

# DIALOGUE

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## Editorial

DIAL is going through a period of extensive change brought about by the current reforms to the French research system, and more specifically by reorganization at the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD), where most of the researchers come from. In response to demands from IRD, DIAL is to become a Joint Research Unit and the DIAL Economic Interest Group will be dissolved at the end of its term in mid-2009.

The changes are full of promise as we are currently building a partnership with Paris Dauphine University in a view to creating a specialised centre for international and development economics. We are convinced that there is great synergy with the university's researcher/teachers on issues such as the labour market, governance, inequalities, international trade, etc.

It was agreed that it is vital to ensure that any new partnerships are not to the detriment of our historic partnerships with the *Agence Française de Développement* (French Development Agency) and INSEE (National Institute of Statistics). One particularly important challenge is to continue its partnership with National Statistical Institutes and technical assistance provided by DIAL since it was founded in 1990. They are an essential feature of DIAL's original method, which combines the production and the analysis of research data.

The institutional changes go hand in hand with significant changes in the DIAL team. J. Fayolle, an INSEE researcher, left DIAL in 2007 and has not been replaced to date. This was followed in 2008 by the departure of two IRD demographers, who had been working at DIAL since 2000 (P. Antoine and P. Bocquier), resulting in a reduction of the diversity of the subjects covered by the research programme; the departure of D. Cogneau, an IRD economist who is pursuing his career at the Ecole d'Economie de Paris while being associated researcher at DIAL; the recruitment of DIAL research scientist E. Lavallée by Paris Dauphine University; and finally, the arrival of IRD economists X. Oudin and A. Mounier.

The study presented in this issue of DIALOGUE was carried out as part of DIAL's research programme in Vietnam. It examines the distributional impact of Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in January 2007. The first simulations made using the micro-simulation model developed by DIAL researchers show that WTO membership will mainly have four types of distributional effects: job gains, particularly in industry, which has gained the most from WTO accession; growth in real wages; reductions in gender inequalities; and finally, an increase in inequalities between regions and between rural and urban areas. In each of these fields, the changes indicated by the model move in the same direction as previous trends.

This study shows the importance of taking appropriate measures to accompany WTO membership, particularly with respect to education and training, migration and regional policies, and social welfare. Among various solutions for furthering our understanding of these issues, the study suggests that it would be useful to develop a monitoring mechanism and to study employment and labour market functioning in Vietnam.



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## VIETNAM'S TERMS OF ACCESSION AND THE DISTRIBUTIONAL IMPACT OF WTO MEMBERSHIP\*

Vietnam joined the World Trade Organization in January 2007, 20 years after the launch of *Doi Moi*, which marked the country's transition to a "socialist-oriented free market economy" and the start of a process of integration into the world economy (Chaponnière, Cling and Bin, 2007). The growth model followed by Vietnam in the last twenty years has brought about sweeping economic and social changes, and can be characterized by two main elements:

- Extremely rapid economic growth (nearly 8% per year on average over the last two decades) with an even more rapid opening-up of the economy (nearly +20% per year on average for exports over the same period and a similar rate for imports);
- A very sharp reduction in monetary poverty (concerning 58% of the total population in 1993 and only 19.5 % in 2004) together with an increase in inequalities; here again, as in China, the question of the distribution of the fruits of growth and openness is crucial to the country's social cohesion and political stability

In this context, our research project is designed to address the crucial question of the WTO's impact in terms of economic growth, inequalities and poverty.

### **The economic context and recent dynamics**

Alongside the two elements mentioned above, our study of the leading current trends reveals other noteworthy examples of restructuring and change.

In terms of production and employment:

- The structure of the GDP has changed radically since 1990. Whereas the share of agriculture has been halved, the share of

industry has almost doubled (from 23 to 42% in 2006) and that of services has remained stable (38%). Changes in the structure of employment have been slower as 55% of the population still worked in agriculture in 2006. However, industry (19%) and services (26%) both increased their share of total employment. Approximately 5.7 million jobs were created between 2000 and 2006, including 3.3 million in industry (+7% per year) and 2.4 million in services (+4% per year);

- Vietnam's impressive economic growth triggered a sharp increase in the rate of wage employment (from 15% in 1993 to 32% in 2004) across all the different categories of population. At the same time, wage earners' average annual remuneration grew over the same period (with an average annual growth rate of 4.6%). Real wages increased in rural and in urban areas;
- Although the rate of unemployment is extremely low, the labour market is still a long way away from full employment: on the national level, under-employment stood at 25% in 2004 for unskilled labour (which represents nearly 80% of total employment), although the figure was under 16% for the most highly skilled workers. Upward wage pressure will therefore be relatively stronger for skilled jobs.

