

2007

A year in review

2008



LIRNEasia

www.lirneasia.net



An artist's expression of LIRNEasia's work in the Asian region





The meaning behind the painting

Bringing together historic and contemporary images from the Asian region, this painting by S.H. Sarath (www.shsarath.com) was unveiled at the LIRNEasia premises in January 2008 by International Advisory Board member, Professor Robin Mansell.

In this painting, S.H. Sarath, a renowned Sri Lankan artist, depicts communication in Asia. The painting features Jantar Mantar, Jai Singh's eccentric astronomical/astrological machine now stranded in the heart of New Delhi; dancers and judges; horses and elephants; airplanes; sheikhs; and even mobile phones at the ears of Kandyan dancers. And in the center of it all, is Hamsa, the vehicle of Brahma, teasing out the good from the masses of chaff.



Mission statement

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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1 Executive Director's message



1 Executive Director's message

Dissemination and advocacy dominated this year. With many of LIRNEasia's second-cycle research studies completed or nearing completion, we had the results to disseminate, and we did. It's not that we wait until everything is nice and neat before we take research out into the world, in line with our open-source research philosophy,¹ but it always helps when one has plenty of evidence to back up one's positions.

On 14 June 2007, LIRNEasia presented the findings of its Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE), Teleuse@BOP2 [Bottom of the Pyramid], and mobile benchmarks studies at a well attended workshop organized by the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) in Islamabad.

Pakistan is one of the most impressive turnaround stories in telecom reform. Its reforms since 2003 have been based on clearly stated and market-friendly policies, well executed. As a result, Pakistan today offers some of the lowest telecom prices in the world, along with extraordinarily rapid rollout; it has surpassed all South Asian countries except the Maldives in sector performance indicators. LIRNEasia's presentations in Islamabad, especially on the TRE findings, received significant media play. More importantly, the visit laid the foundation for cooperation with PTA on a regional indicators database.

Another of our successes in 2007-08 was convincing the Sri Lankan Government to refrain from imposing a regressive tax on mobile users. Using evidence from multiple strands of research, we pointed out through multiple media interventions, including in the evening news on a major television channel, the adverse effects of the proposed tax on mobile owner-users at the bottom of the pyramid. The result was a floor amendment moved by the then Minister of Posts and Telecom, Hon. Rauf Hakeem (M.P.), that stripped the tax proposal of its regressive element. Opposition spokesman, Hon. Kabir Hashim (M.P.), explicitly referred to the contribution made to the public debate by LIRNEasia. This intervention clearly laid to rest the myth that mobile was a luxury enjoyed by the rich.

We did not manage to convince the government that mobile-specific taxes were unfair



Figure 1: LIRNEasia researcher, Tahani Iqbal presents mobile benchmark study at Workshop on assessment of telecom regulatory environments, organized by the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) in Islamabad, 14 June 2007; at the head table (left-right): LIRNEasia Lead Economist, Harsha de Silva (Ph.D.), PTA Member (Technical), Muhammad Yaseen (Ph.D.) and PTA Director-General (Finance), Tariq Sultan

and counter-productive, so the victory was not complete. But we consider this intervention, which spanned the 5-6 days preceding the Parliamentary debate, a great achievement that exemplifies how we live up to our mission of ...*"improving 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."*

The launch of our first book, *ICT infrastructures in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks*, was another highpoint of the year. This edited volume, published by Sage Publications (New Delhi) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), pulled together the findings of LIRNEasia's 2004-06 research program. It has been too short a time to assess its success, but it has already received favorable reviews and generated some controversy, having been held up for several months by the Sri Lanka Customs, in an unexplained and arbitrary 'assessment' of its threat to national security. In response, the public was invited to read the relevant chapter, a unique study of teleuse in a conflict area during the ceasefire online at http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-118602-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html. During the first three months of online publication (January-

¹Samarajiva, R., & Gamage, S. (2007). Bridging the digital divide: Building Asia-Pacific capacity for effective reforms. *The Information Society*, 23 (2), 109-117

March 2008), the IDRC site recorded 3,882 unique visitors and 69,424 page views of the book, including all online chapters. The book has also been distributed on over 10,000 copies of IDRC's CD-Rom of 101 e-books to date. The book is now on sale in Sri Lanka and elsewhere, including Amazon and online booksellers.

LIRNEasia prides itself in its focused approach to dissemination and advocacy, based on a clear-eyed identification of the primary audiences of policymakers, regulators, senior managers of telecom companies and those likely to influence them, including the media. LIRNEasia strives to break away from the project mindset and be opportunistic in its policy interventions. We understand that windows of opportunity for intervention do not fit into specific funding cycles that we may be subject to. For example, the fact that the work on least-cost subsidies for extending networks to rural areas had been completed in a previous project cycle did not prevent us from intervening when the Sri Lanka government began to test the waters in 2007. The flexibility afforded by IDRC's approval of a rapid response program as part of its funding has made these kinds of interventions possible.

However lean and mean we try to be, LIRNEasia has had to grow. Several new researchers (Nilusha Kapugama, Nirmali

Sivapragasam, and Natasha Udu-gama) and two administrative staff (Sanchala Arangalage and G. Dharmasena Perera), were recruited, adding new strengths and capabilities to the organization. Sanchala, a final-year law student serves as part-time Operations Manager, taking over the proliferating administrative functions from the able hands of Director of Finance, Prashanthi Weragoda who will now put more of her energies into the financial side, while maintaining oversight over operations as well.

Interestingly, we also had two people return to us, one to LIRNEasia and the other to CONNECTasia FORUM Pte. Ltd., a research company owned by LIRNEasia's senior researchers. Chanuka Wattegama, who was a part-time researcher with LIRNEasia, left to join the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Center in 2005, but returned as Director of Organizational Development this year. Sriganesh Lokanathan, who moved to the US to fulfill some obligations in 2006, has now relocated to nearby Singapore, for studies at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS) while serving as a manager of CONNECTasia FORUM.

There were two departures during the year – Divakar Goswami and Lorraine Carlos Salazar (Ph.D.). Divakar, who arrived in Colombo from Pondicherry, India via the

United States and the Netherlands, was truly one of the stalwarts of the organization, doing everything from writing proposals to ensuring the Internet connections worked. Both Divakar and Lorraine were headhunted by Asian operations of two global consulting firms in May 2007 and January 2008, respectively.

