



## 7<sup>th</sup> PEP Research Network Meeting kicks off in the Philippines

Some 300 local and foreign participants will meet from December 6-12, 2008 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City, Philippines for the 7th Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network General Meeting and Training Workshops.

The PEP Network General Meeting - which had previously been held in Peru, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Senegal and Vietnam - is a venue for the presentation, discussion and evaluation of research proposals and reports. It will run from December 10 to 12, to be attended by PEP researchers from the three subnetworks—Community- Based Monitoring System (CBMS), Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA), and Poverty Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis (PMMA). It will also be attended by international experts from various organizations and policymakers from different country-partners.

The meeting will be preceded by a series of training workshops facilitated by the MPIA subnetwork, the Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI), PMMA and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

David Laborde, postdoctorate fellow at the International Food Policy Research

Institute (IFPRI), will facilitate the MPIA training workshop on *Modeling the Poverty Impacts of Agricultural Shocks and Policies* on December 6. The workshop aims to assess the standard computable general equilibrium model (CGE) in representing the agriculture sector. It aims to provide the participants with state-of-the-art modeling alternatives and awareness of the pros and cons of different modeling options, specifically in the context of developing countries.

Meanwhile, the training workshop on *Policy Impact Evaluation Research* will be conducted on December 7 and will be facilitated by Habiba Djebbari of the Laval University, Canada and Martin Valdivia of the Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE). This workshop will generally focus on the methodological and practical aspects of policy impact evaluation research as well as application sessions using the STATA software.

On the other hand, the PMMA subnetwork and OPHI will jointly host the training workshop on *Implementing the Sen Capabilities Approach in Developing Countries*. The workshop will be conducted by Sabina Alkire and Emma Samman of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, Department of International

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Development, University of Oxford. This workshop will tackle the missing dimensions of poverty and the multidimensional poverty measures that aggregate across dimensions and across people.

One of the highlights of the conference this year is the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNet)-PEP *Policy Forum on Trade, Investments and Domestic Policy Coherence for Inclusive Growth* to be held on December 9. ARTNet is an open regional network composed of leading trade research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. It is a joint initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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The 5th PEP Network Meeting at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

# LLPMS fills information gaps at the local level in Bangladesh

The Ward Information Book prepared under the Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS) is now being used by local government functionaries of Muhammadpur (West) Union in Daukhandi Upazila under Comilla district in identifying beneficiaries of their programs. Moreover, data generated from the LLPMS are being utilized as benchmark information for assessing the progress of different indicators after a specific period of time.

As its name suggests, the LLPMS involved locally trained people under the supervision of the functionaries of the local government to generate community and household-level information. Two sets of questionnaire/checklist were designed to generate information using the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and household. Tabulation of some indicators was also done after which a Ward Information Book (WIB), which contains basic information of each household and

aggregate of some basic indicators was prepared.

The Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) is providing consultancy support to prepare a Database using the Natural Resource Database at the poverty stricken areas of Bangladesh and utilizing their experiences through the LLPMS.

The lack of poverty estimates at the local level in Bangladesh used to be a factor that hindered any initiatives for reducing poverty. Thus, under the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP)-Bangladesh Project, the methodology and the indicators for a local level poverty monitoring system (LLPMS) were developed and pilot tested. BARD and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) jointly implemented the project. On the basis of the experiences from the four pilot villages in 2001-2002, BARD experimented the use of the indicators and methodology



developed therein in one Union of Muhammadpur (West), Daudkandi Upazila, and all villages of Comilla in 2003-2006. The essence of the project was to feed the local government authority at the grassroots level with required information to enable them to assess the poverty situation at their respective areas, formulate needs-based projects or programs and serve the targeted population. Keeping the local government at the grassroots level as the central point, local people were involved in the process of data collection and data analysis. \*

# Conflict, drought drive poverty in Tana River District, Kenya - study

Findings from the qualitative and quantitative data collection activities conducted by the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD) in three sub-locations in the Tana River District show that the local specific causes of poverty include drought and ethnic conflict.

Drought was recorded as the most common natural disaster in the district. However, it had different implications for the farmers and the pastoralists in terms of loss - the farmers lost farm produce while pastoralists lost livestock. These losses push those affected deeper into poverty.