In terms of investments:

- Although financial liberalization has been gradual and relatively modest, Vietnam has received considerable inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI). Half of the investment is made in the manufacturing industry (cumulative flows) where firms with foreign capital account for nearly 40% of the production;

- The high concentration of FDI in certain geographic areas tends to increase inequalities. The country's two leading economic regions (Ho Chi Minh City and its surrounding area and Hanoi and its region, which already account for nearly all

\* This article is taken from a study undertaken on behalf of ADETEF and prepared for the 7<sup>th</sup> Franco-Vietnamese Forum held in Danang on 26 and 27 February 2008 (Cling *et alii*, 2008). The authors would like to thank Pham Lan Huong (CIEM, Hanoi) for kindly providing the basic version of the CGE module used for this project. They would also like to thank Houssein Boumellassa and Hugo Valin (CEPII, Paris) for giving them permission to use the results of their simulations for this study and Philippe Nasse for his highly pertinent comments.

industrial production and the majority of non-agricultural jobs) attract around 85% of FDI although only 38% of the population lives in these regions. This concentration results in profound imbalances and tends to increase domestic migration. There has indeed been a rapid transition to urban dwelling, as the urban population increased by nearly 4% per year in the period 1995-2006, whereas the rural population was practically stagnant.

### Model and scenarios

In terms of methodology, our project consisted in developing a micro-macro model of the Vietnamese economy. The model is based on a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model sequentially linked with a micro-accounting model. The model's code was provided by the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) and corresponds to the standard International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) model (Löfgren et al., 2001). It is a static multisector model to which several improvements have been made, especially concerning the modelling of export demand and the introduction of wage rigidities. The Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) was developed from the one constructed by CIEM for the year 2000 (Jensen *et al.*, 2004) and from data drawn from the 2004 VHLSS survey. On the micro level, we decided to construct a micro-accounting micro-simulation model (excluding behaviour) using data from the 2004 VHLSS survey.

Using this model, we analysed three types of economic shocks which we believe to be the main shocks resulting from WTO membership.

1. A decrease in import tariffs, corresponding to Vietnam's commitments to reduce customs protection (tariff and non-tariff);
2. An increase in demand for exports of goods from Vietnam, corresponding to the other WTO members' commitments made in return for Vietnam's trade liberalization (in particular, the lifting of the textile quotas imposed by the United States);
3. An increase in foreign direct investment (FDI), as Vietnam is more attractive to foreign multinationals since joining the WTO. It should be noted that WTO-induced tariff liberalization is relatively

limited overall and that most of the commitments concern other issues: competition, services, subsidies, openness to FDI, etc. Vietnam has also improved its access to the major international markets, especially in the textile and apparel sector where quotas levied on its exports have been lifted.

The reference simulation is calibrated to the exogenous shocks (tariffs and export demand) modelled by the CEPRI (*Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales*), i.e. the first two types of shocks mentioned above. To these concomitant shocks, we then add a further shock relating to the increase in industrial foreign direct investment.

The following macroeconomic closure rules are applied to all the scenarios:

- equilibrium between savings and investment is attained by adjusting investment;
- budget equilibrium is achieved by adjusting government savings;
- equilibrium in the current account balance is attained by adjusting the real exchange rate.

Finally, each simulation is considered with two alternative labour market closure assumptions: first, full employment (adjustment by wages) and second, under-employment with wage rigidities (adjustment by wages and by labour supply), which provides a better picture of labour market functioning in Vietnam. Only the results of simulations made with the assumption of under-employment are presented in this summary. Simulations are made with a 5-year time horizon.

### Substantial sectoral reallocations of employment

At the sector level, the results of the model indicate that the combined impact of tariff reductions and increase in export demand gives rise to a reallocation of factors to the textile sector. This sector has indeed seen the highest rise in export demand, as WTO membership has resulted in an increase of nearly 40% in demand for Vietnamese textile products<sup>1</sup>. The

<sup>1</sup> The model does not distinguish between different foreign regions. Foreign trade flows are accounted for with a single region, 'Rest of the World'.

demand shock leads to a sharp increase in value-added in this the sector, which grows by 10% to over 25% depending on the scenario in question. This sectoral demand shock results in a reallocation of jobs towards the textile sector, to the detriment of most other sectors which therefore experience a decrease in value-added.

