

PEP-TALK

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A few words from the Co-Directors

It is a pleasure to distribute this new edition of PEP TALK! This bulletin is an important vehicle to keep PEP researchers, policy makers, academics and civil society informed of the recent and upcoming activities of the PEP network and its members.

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network has recently completed its first two-year phase of activity! We have received well over 400 research proposals of which 46 have been selected for presentation at one of PEP's meetings and 27 have been approved for financing (a few others are pending approval). Our most recent general meeting in Saly (Senegal, June 16-20) was officially opened by the President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and featured 130 participants and 50 presentations from around the World. As this edition goes to press, we are evaluating a new wave of over 100 excellent proposals for the next PEP general meeting (Sri Lanka, June 13-17, 2005). The overwhelming response of researchers to our calls for proposals underscores the need and interest for a network of developing country researchers studying poverty issues.

We are also happy to announce that our first wave of final reports and working papers have begun to emerge dealing with issues ranging from multidimensional poverty in Senegal (see the article by Jean-Bosco Ki in this edition) to the poverty impacts of reduction in fuel subsidies in Indonesia.

Our proposal for a second three-year phase of activity has now been officially submitted to the IDRC. In this new phase, we aim to consolidate the mechanisms in place, while turning our attention increasingly to research dissemination, devolving our management and scientific support activities to Southern individuals and institutions, and seeking new sources of funding. In particular, this second phase has begun in earnest with the establishment of an African office for PEP in Dakar, Senegal!

We hope you find PEP TALK interesting and useful, and welcome your suggestions for improvement and contributions to future issues.

Best wishes,

Celia Reyes and John Cockburn.

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Research findings



Trade Policies and Poverty in Zimbabwe—A Computable General Equilibrium Micro-Simulation Analysis

Zimbabwe is actively pursuing policies of trade liberalization and international trade agreements, yet little is known about their likely poverty impacts.

Margaret Chitiga uses a new generation of computable general equilibrium (or economy-wide) models that integrate thousands of actual households (13759 households in this case). By encompassing the varied income sources and consumption patterns of households, this tool is better able to trace the varied channels of impact of trade policies according to household income sources and consumption patterns.

Simulations indicate that a policy of complete removal of tariffs would favor the export-intensive crop agriculture sector but penalize other sectors. As a result, returns to agricultural capital and land increase with trade liberalization to the benefit of households that own substantial amounts of these factors. The majority of households who benefit are rich large-scale farmers. Wage rates of unskilled workers, who are used intensively in agricultural production, also

increase to the benefit of poorer households. Other factors – industrial capital, skilled labour – see a reduction in their rates of remuneration. On the other hand, by allowing cheaper access to imports and a general reduction in domestic prices, trade liberalization leads to a fall in consumer prices that benefits all households.

As actual households are integrated into the model, Chitiga is able to explicitly calculate poverty and inequality changes due to the policy. She concludes that trade liberalization reduces poverty but at the expense of increased income disparities. Inequality in the rural areas, where both large-scale and communal farmers reside, increases more than in the urban areas.

The author is Margaret Chitiga, senior lecturer at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Multidimensional Poverty in Senegal

Jean-Bosco Ki argues that the monetary approach to poverty analysis does not always capture the multiple phenomena that may impede a decent life, as poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. Hence the necessity to carry out a multidimensional analysis to better identify the poor, as well as the strategies likely to help fight poverty efficiently.

Applied to the case of Senegal, multidimensional analysis reveals that all the households are not affected by same types of poverty. The forms of poverty which are the most prevalent are

those linked to the vulnerability of human existence (inadequacy of human capital, unsatisfactory living conditions), the shortage of basic infrastructure and the lack of elements of comfort and equipment.

The incidence of multidimensional poverty is estimated to be 58.4%, as compared to 48.5 % for monetary poverty. Whether it is on the monetary or non-monetary level, rural areas are more affected by poverty than urban areas. But it should be noted that in urban areas households face monetary problems more than non-monetary ones, whereas it is the opposite situation in rural areas. Despite the presence of human capital and infrastructure, urban households always struggle to overcome monetary problems. This may lead us to question market efficiency, especially that of the labor market.

