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Chanuka Wattegama

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EDUCATION:

- ❑ Master of Business Administration (MBA) at [University of Colombo](#). Completed with a Merit pass in June 2002
(**Subjects followed:** Managerial Economics, Contemporary Management Thought, Statistical Techniques, Marketing Management, Financial Accounts and MIS, Organisational Behaviour, Financial Management, Human Resources Management, Productions and Operations Management, Computer Usage and decision theory, Treasury Management and Strategic Management)
- ❑ Post Graduate training: [International Program for Development Evaluation Training \(IPDET\)](#) - Building Skills to Evaluate Development Interventions; organised by World Bank and conducted at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, June, 2009
- ❑ Bachelor of Engineering (BE) [National Institute of Technology, Karnataka](#) (NIT –K) – Electrical and Electronics Engineering – passed with a First Class with distinction in July 1993.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Associate Member of the [Institute of Engineers \(Sri Lanka\)](#)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: Telecommunication, ICT for Development, Disaster Risk Reduction, Monitoring and Evaluation

CURRENT POSITION:

SENIOR RESEARCH MANGER - LIRNEasia. Since Sept 2007

[LIRNEasia](#) is a think tank on Telecom Policy and Regulation. As **Senior Manager, Research** Chanuka currently leads three research projects (with aggregate project value of USD 425,000).

- i. [Mobile 2.0 @ BoP](#) analyses the impact of the second wave of mobile communications at the Bottom of the Pyramid. It focuses on an alternative 'developing country' model against the developed economy 'fat pipe' - coaxial cable, fiber or even wireless coming into each household carrying entertainment and data (including Voice over IP). The study particularly looks in to areas of m-payments, m-remittances, m-content, m-health, m-agri business and m-government.
- ii. [Broadband Benchmarking](#) is about developing a methodical approach in measuring the broadband quality (not just speed, but other parameters as well) in three different countries, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. With a team from IIT Madras, a Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) based tool AT-Tester has been developed to provide a

user with vital connectivity information. Current attempt is to use the same in measuring the broadband quality at telecenters.

- iii. Indonesia country study is part of the [Telecom Regulatory Environment \(TRE\) survey](#) that asked stakeholders to assess the telecom regulatory environment across seven dimensions (market entry, allocation of scarce resources, interconnection, regulation of anti-competitive practices, tariff regulation, universal service obligation and quality of service) for the fixed, mobile and broadband sectors.

Chanuka has completed two projects. (a) Evaluation of Asia Pacific Telecom Regulatory Authority web sites for their efficacy and (b) Analysis of the optimal use of ICT tools in building a virtual organisation.

In addition, Chanuka also works as the Monitoring and Evaluation expert of LIRNEasia.

CAREER HISTORY:

PROGRAMME SPECIALIST (ICT4D/MDG-I) Based in [UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre, Colombo](#) Sept 2005-Sept 2007

Chanuka had dual responsibilities in his current position. He was a part of the [UNDP-Asia Pacific Development Programme \(UNDP-APDIP\)](#), which was positioned at [UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre in Bangkok](#). He was also the outpost of the said programme in the Colombo Regional Centre to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Initiatives cluster. His focus was on using Information and Communication Technology for poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs.

He was involved with the three main components of the UNDP [Asia-Pacific MDG-I programme](#) which mirrors the stages of the MDG-based planning cycle:

- o Setting MDG targets, estimating the cost of achieving these targets and devising a financing strategy
- o Policy advice for accelerating growth, trade and the private sector
- o Expanding national capacity for implementing the MDGs

Chanuka was instrumental in building [the first wireless mesh network in Sri Lanka](#), in the rural village [Mahavilachchiya](#) (40 km from Anuradhapura) which was funded by the Pan Asia small grants programme in which UNDP-APDIP was a key partner.

CONSULTANT – [ICT Agency, Sri Lanka](#) (Nov 2004 – Feb 2005)

The [Information and Communication Technology Agency](#) (ICTA) of Sri Lanka is the apex body involved in ICT policy and direction for Sri Lanka. Fully owned by the Government of Sri Lanka, ICTA is the implementing organization of the e-Sri Lanka Initiative. Major donors including the World Bank will be funding a number of the Agency's initiatives.

