
LIRNEasia's CPR*south*-centered capacity building

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Presentation to IDRC and invitees
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Mary Grace Mirandilla



- ❑ Attended Executive Course on Regulation in Singapore, September 2005 on IDRC funded scholarship
- ❑ Participated in Jakarta networking meeting in October 2005
- ❑ Assisted Lorraine Salazar in TRE research in the Philippines in 2006
- ❑ Participated in CPR*south1* in Manila as a Young Scholar (conference + tutorials)
- ❑ Was selected as a paper giver at CPR*south2* in Chennai
- ❑ Paper was seen as one of the best; currently under review by *Information Technology and International Development* (MIT Press)



Becoming a policy intellectual . . . Helping create policy intellectuals

- Briefing paper on Philippines telecom policy for "Philippine Development Forum" (**government's primary mechanism for policy dialogue among stakeholders on the development agenda**), Feb 2007
- "Community telecenters as a development tool for rural areas" at international conference organized by U. of Philippines **National College of Public Administration & Governance**, April 2007
- 2 **EOIs for project funding** through The Asia Foundation, to AusAID and to University of Washington, 2007
- "Support systems for community eCenters," 4th **Knowledge Exchange Conference**, Manila, April 2008
- Identified Grace through LIRNEasia's networks in January 2005 as a potential researcher (Mode 2 knowledge producer: undergrad degree only; working on projects, not at university)
- Continuous engagement: scholarship to course → networking meeting → research assistant → CPRsouth1 → strengthened her existing contacts with NCPAG → mid-year "push-poll" → CPRsouth 2 → review process improved a good paper on universal service → encouragement to publish → has submitted paper to CPRsouth3 → by her actions, a committed member of the CPRsouth community, drawing on and contributing to its resources; also engaged with LIRNEasia, especially through website. Offered internship in Colombo but she was unable to accept



LIRNEasia's approach to capacity building

- Evidence-based, effective regulatory/policy processes **as end**; in-situ expertise as **one of the means**:
 - “to improve the lives of the people of the emerging Asia-Pacific by facilitating their use of ICTs and related infrastructures; **by catalyzing the reform of laws, policies and regulations** to enable those uses through the conduct of policy-relevant research, training and advocacy with **emphasis on building in-situ expertise.**”
- Research organizations “**use**” or **repurpose** researchers
 - This is what LIRNEasia currently does
- Universities, esp. research/graduate programs **produce** researchers
 - But . . . paucity of real universities in the Asia Pacific
 - Cannot rely solely on universities
 - Increasing significance of Mode 2 knowledge producers, especially in applied fields such as ICT policy and regulation
- CPRsouth is key instrument in catalyzing the production and sustenance of policy intellectuals in universities and elsewhere



Strategy

- Distinguish organization from network
 - LIRNE*asia* is an organization with core values and rigorous entry/exit conditions, and focused on more than capacity building
 - CPR*south* is an open research-centric platform designed to nurture “policy intellectuals capable of informed and effective intervention in ICT policy and regulation processes in specific country and regional contexts in the South;” it may evolve into research network
- Build strong relationships with leading universities in the Asia Pacific, through CPR*south* and otherwise
 - National University of Singapore
 - Department of Communication & New Media
 - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
 - Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
 - National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, Diliman
 - [Beijing University of Post and Telecom, Information & Communication University, Korea, AIT, Bangkok, and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore]



LIRNEasia's external actions

- IDRC funded capacity-building work
 - CPR*south*
 - Capacity building for National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)
- Self-financed/contract capacity-building work
 - 3 executive training courses on regulation offered in Singapore (2005, 2007 and 2008)
 - Includes IDRC funded scholarships for non-profits/media
 - 1 South Asian Forum on Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) course (2007)
 - Pending bid for capacity building for Nepal NRA (World Bank credit)
 - Capacity building for Afghanistan NRA under discussion (World Bank and IDRC)
 - Assistance to partners on request



LIRNEasia's internal actions

- **Integrate** training in research methods and communication into research management process
 - Habarana research planning meeting, October 2006
 - Ahungalla RPM, August 2007
 - Waikkal RPM, May 2008
- **Walk the talk** of a learning organization
 - Regular colloquia, including monthly training events since January 2008 (still tweaking virtuality)
 - Course on statistics; English courses for admin/financial staff
 - First steps on developing training plans for each employee
 - Specialized training, e.g.,
 - Poverty Lab MIT, 2006
 - [Evaluation training at Carleton U, 2007]
 - Outcome mapping, Kuala Lumpur 2007
 - One researcher groomed for graduate school every year
 - Sriganesh Lokanathan (Lee Kuan Yew School, NUS, 2007-09)
 - Tahani Iqbal (Lee Kuan Yew School, NUS, 2008-10)
 - Two researchers head-hunted by consulting firms; one became member of Competition Commission of Pakistan – capacity building?