Ki also notes a positive link exists between monetary and non-monetary poverty. Among the monetary poor, he finds 72% are also non-monetary poor, and among the non-monetary poor there are 60% who are monetary poor.

Given this facet of poverty, general interventions to increase labor productivity, in accordance with "Welfarist" theory, must be prioritized in urban areas where monetary poverty is prevalent. In contrast, for rural areas, which face both types of poverty, an efficient combination of targeted and general interventions is advisable.

The author is Jean-Bosco Ki, statistician and financial analyst in Dakar, Senegal

Child Malnutrition in Sri Lanka : the Contrasting Effects of Globalization

Research in Sri Lanka has found that nearly one third of all Sri Lankan children are malnourished. The researchers go on to question the impact of globalization on child malnutrition.

Indeed, globalization has created many employment opportunities, particularly for women, during the past few decades in Sri Lanka. Participation of women in wage work has a number of implications on the households, especially their children. It can increase total household income and hence can have direct positive effects on the welfare of the household members. On the contrary, this situation may have negative effects on the nutritional status of children, as women have less time to allocate for child care when they go for wage work. The researchers assess these and a host of other determinants of nutritional status of pre-school children paying special attention to the income of the household and time that mothers spend with children.

Primary data collected from a random sample of 60 mothers with pre-school children who attended the well-baby clinics at the general hospital in the Kandy region of Sri Lanka was used for the analysis. Short-run nutritional status of the children was measured by the weight-for-age parameter. The determinants of malnutrition

were assessed using a probit analysis.

According to the probit analysis, total household income, birth weight of the child, mother's age, nutritional awareness and time spent with children significantly affect children's short-run nutritional status. These results imply that income generated through increased wage work of mothers may help to alleviate child malnutrition, but that this may come at the expense of the time that mothers spend with their children, which also reduces child malnutrition. Striking a balance between the two forces will hence be required in order to bring child malnutrition rates down.

Article written by Samanthika Ekanayake, Ishara Rathnayake, Jeevika Weerahewa and Anoma Auyawardana. Authors are Graduate students and Senior Lecturers at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, University of Peradeniya.

Third International PEP Meeting in Saly, Senegal

The third **PEP general meeting** was organized in Saly, Senegal, from June 16th to 20th. This meeting was officially opened by the President of Senegal with enormous media coverage. It included a total of 130 participants and 50 presentations including 13 new proposals, eight interim reports, four final reports, 18 national project papers and seven invited papers. Presentations were made in both French and English with simultaneous translations. Time was also

provided for individual meetings with resource persons and steering committee meetings.

The third PEP general meeting was preceded by a five-day **advanced training workshop** organized by the MPIA and PMMA networks in Dakar (June 10th to 14th). The workshop included plenary one-day sessions on poverty analysis/DAD software and gender issues (conducted by the MIMAP gender network). It also included three days of parallel PMMA and MPIA sessions. The PMMA training sessions dealt with public spending, poverty targeting, case studies, discrete choice and panel data models. The MPIA sessions covered dynamic/growth analysis, gender modeling and an advanced social accounting matrix clinic. Several researchers participated in conducting the workshop: Christian Emini, Selim Raihan, Damien Mededji, Lucas Ronconi, Souleymane Sikirou, Touhami Abdelkhalek, Gaye Daffé, Johannes Tabi and Abdoulaye Zonon.

Please note that all papers of this meeting are publicly accessible on www.pep-net.org/, and that each participant will soon receive a cederom with all the material presented at the meeting and at the advanced training sessions.

The opening speech in Dakar

By Bernard Decaluwé, June 16, 2004, in the presence of his Excellency Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, the

Ambassadors,
Representatives of
international institutions,
Dear colleagues and Dear
friends,

Whether you are from South Africa, Mongolia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria, Morocco, Colombia... Senegal or the other countries of our global village which constitutes today's world, you have probably come to Dakar for this meeting because you are convinced that the intellectuals whom you are can validly contribute to the welfare of populations and to a better income distribution both on the local and international level.