He worked as an External Consultant in the e-government team of the ICTA, in the Population Register project, the largest proposed e-Gov project to be implemented in Sri Lanka. In addition he contributed towards building an ICT policy for the public sector of Sri Lanka.

TEAM LEADER – SUPPORT SERVICES, [Enterprise Technology](#) (Aug 2003- Aug 2005)

This was a managerial position in the technical field. As Team Leader – Support Services Chanuka led a team of engineers, who provided technical support to about 30 major network installations. The sites included the [Internet Data Centre](#), Intranet and the Mediation server of [Sri Lanka Telecom](#), the largest Telecom operator of Sri Lanka, networks at the Prime Minister's Office, [Central Bank of Sri Lanka](#), Department of Inland Revenue, [Open University](#), [University](#)

of Kelaniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Ruhuna, Education Department of Sri Lanka, University of Rajarata and some key corporate firms. He, reporting to the Director, was responsible for the smooth operation of the networks, recruiting and training the support personnel, entering into maintenance agreements and providing technical personnel to outsource their system administration work.

Chanuka was involved in the design, implementation and maintenance of the Internet Data Center at Sri Lanka Telecom, the largest fixed telecom services provider in Sri Lanka. The design used the Next Generation Networking (NGN) technologies and arguably one of the most modern data centre in the South Asian region.

PROJECT MANAGER, [Asiasoft Ltd](#) (Oct 2000 – March 2003)

Projects Handled:

- ❑ Project Manager of the Business Continuity Plan preparation project for the [Hatton National Bank](#). A comprehensive business risk assessment was done and the Business continuity plans were prepared. Project span: 6 months
- ❑ Project Manager of the Post Implementation Review of the [GLOBUS](#) banking package at the [Hatton National Bank](#). This project focused on doing a gap analysis, an application controls audit, an enterprise-wide security audit and testing the system for the said features. Project span: 8 months
- ❑ Project Manager of the Post Implementation review of the BankMaster retail banking package at [People's Bank](#). This review focused on the gaps in the project implementation and assessed the viability of the package for the use at People's Bank. Project span: 3 ½ months
- ❑ Project Manager of the Enterprise-wide security audit done at the Agro Marine Group. This review analysed the Information Systems of Agro Marine Ltd., Aqua Packaging Ltd, and Aqua Gardens Ltd. project span: 3 months

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEER, [Central Bank of Sri Lanka](#) (Nov 1997 – Sept 2000) on contract basis

Duties/ Projects Handled:

- ❑ Worked as the System Engineer for the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for almost 3 years and was in charge of the design and installation of the LAN in the Central Bank new building. Chanuka also managed the project to provide E-Mail and Internet facilities to about 300 staff officers in the Central Bank.
- ❑ Organised and conducted the user training programmes for about 200 computer users in the Central Bank on the facilities available in the LAN including the sharing facilities, Internet & E-Mail facilities etc.
- ❑ Project co-ordinator of the World Bank supported Y2K project of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- ❑ Coordinated the on-going Y2K projects of all the banks and financial institutions of Sri Lanka. As a result, Chanuka has a wide knowledge on the information systems used in the banking sector.
- ❑ Acted as a supervisor in the Y2K Readiness monitoring team that monitored the Banks and Financial Institutions for their Y2K readiness. Also represented Central Bank in the National Y2K Task Force and the Interbank Working Group for Y2K readiness.
- ❑ Developed the Security policy draft document for Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

**ELECTRONICS ENGINEER / ASSISTANT DP MANAGER, Supreme Group of Companies,
(September 1995 – November 1997)**

Duties / Projects Handled:

- In charge of the maintenance of the three computer networks of the group, installed at the Colombo and Peliyagoda office premises. In addition, worked as the Assistant DP Manager and as an Electronics Engineer to provide the technical after sales services for the Fuel Pumps sold by another subsidiary of the group.

**COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEER AND AFTER APRIL 1995, ASSISTANT MANAGER,
ENGINEERING, Softlogic Trading (Pvt) Ltd. (January 1994 – September 1995)**

Duties / Projects Handled:

As a Systems Engineer played a prominent role in installing and maintaining about 50 computer networks running on Novell Netware and Windows NT in many government and private sector organisations in Sri Lanka.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS:

1. Wattegama, Chanuka, Nalaka Gunawardene and Hasitha Wickremasinghe [2004] **'Promoting ICT for Human Development in Asia 2004 – Realising the Millennium Development Goals'** – Sri Lanka chapter, UNDP, Colombo <http://www.apdip.net/rhdr/preview-event/default.asp>
2. Wattegama, Chanuka [2007] **'ICTs for Disaster Management'** UNDP-APDIP e-Primer series (*In print*)

BOOK CHAPTERS:

1. Sriramesh, Krishnamurthy and Chanuka Wattegama [2007] **'The role of ICTs in Risk Communication in the Asia-Pacific' - Digital Review of Asia Pacific**, co-publishers: PanAsia Networking Programme of IDRC, Orbicom and Southbound <http://www.digital-review.org/> (*In Print*)
2. Wattegama, Chanuka [2007] **'Sri Lanka: The Role of Media in a Catastrophe: A Good Samaritan in the Clothes of a Communicator?' – Media's Challenge: Asian Tsunami and Beyond**, Asia Media Information and Communication Centre, Singapore <http://www.amic.org.sg/publication/files/tsunami.htm>
3. Wattegama, Chanuka [2006], Sri Lanka chapter **'Cyber Communities in Rural Asia - A Study of Seven Asian Countries'** Asia Media Information and Communication Centre, Singapore <http://www.amic.org.sg/publication/files/cybercommunities.htm>
4. Gunawardene, Nalaka and Chanuka Wattegama, [2003] **'Digital Review of Asia Pacific'** - Sri Lanka chapter, co-publishers: APDIP – UNDP, PanAsia Networking Programme of IDRC, Orbicom and Southbound <http://www.digital-review.org/>
5. Gunawardene, Nalaka and Chanula Wattegama [2001] **'Internet in Asia'** – Sri Lankan chapter, Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, Singapore http://www.amic.org.sg/iaa_contnts.html

6. Gunaratne, Shelton and Chanuka Wattedgama [1999] **'Media in Asia'** – Sri Lanka chapter, Sage Publications India (pvt) Ltd., New Delhi
<http://www.mnstate.edu/gunarat/mediasia.htm>

BOOK REVIEWS:

Wattedgama, Chanuka [2005] Book Review: **'The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for our Time'**, by Jeffrey D Sachs. The Southern African Journal of Information and Communication, Issue 6 2005, Johannesburg, South Africa, pp112-117

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

1. Wattedgama, Chanuka and Nilusha Kapugama [2009] **'Prospects of Volunteer Computing model in performance data gathering for Broadband Policy Formulation: A Case study from South Asia'** - **"Beyond Broadband Access"**, Washington DC, Sept 22-24, 2009
2. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2008] **'ICTs for Disaster Warning and Management'** and **'ICTs for Disaster Response and Recovery'** – **'Disaster Risk Management in the Information Age'** - Seminar to mark International Day for Disaster Reduction at the [World Bank](#), Washington DC, October 8-9, 2008
3. Wattedgama, Chanuka and Nandasiri Wanninayake [2007] **'Connected villages as a means of empowering the rural poor: A case study from Sri Lanka'** paper presented at [CPRsouth2](#), Chennai, India, December, 2007
4. Wattedgama Chanuka and Rehana Wijesinghe [2007] **'Wireless Mesh Networking as a means of connecting rural communities: an analysis based on a case study from rural Sri Lanka'** paper presented at [Wireless World Research Forum meeting](#), Chennai, India, December 2007.
5. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2006] **'ICTs for Disaster Management'**- paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 2006
6. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2005] **'Benchmarking Asia-Pacific Telecom NRAs websites'** World Dialog on Regulation for Network Economies
<http://www.regulateonline.org/content/view/525/69>
7. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2005] **'ICT for Human Development in Asia'** - paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 2005
8. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2004] **'Future of financial networks in South Asia'** - paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 2004
9. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2003] **'Future of ICT in Banking and Finance in Sri Lanka'**- paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 2003
10. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2002] **'Internet Banking – the Sri Lankan Experience'** – paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 2002
11. Wattedgama, Chanuka [2001] **'Building software empires in South Asia – A comparative study of software industries in India and Sri Lanka'** – paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 2001
12. Wattedgama, Chanuka [1999] **'Digital Economy – Building the data communication infrastructure in Sri Lanka'** – paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 1999