In the sectors most open to trade, with the exception of the textile sector where there is a sharp increase in export demand, the overall impact of tariff reductions and export demand shocks is negative. This can be explained by the appreciation of the dong, which has made non-tradeable goods relatively more expensive than tradeable goods. On the other hand, non-trading activities, such as the retail and construction sectors, tend to benefit from the rise in the Vietnamese currency.

In the scenarios which include the FDI shock, the increase in the stock of capital in the manufacturing sectors offsets the negative impact of the currency appreciation in most sectors. The rise stimulates total manufacturing output with positive effects on the production of other sectors, particularly those which supply the most intermediate inputs to the manufacturing/production sectors.

These sectoral reallocations go hand in hand with variations in factor returns, particularly in terms of the wage rates for different types of work. The simulated shocks exert a strong upward pressure on wages. However, the degree of pressure on the labour markets varies depending on the type of work in question. For example, the largest increases are found in the wage rates for urban semi-skilled and unskilled female labour, the factors most in demand in the textile/apparel sector. WTO membership therefore helps to reduce gender-related wage gaps.

### Very different impacts on urban/rural incomes and incomes by region

All the different types of income increase, except non-labour income, which depends in part on fixed foreign exchange remittances from abroad whose value in Vietnamese currency falls when the dong rises. The highest increases are for urban income from wage income and self-employment income: in the last scenario, wage income rises by 17.7% and

self-employment income rises by 12.5%.

At the aggregate level, the increase in earned income generates sharp increases in per capita income, in both rural and urban areas. However, the rise is significantly higher in urban areas as, depending on the scenario, increases in per capita income are 2 to 5 times higher in urban than in rural areas. This difference is mainly due to sector effects: the industrial sector, which is mainly in urban areas, has gained the most from the WTO (with, to a certain extent, the services sector), whereas the impact on agriculture, the main activity in rural areas, is on the whole less positive.

Finally, this increase in per capita income leads to a sharp decrease in the incidence of poverty, which can be analysed at a regional level with the VHLSS survey data on which the micro-simulation model is built (Table 1)<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1: Microeconomic results – Poverty rate**

	Base	% Variation	
		Decrease in tariffs + Increase in export demand	Decrease in tariffs + Increase in export demand + FDI
		Under-employment	Under-employment
Red River Delta	14.7	-2.5	-10.7
North-East	28.4	-0.3	-8.8
North-West	48.9	0.1	-5.1
North Central Coast	34.8	-2.0	-9.8
South Central Coast	19.6	-3.4	-10.5
Central Highlands	27.3	0.6	-11.2
South-East	5.1	-0.8	-17.7
Mekong River Delta	15.0	-3.5	-21.4
<b>National average</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-11.8</b>
<b>Urban average</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>-7.5</b>	<b>-33.8</b>
<b>Rural average</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-10.3</b>

Source: Results of model.

Note: The base year values are presented in the first column. Unless otherwise stated, the following columns show the results of the simulations in percentage of variation.

<sup>2</sup> However, it should be noted that the macro model (CGE) only represents the functioning of the markets at the national level. In other words, the model is constructed on the assumption of perfect integration of the markets for goods and factors and the price variations and quantities generated are not differentiated by region. The latter are differentiated, however, in terms of their endowments in production factors and therefore by the structure of the income of the resident households.

The first point to be made is that the reductions are systematically greater in urban areas. This can be explained first, by the higher rise in wage rates for labour in urban areas (see above) and second, by the fact that poverty rates are lower in urban areas and that a one percent increase in average per capita income results in a sharper reduction in poverty.

Contrasting results are also found on the regional level: regions with the highest level of factors demanded by the textile sector experience the highest levels of poverty reduction. This is particularly the case in regions in the South-East (including Ho Chi Minh City) and the Mekong River Delta.

In the case of inequalities (Table 2), the impact is negative – i.e. inequalities increase – in all the scenarios considered. However, the increase in inequalities is limited, given the assumption of under-employment of labour and the fact that the labour allocation rule is progressive (it provides work for households which did not previously have work and which are likely to be the poorest).

