



news bulletin january 2013

news and events **publications**

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Special PEP greetings

At the onset of 2013, the PEP team sends all of the network's members and friends its warmest greetings and best wishes for the coming year. We also take the opportunity to thank you for your continued interest and participation in the fulfillment of the PEP mission.



news and events

policy findings

In recent months, PEP has published the findings and outcomes of several projects that were selected and supported through previous calls for proposals. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues in various countries, e.g. from social protection in Brazil, to environmental programs in China, resource boom in Laos and productivity of the informal sector in Cameroon...

A few examples are provided below, but **more can be found here: [Recent policy findings from PEP researchers in developing countries](#)**

China

[More about this project](#)

Assessing the impact of China's priority forest programs on rural households' income and income mobility

[Working Paper 2012-10](#) | [Policy Brief 109](#)



At the end of the 1990's, the Chinese government implemented a new environmental strategy including six "Priority Forest Programs" (PFPs) which combined objectives of environmental restoration and reducing rural poverty. Ten years later, a team of PEP-supported researchers set out to produce empirical evidence regarding the actual impact of these programs on rural households' income and income mobility. In this purpose, they collected and analyzed data from a random sample of 3375 households in 15 counties of 6 provinces. The evaluation's results show that the programs have mostly induced higher income mobility for affected rural households – which, in the long run, has also contributed to reduce inequality.

Research team: [Can Liu](#) | [Hao Liu](#) | [Wenqing Zhu](#) | [Qingjiao Rong](#)

Brazil

[More about this project](#)

Impact evaluation of a non-contributory pension program on family welfare in Brazil: *Benefício da Prestação Continuada*

[Working paper 2012-12](#) | [Policy Brief 103](#)



In this particular project, a team of PEP Brazilian researchers aimed to assess the effect of a pension program, the *Benefício de Prestação Continuada* (BPC), on the elders' labor force participation by comparing that of the program's beneficiaries to non-beneficiaries' – thus posing that BPC allocations may allow beneficiaries' retirement from the labor market, which would not be possible otherwise. The researchers found not only, as expected, a lower participation rate of the BPC elders in the labor market, but also some spillover effects associated with the benefit, as co-residents would also be prone to leave the labor market. However, the effect is heterogeneous, affecting both adults (especially over 30) and younger children (reducing child labor) and differentiated between rural and urban areas.

Research team: [Ana Lucia Kassouf](#) | [Pedro Oliveira](#)

Sri Lanka

[More about this project](#)

Assessing the impact of 2011 tax reforms on tax revenues and income distribution in Sri Lanka

[Working Paper 2012-13](#) | [Policy Brief 101](#)



In this PEP-supported study, a team of Sri Lankan researchers set out to realize the first empirical assessment of Sri Lanka's income tax systems in terms of efficiency and equity. The team used data from the 2006/2007 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) to examine how specific tax reforms implemented in 2011 would affect both tax revenues and redistribution of income in the country (comparing the different tax systems between 2007 and 2011). The 2011 tax reforms basically aimed to increase tax revenues by expanding the tax base - particularly by removing tax exemptions for public sector employees - while keeping the tax rates "competitive" (i.e. reducing tax rates which also aimed to improve compliance of tax payers). The analysis' outcomes show that, not only does the 2011 tax reform result in a decline in tax revenues for the government, but that the new system is even less progressive than that of 2007...

Research team: [Nisha Arunitilake](#) | [Priyanka Jayawardena](#) | [Anushka Wijesinha](#) | [Nethmini Perera](#)

research initiatives and collaborations

Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment - PAGE (co-funded by DFID and IDRC)

PEP has been commissioned to lead a multi-country initiative, involving the support of several new research teams in the conduct of projects of "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment" especially in low-income countries, fragile and conflict states. The initiative, co-funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom (or UK Aid) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, draws on PEP's manifold expertise in terms of methodological approaches and research capacity building.

The first of three calls for proposals was launched in September 2012, following which PEP received over **170 proposals from 49 different countries**, out of which 34 new research teams have, to date, been invited to revise and resubmit their proposals, moving up the selection process. The next "PAGE" calls for proposals will be launched in September 2013 and 2014. [Find out more about the PAGE calls...](#)

PEP collaboration with UNICEF-MENA

PEP has been selected, amongst several international bidders, to provide a variety of relevant services in support of UNICEF's work on social policy and social protection reform in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. Through this long-term partnership agreement, UNICEF will have direct access to PEP's multi-faceted expertise and services, as well as to tap into PEP's pool of international leading experts, to help fulfill its mandate of addressing the paucity of knowledge, local expertise and research engagement around child welfare issues in MENA countries, as well as to promote evidence-based policymaking in favor of child well-being. [Find out more...](#)

training and workshops

As the initial and core component of PEP's mission has always been to build/strengthen local research capacities in the South, the organization of intensive training workshops in developing countries has been part of its regular set of activities since its creation in 2002.

