Ongoing PEP call for proposals!

The 2017 PEP Annual Conference was held June 8-14 in Nairobi, Kenya. The 2017 PEP Annual Conference in Kenya brought together around 150 researchers, practitioners, international experts, representatives of donor and international organizations, and policy actors from 39 countries, for a highly successful event. This year’s conference corresponded with the launch of the first round of the PAGE II program. PEP invited 33 shortlisted research teams to present their project proposals for discussion and feedback prior to final selection. Find out more.

As well as these presentations, several other activities were held over the seven-day conference including a series of intensive training workshops for PAGE II applicants and a field visit to a CBMS project site. The conference concluded with a high-level policy and research forum. Find out more below in the Conferences section.

The 2016 PEP Annual Report is available online.

The report presents a review of PEP activities and achievements in 2016. The report includes a look back over the first PAGE program (completed at the end of 2015), reviewing key findings and highlighting impact stories. It also provides an overview of PAGE II, setting out the new features of the Grant Plus program.

Download it here

Recent policy findings from PEP

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 PEP’s various research and capacity building initiatives. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues. A few examples and supported through PEP’s 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.

Nigeria

PAGE – The impact of an unconditional non-contributory cash transfer scheme on the wellbeing of the elderly

In Ekiti State, Nigeria, the first locally-funded social security scheme for the elderly was implemented between 2012 and 2014. An unconditional, non-contributory pension scheme was targeted at elderly citizens of the State living in poor households and not receiving any pensions. In collaboration with the implementation agency, a team of local PEP researchers set out to examine the impact of the scheme on the well-being of the beneficiaries, focusing on quality of life and household vulnerability. Based on the first follow-up survey, the team’s analysis indicates that the cash transfer scheme improved the well-being of both the beneficiaries and their households. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

- Working paper 2016-21 | Policy brief 171
- Research team: Damiola Olajide | Adiku Ebetele | Florence Adebayo | Kafilah Gold

Cambodia

PAGE – Impact of microcredit borrowing on wellbeing

Microcredit has been a key component of Cambodia’s post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation. Proponents of microcredit argue that microfinance institutions (MFIs) enable rural populations to access financial services that would otherwise be unavailable. Critics of the system accuse MFIs of charging above-market interest rates and implementing profit-oriented repayment policies. A team of local PEP researchers set out to investigate the impact of microcredit borrowing on wellbeing in Cambodia. The research team’s findings indicate that access to credit significantly improves wellbeing outcomes for borrowing households in comparison with non-borrowing households. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

- Working paper 2017-17 | Policy brief 167
- Research team: Vathana Roth | Saba Yifredew | Mekdim Regassa | Kafilah Gold

Ethiopia

PAGE – The role of micro and small enterprises in reducing unemployment and poverty

In Ethiopia the micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector is under-developed. Furthermore, many MSEs are run by women. Recently, the Ethiopian government designed policies to create employment opportunities for three million people through MSEs. As such, a team of local PEP researchers set out to investigate the potential contributions of the MSE sector to the Ethiopian economy. Their findings indicate that the MSE sector has the potential to support the Ethiopian economy in achieving its development goals and to reduce unemployment and poverty. The best results will be achieved by focusing efforts on high value-added industries and female-oriented MSEs, respectively. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

- Working paper 2017-18 | Policy brief 165
- Research team: Dorina Pon | Feiruz Yimer | Saba Yifredew

The deadline to submit your proposal is September 13. Find out more, including how to apply.

The Call for Proposals for the second funding round of PEP’s PAGE II program is now open. Funded by DFID and the IDRC of Canada, the PAGE II program aims to support high quality research, capacity development, and policy engagement for growth and employment in developing countries. Find out more:

- PAGE II (2016-2020)

2017 PEP Annual Conference

The 2017 PEP Annual Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya from June 8 to 14, was both a major PEP event and a highlight for the organization. Over the seven days, the 150 conference participants took part in a number of activities including training, peer review, debates and exchanges.
A key part of PEP’s mission is to increase the technical knowledge and ability of developing country researchers. As such, PEP provided a series of intensive training workshops on the different research methods, techniques, and tools for shortlisted PAGE I researchers. These sessions included training in:

- CGE modelling and the PEP models
- Power calculations, randomization schemes, and stratification
- Quantile regressions and heterogeneous effects
- Using the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling System
- Scientific writing
- Policy engagement

Following the training sessions, the 33 shortlisted research teams presented their proposals for peer discussion and feedback before final selection.

CBMS field visit
On June 9, shortlisted researchers for Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) projects visited the site of a successful PAGE I project in Muthithi Location. Applicant teams saw how the Kenyan team trained local health visitors to be enumerators. The enumerators shared their experience of using Android tablets to collect data. Find out more.

High-level Policy and Research Forums
The conference concluded with a day dedicated to discussing key issues for development policy research. On June 14, researchers, international experts, stakeholders, donors, and decision-makers attended two sessions:

- Policy Forum: a seminar on youth employment and entrepreneurship.
- CBMS Research Forum: a gender analysis in economic policy research.