Meanwhile, majority (89.7%) of the households in Walesorrhea sub-location reported that they lost livestock as a result of ethnic conflict. Causes of conflict mentioned by the study participants include: water,

pasture, drought and communal land ownership. Conflict was found to be a major contributor of poverty since it led to loss of lives and livestock and destruction of crops and property, worsening the conditions of people, most of whom are already impoverished.

The study further revealed that the general local meaning of poverty is not very different from the general universal meaning of poverty which is a lack of basic needs. However, the communities have specific measures of poverty. The pastoral community uses the number of livestock as their criterion for poverty determination-the higher the number of livestock, more so cattle, the richer one is considered to be. On the other hand, the farming community considers one poor if they he/she has no farm land or if he/she has farm land but lacks the know-how to maximize its productivity. A family that has

at least one employed member is also considered better off than one that has no employed member in the farming community. The levels of poverty are not clear cut in the farming community.

The study was conducted in the sub-locations of Laini, Tarasaa and Walesorrhea which represent the three different livelihood zones in the district: pastoral livelihood zone, mixed farming livelihood zone and marginal mixed farming livelihood zone. These three sub-locations are also representative of the three divisions making up Tana River district: Hola, Bura and Garsen divisions. The study was conducted in February 2008, and specifically, it aimed at (i) establishing the local definitions of poverty and how it is characterized; (ii) determining the causes of conflict; (iii) and establishing the linkages between drought, poverty and conflict. \*

## CBMS creates linkages in Cambodia

The Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System (CBMS) was successfully pilot tested in Cambodia in 2003-2005 by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in close collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and the Seila programme. It provided valuable results which satisfactorily describe the different facets of poverty in 6 communes of two different provinces.

After the successful pilot test in six communes, the second phase quickly followed involving the six communes that served as the pilot sites, together with new sites. The areas that were included came from the provinces of Kratie, Kampong Thom and Battambang.

The project has successfully built a link between commune, district, provincial and national level planning processes through the use of CBMS data. The results have been widely shared with various stakeholders for consideration in the replication of the CBMS in other areas.

The CBMS-Cambodia project has helped to develop the capacity of the local authorities to implement and take responsibility for this work. As such, the twelve communes in the study areas now possess the commune poverty monitoring reports by village and the local authorities also have the capacity to do the CBMS in their commune by themselves.

To meet the long-term objective of creating a sustainable system to locally monitor poverty reduction over time, the project has placed emphasis on institution and capacity building at the local level and leadership by the NIS under the Ministry of Planning (MOP). \*

## Ghana's NDPC Deputy Director sees potential for scaling up

Mr. Bruno Dery, Deputy Director of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) of Ghana has expressed optimism about the potential for scaling up CBMS in the country.

Speaking before the 6<sup>th</sup> CBMS Network Meeting in Lima, Peru last year, Mr. Dery said that the country's situation in terms of data availability at the local level is similar to many other developing countries – infrequent and irregular national surveys, poor dissemination of survey results and lack of disaggregated information sufficient for local-level planning and budgeting. Moreover, decentralization policies have already been enacted by the government, which require national plans to be formulated with inputs from all the districts. He said that these factors augur well for scaling up the CBMS implementation in the country.

According to Mr. Dery, the NDPC and the Ghana Statistical Service have jointly established the Ghana Information Database System. He said that if CBMS implementation is scaled up in the country, the data generated by the system can be incorporated into this database. He said that this is important since the CBMS can provide detailed data that can guide development planning at the local level.

Mr. Dery identified the following potential uses of CBMS in the country: (i) an opportunity to build the capacity of the district planning coordinating units (DPCUs) in monitoring and evaluating district medium-term development plans;

(ii) source of data for updating existing poverty maps (in all districts); (iii) tool for effective programming and targeting of scarce district resources to communities, households and individuals; and (iv) basis in the preparation of district plans and annual progress reports.

At present, CBMS work in the country is being implemented by a research team headed by Dr. Felix Ankomah Asante based at the Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana.