Since our Network (which probably would never have seen the day without the enlightened intuition, ten years ago today, of a few visionary economists gathered at the Research Center for International Development in Canada) is particularly interested in the links between economic policies and their consequences on income distribution and poverty, it is

perhaps useful to wonder about the reasons that make us believe that our research is useful to mankind.

What, therefore, are the sources of poverty and inequality in the distribution of income?

Today, it has become common to identify three sources of factors which lead to disparities in levels of welfare.

The first category relates to a significant deficit in the initial endowments of factors of production, be they human capital or physical assets, as we call them in our scientific jargon. Thus, some people are born gifted, while others are less so; some are Daddy's boys, while others develop themselves alone. Some have access to public infrastructures, schools, hospitals... while others do not. In other words, if you are good looking, in good health, intelligent and you are the son of a big landowner, it is unlikely that one day you will live in dire

poverty.

But it is not sufficient to be well endowed with factors of production, since we must still fructify our comparative advantages through exchange and trade. In other words, we must have access to markets. Lack of transport infrastructure in remote regions or the existence of a marketing system monopolized by a few operators (whether they are private or public) may keep you from marketing your local production, and maintain you for a long time in a poverty trap. There are many examples today where a better access to the marketing of products by the poorest households has been the key factor in the improvement of their welfare.

There remains a third category of factors, less economic in nature, but just as important, and they have names such as "incapacity", "exclusion", "exploitation", in other words the absence, in society, of respect for individuals, and for their

freedom and protection. It is opportune in this context to recall this phrase of a famous man (I don't remember the name of the man from whom I borrow this quotation, but since he uttered these words, I assume he must be famous), "Between the rich and the poor, between the strong and the weak, it is freedom which enslaves, but it is the law that sets free". This maxim holds true for individuals, but it is just as true in the international context. And I urge you first and foremost as economists, to always keep this sentence in



mind when we praise the virtues of market economies, and then as citizens, to be wary of the governments of powerful states that take the liberty to violate international laws in the name of freedom.

After touching briefly on the sources of poverty and inequality, it remains for us to wonder about the sources of economic growth. Can we hope, as economists, to contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality in the distribution of income?

To start with, I will not tackle the problem of inclusion, of respect for democratic values or the principles that govern the rule of law for I am convinced that there is nobody in this room who does not adhere to these universal values.

Let's start with access to markets and in particular international markets. Several of our Network's researchers have looked, and are still looking, into these issues, either to study trade policy reforms or the impact of exports expansion on the remuneration of labor and household income. But, if the globalization of an economy and trade liberalization can create new markets and new opportunities (for instance, in the case of Vietnam, a major part of poverty reduction is essentially attributable to the marketing of rice on international markets), it may also have as a consequence, an increase in the vulnerability of some producers, and eventually lead to the pure and simple destruction of lucrative activities. It is sufficient to think of the nightmare created by subsidies granted to cotton

production and other agricultural products in developed countries, to understand the significance of having access to international markets under the normal conditions of competition and rivalry. In this context, the preparation and defense of a common position by some African countries in the framework of the current Doha Round negotiations takes here all its significance.

If access to new markets constitutes a favorable condition for more rapid growth, it still however remains to take advantage of this growth. It is therefore essential that investment, either in the form of productive investment (physical capital accumulation, investment in human capital (through education), or in infrastructure development (public capital) should accompany and support trade liberalization and the openness of the economy. In my opinion, efforts made by some public authorities in several African economies, and in particular in Senegal by its President through NEPAD, which is a driving force in supporting the development of private initiative, is certainly a factor conducive to the kind of economic growth which is orderly and respectful of the values of these societies.

There remains a third factor which is often mentioned as an economic growth factor. I call it technical progress, increased productivity, new information technologies, etc. There is no question that they are linked to international factor mobility, and that restrictions to this mobility certainly contribute to a reduction in growth. It is

not, however, clear in our opinion whether these undoubtedly positive factors are conducive to better income distribution and to a reduction in poverty. But who will seize the new opportunities created by these new technologies? Who will seize the new trade possibilities which access to Internet will create? The most destitute? The most disadvantaged in our society? Nothing is less certain. Will the trickle down effects be sufficient to improve the lot of the poorest and give to each one hope for a better life?

