



PEP TALK

Volume 1, Issue 2, April 14, 2003

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A Successful Interim MPIA-PMMA Meeting in Manila (Feb. 22-25, 2003)

PEP's Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA) and Poverty Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis (PMMA) subnetworks met for the first interim meeting in Manila from February 22nd to 25th. The meetings, carried out in French and English with simultaneous translation, featured presentations of research reports and proposals by 11 Asian and African national teams already financed by IDRC's MIMAP program. In addition, 12 of the 130 teams who responded to PEP's first call for proposals were invited to present their proposals. The meeting also included two presentations by participating resource persons. Presentations covered a wide variety of poverty issues including multidimensional poverty analysis, macro-micro microsimulation analysis, gender issues, migration, public spending (particularly education) and labor market issues. A substantial amount of time was set aside to allow scientific committee members and resource persons to work one-on-one with individual teams. The meeting also provided the occasion to organize the first PEP Steering Committee meetings. The Philippines Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) hosted the meetings at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) conference centre in downtown Manila. Programs, proceedings and other information relating to this meeting are available on the PEP web site (www.pep-net.org under "Meetings and Workshops").

First PEP Small Grants Awarded !

Based on recommendations from the PEP steering committee, \$CAN 20,000 research grants were awarded to four of the twelve teams who presented proposals in Manila:

- Kojo APPIAH-KUBI (Ghana): **Multidimensional Analysis of Poverty in Ghana Using Fuzzy Sets**
- Margaret CHITIGA (South Africa): **Trade Policies And Poverty In Zimbabwe - A Computable General Equilibrium Micro Simulation Analysis**
- Adolf MKENDA, Longinus Rutasitara, Alexis Naho and Eliab Luvanda (Tanzania): **Poverty in Tanzania: Regional Distribution and a Comparison Between 1991 and 2000**
- Yue XIMING, Li SHI, Pingping WANG (China): **The Causes of Transient Poverty and Its Implication to Poverty Reduction Policy in Rural China**

Congratulations to these first four PEP Small Grant recipients!

A further four teams were invited to revise and resubmit their proposals. It is hoped that most of these four proposals will be approved shortly.

Postponement of PEP General Meeting in Hanoi to November 4-8, 2003

Given concerns over recent outbreaks of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), it was decided to postpone the PEP General Meeting in Hanoi until November 4-8, 2003. Consequently, new or revised proposals submitted up until August 31, 2003 will be considered for presentation at this meeting¹. Successful candidates will be informed by September 10th. Proposals that were submitted for the March 31, 2003 deadline are currently being examined and teams will be contacted shortly for follow up. This change of dates also implies that the PEP meeting originally scheduled for December 2003 will be cancelled. The June 8-12, 2004 meeting in Dakar will be maintained, as originally scheduled. For more informations, see "[Important Dates](#)" on the PEP web site.

Ongoing Call for Proposals

We remind interested researchers that proposals can be submitted at **any time**. A pre-selection committee will analyze proposals in order to determine whether they are complete and eligible for financing, to inform the researchers of the proposal's status and to provide some feedback on the proposal itself. Roughly two months before MPIA/PMMA meetings, a selection committee will select the best research proposals in terms of scientific contribution, policy relevance, concordance with PEP thematic areas

¹ We encourage research teams to submit new proposals far in advance of this date, as revisions are generally required before a proposal is accepted for presentation.

and feasibility. These teams will be 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 information to the following email address: pep@ecn.ulaval.ca.

Announcing PEP Special Grants: Young Researchers, Training, Study Visits and Dissemination

In addition to PEP's core research grants, a number of other grants are available on a competitive basis to PEP researchers for specific activities. Detailed descriptions of these grants and application procedures are provided in the Grants Procedures Manual, which is now available on the home page of the PEP web site. While these grants primarily target PEP-financed researchers, members of MIMAP-financed research teams may apply where these activities are not covered by their existing budgets. Here is a brief description of the special grants offered:

Training and professional development grants: Researchers may apply for grants to finance the travel and living costs involved in participating in various training and professional development activities *directly related to their PEP research*.

- ✳ **Training workshops:** Generally speaking, these will be training workshops organized by the PEP network, although consideration will be given to requests for funding to participate in outside training workshops.
- ✳ **Study visits:** to a reputed research centre, where this can be shown to contribute substantially to the research activities and professional development of the researchers.
- ✳ **International conferences:** to present their PEP research in international conferences.

National conference grants: In order to encourage PEP researchers to disseminate their research results to academics, policy makers and other interested parties at the national level, grants will be provided to finance part or all of the local organization costs involved.

Young researcher grants: Note also that, in the context of PEP research grants, young members of PEP research teams may apply for travel grants to participate in PEP meetings, as described in the "Research Grants" section of the Grants Procedures Manual.

Recent Changes to the PEP Web Site

The permanent **PEP web site** (www.pep-net.org) continues to evolve quickly in both its Internet (public) and Intranet (restricted access) components. While the changes made in the past few months are too numerous to mention, here are a few of the most important changes (with the options to select from the PEP home page):

- A large number of downloadable training documents has been posted in the PMMA training material section: "Research Groups", "PMMA", "training material"

- The PEP grants procedures manual is publicly available through a link on the home page.
- The MPIA section has added sections on “New Publications of Interest” (with downloadable links) and “Upcoming Events outside PEP” (including training workshops) for PEP modelers: “Research Groups”, “MPIA”.
- A set of links to poverty-related institutions: “Links”
- The “frequently asked questions” section has been activated: “FAQ”
- The proceedings of the Manila meetings have been posted: “1st MPIA/PMMA interim meeting”

We also expect to have the CBMS section of the web site up and running in the near future.

On the intranet section, papers, proposals and comments from all PEP projects, whether directly financed by PEP or MIMAP-financed, have been posted. In addition, we have posted comments from the floor and designated commentators on the papers and proposals presented in Manila². These are accessible to team members and designated resource persons.

We encourage you to register on the site ("Subscription" on the main web page), update your contact information and CV and to use the site to submit papers and proposals. We welcome suggestions on how it may be improved to better support your research activities. **The web site is designed for optimal use with versions 5 or higher of Internet Explorer.**

What is the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network?

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network is a recently created network of researchers working to reduce poverty. Specific objectives are to:

- Better understand the causes 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 analyse the links between specific policies and shocks and their eventual impacts on poverty.

² For those designated commentators who have not yet posted their comments, please do so as quickly as possible!