**Table 2: Microeconomic results – Theil coefficient<sup>3</sup>.**

			% Variation	
	Base	%	Decrease in tariffs +Increase in export demand	Decrease in tariffs +Increase in export demand+ FDI
			Under-employment	Under-employment
National	0.311		0.2	0.1
Inter Urban/Rural	0.066	21.2	3.0	3.9
Intra Urban/Rural	0.245	78.8	-0.5	-0.9
Inter Region	0.048	15.4	1.1	-1.1
Intra Region	0.263	84.6	0.1	0.4
Inter Skilled/Unskilled	0.040	12.9	1.8	1.5
Intra Skilled/Unskilled	0.271	87.1	0.0	-0.1

Source: Results of model.

Note: The base year values are presented in the first column. Unless otherwise stated, the following columns show the results of the simulations in percentage of variation.

<sup>3</sup> Theil coefficients are calculated on the basis of per capita income and are therefore higher than the coefficients generally reported in the literature on the distribution of well-being in Vietnam. The latter are obtained on the basis of per capita consumption and are lower due to consumption smoothing.

On the national level, evolutions in inequalities result from changes in inequalities within urban and rural areas and between urban and rural areas. Given that intra-urban and intra-rural inequalities increase very little, or even decrease, the increase in inequalities on the national level is mainly due to the increase in inequalities between the two environments, due in turn to a higher rise in urban incomes. This increase is the result of a relatively simple mechanism: labour remuneration is increasing more strongly in urban areas than in rural areas. This applies to all the different types of labour. This contrasting impact stems from a structural effect: urban labour is mainly employed by sectors which have seen the highest increases in value-added following WTO accession.

A difference in living standards between rural and urban areas is not a new phenomenon in Vietnam. Glewwe *et alii* (2000) showed that the increase in inequalities observed in the 1990s against a backdrop of rapid growth was mainly due to this difference, and their finding was confirmed by the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, VASS (2006), for the period 1993-2004. In the case of WTO accession, this increase may nonetheless be modest due to the progressive nature of the increase in labour remuneration: there is a higher increase in remuneration for unskilled labour than for skilled labour.

## Conclusion

The first simulations made using our model show that WTO membership will mainly have four types of distributional effects: job gains, particularly in industry which has gained the most from WTO accession; growth in real wages; reductions in gender inequalities and finally, an increase in inequalities between regions and between rural and urban areas. In each of these fields, the changes indicated by the model move in the same direction as previous trends. The results show the importance of taking appropriate measures to accompany WTO accession and to make the most of the opportunities it offers.

In this respect, we believe that four issues are of key importance:

- Education and training are a determining factor in ensuring that the labour market

adjusts to the context, given that three-quarters of the population are considered unskilled. In the short term, migrants from rural areas must have adequate qualifications to find a job in a town. In the long term, it is vital to train skilled personnel to prevent Vietnam from being caught in the 'trap' of exporting unskilled-labour-intensive goods.

- internal migration trends will have a decisive impact on wage adjustment; an increase in migration seems inevitable, to ensure a smooth reallocation of employment between the different sectors. Steps should therefore be taken to make the migrant registration system (*ho khau*) more flexible;
- Regional policies are needed to limit the widening of inter-regional and urban/rural inequalities. The very high concentration of FDI in what are already the two richest employment areas (Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi), which our model cannot take into account directly, most certainly intensifies this trend. The government could organize a partial redistribution of the gains made from WTO membership towards the poorest regions which will not benefit (and will even lose) from accession. Regional policies should also address the issue of training for the labour force.
- Lastly, policies to assist workers who lose their jobs should be continued, and even extended, given that the rate of inter-sectoral reallocations will be accelerated by WTO membership and that greater competition will lead to job reductions in under-performing businesses.

**J.-P. Cling, M.-A. Marouani, M. Razafindrakoto, A.-S. Robilliard, and F. Roubaud**

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## **RESEARCH PROGRAMME: “THE CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS OF ECONOMIC TRANSITION IN VIETNAM” (2007-2010)**

Vietnam has had one of the highest growth rates in the world since it introduced its *Doi Moi* (renovation) policy in 1986. Living standards have risen considerably and poverty has fallen sharply. However, many Vietnamese people are still facing harsh living conditions and inequalities have widened. The DIAL programme, launched in the last quarter of 2006, is based on three key issues that are of particular concern in Vietnam today: the impact of the recent economic trajectory on living standards and inequalities; the links between domestic economic trends and the country's international integration; the relationship between economic transition and social and political regulation.

