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# December news: Robin Davies new Associate Director | Michael Clemens on migration | PEPE progress | More

By Development Policy Centre

It has been a big year for Devpolicy. In April, we [claimed](#) we had achieved “proof of concept” And in November, we were able to [announce](#) a funding basis for the next five years, thanks to generous support from the Harold Mitchell Foundation, and matching funding from the ANU. We thank you for your support in 2012 and look forward to your continuing engagement in 2013.

## Welcoming Robin Davies as our new Associate Director

We end the year by welcoming [Robin Davies](#) as our new Associate Director. Robin will be known to many of you. He has spent the past ten years as a senior executive at AusAID, both in Australia and overseas, playing a number of critical roles, including leading Australia’s emergency response to the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, representing Australia on the G20 development agenda, and shaping Australia’s response on a range of critical issues from climate change financing to public-private partnerships. Robin has been a Visiting Fellow at Devpolicy since February 2012. His appointment as Associate Director will greatly strengthen our policy and research capacity going into 2013.

**Upcoming event: [Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk?](#)**

*Michael Clemens, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Global Development*

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Thursday 17 January @ 12.30 (light lunch from 12pm)

Acton Theatre, Level 1, JG Crawford Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU

Registration [here](#).

We've wrapped up our events for 2012 (a total of 28, up from 20 in 2011). We start again in 2013 on January 17, with Michael Clemens, one of the world's leading economists on migration. Michael, who will be visiting Devpolicy in January 2013 to undertake research on the Asia Pacific Technical College, will present his recent *Journal of Economic Perspectives* [paper](#).

Michael argues that one of the biggest growth opportunities in the world economy lies not in the mobility of goods or capital, but in the mobility of labour. Barriers to emigration deserve a research priority that is commensurate with their likely colossal economic effects. His presentation will investigate the barriers to emigration from developing countries and sketches a four-point research agenda on the effects of emigration.

**Recent event: [Aid from emerging Asia: Asian perspectives on development cooperation and global development challenges](#)**

Thursday 29 November

This forum, co-hosted by the [Asia Foundation](#), provided a unique opportunity to hear from senior development cooperation officials and experts from China, India, Indonesia and Korea, who discussed their own countries' growing aid programs, as well as international issues such as the post-2015 development agenda. The video of the event [here](#), as well as presentations [here](#) are well worth checking out.

**PNG facility survey complete**

The survey phase for the PNG [PEPE \(Promoting Effective Public Expenditure\) project](#), a joint undertaking with PNG's [National Research Institute](#), has been completed on time and within budget. The facility and expenditure tracking

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survey, undertaken by eight teams covering a province each, ran from October to December. Data was collected on more than 200 schools and 150 health facilities. For a compelling account of the difficulties faced in collecting data from remote regions, read Program Manager Colin Wiltshire's [recent blog post](#). We expect to deliver the first results of the survey in 2013.

In other PEPE news, the next [PNG Budget Forum](#) has been confirmed to take place on February 6 2013. More details to come.

### **Discussion Paper 25: [Pacific and Caribbean integration: between a rock and a hard place?](#)**

*Bob Warner*

In the latest Devpolicy Discussion Paper, Bob Warner argues that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) experience questions elements of the logic and overall approach to integration being pursued in the Pacific. Bob argues that regional economic integration is the wrong model for regions "with broadly similar endowments and an absence of connecting land borders, regional trade and factor market integration will not act as a major driver of growth." He instead argues for "regional institutional integration, and development of shared institutions." You can read a summary of his Discussion Paper in his accompanying blog post [here](#).

### **Blog posts**

Here is a list of Devpolicy blog posts (organised thematically) since our last newsletter, a month ago.

### ***Blog digest***

[November blog digest: the Mitchell donation | Caribbean crisis: lessons for the Pacific](#) by Stephen Howes.

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**Aid**

[Aid effectiveness and the scale-up: the price of asylum-seeker cost shifting](#) by Stephen Howes

[Do NGOs make a difference, and how would you know?](#) by Andrew Rowell.

[AusAID and transparency: good progress and a way to go](#) by Jonathan Pryke.

[Climate finance at Doha: what's the damage?](#) by Frank Jotzo and Jonathan Pickering.

[AusAID Higher Education Forum: universities and education for development](#) by Robert Cannon.

[The war against poverty starts with a battle of ideas](#) by Harold Mitchell.

[The judgement of their peers: an interview with the OECD's Karen Jorgensen](#) by Karen Jorgensen and Robin Davies.

[Effective and efficient agricultural R&D: lessons from 20 years in the field](#) by Robyn Alders.

**Development**

[Careers in development: an interview with Amanda Jupp on private contractors, AYAD and MSF](#) by Amanda Jupp and Jonathan Pryke.

[Participation for development: a good time to be alive](#) by Robert Chambers.

[What went on at the Challenges for Participatory Development conference?](#) by Colum Graham.

[Who pays, and who benefits, from increased tobacco taxation in Asia](#) by Ian

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Anderson.

[Careers in development: an interview with Dinuk Jayasuriya on the private sector, World Bank Group and academia](#) by Dinuk Jayasuriya and Jonathan Pryke.

[Participation and development under fire](#) by Patrick Kilby.

[Mistakes the poor make: Esther Duflo's Tanner Lectures](#) by Terence Wood.

[What is One Health?](#) by Penny Farrell.

[Democracy soon to be tested in Sierra Leone](#) by Greg Rublee.

### ***Pacific***

[Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration: an empty commitment or a real opportunity?](#) by Sean Mackesy-Buckley.

[Development in the Pacific islands: what can we learn from experience?](#) by Tony Hughes.

[Pacific and Caribbean integration: between a rock and a hard place?](#) by Bob Warner.

### ***PNG***

[Strongim Gavman Program in PNG reviewed](#) by John Eyers.

[Growing the future, but can government manage the risks? PNG's 2013 Budget](#) by Aaron Batten.

[Service delivery realities in Gulf Province, PNG](#) by Colin Wiltshire.

[Planning for a more productive informal economy in PNG](#) by John Conroy and

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Busa Jeremiah Wenogo.

**Buzzes**

[Pacific Buzz \(December 19\): 2012 in review](#) by Devpolicy-PiPP.

[Education Buzz \(December 7\): Education progress in Afghanistan | A policy failure in Indonesia? | More](#) by Robert Cannon and Colum Graham.

[Development Buzz \(December 5\): Progress in Afghanistan | Resilient remittances | So long AMFm | More](#) by Jonathan Pryke.

[Pacific Buzz \(November 28\): Timor and the New Deal | PNG and Fiji budgets | More](#) by Devpolicy-PiPP.

[Aid Buzz \(November 21\): Malaria2012 v medical R&D | AusAID transparency & web watch | Annual Review imminent? | More](#) by Stephen Howes and Jonathan Pryke.

[Aid and Asia Buzz \(November 16\): Myanmar quake | UK to end India aid | Malala aid | More](#) by Ashlee Betteridge.

**About the author/s****Development Policy Centre**

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