



## news bulletin march 2013

news and events **publications**

policy findings / research initiatives and collaborations / PEP news training / conferences / **policy briefs / working papers / books**

### Special feature – PEP impact

Follow us:   

In February 2013, PEP published new information regarding the long-term and policy impact of its support and research activities in developing countries, through the

**PEP impact stories** – a new section of the PEP website created to feature a series of brief accounts describing how PEP researchers' findings and recommendations have contributed to inform and influence in their home countries

**PEP internal monitoring and evaluation report** – presenting results from the 2012 survey of more than 50 project teams, to assess the achievement of PEP objectives in terms of capacity building, promotion of local expertise and policy influence

## news and events

### policy findings

Every month, PEP publishes the findings and outcomes of 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. A few examples are provided below, but **more can be found here: [Recent policy findings from PEP researchers in developing countries](#)**

#### Uganda

[More about this project](#)

##### Community involvement improves performance in Ugandan primary schools

[Working Paper 2012-14](#) | [Policy Brief 98](#)



Among the various challenges that the Ugandan government is facing to improve educational outcomes and achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE) in the country, is the necessity to improve the "quality of education services" which has been proven to suffer, in great part, from the "weakness of accountability mechanisms between school administrators, teachers and the communities". In order to assist decision-makers in solving these issues, a team of PEP researchers set out to use randomized controlled trials (RCTs), on a sample of 120 rural public primary schools, to test and assess the effectiveness of two types of community-based monitoring interventions, in improving general educational outcomes. The results show that community involvement is key - and a cost-effective alternative - to improve performance and ensure proper school management in Ugandan primary schools. [Find out more...](#)

Research team: [Madina Guloba](#) | [Ibrahim Kasiye](#) | [Lawrence Batageka](#)

#### Philippines

[More about this project](#)

##### The growth and distributive impacts of public infrastructure investments in the Philippines

[Working paper 2012-15](#) | [Policy Brief 112](#)



This study investigates the role of public infrastructure investment on economic growth and poverty reduction in the Philippines. Using dynamic CGE modeling and microsimulation techniques, the researchers find that the positive supply side effects of higher public investment expenditure manifest over time, through higher capital accumulation and improved productivity. Their findings reveal that higher public infrastructure investment not only positively impacts real GDP, but also reduces poverty and inequality in the short and long run. Based on the simulations' results, the researchers also conclude that international financing is a better alternative than tax financing when considered in terms of such investments' ability to improve the economy's physical infrastructure, in order to create job opportunities, improve productivity and complement its social protection measures. [Find out more...](#)

Research team: [Angelo Taningco](#) | [Erwin Corong](#) | [Lawrence Dacuycuy](#) | [Rachel Reyes](#)

[Find more recent PEP policy findings here...](#)

### research initiatives and collaborations

These are the current PEP research, capacity building and special collaboration initiatives. Click on the links to find out more..

**"Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)"** - co-funded by [DFID](#) (or UK Aid) and the [IDRC](#).

**"Long-term partnership to support UNICEF's work on social policy and social protection reform in the MENA region"** - with [UNICEF-MENA](#) (Middle-East and North Africa)

**"African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium"** – with [IFPRI](#)

### 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 has been part of its regular set of activities since its creation in 2002.

"PEP Schools" offer 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.



Forthcoming events	Location	Dates
PEP and UNICEF-MENA Regional Training Course: "Multidimensional Child Poverty and Inequality Measurement"	Cairo, Egypt	March 9-15, 2013
Registrations are closed		
Second edition of the PEP-Laval Intensive Graduate Schools in Development Economics offering three distinct courses:	Quebec, Canada	June 3-21, 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEVELOPMENT POLICY MODELING June 3 -7</li> <li>UNDERSTANDING THE MACRO-MICRO LINKAGES OF POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT June 10-14</li> <li>DYNAMIC IMPACTS OF MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND SHOCKS June 17-21</li> </ul>		
Registrations are ongoing – deadline is April 1, 2013		
PEP-AGRODEP School: "Evaluation of Public Policies"	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	June 25-27, 2013
For selected AGRODEP participants		

## 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 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 are some recent events of the kind:



### Manila, Philippines – January 22-24, 2013

#### 9<sup>th</sup> CBMS-Philippines National Policy Conference

Every year, the Asian PEP team - based in Manila, Philippines, and coordinating 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. . This year's event, entitled "Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability", was held on January 22-24, 2013, at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City (Manila, Philippines) and gathered over 500 participants. [More about this year's event...](#)

