

TAHANI NAYAM IQBAL

iqbal[at]lirne[dot]net

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Researcher, LIRNEasia

February 2006 to date, Sri Lanka

- Research focus is on gender patterns of teleuse at the Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP), tariff regulation in the telecom sector through banded forbearance and mobile number portability (MNP).
- Contributing to the Measuring ICT Sector and Regulatory Performance project, in the areas of price and affordability indicators. This involves applying an adapted version of the OECD price basket methodology to South Asian telecom tariffs in order to determine the cost of ownership of a mobile/fixed telephone. For output, see Mobile Benchmarks, South Asia at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/projects/benchmarks>
- Managed LIRNEasia's capacity and field-building program, CPR*south* from 2006 to 2008; responsible for a budget of USD xxx per year.

Organized two conferences in 2007, comprising of approximately 80 participants from upto 25 countries around the world. The conferences were held in Manila, Philippines and Chennai, India in association with the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, Diliman, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, respectively.

Managed the CPR*south* blog-based website and d-Space digital library.

Carried out knowledge mapping work in 2006, to identify and set-up a database of those involved in the field of telecommunications policy research (over 2000 author names and over 1500 titles).

- Contributed two chapters to *ICT infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks*. This peer-reviewed book, published in 2008 by a scholarly press, draws from Asian experiences in expanding information and communication technology (ICT) access.

Also contributing to a second book based on the findings of the 2006 Teleuse@Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) study.

- Assisting the management in all activities, including compilation of technical reports to funding organizations, activity reports, and other key documents.
- Handling website maintenance at LIRNEasia.

Assistant, Economic Affairs Department, Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP)

June 2004 – February 2006, Sri Lanka

- Provided secretarial and administrative support to the Economics department. Assisted the department with data collection and processing, and research and report writing. Organized meetings and seminars, and assisted in preparation of minutes. Provided secretarial support to the Legal department on a needs basis.

Marketing Coordinator, Asian Adventures Travel Management Company

November 2003 – June 2004, Sri Lanka

- Worked on the company brochure, company profile and website. Involved in updating the travel website, general documentation, and when required, designing custom-made travel packages, products and services for clients. Assisted in the marketing write-ups and business proposals facilitating trade agreements with selected travel agents and travel companies.

Administrative Assistant, National Agribusiness Council (NAC)

April 2002 – August 2003, Sri Lanka

- Assisted the CEO with secretarial work (organizing meetings, workshops, seminars, conducting research, overseeing projects, etc); assisted the Manager, Business Information Centre with market research, cataloguing of reports, publishing the monthly newsletter, etc and assisted the Finance and Administration Manager with the management of computer hardware and software, networking/internet system, email services and trouble shooting.

PUBLICATIONS

2008 Zainudeen, A., Iqbal, T., Samarajiva, R. and Ratnadiwakara, D. (2008). Who's got the phone? The gendered use of telephones at the bottom of the pyramid. Paper presented at ICA 2008, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, May 22-26, 2008.

Zainudeen, A., Iqbal, T. and Samarajiva, R. (2008). Gender inequalities in access and use of telecom at the bottom of the pyramid: Findings from a five country study. Paper presented at International Workshop on ICTs & Development: Experiences from Asia, organized by the Communications & New Media Programme, Science, Technology and Society (STS) Cluster, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, April 24-25, 2008.

Zainudeen, A. and Iqbal, T. (2008). Strategies on a shoestring. In R. Samarajiva and A. Zainudeen (Eds.), *ICT infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks*. New Delhi & Ottawa: SAGE & IDRC.

Iqbal, T. and Purbo, O. (2008). Geektivism. In R. Samarajiva and A. Zainudeen (Eds.), *ICT infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks*. New Delhi & Ottawa: SAGE & IDRC.

2007 Zainudeen, A. & Iqbal, T. (2007). The gendered aspects of telecom access and use at the bottom of the pyramid in Emerging Asia. Paper presented at CPR*south2*: Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research. Chennai, India, December 15-17, 2007.
<http://www.cprsouth.org/dspace/handle/123456789/244>

Zainudeen, A., Sivapragasam, N. de Silva, H., Iqbal, T. & Ratnadiwakara, D. (2007) 'Teleuse at the bottom of the pyramid: Findings from a five country study'. Background paper prepared for '3rd Global Knowledge Conference', Kuala Lumpur, December 11-13, 2007.

2005 Abeyratne S. & T. Iqbal (2005). A Note on the Regional Dimensions of Population and Unemployment in Sri Lanka, Economic Affairs Department, Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), September, 2005.
http://www.peaceinsrilanka.org/peace2005/Insidepage/PressRelease/FeatureArticles/A_Note_on_the_Regional_Dimensions.pdf

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- CPR*south3*: Transformation Strategies for Telecom Operators, December 5-7, 2008 in Beijing, China
- Participated in 2008 Expert Forum on *ICT Sector Indicators and Benchmark Regulation*, Singapore, June 14-15, 2008.
- International Workshop on ICTs & Development: Experiences from Asia, organized by the Communications & New Media Programme, Science, Technology and Society (STS) Cluster, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, April 24-25, 2008.
- Participated in ITU-ASP Center of Excellence Network PTA Node for Policy & Regulations Workshop on Implementing Mobile Number Portability, Islamabad, Pakistan, August 22-24, 2007.
- Participated in 2007 WDR [World Dialog on Regulation] Asian Expert Forum, *ICT Sector and Regulatory Performance Indicators*, Singapore, March 2-3, 2007.

- Completed LIRNEasia and LIRNE.NET 11th Telecom Reform Course, Catalyzing Change: Strategies to Achieve Connectivity and Convergence, in association with CONNECTasia Forum Pte. Ltd), Singapore, February 25-March 1, 2007.
- Participated in LIRNEasia Workshop on ICT Indicators for Benchmarking Performance in Network and Services Development, New Delhi, India, March 1-3, 2006.

Made presentations at the following events:

- CPRsouth3: Transformation Strategies for Telecom Operators, December 5-7, 2008 in Beijing, China. Presentation on *Banded Forbearance: A new approach to tariff regulation*.
- 2008 Expert Forum on *ICT Sector Indicators and Benchmark Regulation*, Singapore, June 14-15, 2008. Presentation on *mobile price benchmarking* available at: <http://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/mobile-benchmarks-v20.pdf>
- International Workshop on ICTs & Development: Experiences from Asia, organized by the Communications & New Media Programme, Science, Technology and Society (STS) Cluster, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, April 24-25, 2008. Presentation on '*Gender inequalities in access and use of telecom at the bottom of the pyramid: Findings from a five country study*'.
- Workshop on Assessment of Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE), organized by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Islamabad, Pakistan, June 14, 2007. Presentation on price baskets available at: http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2007/06/pakistan_price-baskets.pdf/
- CPRsouth 2007: Research for Improving ICT governance in the Asia-Pacific, Manila, Philippines, January 19-21, 2007.

EDUCATION

2008 – 2010	Masters in Public Policy (MPP), Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, (ongoing)
2002 – 2005	B.Sc. (Honours) Economics and Management, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London (External Programme), 2005
2004	Advanced Diploma in Computer Science (major in Information Systems), certified by National Computing Centre (NCC) UK and University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), 2004
2001	London GCE Advanced Levels
1999	London GCE Ordinary Levels