It is to all these questions, and to a few others, that our collective effort attempts to respond. Is economic growth going to lead us to a better, more equitable world in which the opportunities to live a more decent life will be improved for a greater number of people?

What are the economic policies of our governments and of our international institutions that are most conducive to the achievement of these objectives? We certainly don't have all the answers but, judging by the enthusiasm, the seriousness, and the depth of our debates, I am convinced that just like me and like those who, following President Wade's example, have supported our efforts with their presence, we will contribute with the multitudes of men and women of good will on this planet, to a better world.

Fourth General Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 13 to 17, 2005

The PEP office is currently busy preparing the next PEP general meeting to be held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) from June 13 to 17. All PEP-funded research teams are eligible to participate subject to the submission of a satisfactory final report. New teams will also be invited to present research proposals based on the outcome of our most recent competitive call for proposals. All proposals should receive an initial response by mid-January and final invitations will be distributed at the end of February. Nearly 20 final reports and as many new proposals are expected from the PMMA and MPIA networks. The CBMS network will also have presentations from all current teams and a few new teams. The meetings will be preceded by two days of MPIA training and two days of PMMA training. All meeting participants may apply to attend and are invited to make suggestions on subjects to be covered.

New CBMS partnerships

Benin

The CBMS Network has recently approved a CBMS proposal from Benin after a thorough evaluation by the Network's Steering Committee. The objectives of the CBMS in Benin are: (a) to improve the capacities of poor communities by monitoring and evaluating their poverty status; (b) to address the information

requirements of the decentralization policy in the country; and (c) to help monitor and evaluate existing policies that were defined by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The CBMS work will be administered by the Cellule d'Analyse de Politique Economique (CAPE) in cooperation with the MIMAP-Benin Project Team, with Madame Marie Odile Attanasso serving as Project Leader. The CBMS Benin research team members include Ambroise Agbota, Roland Medjigbodo, M-P and Félix Sessou.

Mandaue and Pasay
The CBMS Network coordinating Team, represented by its Project Leader and Research and Administrative Officer, recently signed two memoranda of agreement for technical collaboration for the city-wide implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBSM) in two cities, namely, Mandaue and Pasay.

The city government of Mandaue, led by its City Mayor and newly elected Vice-President for the Visayas of the League of Cities of the Philippines, Honorable Thadeo Ouano, signed the agreement on July 22, 2004 at the Manila Hotel while the city government of Pasay, through its mayor, Honorable Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, likewise formalized its partnership with the Team through the MOA on July 29, 2004.

For Mandaue, said CBMS initiative, which will be implemented in all 27

barangays, is in line with its adoption of development indicator-based planning and programming operations. For instance, the CBMS data will be used for the updating of the city's comprehensive land use plan. In line with the collaboration, the city government of Mandaue has committed to allocate the required financial support for the conduct of CBMS related activities for the period August 1-December 31, 2004

Thirteen new research grants

Following the proposals presented in Hanoi and Dakar, the PEP network has already extended thirteen other new research subsidies of CAN\$20 000.

Bitronder Patrick Birungi
Uganda
Incorporating Environment Factors in Poverty Analysis Using Small Area Estimation Techniques: The Case Land Use Changes in Uganda

Mohamed Abdelbasset
Chemingui
Tunisie
Trade Liberalization and Poverty in Rural Areas in Tunisia: Microsimulation in a general equilibrium framework

Caesar Cororaton
Philippines
Agricultural Sector Policies and Poverty in the Philippines: A CGE Analysis

Oumar Diop Diagne
Sénégal
Le noyau dur de la pauvreté au Sénégal

Souleymane Sadio Diallo
Côte d'Ivoire
Ouverture commerciale, et Pauvreté en Côte d'Ivoire :

*Analyse à l'aide d'un modèle
EGC Microsimulé*

Hyacinth Ichoku Ementa
Nigeria
*The Impoverishing Effects of
the Health Care Financing
System in Nigeria*

Christian Arnault Émini
Cameroun
*Décomposition des effets
des politiques économiques
et des chocs exogènes sur
l'évolution de la pauvreté et
de la distribution au
Cameroun : Une analyse en
équilibre général micro-
simulé avec double-
calibration*