- Objectives
 - Nurture policy intellectuals capable of informed and effective intervention in ICT policy and regulation processes in specific country and regional contexts in the South and
 - Promote systematic studies in ICT regulation and policy
- Governed by Board of senior scholars (and funders/consumers)
 - Jhunjhunwala (Chair), Jain (India); Samarajiva (Sri Lanka); Rivera (Singapore); Carino (Philippines); Xu (Hong Kong China); Liu (Taiwan ROC); Park (Rep of Korea); Xavier (Australia)
 - Staggered terms of 2, 4, 6 years for initial members, with 3 new members added every two years: new members who will be elected in 2008
 - Jhunjhunwala, Yuan (China), Elder (IDRC) – replacing Jain and Liu
- Currently de facto CPR*south* AsiaPacific, except for admitting papers from all regions (23/85 non-AP submissions for CPRsouth3)
- Charter envisages decentralized structure, with current Board → Board of AsiaPac chapter as soon as another admin partner steps up to the plate; 2 from each chapter will coordinate Decisions executed by administrative partner LIRNE*asia*
- Supported by IDRC



Knowledge networking → building community

- Knowledge mapping exercises in 2005 and 2006 identified active scholars and centers of work in ICT policy and regulation relevant to Asia Pacific, using Social Science Citation Index and Scholar.google
 - Findings disseminated at events in Thailand (June 2005); Taiwan ROC (July 2005); Indonesia (Oct 2005), etc.
- Entities and persons so identified were invited to
 - Submit abstracts to *CPRsouth* 1; nominate Young Scholars
 - Disseminate the invitations through their networks (snowballing)
- Key scholars in Asia Pacific identified by the mapping process were approached to serve on the Board
- Board perpetuates itself (selects new members) and selects participants to *CPRsouth* events
- Becoming a member of the *CPRsouth* community
 - No formal membership
 - Participation in Conference, Young Scholar program or internship program (being developed) is the path
- Hopefully, over time an organic community will develop on the conference and website platforms; emotional aspect addressed



- Inaugural conference hosted in Manila by NCPAG, U Philippines Diliman in January 2007
 - 18 papers selected from abstracts plus “seeding” presentations by LIRNEasia; 2 keynotes
- CPRsouth2 hosted in Chennai by IIT Madras in December 2007
 - All 21 papers selected by double-blind review of abstracts by Board + competition among shortlist; 2 keynotes; 2 presentations by Board members; 1 “process” session
- CPRsouth3 hosted in Beijing by Beijing U of Post & Telecom in December 2008
 - 21 competitive papers selected as before; 2 keynotes; 2 Board talks; 3 “process” sessions including exchanges with TPRC and ECPR; training in communication for policy intervention; best paper selection
 - Sponsorships for first time; hope to bring Korean potential donors to Beijing to lay groundwork
- CPRsouth4 hosted in Sri Lanka by LIRNEasia in December 2009, in conjunction with 5th anniversary conference & hopefully showcasing results of internship program
- Aiming for additional funder to join IDRC by CPRsouth5 in East Asia, December 2010