Three IRD researchers from the DIAL research unit were posted to Vietnam, to work for the Institute of Statistical Sciences (ISS) at the General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO) in a view to implementing the project. They work in partnership with a team of young Vietnamese researchers and in close cooperation with colleagues in the DIAL team in Paris. Following the usual DIAL research method, the programme involves three closely-linked components: the production of first-hand statistical data as an input to the economic research; an in-depth analysis of micro-economic surveys; and finally, the monitoring and evaluation of public policies. This research serves as a basis for training activities, at universities in Vietnam and elsewhere.

### **Research objectives**

#### **Objective 1. To analyse the characteristics and role of the informal sector and informal employment**

Labour income represents a major part of household budgets and therefore has a determining effect on poverty in Vietnam. The labour market is also the main source of inequalities given that the poorest people earn the greater part of their income (excluding agriculture) in the informal sector. However, as there is very little knowledge on subjects such as the structure of employment and the functioning of the labour market, the economic

weight of the informal sector and its impact on households' living conditions and the role of public policies, we decided to address these issues in our research programme.

Having found insufficient data to provide reliable measurements of the informal sector in Vietnam or to capture its specific characteristics, we set up an *ad hoc* survey mechanism, building on an already existing official household survey system. The 1-2-3 survey system developed by DIAL was adapted to the country's particular context. Phase 1 (on households) consists of the employment survey, which already existed but which we helped completely revise. The survey was carried out in August 2007, on a sample of 170,000 households, representative on the national and provincial levels. It was followed by Phase 2 (on production units and enterprises), consisting in two surveys on household enterprises and the informal sector. They covered the province of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and were co-financed by the World Bank.

The surveys are still being analysed, but three main conclusions can already be drawn: first, the informal sector is a key component of the Vietnamese economy (50% of non-agricultural jobs); second, the initial estimates indicate that the value-added of the informal sector is equivalent to around 20% of GDP (part of this is doubtless already included in the official figures, but cross-checking of sources suggests that Vietnam's GDP is probably underestimated); and three, the sector is relatively disconnected from the rest of the economy and neglected in public policies.

#### **Objective 2. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of policies in a view to measuring the driving forces of growth and their distributional characteristics.**

The growth model followed by Vietnam in the last twenty years has brought about sweeping economic and social changes. In this context, the distributional impact of the country joining the WTO in January 2007 has become a crucial issue. In particular, although the growth in social inequality is less pronounced than in

China, will it increase as a result of membership? An evaluation of the impact of accession using a model of the Vietnamese economy (a micro-macro model combining a CGE model and micro-simulations) shows that WTO membership will mainly have four types of distributional effects: job gains (particularly in industry); growth in real wages; reductions in gender inequalities and finally, an increase in inequalities between rural and urban areas. Our results show the importance of taking specific measures to accompany WTO membership and to make the most of the opportunities offered by it, particularly regarding issues such as education and training, domestic migration, regional policies and assistance for employees affected by restructuring.

In addition, in the scope of their work in partnership with the GSO, on request from CEMA (Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs) and coordinated by the UNDP, DIAL researchers are taking part in the *ex post* evaluation of the Poverty Reduction Programme (P135) introduced in the areas where ethnic minorities live in Vietnam. They helped to set up the *ad hoc* survey system designed to assess the programme's impact (questionnaire and sample design, including identifying the control group). The reference survey was carried out by the GSO at the end of 2007, on a sample of 6,000 households (4,000 "processed" / 2,000 "non-processed"). The survey material is currently being analysed.

### **Objective 3. To study the institutions' role and performance in the transition process.**

The aim is to explore the relationships between governance, the society's system of values, economic dynamics and the population's living conditions.

On the strength of our past experience in other developing countries in Africa and Latin-America, we played a part in introducing a *Governance and Participation* module in the official household survey (VHLSS 2008), a first in Vietnam. We promoted the introduction of the module by organizing seminars beforehand to explain the concepts, why the issue was important and the feasibility of the approach; and then by helping to design the

module (sample design, questionnaire) and to train the survey executives and manager. Work on interpreting the results will start by the end of 2008.

### **Teaching and Training**

The programme's researchers also take part in university teaching and research training in Vietnam. The activities include training workshops for Vietnamese partners (ISS, GSO); the Global Economic Issues module of the Economic Expertise and International Projects joint Master's degree (Paris XII/Vietnam National University [VNU]), in the framework of the *Pôles Universitaires Français* ([www.puf.edu.vn](http://www.puf.edu.vn)), an original experience of 'relocation' of higher education programmes involving ten French universities; summer workshops, in particular those organized by FSP-Sciences sociales [French government Solidarity Fund for Social Sciences] (2007 and 2008); and the recent creation of "doctoriales" in the social sciences, a joint project organized by IRD, the VNU, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and the French Embassy.