The research team initially pilot tested the CBMS methodology in Dodowa, Ningo and Prampram in Dangme West District. The pilot revealed interesting insights on the uses of CBMS data. For example, the pilot areas are located in a region that previously had the lowest headcount poverty index. However, the study showed proof that some of the poverty indicators in the district (e.g., access to sanitary toilets) are not significantly different from the indicators in the poorer regions and districts. This effectively demonstrated the importance of spatially disaggregated data as well as their role in ensuring that exclusion of poor households in government programs is minimized. \*



Working in the field. Ghana.

# CBMS data show Indonesia's UCT program not well-targeted

A simple benefit incidence analysis of the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) program in a CBMS-pilot site in Indonesia showed that program funds still flow to middle- and higher- income households.

The study conducted by the SMERU Research Institute using CBMS data in Kedondong Village, Demak District revealed that while 67 percent of poor households benefit from the program, 27 percent of those in the third and fourth quintiles were also able to get assistance, suggesting significant exclusion and leakage rates (Table 1).

Considered one of the largest unconditional cash transfers in the world, the UCT program was implemented by the government of Indonesia in October 2005 in order to cushion the impacts of the removal of fuel subsidy. The program is targeted at 15 million poor households determined by Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS-Statistics Indonesia) using a proxy means



Table 1. UCT Beneficiaries per Quintile, Kedondong Village, Demak District

Quintile	UCT Recipient Per Quintile	% UCT Recipients to Total Households per Quintile	UCT Distribution Received per Quintile
Q1	205	74.55	42.01
Q2	125	44.96	25.61
Q3	78	28.26	15.98
Q4	59	21.3	12.09
Q5	21	7.58	4.3
	488	35.29	100

Total Number of Households: 1383 / Quintile Size: 275-278

testing method. Each household receives Rp1.2 million for one year (roughly the country's current per capita GDP) which is disbursed quarterly in equal amounts.

However, the UCT as well as other anti-poverty programs in Indonesia suffer from poor targeting due to the lack of timely, reliable and appropriate set of data at the local level. Targeting of beneficiaries and monitoring of the impacts of development

projects still rely on data coming from national censuses and surveys which are not sufficient to meet the needs of local government units for disaggregated information.

According to Dr. Sudarno Sumarto, Executive Director of the SMERU Research Institute, a localized monitoring system with locally tailored indicators such as the CBMS can provide for these needs. This is especially called for under the country's context where decentralization policies have created fiscal spaces for the districts to address poverty. He said that since 1997, the budget of local government units has doubled. In addition, the national budget for poverty reduction has more than doubled since 2002.

CBMS is currently being implemented by SMERU in the City of Pekalongan, one of six cities in Central Java which consists of four *kecamatan* with a total number of 80,000 households. SMERU also spearheaded the successful pilot testing of CBMS in 2005 in Kabupaten Cianjur and Kabupaten Demak in West and Central Java, respectively. \*

## CBMS for agenda formulation: Benin

The City Council of Cotonou, through its Mayor, has defined a 6-point strategy in light of the results of the CBMS survey. This developed after the census on the living conditions of Cotonou's 13<sup>th</sup> district was able to identify the disparities in the living conditions per area, thereby allowing local authorities to come up with better focused strategies for poverty reduction.

The 6-point strategy includes:

- Building of Public Latrines
- Building of Public Health Center

- Strengthening of Electricity and Water Supply Networks
- Facilitation of an Anti-Malaria Program
- Building of Water Kiosks
- Building of a Technical Learning School in Gbedegbe

The calculated indicators serve as reference in defining local development strategies for the local authorities, NGOs and development associations.

The CBMS dubbed as Community Follow-up

System of Poverty (CFSP) was pilot tested in 2005 in the 13<sup>th</sup> district of Cotonou. It collected data on socio-demographic characteristics of households such as age, level of education and civil status, among others; dwelling characteristics like construction materials used; and living conditions such as mode of lighting, water supply, etc.

Following the Strategy Document on Poverty Reduction (SDPR), the CFSP was developed to

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# NSC looks toward expansion of CBMS in Lao PDR

The National Statistical Center (NSC) of Lao PDR, which spearheaded the CBMS work in the country, is interested to double the coverage of CBMS in the provinces of Saravane and Savannakhet.