LIRNEasia Research Fellow and Associate Professor of Law at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS, Pakistan), Joseph Wilson (Ph.D.) was appointed as a member of the Competition Commission of Pakistan. The Commission, established in October 2007, aims to provide a legal framework to create a business environment based on healthy competition towards improving economic efficiency, developing competitiveness and protecting consumers from anti-competitive practices.

It is intended that at least one person from LIRNEasia will be enrolled in a graduate program at any given time. This will mean that we will lose some productive people, but it will also mean that they will carry our name and values further afield and possibly come back to us like Sriganesh did. Even the poaching by consulting firms we take as a compliment. We want each of our members to advance their careers, but to all who leave, we extend the invitation to return.



Rohan Samarajiva
Executive Director

Beating back regressive mobile taxes in Sri Lanka

In September 2007, LIRNEasia played a significant role in the elimination of a regressive component of a proposed plan by the Sri Lankan government to increase the tax rate on mobile users. The plan was to levy a flat monthly tax of LKR 50 per SIM plus triple the mobile subscriber levy to 7.5 percent.

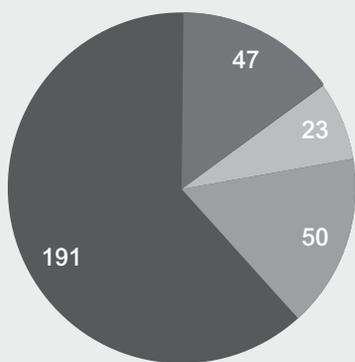
Highlighting the fact that the post and telecom sub-sectors contributes the largest share to Sri Lanka's national income (in fact, contributing 20 percent in 2006), LIRNEasia argued that the proposed tax would be counterproductive; and in addition, specifically targeting the mobile subsector was akin to harassing the 'goose that lays the golden eggs' while leaving alone the duck that lays ordinary eggs, i.e., the fixed sector.

Whilst conceding the need for taxes as a source of government revenue, LIRNEasia argued that the impact of the proposed tax would be greater on the lowest spenders, mostly at the bottom of the pyramid. Taking the average Hutch subscriber, who spends LKR 311 per month on mobile communication, LIRNEasia illustrated that the proposed

tax would increase the existing tax component of LKR 55 up to LKR 120, leaving LKR 191 for calls and SMSs.

Through multiple media interventions, LIRNEasia argued that 'People will not stop using mobiles because of these taxes; but they will call less. Most importantly, the new subscribers planning to join the ranks of levy- and VAT-paying subscribers will do so at a much slower pace. The government will get less tax revenues than it thinks it will. It may get a little more than it gets now in the short term; but if it was patient and allowed the sector to grow organically, it would have got more in the long run. Happy goose gives more eggs over time; stressed goose less.'

The outcome was a floor amendment moved by the then Minister of Posts and Telecom, Hon. Rauf Hakeem (M.P), which eliminated the regressive fixed tax though the levy percentage was increased to 10 percent, reducing the tax burden on all customers paying less than LKR 2,000 (or approxi-mately USD 20) per month.



■ VAT
■ Regressive tax
■ Mobile subscriber levy
■ What is left

Figure 2: Impact of proposed taxes on average Hutch customer (LKR)

2 Achievements of the year





2 Achievements of the year Dissemination

Being the second half of the *Measuring ICT sector and regulatory performance research cycle*, a considerable amount of LIRNEasia's energy was put into dissemination in 2007-08, in order to further the mission of catalyzing change through evidence-based intervention.

The successful policy intervention in Sri Lanka which led to the elimination of the worst component of a proposed tax on mobile users in Sri Lanka is a good example.² Whilst conceding the need for taxes as a source of government revenue, LIRNEasia used the findings of the Teleuse@BOP research to illustrate why the Sri Lankan government's proposed plan to levy a flat monthly tax of LKR 50 (approximately USD 0.5) per SIM card would disproportionately affect bottom of the pyramid (BOP) mobile users. The outcome was a floor amendment which eliminated the regressive fixed tax though the levy percentage was increased. The change reduced the tax burden on all customers paying less than LKR 2000 (or approximately USD 20) per month.

LIRNEasia's research was specifically referred to by Hon. Kabir Hashim (M.P.) in the Parliamentary debate on the proposed tax. This is a rare instance where policy change can be directly attributed to LIRNEasia. In 2006-07, LIRNEasia's research contributed to policy changes in Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka, but it was not that easy in those instances to establish causality.

The scrapping of India's Access Deficit Charge (ADC) from 1 April 2008 (announced on 27 March 2008) was in line with what LIRNEasia has been advocating since 2005, based on its research conducted in 2004-05. LIRNEasia was the only non-Indian entity to respond to a consultation paper issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in January 2008, continuing to argue for the removal of the ADC.³ Another area where consistent, evidence-based advocacy yielded results was India's policy change on infrastructure-sharing. Starting with the first rapid-response intervention in the form of a response to a consultation paper issued by

TRAI in late 2004, LIRNEasia kept engaged with the issue. The *One backbone or two?* chapter of the book, *ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks*, which was co-authored by Harsha Vardhana Singh (Ph.D.), then Secretary of TRAI, and Rohan Samarajiva (Ph.D.), was a key element of this engagement, with Dr. Singh making some key presentations based on that research in New Delhi. In 2007-08, the Indian Department of Telecommunications removed the prohibitions on infrastructure-sharing in two stages, first allowing passive sharing and then active sharing other than spectrum. The last change came shortly after recommendations from an Aspen India Roundtable were presented to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India in February 2008. Active infrastructure sharing was one of the key recommendations of the Roundtable, where Rohan Samarajiva participated.

