



UNITED NATIONS
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Institute on Comparative
Regional Integration Studies



Micro Evidence on Innovation and Development (MEIDE) Conference 2025

Innovation and New Technologies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

University of Kerala, Trivandrum, Kerala, India

December 10 - 12, 2025

Jointly organised by

IUCAE-University of Kerala, UNU-MERIT, UNU-CRIS, and Kerala Start-up Mission

About the Conference

Following successful editions in Maastricht (the Netherlands), Beijing (China), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Tartu (Estonia), San Jose (Costa Rica), Cape Town (South Africa), Santiago (Chile), New Delhi (India), Moscow (Russia), Montevideo (Uruguay), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Bogotá (Colombia), we host the MEIDE Conference 2025 at University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, India. The event will foster dialogue on how innovation shapes firms, households, communities, and governments, while also addressing critical development concerns, including economic growth, welfare, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and equitable wealth distribution. The conference specifically aims to attract policymakers to actively engage in dialogue with researchers, fostering an informed policy discourse.

About the Host Institution

The Inter University Centre for Alternative Economics (IUCAE) promotes research and studies in alternative economics, which would address the problems of the economy and society beyond the neo-classical mainstream lens of economic analysis. The centre works in alignment of the Department of Economics, the oldest research department in the field of economics in Kerala, started in the year 1959. IUCAE and the Department of Economics indeed works as the lead institutions in the University of Kerala, ranked the first in the NAAC accreditation with the Highest Grade of A++ and within top public state universities in India. The spectrum of students who graduated from the department and university served in various fields including top civil services, national and international academic institutes, various organizations of national and international importance, media and other government, corporate and other private institutions. Hosting the conference and creating more space for future policy and academic deliberations is the ultimate moto - “*Karmani Vyajyate Prajna*” of the University.



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MEIDE (Micro Evidence on Innovation and Development)

10-12 December, 2025

Kerala University, Kariavattom Campus

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

17:30–18:00

Registration

Kerala University, Kariavattom Campus

18:00–19:00

Opening Session

Welcome: Siddik Rabiyath

Introductory Remarks: Nanditha Mathew

Presidential Address: Pierre Mohnen

Inaugural Address: Mohanan Kunnummal

Felicitation:

Adv. Muralidharan Pillai G.

Dr S. Nazeeb

Dr Shijuhan J.S.

Vote of Thanks: Christabell P.J.

C.V. Raman Hall, Kariavattom Campus, KU

19:30

Welcome dinner & reception

Kerala University

Thursday, 11 December 2025

09:30–10:30 Keynote 1

C V Raman Hall

Speaker: Prof. Xiaolan Fu

Title: Digital Technology and Inclusive Development During Global Crisis: Evidence from A Randomised Control Trial in Bangladesh

Chair: Tommaso Ciarli

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:30 Parallel Sessions 1A and 1B

Session 1A: ICT Adoption, Digitalization and Firm Outcomes

Chair: P.L. Beena

Room: C V Raman Hall

– Does Digitalization Promote GVC Upgradation? Firm Level Evidence from India

Ketan Reddy¹, Subash Sasidharan²

¹IIM Raipur, ²IIT Madras

– Input Relatedness and Firm Performance

Nanditha Mathew¹, Andrea Mina², Emanuele Pugliese³

¹UNU-CRIS, ²Sant'Anna School,Pisa, Italy, ³UNU-MERIT

– Revisiting the Export–Productivity Nexus: Plant-Level Evidence from Indian Manufacturing

Rijesh R¹ (Online)

¹ISID

Session 1B: Capabilities, Infrastructure and Digitalization

Chair: Sunil Mani

Room: Janaki Ammal Hall

– Firm-Level Innovation and the Role of Political Capabilities

Amrita Saha¹, Juan Manuel Del Pozo Segura and Gabriel Palazzo¹

¹Institute of Development Studies

– A Quantitative Approach to Quality Infrastructure

Ulrich Harmes-Liedtke¹, Ann Ramkissoon², Carlo Pietrobelli³

¹TU Berlin, ²University of Florence, ³UNU-MERIT, Roma Tre University

– Digital Highways to Development: Mobile Internet and Tax Revenues in Brazil

Mateus Maciel¹, David Zuchowski²

¹University of Tübingen, ²Universitat de València

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Parallel Sessions 2A and 2B

Session 2A: Gender, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Chair: A.K. Prasad

Room: Room A, C V Raman Hall

– Exploring Female Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Sector-Wise Dynamics and Insights from India

