



PEP-Talk

News Bulletin - June 2012

News and Events

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See also :
PEP 2011 Annual Report

News and Events

POLICY FINDINGS

Recent findings from PEP researchers in developing countries

Thanks to the (financial, scientific & technical) support provided by PEP, hundreds of developing country researchers are provided with the means to conduct independent analyses of poverty/economic policy issues, both for and from their home countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

PEP's most recently published policy findings concern the effectiveness of social welfare programs and various government policy reforms in Asia and Latin America. For example:

Sri Lanka

[PMMA-11364](#)



PEP publications :
[Working Paper 2012-03](#)
[Policy Brief 92](#)

Researchers:

Multidimensional Poverty among Welfare Recipients: a Case Study of the Samurdhi Programme in Badulla District, Sri Lanka

Even when designed with the most laudable intentions, social welfare programs often tend to suffer from a number of failings – e.g. in terms of targeting/reaching beneficiaries, or meeting the heterogeneous needs of targeted households, etc. These failings often stem from an inadequate understanding of poverty. The main social welfare programme in Sri Lanka, the Samurdhi programme (reaching about 32% of the population), is no exception. A team of local PEP researchers have decided to use the outcomes of multidimensional poverty analysis to contribute new and relevant perspectives, as well as an evidence base to help resolve such long standing policy issues. The study was carried out among a representative sample of households (in Badulla District, Sri Lanka), and based on the ‘missing dimensions of poverty’ survey modules developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). Find out more through the related PEP publications listed to the left

[Azra Abdul Cader](#) | [Arunika Meedeniya](#) | [K.I.H Sanjeevanie](#) | [Nilakshi De Silva](#) | [Shivapragasan Shivakumaran](#)

VIETNAM

[MPIA-11359](#)



PEP publications :
[Working Paper 2012-02](#)

Researchers:

Privatization and Poverty in Vietnam: Potential Impacts and Optimal Choices

In 2009, a team of local researchers in Vietnam was granted PEP support to conduct a scientific assessment of the potential impacts of privatization on economic growth and poverty reduction, in the context of general reform of the country's SOEs. The team applied advanced techniques of integrated computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling for the analysis of multi-sectoral activity and to measure the impacts of ownership restructuring on future growth trends, job creation, labor markets, etc.. The findings and conclusions are manifold. In particular, the team found that there is a trade-off between further privatization toward economic efficiency gain and job-creation in Vietnam, which means that privatization does not contribute to job creation in the long term. Another conclusion is that the current “skill” situation of Vietnam's labour force will lead to the creation of a ‘bottle neck’ for the country's economic growth in the near future. The researchers also propose a specific pattern for the reform of states-owned enterprises, while demonstrating that, even at optimal level, privatization does not mean to weaken the economic power of the state sector.

[Ngoc Q. Pham](#) | [Anh Thu Tran](#) | [Anh Tuan Dau](#) | [Dang Trung Le](#) | [Hong Lien Le](#) | [Mai Phuong thi Nguyen](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out ALL about the [most recent findings and recommendations from PEP researchers'](#) analyses to assist in policymaking and/or program design that aim to address development and poverty issues in their respective countries.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

PEP special research initiatives and collaborations

In recent years, PEP has been expanding its collaborations with a growing number of international partners including AusAID, CIDA, IDRC, IFPRI, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNIFEM. Follow the link [“PEP Special Initiatives”](#), to find out all about past and current PEP collaborations with partner organizations to further the international development research and policy agenda.

Several new collaboration projects will be launched in 2012, including multi-country initiatives involving new international partners. Related announcements and calls for proposals will be posted on the PEP website and circulated through PEP's mailing list within the next few months.

Through the [“Related Events”](#) section of its website, PEP also regularly publicizes similar announcements from various development and research institutions to keep its members informed of new job openings and/or funding opportunities in the field of development research. Find all such current opportunities and calls for contributions [here](#).

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS



Building and promoting local capacities for economic policy analysis is the core mission of PEP. Over the past few years, the PEP team has developed a series of special intensive training programs, called [“PEP Schools”](#). A variety of courses and workshops are offered in a range of development research methodologies, and in collaboration with partner institutions at the local/national level in beneficiary countries.