Another significant achievement was the launch of LIRNEasia's first book, *ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and*

Figure 3: Extract from the Parliament of Sri Lanka's Hansard on mobile taxation issue on 6 September 2007 (Translation: We will be pleased if Hon. Minister removes the regressive tax of LKR 50 as pointed out by

මේ වාගේ බඳු පනත් නෙවුම්පත් හෙතෙන්න අද දැක්කාන කරනවා. LIRNEasia කියන පර්යේෂණ ආයතනයේ මහාචාර්ය රොහන් සමරජිව මහතා සහ දොස්තර හර්ෂ ද සිල්වා මහතා රුපියල් 50 ප්‍රතිපායන බද්දට විරුද්ධව වියේ, පෙරේදා කාමා කළා. එක්සත් ජාතික පක්ෂයේ මෙම තර්කය දිගට ම ගෙන ගියා. අද හවස් වන විට පරු ඇමතිතුමා රුපියල් 50 ඉවත් කරනවා නම් අප සතුටු වනවා. සියයට 10ක වැඩි කිරීමත්, ඒ තරම් ප්‍රමාණයක් දක්වා වැඩි නොකර අඩු කරන්නයි කියා අප ඉල්ලා සිටිනවා. මොකද, ඒකෙන් වදින්නේ සාමාන්‍ය මිනිසාටයි.

Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Dr. Harsha de Silva of LIRNEasia and UNP Members. We also request not to increase the mobile subscriber levy to 10%. This tax will have an adverse effect on the common man)

² <http://lirne.net/2007/09/lirneasia-on-policy-influence-and-dialogue/>

³ <http://www.lirneasia.net/2008/03/lirneasia-on-policy-influence-trai-completely-rem>

regulatory roadblocks, the culmination of almost two years of work. Co-published by Sage Publications (New Delhi) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the 13 chapter book looks at the problem of expanding ICT connectivity in emerging Asia, centrally engaging the widespread claim that technology by itself—independent of policy and regulatory reform—can improve access to ICTs. In doing so, it shows that while complex workarounds are possible, they are significantly less effective than the appropriate policy and regulatory reforms.

In June 2007 a workshop was organized by the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) for LIRNEasia to present its research findings on the Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) study, as well as the Teleuse@BOP2 and mobile benchmark research. The then Chairman of the PTA, Major General Malik stated that independent research from entities such as LIRNEasia and GSMA motivated the regulators to perform even better every time: The survey that has been conducted by LIRNEasia will give us insight on our performance reflected in different areas of tele-use in the country, the Chairman stated.

With the assistance of an additional dissemination grant from IDRC that allowed it to add Natasha Udu-gama, a disaster management professional, to the HazInfo

(Evaluating Last-mile Hazard Information Dissemination) team, LIRNEasia continued to disseminate the last-mile hazard information research widely, with a series of workshops on the findings of the project in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India and Indonesia.

Two sessions were organized by LIRNEasia at the Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) in Kuala Lumpur in December 2007, one a panel on last-mile hazard information dissemination, and the other an interactive quiz show on telecom use at the bottom of the pyramid.

LIRNEasia researchers participated in a number of conferences, including the 36th Telecom Policy Research Conference (TPRC) in Fairfax VA, USA, the 2nd Meeting of the International Governance Forum (IGF) in Rio de Janeiro, GSMA Mobile World Congress and the Mobile Asia Congress in Barcelona and Macau (respectively), the 1st International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2007) also in Macau, India Telecom 2007 in New Delhi, the Expert Group Meeting on the Provision of ICT Access for Disadvantaged Communities through Public-Private Partnership in Bangkok, the 2008 Pacific Telecom Conference in Honolulu, and the 2008 European Communication Policy Research (ECPR) Conference in Sevilla. At the ECPR conference, Rohan Samarajiva made an invited presentation on Asian

information-society policies and implementation.

Considerable media coverage was obtained in multiple countries through multiple media and many languages. Regular colloquia were held to discuss research plans and findings, among other topics.

Research

Over the 2007-08 period, three new areas of research yielded important findings and laid the foundation for future research and applications.

Research was conducted on information in agricultural markets, focusing on how ICTs can reduce transaction costs and improve traceability (AgInfo study). The potential benefits that ICTs can have in making agricultural markets gained much attention worldwide with rapidly rising food prices, shortages and food riots in some countries. The first component of the AgInfo study measured the transaction costs incurred by farmers in the catchment area of a major wholesale market in central Sri Lanka. It demonstrated that ICT and related applications can significantly reduce transaction costs especially at the point at which a farmer decided on what to grow and when he takes his harvest to market. This research provides an excellent foundation for LIRNEasia's participation in a large agricultural value-chain project for five districts in

the Eastern, North Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka. The research has also been consulted in the design of agricultural information services over the mobile by a leading telecom operator in Sri Lanka.

The second component of the AgInfo study looked at traceability in the gherkin supply chain in Sri Lanka and possible improvements using ICTs. It was found that 'bidirectional information flows' made possible by the mobile-phone-based solution that was implemented has the potential, combined with certain changes in incentives, to allow farmers to improve the quality of their product, and therefore their livelihoods. The research findings were presented at a well-attended meeting of stakeholders where it was stated that the findings would be incorporated into business processes in the gherkin industry.

The second new area of research was on Quality of Service Experience (QoSE) measures for broadband connections using the *AshokaTissa* methodology developed by a team at the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) in collaboration with LIRNEasia. LIRNEasia seeks to make easy-to-understand QoSE data available to users over the web, creating competitive pressure on broadband suppliers. The regulator need only ensure that consumers have choice among supplier (by removing

artificial barriers to market entry) and switching costs are kept to a minimum. The preliminary QoSE tests, conducted in India, Sri Lanka and Singapore, focused on the performance of business and residential packages in the ISP, local and international domains. Perhaps the most interesting result was that suppliers in both countries were delivering download speeds around 20 per cent of what they promised in the case of international websites. The preliminary results were released along with the methodology at a public seminar jointly organized with the Sri Lanka Institution of Engineers on 18 March 2008, where the Sri Lankan service providers were given an opportunity to respond. They stated that the *AshokaTissa* methodology was, in principle, acceptable. In the coming year LIRNEasia hopes to develop a software application for QoSE data collection and aggregation. Over time, the results will be made freely available on a public website in real time. With real-time QoSE being reported on public sites, the consumers will no longer be at the mercy of extravagant claims in advertisements but will instead see for themselves for the performance metrics of various broadband services on a real-time basis in specific locations.