Officially opened by Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, this event was widely publicized through the national media, as well as by IDRC, an organizing partner of the conference. A live audio stream of the event was broadcast through the PEP website while researchers and institutions joined the discussion on social media. During the Policy Forum, researchers concluded that the fear of taking formal credit—often due to lack of information—insufficient business training, and structural discrimination are the key issues inhibiting youth and female entrepreneurship in developing countries.

The question of how to produce gender-sensitive research, including how to recognize structural discrimination, was discussed during the Research Forum. The discussions showed that research without gender analysis is not gender neutral but gender blind. Recognizing the challenge of accurately analysing gender issues, the panel offered concrete advice to researchers on how to incorporate meaningful gender analysis in their work.

Read more about the discussions and conclusions from the Policy and Research Forums.

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. In some cases, PEP awards special grants to support their travel and participation.

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

- Centre for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) Conference 2017 in the United Kingdom, March 19-21, 2017
- *Locus of Control and Technology Adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia*
- The Impact of Agriculture Technology Adoption on Farmers’ Welfare in Uganda and Tanzania*
- 91st Agricultural Economics Society Conference in Ireland, April 24-26, 2017

Other Pep News
PEP Executive Director presents PEP’s unique model for capacity building and policy outreach strategy at CGSM Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Read more.

Africa’s Lions – A new book coedited by PEP Board member, Kanon Barot, examines the economic growth experiences of six fast-growing or economically dominant African countries. Read more.

“Dékolé” la Guyane – Two PEP-affiliated researchers published a research proposal aiming to identify how French Guiana’s space industry can contribute to the country’s development. Read more (French)

PEP researcher awarded Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Education grant for her research proposal on “Education-job mismatch and employment outcomes of youth in Kyrgyzstan”. Read more.

Working Papers
Monetary and multidimensional child poverty: Why they differ by Paola Ballon, John Cockburn, Sylvain Desy, Setou Diarra (WP 2016-29)

Heterogeneity in survey response according to gender: A survey experiment in rural India by Maria Laura Alzua, Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena (WP 2017-20)

The effects of minimum wages on labor market and income distribution in Kenya: A CGE analysis by Tabitha Mwangi, Florence Simiyu, Lulit Mitik Beyene, Albert Onderi (WP 2017-21)

CBMS papers
Role of education in encouraging youth employment and entrepreneurship, Philippines by John Paolo Rivera, Brian Gouin (CBMS 2016-19)

The Impact of remittances on youth’s human resource development, employment, and entrepreneurship: Evidence from the Philippines CBMS Data by Werner Hanmi Limarino, Sherli Mamani (CBMS 2016-20)

Determining the credit risk factors in accessing debt financing for entrepreneurial activities, Philippines by Werner Hanmi Limarino, Sherli Mamani (CBMS 2016-21)

Find all PEP working papers here

Related Events
PEP also publicizes news and events from the development research community that may be of interest to its networks.

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

Click here to find all related recent news

The following section lists papers and briefs published by PEP since the last issue of PEP-talk (April 2017)

CBMS papers
Policy brief 178 Case of the Communities of Diboudougou (Province of Boukoutoum), Koper (Province of Ioba) and To (Province of Slali) in Burkina Faso

By Omer Comby, Michel Kone, Prosper Samdo, Lassina Konate, Quebabou Jeanette, Samandouguib Ramata

Shrinking Social Protection in the Informal Sector through CBMS:

By Werner Hanmi Limarino, Sherli Mamani (CBMS 2016-21)
**Recent journal publications by PEP grantees** – i.e. based on research conducted with PEP support in developing countries

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<td>Preference for women but less preference for indigenous women: a lab-fld experiment of local discrimination in a developing economy</td>
<td>Review of Economic Analysis</td>
<td>Gabriela Agullera-Lizarazu, Andrea Rojas-Hass, Patricia Aranda-Branco, Rolando Gonzales</td>
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<td>Growth and employment impacts of public economic infrastructure investment in South Africa: A dynamic CGE analysis</td>
<td>Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences</td>
<td>Vandalusia Miranda, Margaret Chitiga</td>
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**Recent journal publications by PEP resource persons and staff**

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<th>Tittle of article</th>
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<td>Economics of tourism investment in data scarce countries</td>
<td>Desarrollo Económico 2018: 1-38</td>
<td>P. Ruben Mercado, Martin Cicowiez</td>
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<td>Crecimiento argentino en el largo plazo: un modelo intertemporal y una agenda empírica</td>
<td>Ecological Economics 2018: 1-4</td>
<td>Ti Felix, Martin Herselier</td>
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**Recent books and book chapters published by PEP resource persons and staff**

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<th>Tittle of book and references</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Quest for Subsidies Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa Region: A Microsimulation Approach to Policy Making Springer International Publishing, 2017</td>
<td>The Quest for Subsidies Reform in Libya</td>
<td>Abdellahir Arar</td>
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<td>Infraestructura y equidad Vol. I: México y la Alianza del Pacífico Confederación Andina de Fomento (CAF) and CICESE 2016</td>
<td>A Comparative Analysis of Subsidies and Subsidy Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa Region</td>
<td>Cecilio López Montafío, Martin Cicowiez and Antonio Yúnez Naude</td>
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