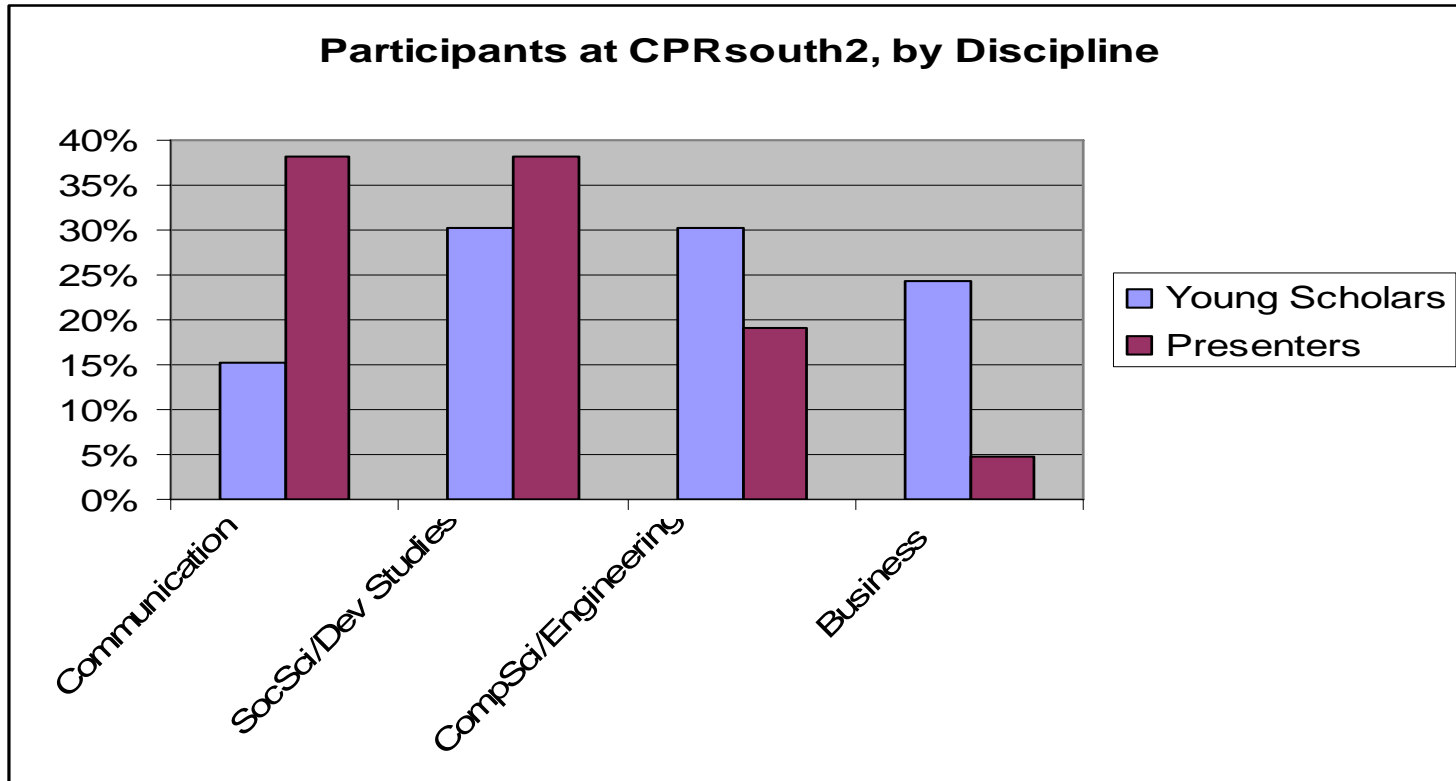
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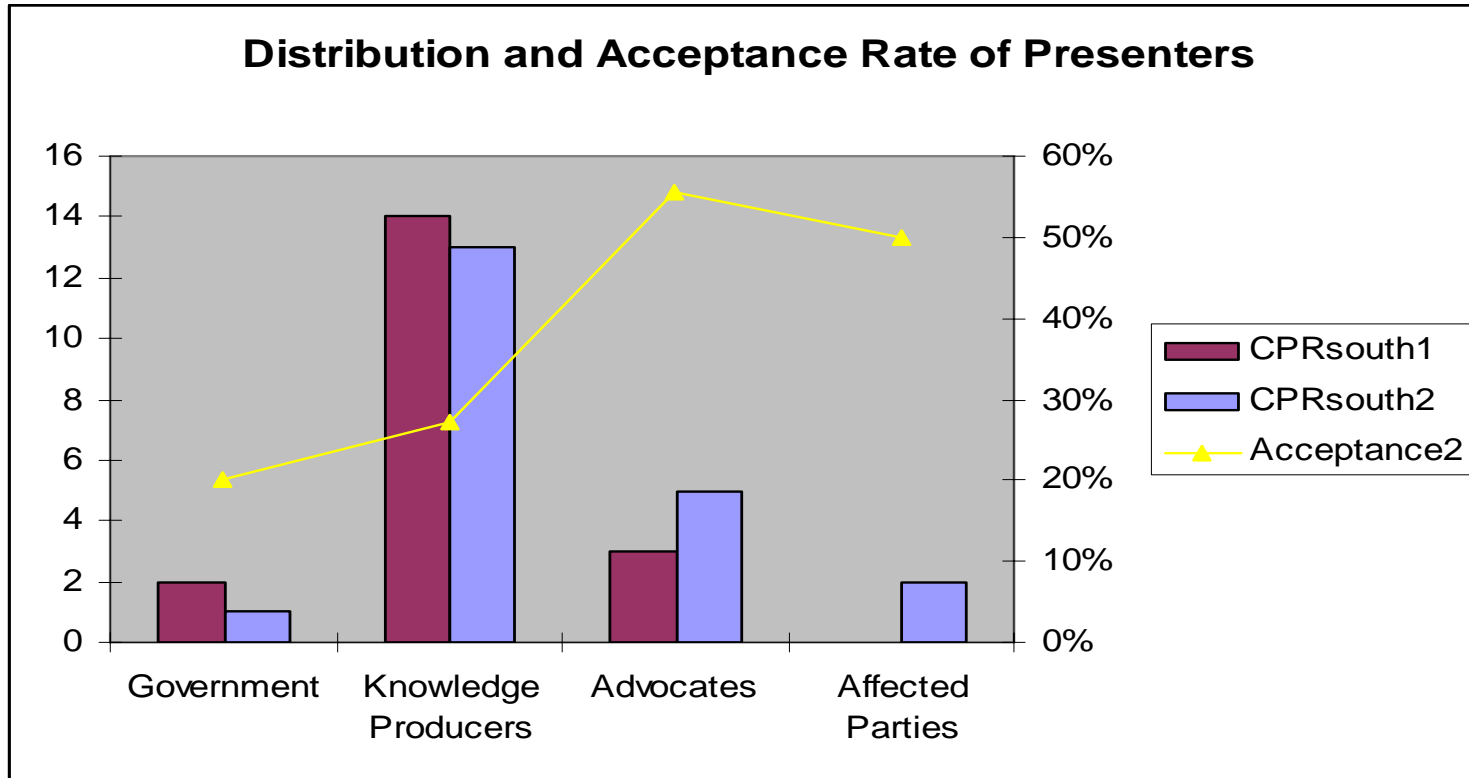
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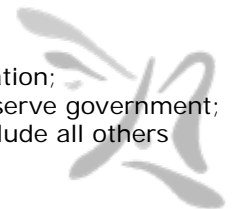
Multidisciplinary