Namitarani Gochhayat¹, Rekha Ravindran¹

¹Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai, India

– Technological and Non-Technological Innovation in Shaping Employment and Gender Diversity: Evidence from Manufacturing Firms in a Large Developing Economy — India

Akash Yadav¹, Sandeep Kumar Kujur¹

¹Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras

– Gender Differences in Awareness About Intellectual Property (IP): Evidence from a Global Survey

Carlotta Nani¹, Julio Raffo¹, Martin Correa¹

¹World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Session 2B: Artificial Intelligence, Firm Strategies and Performance

Chair: Vinod Velayudhan

Room: Room B, Janaki Ammal Hall

– Digital Technologies, Hiring, Training, and Firm Outcomes: Evidence from AI and ICT Adoption in Indian Firms

Sneha Marydas¹, Nanditha Mathew², Giordano De Marzo³, Carlo Pietrobelli^{1,4}

¹UNU-MERIT, ²UNU-CRIS, ³University of Konstanz, Konstanz, ⁴Roma Tre University

– The “Gold Rush” in AI and Robotics Patenting Activity: Do Innovation Systems Have a Role?

Giovanni Guidetti¹, Riccardo Leoncini^{1,2}, Mariele Macaluso³

¹Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna, ² IRCrES-CNR, Milan, ³Department of Economics, University of Torino

– Can AI Ease the Start-ups in Vietnam? Rethinking the Lean Start-up Approach

Ngoc Quang Pham¹, Ngo Phuc Hanh², Vu Tam², Tsuyuri Satoki³

¹FPT School of Business and Technology (FSB), FPT University, Hanoi, Vietnam, ²Academy of Policy and Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Hanoi, Vietnam, ³Technica Japan, Tokyo, Japan

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:30 Parallel Sessions 3A and 3B

Session 3A: Innovation Policy

Chair: K.J. Joseph

Room: C V Raman Hall

– Impact Evaluation of Associative Research Programs: Basal Research Centers from Chile

Mariano Pereira^{1,2}, Andres Zahler², Florencia Di Crocco³

¹Departamento de Industria, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina, ²Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios en Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, Argentina, ³Departamento de Economía, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile

– The Impact of Smart Specialization Strategies on Steering Innovation: A Causal Map of EU S3 Policy at the Technology Level

Alessio Bumbea^{1,3}, Andrea Mazzitelli², Emanuele Pugliese³

¹Department of Engineering and Science, Universitas Mercatorum, Italy, ²Department of Economics, Statistics and Business, Universitas Mercatorum, Italy, ³UNU-MERIT

– Interplay Between Innovation, Barriers and Cooperation in Latin America: Lessons for Public Policy

Mauricio Canédo-Pinheiro¹ (Online), Filipe Lage de Sousa², Bernardo Pereira Cabral³

¹FCE/UERJ, ²University of Maryland, ³Federal University of Bahia

Session 3B: Economics of Science, Knowledge Flows and Spillovers

Chair: Anitha. V.

Room: Janaki Ammal Hall

– Brokers of Novelty or Agents of Specialization? The Impact of Mobile Researchers on Domestic Scientific Trajectories

Diego Chavarro¹, Rodrigo Ito², Tommaso Ciarli², Robin Cowan², Fabiana Visentin²

¹Research Policy Solutions, Colombia, ²UNU-MERIT

– Exploratory Study of the Social Value of Patents of Publicly Funded Research Organizations in India

Megha Chamoli¹

¹IIT Indore

– The Making of an Entrepreneurial State: Exploring State-Led Entrepreneurship Through Kerala's Startup Experience

Krishnapriya V S¹

¹Centre for Development Studies (JNU)

20:00
Social dinner

Gokulam Grand Trivandrum, Chakkai-Kazhakkottam Bypass, Near Akkulam Bridge, Trivandrum

Friday, 12 December 2025

09:30–10:30 Keynote 2

C V Raman Hall

Speaker: Prof. Pierre Mohnen (Professor Emeritus at Maastricht University and UNU-MERIT)

Title: Efficient industrial policy for innovation

Chair: Andrea Mina

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:30

C V Raman Hall

Industrial Policy in a Multi-Level World: Regions and Local Governments

UNESCO Chair Policy Panel

Panelists:

Carlo Pietrobelli — (Professor at UNU-MERIT and Roma Tre University, Italy, UNESCO Chair on “Science, Technology and Innovation Policies for Sustainable Development in Latin America”)

Erica Kraemer-Mbula — (Professor of Economics, Johannesburg Business School)

Xiaolan Fu — (Professor of Technology and International Development, Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD))

P. Rajeev (TBC) — (Minister for Industries, Law and Coir, Government of Kerala)

M.B. Rajesh — (Minister for Local Self-Governments and Excise and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala)

Moderator: Nanditha Mathew

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Parallel Sessions 4A and 4B

Session 4A: Regional Development Dynamics

Chair: Siddik Rabiyath

Room: C V Raman Hall

– The Less-than-One Percent: How a Few Firms Shape Regional Capabilities in India

Nanditha Mathew¹, Emanuele Pugliese²

¹UNU-CRIS, ²UNU-MERIT.

