

Our mission

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

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CEO's message



The second year of a research cycle is usually about completing projects and dissemination. The year in review, 2011-12 had those qualities, but it was different because it saw the commencement of new projects as well. Senior Policy Fellow M. Aslam Hayat braved the isolation of the South Pacific and tribulations of island hopping to lay the foundation for the Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Center, based at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji and serving 14 countries in the Pacific region. This work is being done through a contract awarded on a competitive basis by the World Bank. Nuwan Waidyanatha also commenced work on two disaster early warning projects.

What yielded greatest satisfaction in the year ending 31 March 2012 was the traction we achieved on disseminating the findings from the agricultural supply chain. Agriculture was terra incognita in terms of knowledge of, and relationships with, decision makers and stakeholders. But in the end, we pulled it off. The Lanka Fruit and Vegetable Producers, Processors and Exporters Association organized a special event at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to discuss our Sri Lanka findings. We were able to build on relationships with key FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) personnel first established in the course of work on an IDRC and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) funded program and also at an innovation-focused event in Helsinki. The results included a speaking invitation that took Senior Research Manager Sriganesh Lokanathan to a Global South-South Development Expo in Rome in December 2011 and a regional meeting of senior agricultural officials convened by the FAO in Bangkok in April 2012. The above are simply a few examples of our dissemination efforts in the agricultural space. They are no different from what we are used to doing in the ICT policy and regulation space. But the joy was that much greater because we started from almost nothing in agriculture.

On 27 April 2011, the 2nd Annual LIRNEasia Disaster Risk Reduction Lecture was delivered by Dr. Aad Correlje of the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. The



Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Center, Fiji



Workshop on Mobile Technologies for Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development organized by the FAO and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) in Bangkok
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event allowed reflection on the twin floods that ravaged the North and East of the country in January 2011 and resulted in the breach of over 200 small dams. The event also commemorated the 25th anniversary of Sri Lanka's last major dam breach at Kantale. A 17 minute documentary made by Divakar Goswami in 2005 was screened. Representatives of government organizations with responsibility for dam safety participated in the discussion. The LIRNEasia CEO



LIRNEasia staff outing to Colombo North

was invited to Minneriya in the North Central Province by farmer organizations to discuss their concerns about reservoir management as a result of the event. LIRNEasia is grateful to the Netherlands Embassy in Sri Lanka for making it possible to invite a Dutch expert to deliver the Annual Lecture. LIRNEasia hopes to alternate between local and foreign speakers at its principal CSR activity.

In January 2012 we welcomed Roshanthi Lucas Gunaratne into the team. Roshanthi is a telecom engineer with an MBA from Cambridge. She worked at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Geneva for several years prior to joining LIRNEasia. She was not really a stranger to us, having worked as an intern in 2010. Don Rodney Junio and Tilan Wijesooriya joined as interns. Nirmali Sivapragasam, a researcher who was actively involved in research and publication at LIRNEasia since October 2007 left LIRNEasia in May 2011 to pursue a Master's degree in public policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National

University of Singapore. She was the third from LIRNEasia to receive a full scholarship from the LKY School.

The LIRNEasia family grew in 2011-12. Aslam Hayat and Nighat Hayat and their children Fatima and Taimoor welcomed the twins, Raihan and Burhan. Ayesha Zainudeen and Zafir Hashim and Yameena welcomed Zahra into their family and ours in September 2011. In 2011-12, we began to mark a different kind of life event when Dhanika, the son of Harsha and Deviyan de Silva, departed for Hamilton College in the US followed by classmate Thiluk, son of Prashanthi Weragoda and Thiwanka Jayakody, who commenced his studies at the Australian National University.

Rohan Samarajiva
Chief Executive Officer