

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference on

### **Infrastructure Regulation : What works, Why, and How do we know?**

26 – 27 February 2009

The University of Hong Kong

Regulation of public infrastructure has been a hotly debated topic for more than a century. Yet we know little about what works and why despite tremendous advances in our understanding of the subject. No less significantly, how do we know what works and what does not. Understanding of these issues is critical for improving governance. The purpose of this conference is therefore largely practical.

The conference will address the following questions: Does regulation work? What kind of regulation works? What kinds don't work? Why do some forms of regulation work and not others? How do we know whether they work or not? How do we isolate the effects of different political, economic and legal contexts? Are there systematic differences among water, telecommunications, energy and transport infrastructure that necessitate particular regulatory design?

Infrastructure industries are often natural monopolies or oligopolies. They touch on the lives of all citizens and thus pose vital challenges in ensuring fairness in access and price, irrespective of public or private ownership. They have a long history of regulations and thus offer an excellent opportunity for seeking answers to vital questions.

The conference will bring together distinguished scholars and practitioner who are experts in the area to address essential issues in regulations through conceptual and empirical studies. The conference will be divided into a number of panels, each consisting of 3-4 papers.

Proposals including a short abstract (500 words), professional position, and contact email address must reach the organizers by 5 December 2008. Please send proposals to : [regulate@hku.hk](mailto:regulate@hku.hk). You should expect to hear from the organizers by 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please note that emails to this address will not be read until December 6<sup>th</sup>.

A limited number of travel grants covering the cost of travel, accommodation, and meals are available to participants on a competitive basis. All proposals will be automatically considered for the grant.

CONFERENCE CHAIRS: M Ramesh (HKU) and Rohan Samarajiva (LIRNasia)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Eduardo Araral (NUS), Daryl Jarvis (NUS), M Ramesh (HKU), Rohan Samarajiva (LIRNasia), and Wu Xun (NUS).

ORGANIZERS: Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong; Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore; LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka.

SPONSOR: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

# Conference on “Infrastructure Regulation : What Works, Why, and How do we know?” on 26 – 27 February 2009 at The University of Hong Kong

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

**1<sup>st</sup> Session: Conceptual Issues in Regulations & Governance** (Coordinator: M Ramesh)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Approaches to Evaluation of Regulations** (Coordinator: Rohan Samarajiva)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session: Telecommunications** (Coordinator: Rohan Samarajiva)

**4<sup>th</sup> Session: Electricity** (Coordinator: Wu Xun)

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Sessions: Water** (Coordinator: Eduardo Araral)

**7<sup>th</sup> Session: Transportation**( Coordinator: M Ramesh)

**8<sup>th</sup> Special Session: Regulatory Risks** (Coordinator: Darryl Jarvis)

What forms of regulatory risks do investors take? How do we assess and measure regulatory risk? What impact does regulatory risk have on investors in infrastructure projects? Are some institutional types disposed to generating greater risk? Does the institutional type vary across sector? How can regulatory risks be mitigated? What strategies exist to improve regulatory outcomes for private sector participants?

**9<sup>th</sup> Session: Practitioners’ Panel Discussion** (Coordinator: Rohan Samarajiva)

Three thoughtful regulators will be invited to offer insight based on their professional experience.

**10<sup>th</sup> Session: Conclusion and lesson-drawing** (Coordinator: Ramesh)

The Discussion will be led by Wu Xun, Rohan Samarajiva, M Ramesh, Darryl Jarvis, and Eduardo Araral.