Mr. Sengmany Keolangsy, Director of the Social Division of the NSC, said that the results of the implementation of CBMS in 24 villages were widely used by several stakeholders, prompting them to explore the possibility of expanding CBMS coverage into 54 villages.

The NSC is part of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation in Lao PDR. Its core tasks include coordination, research and implementation and control of all national statistics activities in the country.

Meanwhile, Mr. Phosy Keosiphandone, Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and Investment in Saravan Province, revealed that the local government in Toumlan also invested 40 million kips (nearly US\$4,000) for capacity-building activities. He also said that after the completion of the CBMS work in Toumlan, a similar amount in the budget for the fiscal year 2006-2007 was allocated by the Saravan provincial government for the expansion of CBMS to other districts.

Mr. Keosiphandone said that the CBMS complements the Village Book system

not only by gathering other additional information or indicators relating to poverty but also by strengthening local capacity for data capture and analysis.

The village book system, he said, aims to collect socio-economic information from the grassroots level which consists of data on population, housing, agriculture, labor statistics, education, health and poverty.

The information from the CBMS-based Village Book, in turn, is used for improved targeting of projects for poverty alleviation and for allocation of resources in public investment planning. At the same time, private investors, NGOs and donors found the data to be very comprehensive; thus, they need not conduct extra surveys for their own purposes as they used to do in the past.

Mr. Keosiphandone said that local authorities in the pilot sites cite the following concrete benefits of CBMS to their communities: (i) increased awareness of the importance of timely and reliable data in local planning processes, (ii) strengthened capacity of local government personnel in data collection processing, validation as well as in the preparation of village and district profiles, and (iii) increased community participation in decisions that affect their wellbeing. \*

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identify the type of growth strategies that should be adopted for the reduction of poverty. The need to have tools for the collection and analysis of data to find out the standard of living and tendencies and characteristics of people in situations of poverty; to have local communities involved in every stage of monitoring/evaluating the SDPR in order to ensure the proper implementation of the program; and to optimize the results were the reasons behind the CFSP implementation. The CFSP proposes to observe the living conditions of households in relatively limited areas such as communes and/or municipalities in the country. \*

## CBMS link to TSED highlighted

CBMS data can be incorporated into the Tanzania Socio-Economic Database (TSED) and thereby facilitate comparison and ranking of welfare situations as well as informed targeting of development projects.

This was one of the conclusions arrived at by the Dodoma Municipal Council which piloted the CBMS methodology in two areas: K/Ndege ward and Nala Village.

The TSED is a tool for storage and dissemination of all quantitative information generated by the country's poverty monitoring system. It was created to provide insight on the disparities in the status of poverty and human development between regions, districts and wards and to allow planners to strategize in targeting their resources. However, even if the National Bureau of Statistics want to disaggregate data from the TSED below the district level, this is not possible because of the lack of data at the local level.

The Dodoma Municipal Council hopes that its CBMS experience will become a showcase of how local government authorities can fulfill their role of generating data that will feed into the National Poverty Monitoring System (PMS). These data serve as critical inputs in crafting poverty alleviation plans under the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (MKUKUTA). At the local level, the system is being used in generating poverty profiles and maps, preparing development plans and enhancing capacity of local government personnel.

At present, the Council plans to replicate the CBMS methodology in other wards and villages and subsequently in the whole municipality of Dodoma. Meanwhile, it is expected that with the assistance of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT), the CBMS process will also be promoted at the national level. \*

# CBMS-Philippines: Bright prospects for institutionalization

With more than 30 percent out of the total 41,995 barangays all over the Philippines implementing CBMS, the prospects for institutionalization of the CBMS methodology in the country are indeed bright. As of November 2008, it has an implementation coverage of 52 provinces, 26 of which implement it provincewide, 531 municipalities and 42 cities. It covers a total of 13,498 barangays (Figure 1).

The CBMS was implemented in the Philippines in the early 1990s. The adoption of CBMS is in line with various national and local government efforts relating to poverty monitoring and improved local governance which led to several issuances and circulars from these agencies pledging support in the implementation and use of CBMS. Through resolutions and policy issuances, CBMS is being advocated and implemented for capacity building of local government units (LGUs) on poverty diagnosis and planning, and adopted as a tool for localizing the MDGs and for generating local poverty statistics. Likewise, the Philippine Development Forum of MDGs and Social Progress envision a 100 percent LGU coverage of the CBMS by 2010.