The third new area, and perhaps the largest, is the *Linking knowledge to innovation* project, funded at the level of USD 425k over three years by the Innovation, Technol-

ogy and Society Program of IDRC. Sujata Gamage (Ph.D.) is the project director. In the first instance, innovative thinking on knowledge networks and communities of practice will be applied to solid waste management by local government entities in Sri Lanka. Interestingly, this project has its roots in the knowledge mapping work done by Sujata for CPR*south* and in the 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) Initiative that she started in March 2007 as a corporate social responsibility initiative with the support of funders including Hayleys Industrial Solutions.

Over the past year, several continuing research projects under the research cycle were wrapped up.

- The supply-side Indicators work under the Second Cycle of Research, which systematically measured post-liberalization ICT sector and regulatory performance across six countries in emerging Asia, including the conduct of the TRE assessments in six countries and the development of a manual for conducting TRE research. The project included the development of a regional initiative to develop definitions and procedures for the collection of standardized supply-side indicators, leading to an online database. Mobile and broadband benchmarks have been developed into bi-annual products which will be continued in the next research cycle.

- The demand-side second Teleuse at the Bottom of the Pyramid (Teleuse@BOP2) project, a five country study, continued with further analysis leading to several new papers.

- The HazInfo project, which involved live tests of different combinations of technology and training for last-mile hazard information dissemination in 32 tsunami-affected Sarvodaya villages in Sri Lanka, was concluded with a regional dissemination phase that saw workshops being organized in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India and Indonesia, as well as presentations being made at various fora. The workshops attracted senior decision makers in disaster risk reduction in the various countries.

Three Rapid Response interventions were made over the past year: the regressive mobile tax in Sri Lanka, the Indian ADC consultation, and a response to the proposed plans to roll out backbone by the government of Sri Lanka.⁴

Capacity building

The second Communication Policy Research: *south* (CPR*south*2) conference, themed *Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research* was successfully held in collaboration with the Rural Business and Technology Incubator (RTBI) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) in Chennai, India from 15-17 December 2007. Over 70 participants from

Scholars taking part in the conference as well as in the tutorial sessions held alongside.

CPR*south* sees the conference as a pure capacity-building and networking event, and does not seek to create policy impact at the conference itself. The idea is that the individuals who are motivated and trained to function as policy intellectuals in their home-country settings will do so, between the conferences. The mid-year survey conducted to find out what participants at CPR*south*1 in Manila had done in terms of policy and academic activity showed a surprisingly high level of activity between the first and second conferences.

Table 1: CPR*south*1 and CPR*south*2 Young Scholars

	CPR <i>south</i> 1	CPR <i>south</i> 2
Applicants		
Applied	102	42
Selected	18	33
Applied as presenters at a following CPR <i>south</i>	3	-
Selected as presenters at a following CPR <i>south</i>	3	-
CPR <i>south</i> 1 Young Scholars 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	-

⁴ <http://www.dailyirror.lk/2007/10/08/ft/17.asp>

Table 2: CPR*south1* and CPR*south2* paper presenters

	CPR <i>south1</i>	CPR <i>south2</i>
Applicants		
All applicants	52	66
Repeat applicants	-	11
Selected Applicants	19	21
Repeat applicants who were selected	5	-
CPR <i>south1</i> 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	-

The 12th Executive Course on Telecom Reform was to be held in March 2008, but was postponed to what was considered a more attractive timeslot adjacent to Commu-
nicAsia, a major ICT event regularly held in Singapore in June.

The 8th South Asia Forum on Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation was conducted by LIRNE*asia* in March-April 2007 in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The program offered participants the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of regulations pertaining to infrastructure industries and regulatory economics as well as topical issues attendant to those industries, to share their experiences, and to

develop practical solutions to regional problems. LIRNE*asia* was chosen as course partner for SAFIR through a competitive process, but unfortunately the bifurcation of responsibilities for the course and administrative support for SAFIR had not been well thought out. In light of the structural problems that were identified and low demand, LIRNE*asia* will not offer this course again.

Organizational development

The organization continued to grow with a total of eight new hires, increasing the diversity of, knowledge and expertise within it. Whilst making innovative use of technologies in all aspects of LIRNE*asia*'s work, the

establishment of common values among team members is encouraged and emphasized. Along with the revision of LIRNE*asia*'s mission statement in June 2007, a common set of values were agreed upon through extensive discussion. These included setting guidelines for quality of workmanship, transparency and overall responsibility for given tasks.

LIRNE*asia* researchers have been trained through internal seminars on essential topics ranging from telecom networks to policy-relevant writing skills to budgeting. As a part of their training, some of LIRNE*asia*'s researchers have also attended international conferences and workshops.

Three research meetings were held, one in May 2007 to further the Teleuse@BOP2 analysis, one in June 2007 to revise LIRNEasia's mission statement and outline LIRNEasia's values, and another in August 2007 to discuss LIRNEasia's research plan for the next research cycle. Each of these meetings involved LIRNEasia researchers not located in Sri Lanka.

Relationships are being built with universities (the National University of Singapore, Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), the Beijing University of Posts and Telecom and the University of Salzburg) and the private sector (Microsoft, Telenor, and GSMA). Good relations were maintained with sister organizations RIA! (Africa) and DIRSI (Latin America) through regular interactions via email, the participation by Helani Galpaya at a regional research workshop organized by RIA! In Uganda as well as the participation of RIA! and DIRSI researchers in the Teleuse@BOP quiz show at GK3 in December 2007.

LIRNEasia's website continued to grow apace, with over 1,100 posts and 4,500 comments by the end of March 2008. LIRNEasia was an early adopter of the blog format; www.lirneasia.net is an innovative platform that marries the dynamic and open elements of a blog with the static components that are needed to represent an organization and its activities. Fruitful

discussions have taken place over the past year which assisted LIRNEasia's work. The site attracts a large number of readers from many parts of the world, with over 590 page loads and 60 returning visitors on average per day, a 33 per cent increase from the previous year. It is highly ranked in most Google searches that use related keywords.

CONNECTasia FORUM Pte. Ltd. was established in 2006 in Singapore by LIRNEasia and handed over to its senior researchers and managers, with the intention that it would evolve into a vehicle that will grow synergistically with LIRNEasia

and create incentives for researchers to make long-term commitments to LIRNEasia and to assist it become sustainable. CONNECTasia FORUM has begun to establish itself, with a management team comprising three LIRNEasia's senior research staff and a part-time representative (also a former researcher of LIRNEasia) based in Singapore. Over the past year it has taken on consulting work, as well as the management of some of LIRNEasia's research and is the organizational partner for LIRNEasia's annual Executive Training course in Telecom Reform.

