Draft 2.3

Proposed schedule and content of ICT awareness program for Myanmar Parliamentarians, Yangon, 26-27 July 2014

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| **DAY 1** | **TOPIC** | **RESOURCE PERSON** |
| 0930-1030 | What is the significance of ICTs to legislators? | Rohan Samarajiva (RS) |
| 1030-1100 | Break |  |
| 1100-1200 | Stories from the field: What do poor people do with ICTs? | Helani Galpaya (HG) |
| 1200-1300 | Legislation, policies, plans, strategies, regulation | RS |
| 1200-1300 | Modalities of making and implementing ICT policy | RS and HG |
| 1300-1430 | Lunch | Videos |
| 1430-1530 | What is independent regulation? Why is it needed for sector growth | RS |
| 1530-1600 | Break |  |
| 1500-1700 | Panel discussion: How social media can be used in public life | Sunil Abraham (SA), RS & Charitha Herath (CH) |
| **DAY 2** |  |  |
| 0930-1030 | How to think about Internet policy | SA; counterpoint by CH |
| 1030-1100 | Break |  |
| 1100-1200 | Regulation of online speech | Nay Phone Latt (NPL) |
| 1200-1300 | Hope in the heart and money in the pocket: Results of effective policy | RS |
| 1300-1400 | Lunch | Videos |

We plan to have simultaneous interpretation. There will be time for discussion within each session.

## Brief descriptions of sessions

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| What is the significance of ICTs to legislators? | Rohan Samarajiva |

This is the introduction, wherein we bring out the economic, social and political significance of ICTs. Why legislators should pay attention to the subject.

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| Stories from the field: What do poor people do with ICTs? | Helani Galpaya |

Here we present the findings of how the poor use ICTs, using demand-side data (both quant and quality) from Myanmar and countries in similar circumstances.

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| Legislation, policies, plans, strategies, regulation | RS |

In this session, a former policy advisor/regulator will present a perspective on the important distinctions between legislation, policies, plans, strategies, and regulation.

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| Modalities of making and implementing ICT policy | RS and HG |

Here we will delve into the practical details of making policy and of implementing policy, using examples.

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| What is independent regulation? Why is it needed for sector growth | RS |

Progress in electronic connectivity is the foundation that will reduce the frictions in the Myanmar economy, create jobs and exports and enable social, political and economic innovations. This requires massive investments, most of which will be private and most of which will come from outside the country. What legislators need to know about creating an environment that will attract and retain foreign investment in a globalized economy will be discussed.

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| How social media can be used in public life | Sunil Abraham, RS and Charitha Herath |

In the panel discussion, SA will pose questions to a policy advisor who has used social media in a political campaign and a social media savvy current government official.

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| How to think about Internet policy | SA; counterpoint by CH |

A leading advocate of enlightened Internet policy, Sunil Abraham of the Center for Internet and Society in Bangalore, India, will present his ideas, highlighting the international dimension of Internet policy. CH will share his perspectives as a serving government official.

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| Regulation of online speech | Nay Phone Latt |

Here, Myanmar’s leading blogger and founder of MIDO will discuss the current concerns with legislation that seeks to control online speech.

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| Hope in the heart and money in the pocket: Results of effective policy | RS |

Results of effective policy implementation will be discussed with reference to specific country experiences.

## Resource persons

**Rohan Samarajiva, PhD, (program director)** is founding Chair of LIRNEasia, an ICT policy and regulation think tank active across emerging Asian and Pacific economies. He was Team Leader at the Sri Lanka Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology (2002-04) responsible for infrastructure reforms, including participation in the design of the USD 83 million e-Sri Lanka Initiative. He was Director General of Telecommunications in Sri Lanka (1998-99). In this capacity, he established the Telecom Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka; conducted the first public hearing and public notice proceedings; successfully concluded a license-violation proceeding; and laid the foundation for a competitive market. He was also a founder director of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (2003-05), Honorary Professor at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka (2003-04), Visiting Professor of Economics of Infrastructures at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (2000-03) and Associate Professor of Communication and Public Policy at the Ohio State University in the US (1987-2000). Dr. Samarajiva was also Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Post and Telecom in Bangladesh (2007-09).

**Sunil Abraham** is the Executive Director of Bangalore based research organization, the Centre for Internet and Society. He founded Mahiti in 1998, a company committed to creating high impact technology and communications solutions. Today, Mahiti employs more than 50 engineers. Sunil continues to serve on the board. Sunil was elected an Ashoka fellow in 1999 to 'explore the democratic potential of the Internet' and was also granted a Sarai FLOSS fellowship in 2003. Between June 2004 and June 2007, Sunil also managed the International Open Source Network, a project of United Nations Development Programme's Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme serving 42 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Helani Galpaya** is LIRNEasia’s Chief Executive Officer. Helani leads LIRNEasia’s 2012-2014 IDRC funded research on improving customer life cycle management practices in the delivery of electricity and e-government services using ICTs. She recently completed an assessment of how the poor in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka use telecenters to access government services. For UNCTAD and GTZ she authored a report on how government procurement practices can be used to promote a country’s ICT sector and for the World Bank/InfoDev Broadband Toolkit, a report on broadband strategies in Sri Lanka. She has been an invited speaker at various international forums on topics ranging from m-Government to ICT indicators to communicating research to policy makers. Prior to LIRNEasia, Helani worked at the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, implementing the World-Bank funded e-Sri Lanka initiative. Prior to her return to Sri Lanka, she worked in the United States at Booz & Co., Marengo Research, Citibank, and Merrill Lynch. Helani holds a Masters in Technology and Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor’s in Computer Science from Mount Holyoke College, USA.

**Charitha Herath** has served as Secretary, Ministry of Mass Media and Information in the Government of Sri Lanka since 2012. Prior to his present appointment, he was the Chairman of the Central Environment Authority. Currently on secondment for national services from his permanent academic position as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, he continues to work on his academic research, specializing in governments and politics in Asia, ethnic studies, cultural psychology, social and political philosophy, with his main focus on political psychology. More detail at <http://charithaherath.wordpress.com/about-2/>

**Nay Phone Latt** is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Myanmar ICT Development Organization (MIDO). He graduated from Yangon Technological University with a civil engineering degree in 2004. He co-founded the Myanmar Blogger Society in 2007. Award winner of PEN Barbara Goldsmith Award and RFS’s Cyber Dissidents Award. Former Political Prisoner. CEC Member of Myanmar Journalists Association(MJA) Chief Editor of ThanLwinAinMat Online Magazine (www.thanlwin.com). Member of Board of Directors of House of Media & Entertainment (HOME).