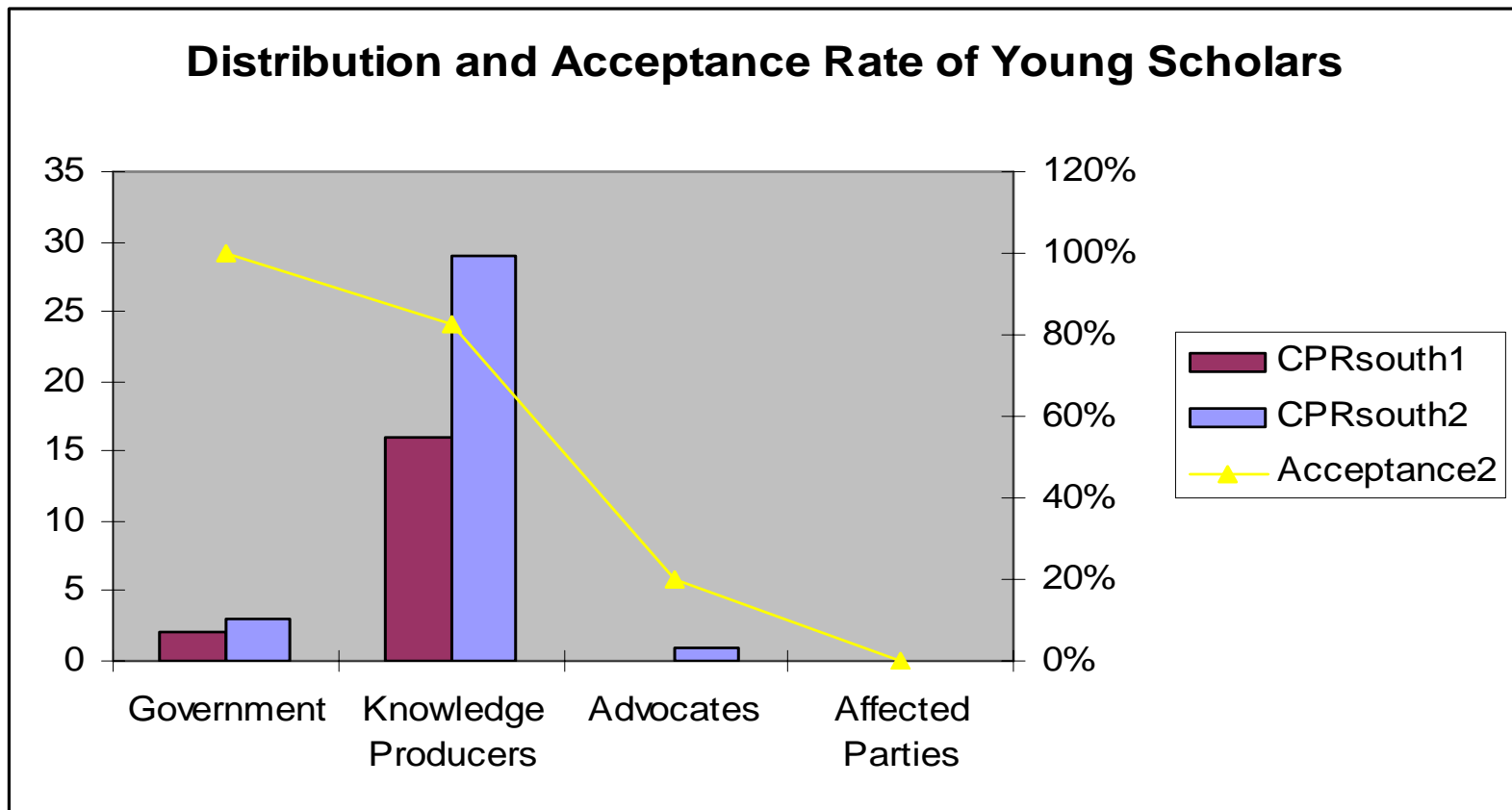
Largely academic



GOVERNMENT: government agency or government research institute such ICRIER with inside-track to policy formulation; KNOWLEDGE PRODUCERS: All those engaged in production of knowledge with no advocacy mission or obligation to serve government; largely the universities; ADVOCATES: Advocacy is in mission may also produce knowledge; AFFECTED PARTIES: include all others affected by a policy decision. In the case of ICT, the industry is the major affected party.



Future CPR*south* likely to be largely academic, unless . . .