### Hanoi, Vietnam – December 25, 2012

#### Debating issues related to privatization, labour and foreign investments in Vietnam

With support from PEP, local researchers in Vietnam were able to convene national policymakers and stakeholders to discuss the findings and recommendations ensued from their PEP-supported analysis of privatization and poverty issues in the country. [More...](#)

### Vientiane, Laos – December 14, 2012

#### PEP researchers in Laos raise national concern regarding negative effects of the resource boom

Local researchers in Laos had the opportunity to share their PEP-supported research findings with national policy makers and stakeholders from numerous ministries and government agencies, during a PEP national policy seminar organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment in the capital of Laos. [More...](#)

### La Plata, Argentina – December 14, 2012

#### Poverty, inequality and ethnicity; recent experience in Latin America

In December 2012, a group of researchers from the Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS) of Universidad Nacional de La Plata, in Argentina, organized a national conference to present a series of five recently published research papers, including from a PEP-supported project examining issues of ethnic inequality traps in education in the region. [More...](#)

### Brasilia, Brazil – December 2012

#### Assessing the impact of a non-contributory pension program on family welfare in Brazil

In December 2012, a local PEP researcher in Brazil was invited by UNDP's International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) to present and discuss the findings and related policy recommendations from a PEP-supported impact evaluation project with relevant policy stakeholders during a special seminar held at the IPC-IG Office in Brasilia (Brazil). [More...](#)

## upcoming

### Cape Town, South Africa – May 2-10, 2013 : 10<sup>th</sup> PEP general meeting

PEP will hold its 10th general meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2013, where finalists applying for PEP grants in the context of the new PEP initiative for "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)" will be invited to present their proposals 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 is seeking an Executive Director

**Application deadline is March 20, 2013** - PEP is seeking a dynamic and visionary Executive Director to spur its continued development and increase the visibility of PEP and the researchers it supports in national and international research and policy circles. Starting date is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. [More...](#)

### The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office consults with PEP Africa for advisory on investments in the sub-Saharan region and Senegal

**January 23, 2013** - Visit of Jonno Evans to the PEP African Office in Senegal. [More...](#)

### PEP partners in the organization of a video-conference between students in Senegal and Canada

**February 5-6, 2013** - Second edition of Laval University's "International Development Student Symposium". [More...](#)

Follow PEP's daily newscast :   

## 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 **DFID-ESRC**, **ECINEQ**, **GDN** and **Young Lives**, as well as training opportunity from **OPHI**

### NEW! PEP impact stories

A new section of the PEP website has been created to feature a series of brief accounts describing how PEP researchers' findings and recommendations have contributed to inform and influence policy in developing countries. [Find it here...](#)

### New PEP staff member in Africa

Marie Celeste Marguerite Sowa has joined the team of the PEP African Office in Dakar, Senegal, to assist in project management and administration, as well as to help coordinate the upcoming PEP general meeting in South Africa.

### NEW! PEP is now on Youtube!

The PEP Youtube account features, in particular, a short video-clip recently published by the PEP African Office and describing (in French) the work and contributions of PEP in Africa, including testimony of beneficiaries. [View it here....](#)

## publications

This section lists all new research briefs and reports published by PEP since the last issue of the PEP-talk in January 2013

### policy briefs

- [Policy brief 113](#) Global economic crisis and the **Philippine** economy
- [Policy brief 112](#) The growth and distributive impacts of public infrastructure investments in the **Philippines**
- [Policy brief 111](#) Analyzing the impact of remittances on poverty in **Nigeria**

Find all PEP policy briefs [here](#)

### working papers

[Public Infrastructure and Economic Growth in Pakistan: A Dynamic CGE-microsimulation Analysis](#)  
By Vaqar Ahmed, Ahsan Abbas & Saira Ahmed (WP 2013-01)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#)

### special reports

[PEP Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Report, February 2013](#) – sharing results from the 2012 survey of PEP-supported project teams

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 all PEP books [here...](#)



Find previous issues of the PEP-Talk here: [PEP newsletters](#)

To contact PEP secretariat, please email us at [info@pep-net.org](mailto:info@pep-net.org). If you wish to **unsubscribe** to this newsletter's mailing list, send us an email entitled "Unsubscribe – PEP-talk"

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