"PEP Schools" offer "on-site" and personalized training, provided by world leading experts, in a variety of cutting-edge research methodologies, tools and concepts of development economics, to help local researchers in developing countries contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies.



Recent events

	Location	Dates
A new AGRODEP-PEP School for advanced training in GAMS-based CGE modeling. More...	Pretoria, South Africa	December 3-5, 2012
A new English-language PEP School in South Africa on "advanced training in CGE and GAMS", in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). More...	Pretoria, South Africa	November 5-9, 2012

conferences

The PEP program for capacity building in developing countries also comprises a "policy outreach" component, through which PEP encourages and supports researchers in implementing effective communication and dissemination strategies, in order to inform the largest possible audience (policy makers, donors, researchers and other stakeholders) of their findings and recommendations.

Among other activities, PEP provides funding and guidance for researchers to organize a [national policy conference](#) in their home country, or to present their work at a relevant [international conferences](#). Here's a list of the most recent events of the kind:



Malaysia and Pakistan – December 11-23, 2012

PEP-supported research presented during important international conferences in Asia

PEP-supported project teams from China, Laos and Pakistan were invited to present their research work and findings during two major academic events held in the region – namely, the 15th Sustainable Development Conference (Pakistan) and the 3rd International Conference on Economics, Business and Management (Malaysia). [Find out more...](#)

Manila, Philippines – December 14, 2012

Discussing the outcomes of two PEP-AusAID special research initiatives in the Philippines

Filipino policy makers and stakeholders were invited by a team of PEP researchers in Manila to discuss the latter's work and findings from research conducted in the context of two distinct PEP project initiatives commissioned by AusAID. [Find out more...](#)

Brasilia, Brazil – December 14, 2012 **Sharing PEP findings regarding the impact of a national pension program on family welfare**

A PEP researcher was invited by UNDP's IPC-IG to present the outcomes of impact evaluation project she had led with PEP support to assess the effectiveness of a national pension program to policy stakeholders in Brasilia. [Find out more...](#)

Colombo, Sri Lanka – November 23, 2012 **PEP researchers at the source of a fruitful national policy dialogue around taxation issues**

A team of local researchers in Sri Lanka successfully organized a national policy dialogue, gathering key policy and other stakeholders to discuss their findings and share views on the best policy options to address issues related to taxation reforms in the country. [Find out more...](#)

Yaoundé, Cameroon – November 15, 2012 **PEP researchers suggest ways to improve understanding and measurement of multi-poverty**

A group of researchers organized a national policy conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to inform both the general public and policy stakeholders of the research findings/conclusions and ensuing policy recommendations from three different studies conducted with PEP financial and scientific support in the country, in recent years. [Find out more...](#)

upcoming

Manila, Philippines – January 23-25, 2013 : **9th CBMS-Philippines National Policy Conference**

Every year, the Asian PEP team - which is also the coordinating office of the PEP research program based on the use of community-based monitoring system (CBMS) – holds a high-level national policy conference featuring presentations from and discussions among local government units, policymakers, and development partners in the country, regarding implementation and uses of CBMS to assist in local planning/budgeting, monitoring of poverty, of program impacts, MDGs, climate change adaptation, etc. [Find out more...](#)

Cape Town, South Africa – May 2-10, 2013 : **10th PEP general meeting**

PEP will hold its 10th general meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2013. Hundreds of (finalist) applicant researchers will be invited to present the research project proposals they have submitted in the context of the new PEP initiative for "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)" for evaluation by PEP-affiliated experts. PEP general meetings (see [past meetings](#)) present a unique opportunity for developing country researchers, in terms of international networking and peer-reviewing experience.

pep news

PEP press conference in Dakar - December 10, 2012

PEP's African Office in Senegal, based at the Consortium for Economic and Social Research (CRES) in Dakar (Senegal), held a national press conference to announce a new PEP multi-country research initiative for "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)". The event's importance was highlighted by the participation of both the Canadian and British ambassadors to Senegal, Their Excellencies John Perry Calderwood and John Marshall, as well as IDRC Programme Officer, Dr Flaubert Mbiekop. [Find out more...](#)