Hazel Jean Malapit
Philippines
*Labor supply responses to
income shocks under credit
constraints: Evidence from
Bukidnon, 2003*

Tabo Symphorien Ndang
Chad
*À qui profitent les dépenses
sociales au Tchad? Une
analyse d'incidence à partir
des données d'enquête*

Manson Nwafor
Nigeria
*The Impacts of Trade
Liberalization on Poverty in
Nigeria: Microsimulations in
a CGE Model*

Maria Inés Terra Ortiz
Uruguay
*The effects of increasing
openness and integration to
the MERCOSUR on the
Uruguayan labor market. A
CGE modeling analysis*

Rizwana Siddiqui
Pakistan
*Modelling Gender
Dimensions of the Impacts
of Economic Reforms in
Pakistan*

Kalilou Sylla
Côte d'Ivoire
*Une approche
multidimensionnelle de la*

*pauvreté appliquée à la
Côte d'Ivoire*

Several other teams have
been invited to revise their
proposals, which should be
approved soon.

Study visit grants

Margaret Chitiga
University of Pretoria, South
Africa.

Research visit at Laval
University, from March 14 to
April 7, 2004. Research:
*Trade Policies and Poverty
in Zimbabwe – A
Computable General
Equilibrium Micro Simulation
Analysis.*

Caesar Cororaton
Philippine Institute for
Development Studies,
Philippines.
Participation in the
Northeast Universities
Development Consortium
Conference (NEUDC) HEC
Montréal, October 1st to 3rd,
2004. Study visit to Laval
University from October 4th
to 24th. Mr. Cororaton made
progress in modeling of the
poverty impacts of trade
liberalization and the Doha
Negotiations.

Souleymane Sadio Diallo
Cires, Côte d'Ivoire
Research visit at 2004 Laval
University, from March 25 to
April 18, 2004. Research:
*Ouverture Commerciale et
Pauvreté en Côte d'Ivoire:
Analyse à l'aide d'un modèle
EGC Micro simulé.*

Selim Raihan
IDPM, University of
Manchester, United
Kingdom
Participation in the
Northeast Universities
Development Consortium
(NEUDC) HEC Montreal,
October 1st to 3rd. Research
visit at Laval University from

October 4-14, 2004. His
research works deals with
the poverty impacts of trade
liberalization and the Doha
Negotiations.

New Working Papers

Adegbidi, Anselme, Michel
Ahohounkpanzon, Epiphane
Adjovi, Victorin Houndekon,
Didier Djoi et Siméon Fagnisse
*Profil de pauvreté et
d'inégalité au Bénin*

Wetta, Claude, Samuel T.
Kaboré, Bernard K. Bonzi,
Souleymane Sikirou, Malick
Sawadogo et Prosper Somda
*Le profil d'inégalité et de
pauvreté au Burkina Faso*

These first two PEP working
papers have been published
and several others are
under preparation. All PEP
working papers are first
submitted to an external
evaluator. A revised version
of the paper, if accepted, is
then sent to an editor for
final corrections. The
working paper series is
posted on the PEP Internet
web site. The working paper
series is also registered with
all major bibliographic
databases and bulletins.

Ongoing call for proposals

Proposals may be submitted
to the PEP network at any
time. Proposals submitted
before November 30, 2004
will be considered for
presentation in the June
2005 meeting. Proposals
submitted after this date will
be considered for the June
2006 meeting.

Guidelines for posting a
PEP research proposal are
presented in the heading
“Call for proposals”,
“Guidelines for posting a
proposal on the web site”.

We have recently improved this section with the following changes:

- age and gender are now required in order to identify teams with young researchers and women who constitute two groups prioritized for subsidy grants;
- more precise explanations for the presentation of proposals;
- more details on who can post a proposal.

Moreover, we invite you to update your personal data on "Personal settings". You may enter your gender and age (if under 30) here; information which is now required in order to post a proposal.

