



news bulletin july 2013

news and events | publications

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Special announcements



Follow us:   

23 new project teams selected for support under the PAGE initiative's first round of funding.

These new projects involve a total of 105 developing country researchers, from 18 different countries, who will benefit from PEP's unique research support and capacity building program. More than half (14) of these projects are in low-income countries (LICs), fragile and/or conflict states. [Read more...](#)

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](#)**

China

[More about this project](#)

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

[Working paper](#) | [Policy brief](#)



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: [Xinxin Chen](#) | [Chunlei Lang](#) | [Lijuan Guo](#) | [Pingping gu](#) | [Shaoqing Zheng](#)

Pakistan

[More about this project](#)

Public infrastructure and economic growth in Pakistan

[Working paper](#) | [Policy brief](#)



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](#)

[Find more 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)

"Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad"
- funded by the UNDP

training and workshops

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.



Past events	Location	Dates
Second edition of the "PEP-Laval Intensive Graduate Schools in Development Economics"	Quebec, Canada	June 3-21, 2013
PEP-AGRODEP School: "Evaluation of Public Policies"	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	June 25-27, 2013

Forthcoming events	Location	Dates
PEP-CPEEL School : "Modelling the impact of macroeconomic policies and shocks" Deadline for registration is September 13, 2013	Idaban, Nigeria	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2013

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:



Special PEP sessions held during major international events

In Asia: "Investing in public infrastructure; an effective inclusive growth strategy?"

In June 2013, a group of PEP researchers from China, Pakistan and the Philippines were invited to present the outcomes of the respective studies they had conducted in the context of a special PEP-AusAID initiative to "assess the distributive impacts of public infrastructure investments in different countries of Asia" during two international conferences held in Asia:

Manila, Philippines – June 19-21, 2013

14th GDN Annual Conference on "Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth"

Shanghai, China – June 12-14, 2013

16th Annual GTAP Conference on "Economic Global Analysis"

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 6, 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...](#)



pep news

The 10th PEP General Meeting ; development researchers and practitioners around the world gathered to share knowledge and perspectives, and contribute to build local research capacity in developing countries

Some 130 participants from 37 different countries attended the meeting in Cape Town, South Africa - May 2-10, 2013. [Read more...](#)

PEP resource persons publish a new version of the Distributive Analysis Stata Package (DASP): for the use of researchers and policy analysts worldwide. [Read more...](#)

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

The Canadian government announces a \$M 15 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 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 career opportunities from **IDRC** and **UNU-WIDER**..

publications

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.

Title	Journal and references (link)	Authors
Investigating Disparities in Access and Returns to Endowments between Male and Female Headed Households in Cameroon	African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development, 5:2, 143-152 (link)	Boniface Ngah Epo Francis Menjo Baye Nadine Teme Angele Manga
Determinants of Inequality in Cameroon: A Regression-based Decomposition Analysis	Botswana Journal of Economics - <i>forthcoming</i>	Boniface Ngah Epo Francis Menjo Baye Nadine Teme Angele Manga
Teenage School Attendance and Cash Transfers. An Impact Evaluation of PANES	Economía (LACEA Journal) - <i>forthcoming</i>	Veronica Amarante, Mery Ferrando, Andrea Vigorito, Arim Rodrigo

Find more of PEP researchers' external publications [here](#)

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

[Efficience 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 Cameroun – paper in French*)

By Justin BEM, Pierre Joubert NGUETSE TEGOUM, Tatiana Morel SAMO TCHEEKO and Jackson ESOH (WP 2013-06)

[Resource Boom, Growth and Poverty in Laos; What Can We Learn From Other Countries and Policy Simulations?](#)

By Phouphet Kyophilavong, Chanthachonh Senesouphap and Somnack Yawdhacksa (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, Yaojiang 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, Allelie 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...](#)



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

To contact PEP secretariat, please email us at 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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