PEP standard CGE models achieve worldwide success and recognition

Among PEP's manifold contributions to the advancement of research in development economics, those related to computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling techniques and applications are certainly some of the most widely acknowledged worldwide. In particular, the series of PEP standard CGE models developed jointly by four of PEP's leading experts in the field of economic modeling, have gained outstanding recognition in recent years, as they are gradually outshining the fields' traditional tools. [Find out more...](#)

hot peppers

USAID grant for PEP researchers in Pakistan

PEP researchers in Pakistan, Dr [Vaqar Ahmed](#), [Ahsan Abbas](#) and [Saira Arslan](#), were awarded with a USAID research grant in the context of IFPRI's Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP) to conduct an analysis of the impact of public sector policy on the wheat market in the country, using a CGE model and other analytical tools developed through and with PEP support in recent years. [Find out more...](#)

Congratulations to Paul Ningaye, PEP researcher in Cameroon

A Cameroonian researcher who has participated in and distinguished himself through several PEP-supported projects, [Paul Ningaye](#), successfully defended his PhD thesis at the University of Yaoundé II (Cameroon) on December 14th, with an honorable mention from his jury. He has also been called upon by the National Bureau of Statistics to assist in the integration of new indicators to monitor/measure multi-poverty in Cameroon, based on his PEP-supported research work. [Find out more...](#)

Follow PEP's daily newscasts:



Related Events

PEP also publicizes news and events from the development research community that may be of interest for its members

[Job openings, training or research funding opportunities, calls for contributions, international conferences, etc..](#)

CLICK HERE to find all related recent news

This month, in particular, find out about current calls for papers/proposals from **GDN, UK Aid, the World Bank, Young Lives, etc..**

policy briefs

- Policy brief 110 Assessing the impact of a tuition relief program on poor rural students' performance in **China**
- Policy brief 109 Assessing the impact of **China's** priority forest programs on rural households' income and income mobility
- Policy brief 108 Public infrastructure investment in **South Africa**: a rational growth strategy?
- Policy brief 107 Analyzing the wage inequality for rural-urban migrants in **China**, 2002-2007
- Policy brief 106 Scaling up education interventions in **Kenya**: the importance of institutions
- Policy brief 105 Setting up a uniformed social security system under huge rural migration in **China**
- Policy brief 104 Resource Boom, Growth and Poverty in **Laos**: what can we learn from other countries and policy simulations?
- Policy brief 103 Impact evaluation of a non-contributory pension program on family welfare in **Brazil**: Benefício da Prestação Continuada
- Policy brief 102 Efficiencie de production du secteur informel et réduction de la pauvreté au **Cameroun**
(Productivity of the informal sector and poverty reduction in Cameroon, **in French**)

Find all PEP policy briefs [here](#)

working papers

- The Growth and Distributive Impacts of Public Infrastructure Investments in the **Philippines** - By Angelo Taningco, Erwin Corong, Lawrence Dacuycuy & Rachel Reyes (WP 2012-15)
- Management and Motivation in **Ugandan** Primary Schools: An Impact Evaluation Report - By Lawrence Bategeka, Frederick Mugisha, Madina Guloba, Ibrahim Kasirye, Abigail Barr, Andrew Zeitlin & Pieter Semeels (WP 2012-14)
- Tax Reforms in **Sri Lanka**: Will a Tax on Public Servants Improve Progressivity? - By Nisha Arunitilake, Anushka Wijesinha & Priyanka Jayawardena (WP 2012-13)
- Impact Evaluation of the **Brazilian** Non-Contributory Pension Program Benefício de Prestação Continuada (BPC) on Family Welfare - By Ana Lucia Kassouf & Pedro Oliveira (WP 2012-12)
- Impact de la crise économique mondiale de 2008-2009 sur l'économie **sénégalaise**
(Analyzing the impact of the 2008-09 global economic crisis on the Senegalese economy) - By François Joseph Cabral (WP 2012-11 - **in French**)
- The Impact of **China's** Priority Forest Programs on Rural Households Income Mobility - By Can Liu, Hao Liu & Wenqing Zhu (WP 2012-10)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#)

special reports

- Fiscal Space and Public Spending on Children in Burkina Faso (final report)**; a UNICEF-commissioned study

Find more PEP special reports [here](#)

books

PEP has published a total of 28 books to date, all available for download, free of charge, on the PEP website. [Find them all here...](#)



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