A pre-selection committee analyzes proposals in order to determine whether they are complete and eligible for financing, to inform the researchers of the proposal's status and, in some cases, to provide some feedback on the proposal itself. Roughly three to four months before each PEP meeting (February 2005 in the case of the upcoming June meetings), a selection committee selects the best research proposals in terms of scientific contribution, policy relevance, concordance with PEP thematic areas and feasibility. These teams are then invited to present and discuss their proposals at the meeting. Taking into consideration that it is almost always necessary to revise and resubmit proposals once or more times before acceptance for

presentation at a PEP meeting. **We encourage interested researchers to submit proposals as early as possible.** Furthermore, research teams are strongly encouraged to submit proposals and accompanying documents **directly on the PEP Web site** ("Call for Proposals"). Details are provided in the guidelines posted under "Call for Proposals" on the site. **If this is not possible, please send all required** information to the following email address: pep@ecn.ulaval.ca.

Other PEP Grants

All PEP researchers are reminded that they are eligible to apply for additional funding for the following activities:

- In the context of PEP research grants, funding can be requested to allow young members (aged under 30 years) of PEP research teams to participate in a PEP

meeting. We normally expect one young researcher to participate in the presentation of the team's final report.

- Training and Professional Development Grants: to finance the participation of a PEP team member in a training workshop, study visit or international conference related to their PEP research.
- National Conference Grants: to assist in financing the organization of a national conference related to PEP research.

Details are provided in the Grants Manual, which is available on the home page of the PEP web site.

African cotton: The weight of world subsidies

The book *Cotons d'Afrique : le poids des subventions mondiales*, published in the



Ndèye Lika Aïdara came to PEP offices in Laval University, Quebec City, Canada, for training. Here she is accompanied by Jean-Yves Duclos, Nabil Annabi, John Cockburn, Gaétane Marcoux, Sonia Moreau and, on her right, Jane O'Brien.

Spring of 2004 by the Reseau d'Expertise des politiques agricoles (REPA), reveals the nature and extent of subsidies and evaluates their impacts on African economies. Several PEP researchers have taken part in this book.

For more details, see the following article of the daily newspaper *Le Soleil* May 6 2004:
[\[http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-59706-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html\]](http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-59706-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html).

Phase 2 of the PEP network

(October 1st, 2004 to September 30th, 2007)

The proposal for PEP network's phase 2 has been officially submitted to the IDRC. The network is not expected to change fundamentally during this second phase. The main thrust will concern the pursuit and gradual extension of core research and training activities, special cross-country comparative studies, dissemination activities, resource expansion and the ongoing devolution of the MPIA and PMMA networks to Southern institutions.

New PEP office in Dakar

One of PEP Phase 2 objectives is to devolve its activities toward the institutions of the South. It is in this context that a new PEP office has been established in Dakar, Senegal. It is Ms. Ndèye Lika AIDARA who will be in charge of administrative affairs there. She will be at the Dakar office permanently and will ensure coordination between

African PEP researchers, CIRPÉE and AKIEBS, as well as contributing to the daily administration of the PEP network as a whole. Many of you know Ms. Aidara from her extraordinary organization of the last PEP general meeting in Dakar. You may contact Ms. Aidara at: ndeye@ecn.ulaval.ca.

Online literature search tools

IDRC research database service
This site provides online access to various literature search tools and a huge number of top scholarly journals (with downloadable articles). All members of teams who currently benefit from a PEP or IDRC/MIMAP grant are eligible to use IDRC's Research Databases. More information about these databases and other services provided by IDRC's Library is available at the following webpage:
http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-45342-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

These services are available to researchers over the full duration of their research project. For those who are interested and who have not already received a username and password, please submit an updated list of the names and email addresses of the persons from your research team who will use the service. For PEP grant recipients, this information should be transmitted to Sonia Moreau (sonia.moreau@ecn.ulaval.ca) In the case of MIMAP grant recipients, the request should be made to Raman Sohal (rsohal@idrc.ca). The names of these people should be among those appearing in your proposal

document. This information will be transmitted by Sonia and Raman to the IDRC librarian, Barbara Porrett, who will provide each team member with a username and password. Ms. Porrett will notify you directly as soon as this has been accomplished. She will also elaborate on the full range of services offered through the Library.

Upcoming events outside PEP

For more information on this section, see "Related events outside PEP" on the home page of the PEP web site and "Modeling events outside PEP" on the MPIA home page ("Research Groups", "MPIA" on www.pep-net.org).