The passage of the Local Government Code (LGC) in 1991 represented a major step in decentralization in the Philippines. Before the LGC, the LGUs' main functions were levying and collection of local taxes, regulation of business activities, and administration of garbage collection, public cemeteries, public markets and slaughterhouses. The LGC paved the way for increased local autonomy, expenditure responsibility and revenue authority. In particular, the principal responsibility for the delivery of basic social services and the operation of the facilities were devolved to LGUs.

Implementation of targeted programs has been a major weakness of most LGUs in the country as they lack reliable/credible baseline data, particularly poverty statistics. LGUs still rely on centrally produced data like National Statistics Office (NSO) or the National Statistical

Coordination Board (NSCB) data for their planning. These data however are not disaggregated at the municipal/city government and barangay government levels - the lower level LGUs that are primarily at the forefront of policy or program execution - thereby making it difficult for proper targeting and programming.

The CBMS seeks to address the existing gaps in data at the local level for diagnosing the extent of poverty at the local level, determining the causes of poverty, formulating appropriate policies and programs, identifying eligible beneficiaries and assessing impact of policies and programs. There is also a need to support the decentralization process by capacitating LGUs to collect, analyze and use data in local planning and program implementation.

The CBMS has since been supported and eventually adopted by various national and local government agencies such as the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

Recently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-Philippines) has

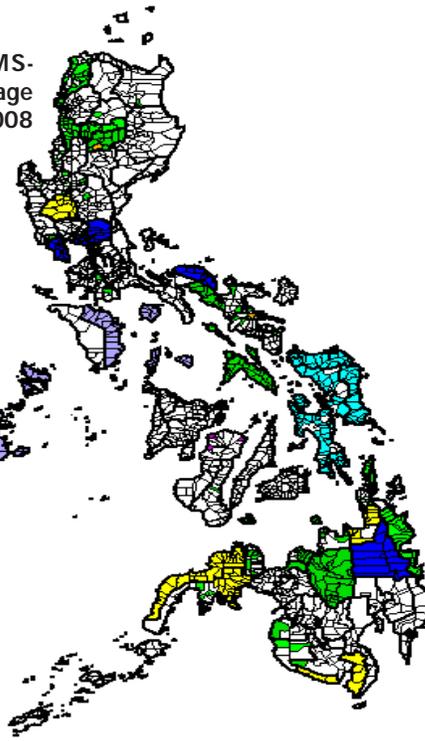


Figure 1. CBMS-Philippines Coverage as of November 2008

**With Technical Assistance from:**

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- DILG-BLGD, DILG Regional offices and CBMS Team
- Eastern Visayas CBMS Technical Working Group (TWG) and CBMS Team
- Bicol CBMS, TWG and CBMS Team
- Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan (MIMAROPA) CBMS TWG and CBMS Team
- NAPC and CBMS Team with support from UNDP
- Dawn Foundation and CBMS Team
- Social Watch Philippines and CBMS Team
- Statistical Research Training Center (SRTC), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and CBMS Team
- Kagabay and CBMS Team
- CBMS Team

provided another P3 million for the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program. The small grants facility aims to support LGUs in implementing programs and interventions that will address specific development needs identified through CBMS. At present, it has funded a total of 25 barangay-based poverty reduction projects in five provinces. The projects have a combined value of nearly P5 million.\*

## 5 provinces in Viet Nam use CBMS data for poverty targeting and monitoring

The successful implementation of CBMS in at least 53 communes covering 57,250 households in five provinces in Viet Nam shows that the system's approach and tools are fully applicable in most localities in the country. Moreover, simple questionnaires with indicators of basic needs not only make the data collection process easier but also ensure the quality of collected data as well.



Tran Thi Hoa/World Bank

*Red Zao woman embroidering a shirt at the weekly market in Sapa, Lao Cai province, northern Vietnam.*

This was one of the project findings of the Socio-Economic Development Centre (SEDEC), a nongovernmental research and consulting institution which implemented the project.