– Optimal Intertemporal Broadband Investments to Promote Regional Economic Development

Rasmus Bøgh Holmen¹, Timo Kuosmanen², Jaan Masso³, Per Botolf Maurseth⁴, Kenneth Løvold Rødseth⁵

¹Partner, Vista Analyse, Oslo, Norway; Associate Senior Researcher at the Institute of Transport Economics, Oslo, Norway,

²University of Turku, Turku, Finland, ³University of Tartu, School of Economics and Business Administration, Estonia,

⁴Norwegian Business School, Norway, ⁵Institute of Transport Economics, Norway.

– Transforming Coastal Communities Through Renewable Energy Microgrids in Tamil Nadu and Kerala: Case Studies, Implementation Strategies and Lessons for the Global South

Brathikan V. M.¹, Harini R¹

¹Kumaraguru College of Technology

Session 4B: Digital Finance, Inclusion and Development

Chair: Rajkishan S

Room: Janaki Ammal Hall

– Taxing Digital Financial Services: Mobile Money Levies and Their Impact on Financial Inclusion in Kenya

Awa Diouf, Marco Carreras, Fabrizio Santoro¹

¹Institute of Development Studies and at the International Centre for Tax and Development

– Cultivating Connectivity: Baseline and Monitoring Results on Digital Literacy and Platform Adoption From a Digital Training for Indonesian Farmers and Extension Workers

Irene Furlani¹, Michael Grimm, Alia Bihrajihant Raya, Ishadiyanto Salim, Nadila Puspa Arum Widjanarko, Subejo, Rath Ineke Wati, Anung Pranyoto, Rani Nur Rochim, Siti Fatonah

¹University of Passau

– Global Technological Paradigms, Local Capabilities and Catch-up Strategies: The Case of Indian Firms in Blockchain-based Financial Markets

Ajay Thutupalli¹, Samyukta Bhupatiraju²

¹ABN AMRO Bank, The Netherlands.

²Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, India.

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–18:00 Parallel Sessions 5A and 5B

Session 5A: Digital Technologies, Upgrading and Productivity Dynamics

Chair: Christabell P.J.

Room: C V Raman Hall

– Non-technological Upgrading and Productivity Dynamics in a Transition Economy: The Case of Croatia

Vitaliy Roud¹, Zoran Aralica², Ljiljana Božić², Bruno Škrinjarić²

¹Zagreb School of Economics and Management, ²Economic Institute Zagreb

– Digital Technology Adoption, Ownership and Productivity Gap: A Study of Small Firms in India

Jayati Chatterjee¹, Subash S¹

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

– Mobile Internet Adoption and Inclusive Structural Change: Evidence from Nigerian Non-Farming Enterprises

Bernardo Caldarola¹ (Online)

¹European Commission, Joint Research Center (JRC), Seville, Spain

– Do ICT Drive Productivity in Indian Manufacturing: Insights from Low-, Medium-, and High-Tech Manufacturing

Subal Danta¹, Badri Narayan Rath¹

¹IIT Hyderabad

Session 5B: Skills, Training and Human Capital for Innovation

Chair: Sheeja S.R.

Room: Janaki Ammal Hall

– The Role of Green, Digital, and Twin Skills in Attracting FDI: Evidence from European Regions

Andrea Ascani, Stefano Basilico, Alberto Marzucchi, Giulia Martinelli¹

¹Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy

– Automation and Human Capital Investment

Sidharth Rony¹

¹UNU-MERIT

– Local Gains From Global Minds: The Impact of Collaborating with Foreign-Educated Researchers on Non-Mobile Researchers' Performance

Rodrigo Ito^{1,2}, Fabiana Visentin¹, Robin Cowan^{1,5}, Diego Chavarro³, Tommaso Ciarli^{1,4}

¹UNU-MERIT, ²University of Campinas, Brazil, ³External consultant, ⁴SPRU, Sussex University, England, ⁵BETA, University of Strasbourg, France

18:30–19:00

Concluding remarks

Speakers: Tommaso Ciarli & Siddik Rabiyath

C V Raman Hall