International Conference on Policy Modeling (EcoMod2005) Istanbul on June 29-July 2, 2005

You are cordially invited to submit your abstracts or full papers (preferred) on our conference management Web site: www.ecomod.org. Details of the conference are available on: www.ecomod.net.

The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2005.

The deadline for submission of the full version of the accepted papers is May 1, 2005.

22^e Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée
May 26-27, 2005 in Hammamet (Tunisia)
Organized by the Faculté des Sciences Économique et de Gestion de Tunis. All submissions may be written in French or English.
Submission deadline: February 11, 2005.

Journées de l'AFSE, Clermont 2005
The Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI), the CNRS and the Université d'Auvergne will organize the next scientific conference of the Association Française de Sciences Économiques (AFSE) on the economics of development and transition on May 19th, 2005.
Submission deadline for proposal: before February 10, 2005.

Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics in Dakar
The 17th Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) will be held in Dakar, Senegal on January 27, 2005. One of the world's best-known conferences on development, the ABCDE is being held for the first time in an African country, and for the second time in a developing country (ABCDE 2003 was held in Bangalore, India). The overall theme of the conference is "Growth and Integration". For more information, please visit www.worldbank.org/abcde2005/senegal.

The Global Development Network (GDN) will hold its Sixth Annual Global Development Conference January 24-26, 2005 in Dakar, Senegal. The theme of the conference is "Developing and Developed Worlds: Mutual Impact". Deadline passed.

News from members

As of January 2005, **Caesar Cororaton** will be Research Fellow in the Markets, Trade

and Institution division at IFPRI, Washington.

His main task will be to develop a network focusing mainly on issues related to trade liberalization (WTO related issues), food policies, agricultural policies and poverty for South Asia. The network will eventually be expanded to include South East Asia.



Caesar Cororaton

Cosme Vodounou has been appointed Director General of the Institut National de Statistique du Benin last April 23th.

Épiphane Adjovi is now Director General of Economic Affairs in Benin. He is the highest ranking civil servant for economic policies. In this context, he coordinates all the initiatives relating to economic policy :
- Advises the government in piloting the national economy in the short, medium, and long terms;
- Monitors the execution of the government's regional economic integration policy
- Monitors Insurance control activities
- Monitors assistance to public enterprises.

Dorothée Boccanfuso and **Luc Savard** are back in Québec, Canada. They are now professors at the University of Sherbrooke. Many thanks for their precious collaboration during their stay in Dakar.

Marie-Hélène Cloutier, **Laval University**, (Québec, Canada) has submitted her thesis *Education in Vietnam – A computable general equilibrium analysis*. She now pursues her doctoral studies at the University of Montreal.

A new student, **Nitesh Sahay** of India, joined the team in August 2004 to pursue a PhD program at Laval University with a thesis on CGE modeling of health issues in India.

If you have news you would like to share, please transmit this information through this email (pep@ecn.ulaval.ca), and it will be our pleasure to publish it in the next edition info of PEP-TALK.

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network

Created in 2002, the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network is a network of researchers working to reduce poverty. Specific objectives are to:

- Better understand the cause and consequences of poverty.
- Propose alternative strategies, policies and programs to reduce poverty.
- Improve the monitoring and measurement of poverty.
- Develop local research (and training) capacity in these areas.
- Develop new concepts and methodologies through fundamental research.

The network is composed of three tightly linked constituent networks. The first – Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS) – designs and pilots community-based monitoring and local development systems aimed at poverty in its multidimensional sense. The second – *Poverty Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis (PMMA)* – aims to develop and apply analytical tools to measure and monitor poverty, and to analyze a wide range of poverty issues. The third – Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA) – uses economy-wide models and analysis as a “laboratory” to identify and analyze the links between specific policies and shocks and their eventual impacts on poverty.

Reminder: In order for us to be able to contact you, we invite you to update your personal data ("Personal setting") on PEP's web site [www.pep-net.org]. You may also select the e-mail addresses at which you would like to receive PEP announcements and PEP-TALK. If you do not wish to be part of this mailing list any more, please deselect the box "want to receive the PEP-TALK".