Moreover, the report of SEDEC shows that the data from the five provinces of Ha Tay, Ninh Binh, Yen Bai, Quang Ngai and Lam Dong are widely used at different administrative levels. At the district level, socio-economic databases were created using CBMS data. At the provincial and national levels, the data were used to facilitate the targeting of the National Programme for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Reduction and Job Creation. Meanwhile, the results were also used by local partners for analyzing poverty rates as well as other dimensions of poverty in order to evaluate poverty reduction measures and readjust poverty reduction policies.

As early as 1997, SEDEC has already started studying data availability, socio-economic data requirements of local

governments and capabilities of communities in data production and use. The pilot testing of the CBMS methodology in some communes affirmed that the

collection of basic information about socio-economic situations in general, and the poverty scenario, in particular, is very helpful to the work of local officers and nongovernmental organizations. Data are systematized at the village and commune levels and can be used immediately by local people in long-term development planning and poverty monitoring.

However, there are still some barriers to CBMS adoption at the local level. These include the limited capacity of local staff, lack of hardware to process data as well as shortage of financial resources. This is particularly true in Yen Bai and Lam Dong provinces where there are large concentrations of ethnic minorities.\*



Simone D. McCourtier/World Bank

*Primary grade students at a school in the northern mountain region of Viet Nam.*

## Zambia: Toward government adoption

The Zambia Research and Development Center (ZRDC) and Lusaka City Council (LCC) are currently negotiating with the Disaster Management and Negotiation Unit (DMNU) about the government's possible adoption of the CBMS methodology.

This developed after the CBMS data proved useful in the verification of displaced people and in the assessment of the amount of lost household goods due to the floods that affected Zambia in early 2008. CBMS provided accurate statistics to verify reports of heavy flooding and effects on communities in the pilot sites. This information was vital for prudent distribution of resources to victims of flood by the local government. To illustrate, initial reports indicated that 3000 households had been displaced by floods in two of the worst affected districts this year but after verification, the number came down to 1,017.

The CBMS was introduced in Zambia in 2007. It was implemented in Mungule and Makishi in Lusaka Province which covered 4,720 households.

The data gathered from the CBMS implementation are presently being used to target beneficiaries of programs such as: Private Sector Development (PSD), Relief Food Distribution Program, Youth and Street Kid Empowerment Program, and Women Empowerment Program. The CBMS data are likewise used to improve the water and sanitation systems as well as the health situation in the pilot areas.\*

# Project Updates

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(UNESCAP) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The policy forum aims to contribute to the strengthening of the analytical basis for policymaking that would involve the poor in the growth process. The forum is divided into four sessions: (1) trade and investment for inclusive growth: evidence and elements of a coherent policy framework; (2) trade and inclusive growth: mechanisms for more inclusive policy making; (3) reducing regional disparities through regional integration; and (4) inclusive growth and poverty dynamics.

Representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines and the UNESCAP's and ARTNet's Trade and Investment Division will give the welcome messages. Apart from PEP researchers and local partners, the forum will be attended by representatives from the World Trade Organization (WTO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and finance and trade organizations.

The conference proper will be on December 10 to 12, with parallel sessions from CBMS, MPIA, PMMA, PIERI and OPHI conducted in different venues. Approximately 70 papers and reports by PEP-funded researchers and invited resource persons will be presented during the parallel sessions.

One of the highlights of the CBMS meeting

this year is a session on *Monitoring the Impacts of the Global Food and Oil Crisis on Poverty Using CBMS*. The session aims to discuss the effects of the recent global oil and food crisis using CBMS results and to document various coping mechanisms and good practices in program design and implementation relating to these issues at the local level.

Joining PEP researchers in the parallel sessions are various policymakers, national and local planners and development partners from participating countries. High-ranking officials from different country-partners, particularly from Asia and Africa, will attend and join the sessions and panel discussions.

The meeting is being organized by the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University (DLSU-Manila) in partnership with the Centre Interuniversitaire sur le Risque, les Politiques Économiques et l'Emploi (CIRPÉE, Université Laval), Consortium de recherche économique et sociale (CRES), and GRADE.

The staging of the conference was made possible through the support of IDRC, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), UNESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Philippines. \*

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The **Updates** may be downloaded free from the Project's website:  
<http://www.pep-net.org>.

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