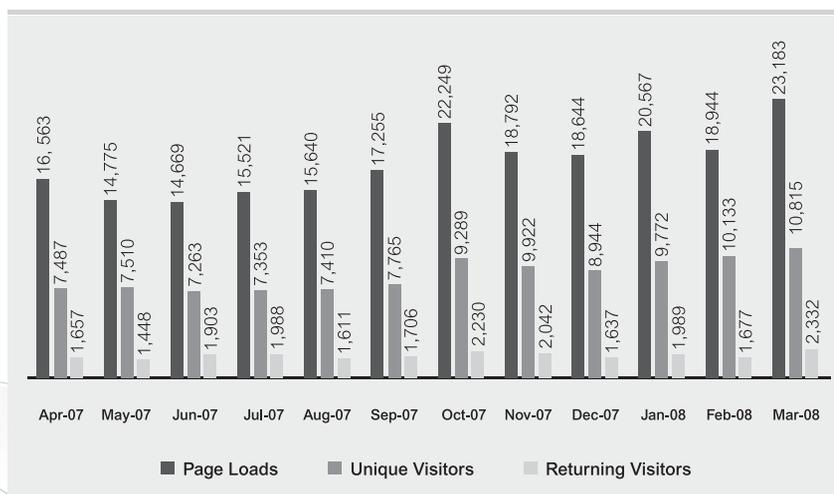


Figure 4: LIRNEasia website statistics (April 2007-March 2008)

Aspen Institute third annual Joint Roundtable on
Communications Policy participants



Rohan Samarajiva, LIRNEasia's Executive Director, was invited to participate in the third annual 'Joint Roundtable on Communications Policy: The Future of Indian Mobile' held in Kovalam, India, 7-11 February 2008. Co-hosted by Aspen Institute India and the Communications and Society section of the Aspen Institute USA, the event brought together industry executives, government officials, researchers and other policy-makers from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the USA. Among the participants were Nripendra Misra, Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), former FCC Chair Reed Hundt, and young entrepreneurs Venu Bose (Venu, Inc.) and Kamal Qadir (CellBazaar).

The objective of the meeting was to develop

policy proposals that would contribute to the development of low-cost and high-quality telecom infrastructure needed to facilitate seamless transactions of mobile commerce. The recommendations were immediately presented to the Indian government. Some of the recommendations were:

- Mandating the provision of cost-based, non-discriminatory backbone access
- Refarming the 700 MHz band and transparent reassignment of blocks within that band
- The removal of restrictions on active infrastructure sharing
- Allowing mobile virtual network operators

In May 2008, the Department of Telecommunications allowed active infrastructure sharing.



3 About LIRNEasia

What we do

How we work

Organizational culture

Board of Directors

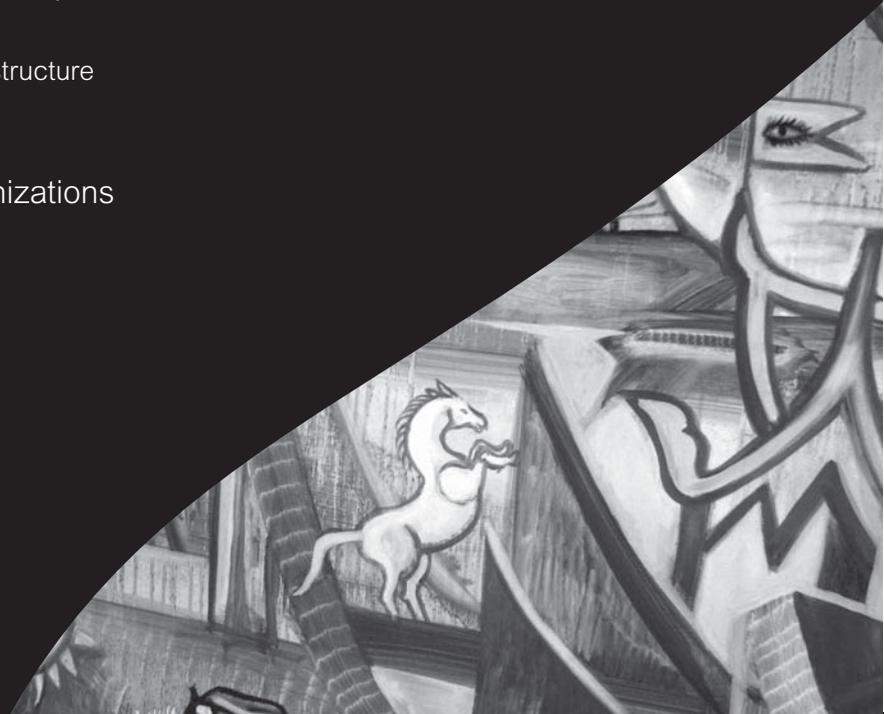
International Advisory Board

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3 About LIRNEasia What we do

The Asia-Pacific is one of the most dynamic regions of the world economy. Yet, South Asia, an important sub-region within the Asia-Pacific, is home to the world's largest concentration of poor people and includes many countries that rank very low in ICT sector performance. Throughout the region there are many countries that offer high-priced and low-quality ICT services to their people and have within them extremely weak or inept policy and regulatory systems. Basic reforms, such as allowing multiple suppliers to participate in markets that government-owned monopolists have manifestly failed to serve, have been done slowly and partially, if at all.

Throwing technology by itself, ICT or otherwise, at the problems in these markets is ineffective. Improvements in institutional structures, policymaking, and regulation are needed for technologies and new services to be useful and sustainable.⁵ LIRNEasia seeks to address these improvements through research, training and advocacy, focusing broadly on the emerging⁶ Asia-Pacific.

For the past three and a half years, LIRNEasia has engaged in a concerted and focused program to achieve its mission, bootstrapping itself into a credible player in the ICT policy and regulation space in the Asia-Pacific region, extending beyond its comfort zone of India and Sri Lanka to the

totality of the newly expanded membership of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) that now includes Afghanistan and three large and influential founding members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Within three and a half years it has extended its research coverage to eleven countries from five, with a much broader coverage being achieved in capacity-building actions. The set of countries that LIRNEasia works in includes some of the fastest growing telecom markets in the world, some of the most populous nations and the largest numbers of the unconnected.

