Researchers have been advocating for regular sets of activities since its creation in 2002. As the 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 current PEP research and poverty reduction strategies. Local researchers in developing countries contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies.

China
Assessing the impact of a tuition relief program on poor rural students’ performance in China

While considerable progress has been made in terms of universal education in China over the past 20 years, a significant gap remains between rural and urban students in the rate of admission to senior high school in several parts of the country. In 2010, a team of Chinese researchers were granted PEP support to conduct a quasi-experimental evaluation in order to assess the impact of a Tuition Relief Program (TRP) - an initiative about to be implemented by the local government of Ningshan County in Shaanxi province - on the performance of poor, rural students at junior high school level. In other words, the researchers sought to assess the effectiveness of such program in encouraging students with initially more limited prospects, to exert stronger efforts while preparing for senior high school. The results were quite positive and the researchers have been advocating the uptake of such investment/policy strategy, as a complementary measure to strengthen human capital in poor rural areas. Find out more (full paper / summary / PEP impact stories)

Research team: Xin Xin Chen | Chunlei Lang | Lijuan Guo | Pingping gu | Shaoqing Zheng

Pakistan
Public infrastructure and economic growth in Pakistan

In this study, a team of local researchers in Pakistan used a combination of macro-micro analytical techniques to simulate the impacts of a 4% increase of the “public infrastructure investment (PII) to GDP” ratio – in line with the intent document in the Planning Commission’s Framework for Economic Growth – on several aspects of the national economy. The simulations were conducted using two different scenarios of financing mechanisms – one supposed that the increase in public spending would be financed with international loans, and the other with taxation (production tax) revenues. The analysis shows that, in the long run, regardless of the selected financing mechanism (tax or international loan), increased investments in public infrastructure lead to macroeconomic gains and improvements in poverty level. Find out more (full paper / summary / slide presentation). See also : PEP-AusAID Special Growth Initiative

Research team: Vaqar Ahmed | Ahsan Abbas | Saira Ahmed | Muhammed Zeshan

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)

“Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad” – funded by the UNDP

As the 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.
In Canada: PEP sessions in Development Economics

Special sessions were also organized for several researchers to present their PEP-related research work during the 2013 Annual Conferences of the Canadian Economic Association (CEA) – held in Montreal, May 30-June 2 – and the Société canadienne de science économique (SCSE) – held in Quebec, May 15-17. Read more...

PEP national policy conference in Cameroon:

"Productivity of the informal, non-agricultural sector, and poverty reduction in Cameroon" Yaoundé, Cameroon - March 4, 2013. A group of local researchers in Cameroon presented their PEP-supported research findings during a national policy seminar, attended by a large audience of policy makers and stakeholders, including representatives of several national government agencies, regional and international institutions, national media, etc. Read more...

A PEP special issue in the International Journal of Microsimulation. Based on PEP research in macro-micro issues, this article provides guidance to combining computable general equilibrium (CGE) and microsimulation modeling frameworks. Read more...

The Canadian government announces a $15 million grant to support an initiative of PEP’s Latin American Partner « GRADE » to strengthen the education sector in Peru. Read more...

Follow PEP’s daily newscast:

Related Events

PEP also publishes 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 career opportunities from IDRC and UNU-WIDER...

external publications

These are the most recent publications of PEP-supported researchers in peer-reviewed journals. The list includes also those articles that were accepted for publication in such journals over the past two months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal and references (link)</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigating Disparities in Access and Returns to Endowments between Male and Female Headed Households in Cameroon</td>
<td>African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development, 5,2, 143-152</td>
<td>Boniface Ngah Epa, Francis Mercio Baye, Nadine Teme Angele Manga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determinants of Inequality in Cameroon: A Regression-based Decomposition Analysis</td>
<td>Botswana Journal of Economics</td>
<td>Boniface Ngah Epa, Francis Mercio Baye, Nadine Teme Angele Manga</td>
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<td>Teenage School Attendance and Cash Transfers: An Impact Evaluation of PANES</td>
<td>Economia (LACEA Journal)</td>
<td>Veronica Amarante, Mery Fernando, Andrea Vigorito, Atim Rodrigo</td>
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The following sections list all new papers, briefs and books published by PEP since the last issue of the PEP-talk in May 2013.

**Policy briefs**

Policy brief 114  
Public infrastructure and economic growth in Pakistan

Find all PEP policy briefs here.

**Working papers**

Efficiency de production du secteur informel non-agricole et réduction de la pauvreté au Cameroun (Production efficiency of the non-agricultural informal sector and poverty reduction in Cameroon – paper in French)
By Justin BEM, Pierre Joubert NGUETSE TEGOUOM, Tatiana Morel SAMO TCHEEKO and Jacksone ESSOH (WP 2013-06)

Resource Boom, Growth and Poverty in Laos: What Can We Learn From Other Countries and Policy Simulations?
By Phouphet Kyophilavong, Chanthachonh Senesauphap and Somnack Yawthacksa (WP 2013-05)

Wage Inequality of Chinese Rural-Urban Migrants between 2002 and 2007
By Zhong Zhao and Zhaopeng Qu (WP 2013-04)

The Impact of a Senior High School Tuition Relief Program on Poor Junior High School Students in Rural China
By Xinxin Chen, Yaoyang Shi, Hongmei Yi, Linxiu Zhang, Di Mo, James Chu, Prashant Loyalka and Scott Rozelle (WP 2013-03)

Find all PEP working papers here.

**Books**

Monitoring and Mitigating the Impact on Poverty of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis
Edited by Celia M. Reyes, Alele B. Sobrevinas and Marsmath A. Baris Jr.

PEP has published several books and other collective works, all available for download, free of charge, on the PEP website.

Find all PEP books here...