### **Recent publications**

**Cling J.-P., Razafindrakoto M., Roubaud F., Dô Trong Khanh and Lê Van Duyệt (eds) (2008)**, "Measuring the Informal Sector in Vietnam: International Experience and Challenges", special edition of the *Statistical Scientific Information review*, Institute of Statistical Sciences, N°2, published in English and Vietnamese.

**Cling J.-P., Marouani M.A., Razafindrakoto M., Robilliard A.-S., Roubaud F., (2008)**, "The distributive impact of Vietnam's accession to the WTO", *International economics*, Special edition on Vietnam (to be published in January 2009).

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## COMMUNICATIONS in 2008

**7<sup>th</sup> FrancoVietnamese Forum**, Danang, Vietnam, communication by Jean-Pierre Cling, Mohamed Ali Marouani, Mireille Razafindrakoto, Anne-Sophie Robilliard and François Roubaud « *Vietnam's terms of accession and the distributional impact of WTO membership* ». (Danang, Vietnam, 25-28 February).

**AFRISTAT, International seminar on the informal sector in Africa**. Communication by Philippe Bocquier, Christophe J. Nordman and Aude Vescovo « *Vulnérabilité et revenus en Afrique de l'Ouest* », (Bamako, Mali 22-24 October).

**AIDELF 15<sup>th</sup> Conference on « Demographics and cultures »**, Communication by Philippe Antoine « *La société dakaroise et le mariage civil, un compromis entre droit de la famille et religion* », (Québec, Canada, 25-29 August).

**Alliance Sud**, Symposium on development aid, communication by Lisa Chauvet « Discussion on Peter Niggli's book », (Berne, Switzerland, 16 May).

**Club du CEPIL**, Communication by Jean-Pierre Cling, Mohamed Ali Marouani, Mireille Razafindrakoto, Anne-Sophie Robilliard and François Roubaud « *Vietnam's terms of accession and the distributional impact of WTO membership* », (Paris, 22 May).

**CSAE**, « Economic Development in Africa », (Oxford, U.K., 16-18 March). Communications by:

- Lisa Chauvet and Paul Collier « *Elections and Reform in Failing States* »,
- Philippe De Vreyer, Flore Gubert and Anne-Sophie Robilliard « *Return Migrants in Western Africa: Characteristics and Labour Market Performance* »,
- Ralitza Dimova, Christophe J. Nordman, and François Roubaud « *Allocation of Labour in Urban West Africa: Implication for Development Policies* »,
- Javier Herrera and Sébastien Merceron « *Overeducation and Undereducation in Sub-Saharan Africa* »,
- Sandrine Mesplé-Somps « *Optimal Fiscal Policies according to Equality of Opportunity. A case study applied to Ivory*

*Coast* ». (Also at AFSE Paris, 18-19 September and at the University of Navarra, Pamplona, 7 February).

- Christophe J. Nordman, Anne-Sophie Robilliard and François Roubaud « *Decomposing Gender and Ethnic Earnings Gaps in Seven West African Cities* ».

**Economic Policy Conference**, communication by Lisa Chauvet and Paul Collier, « *Elections and Economic Policy in Developing Countries* », (Paris, 24-25 October).

**Institut du Monde Arabe, « Les Jeudis de l'IMA »**, Communication by Flore Gubert et Christophe J. Nordman « *Qui sont les migrants qui tirent profit de l'expérience migratoire ?* », (Paris, 25 September).

**IRG - Institut de Recherche et débat sur la Gouvernance**, seminar « Evaluación de las instituciones públicas en América latina » Communication by Javier Herrera « *El acceso, la calidad y confianza en las instituciones públicas según los hogares peruanos* » (Bogota, Colombia, 12-13 November).

**IZA/World Bank**, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on « Employment and Development », (Rabat, Morocco, 5-6 May), communications by:

- Javier Herrera and Sébastien Merceron « *Overeducation and Undereducation in Sub-Saharan Africa* »,
- Christophe J. Nordman and François-Charles Wolff, « *On-the-Job Learning and Earnings in Benin, Morocco and Senegal* ».

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