The core mission of LIRNEasia can be restated in terms of advancing evidence-based policymaking and regulation in the ICT sector. Our work which includes short-term and opportunistic advocacy actions as well as long-term capacity-building actions that build on a foundation of timely and relevant research conducted across multiple countries intends to both improve sector and regulatory performance and create an exemplar of good governance for other sectors. Our research problematizes each of these terms and will in fact help advance understanding of each of them.

Among the essential infrastructure sectors, ICT infrastructure is the one where barriers to participation have been reduced the most. Partially as a result, it is also the

sector where improvements in performance are most visible, in terms of wider access, lower prices, improved quality and greater choice. The resulting improvements in many economic value chains in society and the effects, generally positive, on the polity and society of improvements in ICT performance justify weight being given to improving evidence-based policymaking and regulation and, thereby, further improving sector performance.

To this end, LIRNEasia undertakes and disseminating independent, actionable knowledge; documents and disseminates regional best (and worst) practices; provides training; engages in long-term capacity building; and provides advisory assistance to governments/parties who so request it. Primary audiences are government (including bilateral and multilateral development agencies), the private sector within and outside the Asia-Pacific and the media. LIRNEasia emphasizes Asia-Pacific expertise, but is not exclusive about it. We do case studies, but our policy is to abstract from the complexity to produce information that many can use.

Our immediate priority is building a team of Asia-Pacific ICT policy and regulatory professionals which can work on equal terms with the best in the world.

LIRNEasia is a member of, and is supported

⁵ For a comprehensive discussion see, Samarajiva, R., and Zainudeen, A. (Eds.). (2008). ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks. New Delhi and Ottawa : Sage and IDRC.

⁶ Defined pragmatically as countries with per-capita GDPs below Malaysia

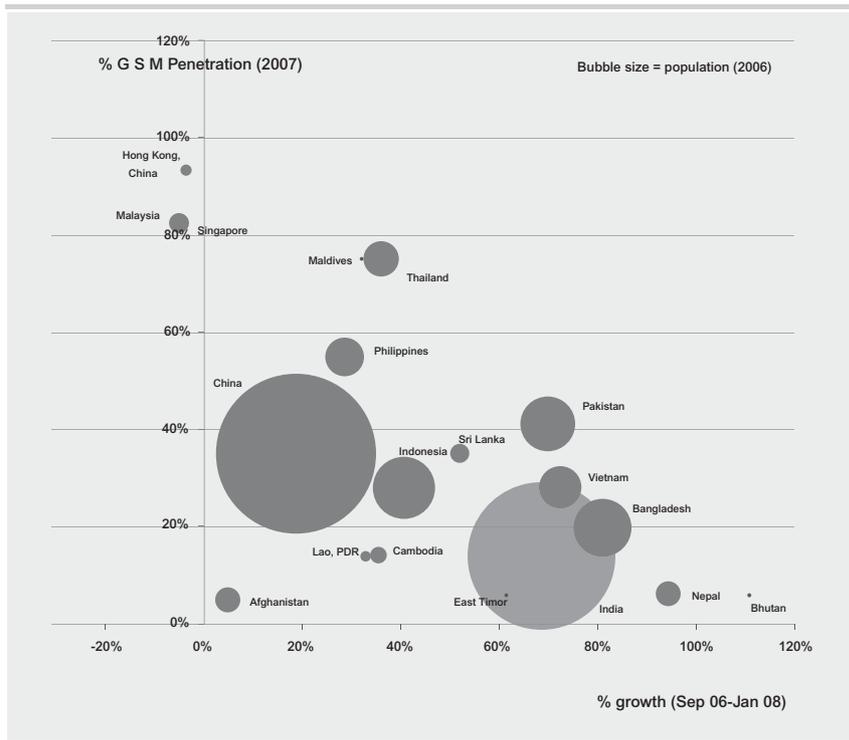


Figure 5: GSM penetration (2007), GSM growth (September 2006-January 2008) and population (2006) in Asia

by LIRNE.NET, a collaboration among leading universities in Denmark, the Netherlands, South Africa and the United Kingdom, LIRNEasia and DIRSI, a researcher's collective in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a member of the International Communication Association, the Global Knowledge Partnership and the Pacific Telecom Council.

Officially launched on 17 September 2004 during the World Dialogue on Regulation's Expert Forum in Sri Lanka, LIRNEasia is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated under Section 32 of the Companies Act of Sri Lanka, No. 7 of 2007.

How we work Organizational culture

LIRNEasia's organizational structure is a

hybrid of traditional and virtual organizational models. It maintains a physical presence in Colombo, with a small office. However much of the work happens virtually; researchers work from New Delhi, Singapore, Jakarta, Islamabad or Dhaka as if they were part of the same organization. This setup, a solution to LIRNEasia's geographically dispersed human resource pool, has provided the ideal environment to work in eight South Asian and three Southeast Asian countries so far, exploiting the local expertise.

Effective communication is the key to the functioning of any organization, virtual or not. For a virtual organization, ICTs are critical. However, using ICTs for its own sake of it is not LIRNEasia's policy.

Instead of relying excessively on sophisticated technology, LIRNEasia uses simple tools such as voice over Internet protocol (VOIP), e-mail and Internet. Skypecasts and conference calls are used for training courses, colloquia and discussions with remote researchers. The Measuring ICT sector and regulatory performance study conducted in six countries was one project that benefited from this arrangement most. Researchers in the six countries shared information and obtained feedback very effectively using relatively simple technology.

A popular myth is that virtual organizations cost more. On the contrary, incorporating aspects of a virtual organization has reduced LIRNEasia's IT budget significantly. It operates without an organizational Local Area Network (LAN), physical server (provision of server space is outsourced for a fraction of the cost) and with minimal communication equipment. Wireless connectivity is provided within the office using broadband links of three operators for redundancy. Each employee is equipped with a laptop and encouraged to use the mobile as the primary work phone. There

are no dedicated IT staff, telephone operators or receptionists. The website is managed by the researchers. Employees are given the choice to work from home if necessary. LIRNEasia has only three phone lines, one of which is used for fax. A corporate package allows free calls within the group and eliminates the need for a company PABX and a telephone network. These innovations have reduced infrastructure costs to a fraction of what they would have been for a similar sized traditional organization.