This picture (on the left) was taken during a special PEP training workshop organized by the Center for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, held from February 20 to 24, 2012. The workshop provided intensive training in some of the most updated methodologies and tools for [“Measuring and Analyzing Poverty”](#) and related policy issues. Find more information on this particular workshop [here](#), and below is a list of all past and forthcoming PEP training activities.

Forthcoming PEP training workshops	Location	Dates
PEP School on “Modelling the Impact of Macroeconomic Policies and Shocks” , in collaboration with the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (University of Ibadan, Nigeria)	Ibadan, Nigeria	July 9-20, 2012
Second edition of the PEP-Laval Intensive Graduate School in Development Economics - courses are provided in the application of cutting-edge methodologies related to “Measuring and Alleviating Poverty” and “Development Policy Modelling (CGE models)”	Quebec, Canada	June 10-23, 2012
Recent events	Location	Dates
PEP-AGRODEP School on “GAMS-based Computable General Equilibrium Modelling” (see below)	Entebbe, Uganda	May 14-25, 2012



Also, in the context of the [African Growth & Development Policy \(AGRODEP\) Modelling Consortium](#), PEP and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) are partnering to provide guidance, training material and distance support to researchers (find more information on this collaboration [here](#)).

Among the various forms of PEP contributions to the initiative, PEP resource person and modelling expert [Véronique Robichaud](#) recently completed (May 14 to 25, 2012) a special PEP-AGRODEP training school on "[GAMS-based Computable General Equilibrium Modeling](#)" for AGRODEP researchers in Entebbe, Uganda.

PEP School training programs are currently available, in French and English, in "impact evaluations", "poverty monitoring", "poverty measurement and analysis", "economic modelling and policy impact analysis". Find more information regarding the different training programs, as well as the organization, the costs and delivery mode of PEP Schools through our [PEP School brochure](#).

CONFERENCES

Beyond research and capacity building, PEP is an organization that strives to promote greater participation of developing country researchers in debates related to poverty and development policy issues, both at the national and international levels.

In particular, with PEP support, local Southern researchers are enabled to communicate their findings and promote their expertise to relevant audiences, either through the organization of [national policy conferences](#) or participation in special [international events](#).

Find more information on PEP activities in terms of research communications [here](#).



8th CBMS-Philippines National Policy Conference

The CBMS National Conference in the Philippines is an annual event gathering policymakers, program implementers and development stakeholders, meeting to share best practices, recent developments and emerging issues in line with the implementation and use of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in the country.



This year's event, entitled "[Enhancing Local Governance and Providing a Better Quality of Life for Filipinos through CBMS](#)" was held from March 19 to 21, 2012, in Manila (Philippines) and gathered a total of 592 participants.

As the first country to have piloted the system in the early 1990s, national and local government units in the Philippines have long had recourse to CBMS to help them both monitor and tackle multidimensional poverty and development issues. The [8th CBMS-Philippines National Policy Conference](#) was organized by the PEP Asia-CBMS Network coordinating team, based at the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of De La Salle University-Manila, in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP). Find more information [here](#).

The [PEP Community-based Monitoring Systems](#) (CBMS) are now implemented in 19 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Find more information on the CBMS-Philippines project [here](#), and all CBMS country projects [here](#).

Presentations of PEP researchers and experts in international policy conferences

Rabat, Morocco – May 22-23, 2012. PEP-affiliated experts [Abdel Rahmen El Lahga](#), from Tunisia, and [Abdelkhalek Touhami](#), from Morocco, were invited to represent PEP at a special conference organized by UNICEF and the Government of Morocco entitled "Measurement and Policy Approaches to Enhance Equity for New Generations in Middle-East and North Africa". Find more information [here](#).