13. Wattedagama Chanuka [1998] '**Social and Cultural Impact of Internet on the Sri Lankan society**' – paper presented at the Infotel, International IT conference, Colombo, 1998
14. Wattedagama, Chanuka and K. M. Sreekanth [1998] '**Internet Developments in Sri Lanka and India – A Comparative study**'- paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 1998
15. Wattedagama, Chanuka [1997] '**The effects of lighting on PC based computer networks**'- paper presented at the Computer Society of Sri Lanka Annual Sessions, Colombo, 1997

SELECTED NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE ARTICLES (from over 1,000):

1. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2004] '**Bridging the 'analogue' and 'digital' divide - The Unique Experience of Sri Lanka**', i4d magazine, December 2004 issue
<http://www.i4donline.net/dec04/bridging.asp>
2. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2004] '**What can computers do for the poor?**', Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Colombo, January 24, 2004
<http://www.dailynews.lk/2004/01/24/fea11.html>
3. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2004] '**Desheeya Gnana Kendras : Taking ICT to the farmers and fishermen**', Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Colombo, February 03, 2004 <http://www.dailynews.lk/2004/02/03/fea14.html>
4. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2003] '**e-Government and the common man**', Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Colombo, March 22, 2003
<http://www.dailynews.lk/2003/03/22/featureslead.html>
5. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2003] '**ICT Road Map: from hype to reality**', Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Colombo, January 07, 2003
<http://www.dailynews.lk/2003/01/07/featureslead.html>
6. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2002] '**Internet Banking in Sri Lanka**', Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Colombo, September, 17, 2002
<http://www.dailynews.lk/2002/09/17/bus25.html>
7. Wattedagama, Chanuka [2002] '**Call for a national IT agenda**', Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Colombo, January 03, 2002
<http://www.dailynews.lk/2002/01/03/fea01.html>

PRESENTATIONS/PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS (Except mentioned above)

1. **The Civil Protection Forum – Towards a more resilient society** – (European Commission Environment/Disaster Risk Reduction Conference), Brussels, Belgium, 25-26 November, 2009
2. **UN-ISDR International Conference on Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction**, Incheon, Korea, 11-13 August, 2009
3. '**Development in the Information Society – Exploring a Social Policy Framework**', IT for Change, Bangalore, India, 18 – 20 January, 2007
4. **Communicating Disasters**, APDIP/TVEAP, Bangkok, Thailand, 21-22 December 2006
5. ITU/ESCAP Regional Workshop on **Disaster Communications**, Bangkok, Thailand, 12-15 December 2006

6. 1st meeting of the Technical Committee of Asia Pacific Center for Information and Communications Technology, Incheon, South Korea, 14 June, 2006
7. Workshop on '**ICT Indicators for Benchmarking Performance in Network and Services Development**', LIRNEasia and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), New Delhi, India, 1-3 March, 2006
8. World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Parallel event '**Measuring the Information Society**', Tunis, Tunisia, 15 November 2005
9. '**Building an Information Society: ROAD TO TUNIS**', Dhaka, Bangladesh, 23-25 October 2005
10. **Catalyzing change: Strategies to achieve connectivity and convergence**, A course on telecom reform LIRNEasia, Singapore, 26-30 September, 2005
11. 14th AMIC annual conference '**Media and Society in Asia: transformations and Transitions**', Beijing, China; 18-21 July 2005
12. '**Gender in Information society**', Datamation/UNDP, New Delhi, India, November 2003

EXTRA ACTIVITIES IN THE ICT FIELD:

Founder Editor of '[Wijeya Pariganaka](#)' the largest selling ICT monthly: Chanuka founded this popular Computer magazine, published by Wijeya Newspapers, the top private sector media house in Sri Lanka. This monthly Sinhala ICT publication, with a circulation of more than 40,000 copies, in addition to presenting the latest developments in the ICT sectors in local languages, went another step in providing ICT lessons to the students. Through its editorials and features it also offered perceptive analysis of ICT policies and practices. Market surveys have indicated that this magazine has readers all over the island, and nearly half of its readership is from the rural areas.

PERSONAL DETAILS:

- Birthday:** April 05, 1967
- Sex:** Male

REFERENCES:

1. Mr. W. A. Wijewardena (Former Employer)

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Ex- Deputy Governor
Central Bank of Sri Lanka,
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2. Dr. Frederick Abeyratne

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