LIRNEasia's website is the heart of its operations. It is not just its window to the outside world but also its searchable repository of documents and relevant news items. It presents information on completed and on-going research. The blog format provides an interactive platform for stakeholders and others. We have actually identified research partners through comments on the blog. LIRNEasia's website now attracts an average 500 unique visitors a weekday.



LIRNEasia website

LIRNEasia's website is at the core of its operations. Its popularity, measured by the hit rate and ranking, has increased linearly from 2004 to 2008. By mid 2008, around 500 unique visitors visited the website on an average weekday, with 20 percent of them returning.

LIRNEasia's web visitors came from 160 countries, with every country LIRNEasia

works in falling into the top twenty. Many visits have come from the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and Malaysia possibly driven by the researcher interest. Twenty three percent of visitors spent more than three minutes per visit (7.5 percent spent over ten minutes).

The blog format and the no-censorship culture of the site encourages visitors to

comment on posts; the response rate has dramatically increased over time, with a few threads containing over 200 comments. Not all comments are useful, but some do provide valuable input to ongoing research, and even inspire new research projects. The broadband quality of service experience (QoSE) work originated from blog comments.

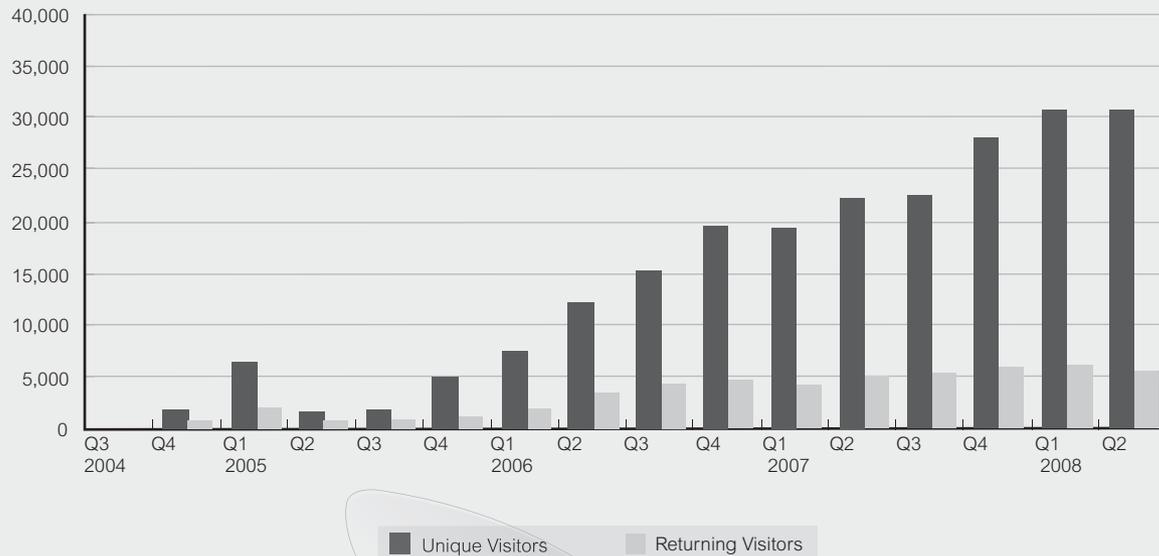


Figure 6: Number of total and returning visitors to www.lirneasia.net (September 2004-March 2008)

Board of Directors



Vinya Ariyaratne, M.D., M.P.H., (Comm. Med.),
M.D. (Comm. Med.)
Executive Director,
Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya

Rohan Samarajiva, Ph.D. (Chair)
Executive Director,
LIRNEasia



Luxman Siriwardena, M.A. (Econ)
Executive Director,
The Pathfinder Foundation;
Director, External Relations,
LIRNEasia

Milagros Rivera, Ph.D.
Chair,
Communications and New Media Programme,
National University of Singapore



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Managing Director,
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DIRSI and University of Southern California,
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RIA! and the edge institute, South Africa

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Science, UK



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Esda, Canada

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TERI, India



Sherille Ismail, J.D.
Federal Communications Commission, USA⁷

Visoot Phongsathorn
Thai-German Programme for Enterprise
Competitiveness, Thailand



Tim Kelly, Ph.D.
InfoDev, USA

Lai Kok Fung, Ph.D.
BuzzCity, Singapore



Funding

LIRNEasia's 2006-08 research cycle was funded by the International Development

Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, which supports many projects in developing

countries, and has supported hundreds of research projects in Asia.



Organizational structure

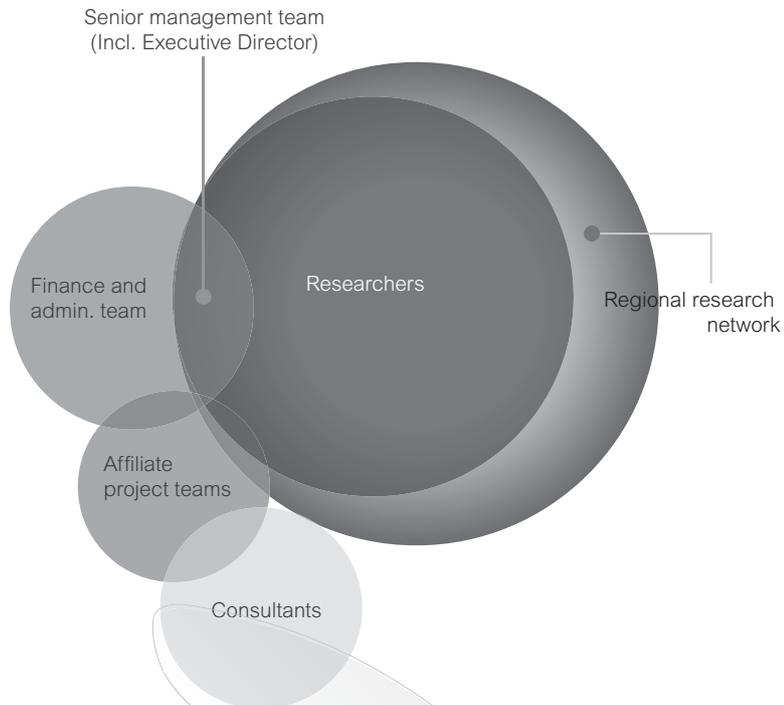


Figure 7: LIRNEasia organizational structure

People

Lara Alawattegama_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: Internet/
broadband access and benchmarking

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia;
previously Intern at UNDP and Outokumpu,
Australia.