Pretoria, South Africa – March 7, 2012. PEP resource person and modelling expert [Helene Maisonnave](#) was invited to present important findings and recommendations for policy interventions at a national policy conference organized by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa. Her recommendations were based on findings from a (UNICEF-commissioned) [PEP analysis of the impacts of social spending and fiscal policies on child welfare in Burkina Faso](#), as well as another research project that she had conducted in collaboration with [Veronique Robichaud](#) (another PEP resource person and modeling expert) and two former PEP-supported local researchers, [Ramos Mabugu](#) and [Margaret Chitiga](#) on employment-related issues. Find more information [here](#).

FORTHCOMING :

PEP Africa will host the PEGNet Annual Conference in 2012

PEP's African partner - the [Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale](#), based in Dakar (Senegal) - has been selected to host the next Annual Conference of the [Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network](#) (PEGNet), entitled "How to Make African Economic Lions: Tapping Africa's Growth and Poverty Reduction Potentials", to be held on September 6-7, 2012. The event will provide a platform for high-level dialogue between local and international development researchers, practitioners and policy makers. The papers and research projects submitted for presentation during the event will also be competing for the next [PEGNet Best Practice Award](#).

PEP NEWS

- The **PEP 2011 Annual Report** has been published and is now available online! [CLICK HERE](#) to find a review of its content and download the document, free of charge.
- PEP has also recently published a "special report" on the outcomes of the PEP-AusAID initiative to "[Simulate the Distributive Impact of Different Growth Strategies](#)" in China, Pakistan and the Philippines. The report is entitled "[Investing in Public Infrastructure: An Effective Inclusive Growth Strategy?](#)"

HOT PEPpers:

- PEP researcher Paul Ningaye has received the 2012 Emerald Literati Network "Award for Excellence" in recognition of the exceptional quality of his article entitled "[Ethno-Cultural Diversity and Multidimensional Poverty Differential in Cameroon](#)", based on the outcomes of his PEP-supported project [PMMA-10136](#). Find more information [here](#).
- PEP deputy director Jane Mariara, who is also director of the School of Economics at the University of Nairobi, was promoted to associate professor of economics in December 2011.
- Long term PEP collaborator and research assistant Marco Azzalini was named in Université Laval's 2011 "Roll of Honour", by the University's Graduate School, for the excellence of his grades and dissertation in the context of his Master degree in Economics. Marco is now working as a Business and Economic Policy Advisor for the Middle-East Office of Oxfam-Quebec in Jerusalem.

Follow the PEP daily newscast on [Facebook](#).

Publications

PEP POLICY BRIEFS

All PEP-supported research project teams produce a PEP Policy Brief, which is a short (one or two page), non-technical summary of the main conclusions and policy recommendations from their research. These briefs are distributed to all relevant policy makers and other local stakeholders.

Most recent publications:

- 🇱🇰 Multidimensional Poverty among Welfare Recipients: A Case Study of the Samurdhi Programme in Sri Lanka – [Policy Brief 92](#)
- 🇳🇮 The Determinants of Multidimensional Poverty in Nsukka, Nigeria – [Policy Brief 90](#)
- 🇵🇾 Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: Are the Costs of Non-cash Components Necessary to Achieve the Desired Outcomes? The Case of Tekoporã in Paraguay – [Policy Brief 90](#)

Find all [PEP Policy Briefs](#) here.

PEP WORKING PAPERS

 [Multidimensional Poverty among Welfare Recipients: A Case Study of the Samurdhi Programme in Sri Lanka](#) – by K.I.H Sanjeewanie & al. (2012-3)

 [Poverty and Privatization in Vietnam : Optimal Choices and Potential Impacts](#) - by Ngoc Q. Pham & al. (2012-02)

Find all [PEP Working Papers](#) here.

PEP-CBMS reports

The following reports are based on projects related to the implementation and use of PEP [Community-Based Monitoring Systems](#)

 [Review of The Existing Poverty Monitoring Methodology in South Africa](#) – by Grace Oloo & al. (WP-CBMS 2011-14)

Find all [CBMS reports](#) here.

BOOKS

New PEP Book now online! [Dynamics of Poverty, Labor Market and Public Policies in Latin America](#)

This publication and 27 other PEP books are made available for download, free of charge, via the PEP Website; find them all [here](#).

To contact PEP secretariat, please email us at info@pep-net.org

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