countries will have direct access to policy and social protection reform in the PEP has been selected, amongst countries (Department for International Development (DFID) 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…

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.

Research team: Nisha Arunilakse | Priyanka Jayawarden | Anushka Wijesinha | Nethmini Perera

PEP researchers in developing countries

A few examples are provided below, but more can be found here: Recent policy findings from PEP researchers in developing countries

China

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

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 Li | Hao Liu | Wenming Zhu | Qingjiao Rong

Brazil

Impact evaluation of a non-contributory pension program on family welfare in Brazil: Benefício de Prestação Contingente

In this particular project, a team of PEP Brazilian researchers aimed to assess the effect of a pension program, the Benefício de Prestação Contingente (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 50) and younger children (reducing child labor) and differentiated between rural and urban areas.

Research team: Ana Lucia Kassauf | Pedro Oliveira

Sri Lanka

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

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 - 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 50) and younger children (reducing child labor) and differentiated between rural and urban areas.

Research team: Arunitilake | Priyanka Jayawarden | Anushka Wijesinha | Nethmini Perera

Policy Brief 103

Working Paper 2012-12

Working Paper 2012-10

Policy Brief 101

Policy Brief 109

Policy Brief 102

Working Paper 2012-13

Policy findings / research initiatives and collaborations / PEP news training / conferences / policy briefs / working papers / books
As the initial and core component of PEP’s mission has always been to build/strengthen local research capacities in the developing countries, the 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
<td>December 3-5, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
<td>November 5-9, 2012</td>
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</tbody>
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A new AGRODEP-PEP School for advanced training in GMAS-based CGE modeling. More...
A new English-language PEP School in South Africa on “advanced training in CGE and GMAS”, in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). More...

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 IP-CIG 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 makers 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...

Youündé, 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...

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 their 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.

Upcoming

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...

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 initiative, the Social and Economic Research Education and Training (SERET) program. 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 computational general equilibrium (CGE) modeling techniques and applications are certainly some of the most widely acknowledged worldwide. In particular, the PEP-CGE models have gained widespread recognition in recent years, as they are gradually outshining the field’s traditional tools. Find out more...

Hot Peppers

USAID grant for PEP researchers in Pakistan
PEP researchers in Pakistan, Dr. Ahsan Abbas and Sara Ahsan, were awarded a USAID research grant in the context of the Pakistan's 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 Nginyae, PEP researcher in Cameroon
A Cameroon researcher who has participated in and distinguished himself through several PEP-supported projects. Paul Nginyae, 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/more multi-poverty in Cameroon, based on his PEP-supported research work. Find out more...

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Related Events

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Job openings, training or research funding opportunities, calls for contributions, international conferences, etc.

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publications

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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?
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Policy brief 93 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)
Policy brief 92 The Impact of China’s Priority Forest Programs on Rural Households Income Mobility

working papers

The Growth and Distributive Impacts of Public Infrastructure Investments in the Philippines - By Angelo Taningco, Erwin Corong, Lawrence Dacuycoy & Rachel Reyes (WP 2012-15)
Impact Evaluation of the Brazilian Non-Contributory Pension Program Benefício de Prestação Continuada (BPC) on Family Welfare - By Ana Lucia Kassouf & Pedro Oliveira (WP 2012-11)
The Impact of China’s Priority Forest Programs on Rural Households Income Mobility - By Can Liu, Hao Liu & Wenqing Zhu (WP 2012-10)

special reports

Fiscal Space and Public Spending on Children in Burkina Faso (final report): a UNICEF-commissioned study - By Anglo Taningco, Erwin Corong, Lawrence Dacuycoy & Rachel Reyes (WP 2012-15)

books

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