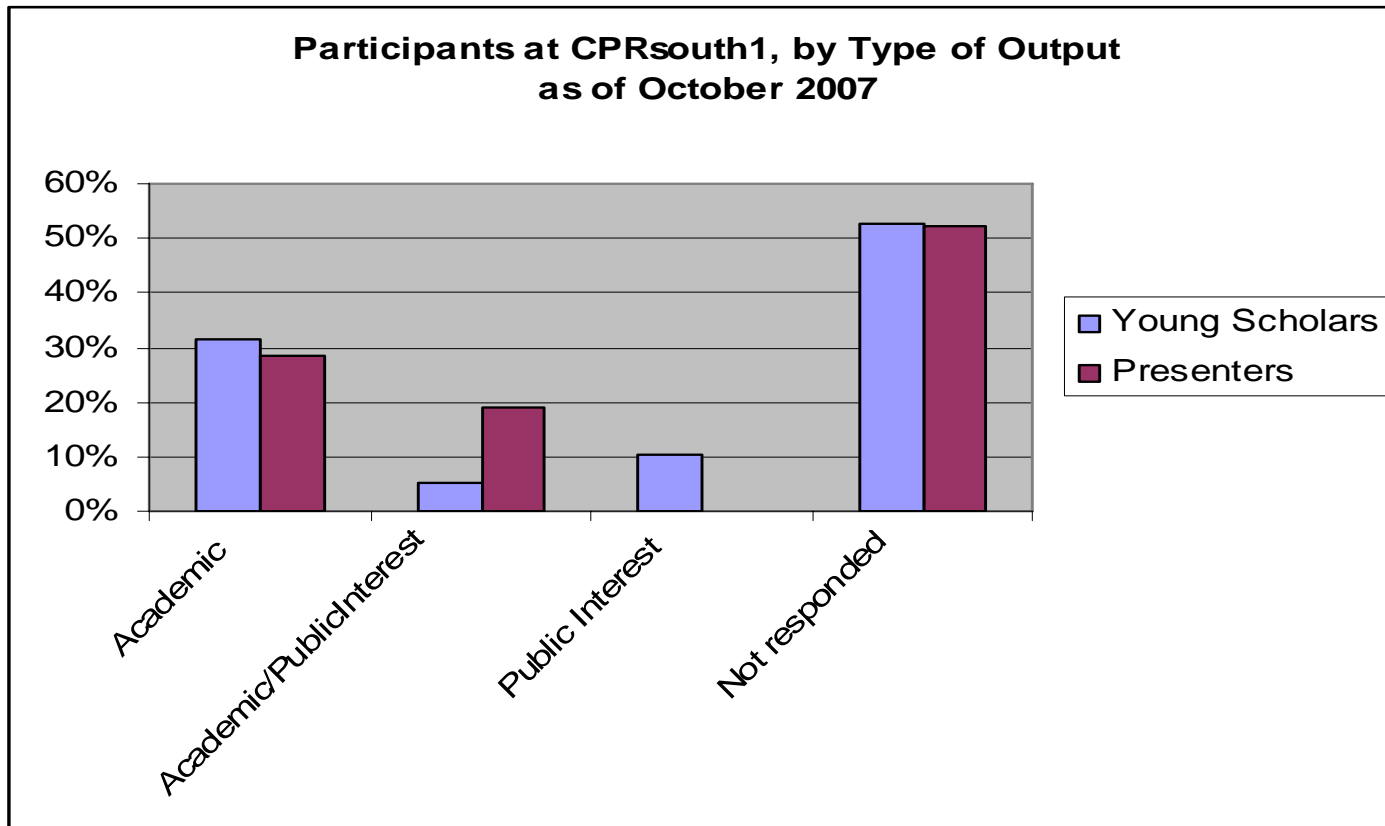


Community is growing, but . . .

- Eleven out of the 52 applicants to *CPRsouth1* also applied to *CPRsouth2* indicating that *CPRsouth* growing as a community
- Lots of repeats among *CPRsouth3* applications
- However, we do not know whether this commitment will continue if the full-cost support is discontinued or made less generous



Push poll on CPRsouth1 participants: 50% productive; outputs more academic / less public interest



CPRsouth1 & CPRsouth2 Young Scholars –3/18 from CPRsouth1 “graduated”

	CPRs1	CPRs2
Applied	102	42
Selected	18	33
Applied as presenters at a following CPR	3	-
Selected as presenters at a following CPR	3	-
CPRs1 Presenters with research outputs as of October 2007	-	
Academic outputs only	6	-
Public interest outputs only	1	-
Academic plus public-interest outputs	2	-
No response	9	-



CPRsouth1 & CPRsouth2 paper givers

	CPRs1	CPRs2
All applicants	52	66
Repeat applicants	-	11
Selected Applicants	19	21
Repeat applicants who were selected*	5	-
CPRs1 Presenters with research outputs as of October 2007		
Academic outputs only	5	-
Public interest outputs only	0	-
Academic plus public interest outputs	4	-
No outputs reported	10	-



Next . . .

- CPR*south* will
 - Continue to improve the quality and quantity of the policy-relevant scholarship it supports
 - Improve the support it gives its members, including through communication training and internships
 - Expand the pool of Mode 2 participants, and
 - Mobilize additional funding sources
- LIRNE*asia* will
 - Become even more of a learning organization
 - Expand and deepen its relationships with high-quality academic programs in the region that are interested in policy-relevant scholarship
 - Stabilize CPR*south* in the Asia Pacific and work with sister organizations to initiate regional chapters so that CPR*south* can truly live up to its name

