Mumia Phyllis Mochmo, Patrick Chege Karuki (CBMs 2016-13)