Sanchala Arangalage_____

Field: Law

Areas of experience and expertise: Admin-
istration; Law

Highlights: Manager of Operations, LIRNEa-
sia; previously secretary, Public Utilities
Commission of Sri Lanka as well as Public
Interest Program Unit, Ministry for Economic
Reform, Science and Technology, Sri Lanka;
final year student, Sri Lanka Law College.

Lorraine Carlos Salazar, Ph.D.⁸_____

Field: Political Science; Public Policy;
Political Economy

Areas of experience and expertise:
Infrastructure policy, regulation and reform;
comparative political economy

Highlights: Former Senior Research Fellow,
LIRNEasia; former Visiting Research Fellow,
the Institute of South East Asian Studies
(ISEAS), Singapore; previously, Assistant
Professor of Political Science, University of
the Philippines.

Harsha de Silva, Ph.D._____

Field: Economics and Public Policy

Areas of experience and expertise:

Infrastructure policy and regulation; ICT for
rural livelihood; market and socioeconomic
research

Highlights: Lead Economist, LIRNEasia;
co-founder and former Joint Managing
Director, OMS (today Nielsen Lanka); former
chief economist and treasurer, DFCC Bank;
host of the popular weekly business and
economics television program in Sri Lanka.

Helani Galpaya_____

Field: Public Policy; Business Strategy

Areas of experience and expertise:
E-government; telecommunications policy,
regulation and reform; business analysis,
strategy development; financial analysis

Highlights: Director of Strategic Develop-
ment, LIRNEasia; former Senior Project
Specialist, ICT Agency of Sri Lanka;
previously held management positions at
several US firms, including Marengo
Research, Booz Allen Hamilton and
Citibank.

Sujata Gamage, Ph.D._____

Field: Public Policy; Capacity Building;
Knowledge Management

Areas of experience and expertise:
Research administration; Science resource
studies and Education.

Highlights: Director of Knowledge
Networks, LIRNEasia; Consultant, University
Grants commission of Sri Lanka; former
Director General, Technical and Vocational
Education Commission of Sri Lanka; former

Director, Science Resource Studies,
Quantum Research Corporation, USA;
former Strategic Planning Specialist, Ohio
State University, USA; Research administra-
tor, Ohio Board of regents, USA.

Tahani Iqbal_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: ICT
access and use; knowledge networks

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia and
Manager, CPRsouth; previously Assistant,
Economic Affairs Department, Secretariat
for Coordinating the Peace Process, Sri
Lanka.

Nilusha Kapugama_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise:
Research; teaching

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia;
previously taught Advanced Level Econom-
ics; former Intern, Institute of Policy Studies
Sri Lanka and Standard Chartered Bank, Sri
Lanka.

Abu Saeed Khan_____

Field: Journalism; Telecommunications

Areas of experience and expertise:
Infrastructure policy, regulation and reform

Highlights: Senior Policy Fellow, LIRNEasia;
former Technology Editor, bdnews24.com;
previously consultant, Advanced Data
Network Systems Ltd. (ADNSL), Bangla-
desh as well as Policy Reform and imple-

mentation Support Mechanism Project (PRISM) Bangladesh, a private-sector capacity-building project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Malathy Knight-John_____

Field: Economics; Public Policy

Areas of experience and expertise: Public enterprise reform and regulation

Highlights: Senior Research Fellow, LIRNEasia; Research Fellow and Head, Industry, Public Enterprise Reform and Regulatory Policy, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka.

Priyadarshani Liyanage_____

Field: Accounting and Finance

Areas of experience and expertise: Financial and management accounting; auditing

Highlights: Assistant Accountant, LIRNEasia; former Assistant Account, Shell Renewables Lanka Ltd.

Sriganesh Lokanathan_____

Field: Public Policy; Computer Science

Areas of experience and expertise: Telecom policy and regulation; ICT for development; enterprise software architectures

Highlights: Senior Researcher, LIRNEasia and Manager, Capacity Building Programme, CONNECTasia FORUM Pte. Ltd; previously worked in US and Sri Lanka software development sectors and on

various technology research projects at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Payal Malik_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: Technology, economy and society in the infrastructure sectors

Highlights: Senior Research Fellow, LIRNEasia; consultant, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India; Reader in Economics, Delhi University; 12 years policy research experience on market structure and regulatory design in infrastructure sectors.

Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara_____

Field: Public Policy; Communications

Areas of experience and expertise: Statistics; computer science

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia; leads statistical analysis of Teleuse@BOP; member of the team developing the Asian ICT Indicators Database Initiative.

Rohan Samarajiva, Ph.D._____

Field: Public Policy; Communications

Areas of experience and expertise: Infrastructure policy, regulation and reform

Highlights: Executive Director, LIRNEasia; former Director General of Telecommunications, Sri Lanka; former Team Leader at the Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology; founder director of ICT Agency

of Sri Lanka; former policy advisor to the Ministry of Posts and Telecom, Bangladesh.

Nirmali Sivapragasam_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: ICT access and use

Highlights: Junior Researcher, LIRNEasia; previously worked as field research officer at Nielsen Lanka and project intern at Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka.

Shamistra Soysa_____

Field: Experimental Psychology

Areas of experience and expertise: ICT for development

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia; previously Liaison Officer United Nations/Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Sri Lanka.

Natasha Udu-gama_____

Field: Disaster Management; International Development

Areas of experience and expertise: Community-based disaster risk management; appropriate technology for rural hazard information dissemination

Highlights: Dissemination Manager (HazInfo), LIRNEasia; Consultant, Sarvodaya Community Disaster Management Centre; previously Research Associate, Disaster Risk Reduction Program, Virginia Tech and Project Assistant, World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, Inc.

Nuwan Waidyanatha

Field: Operations Research

Areas of experience and expertise:
Software engineering

Highlights: Project Director, LIRNEasia; Director, Spot on Solutions, Sri Lanka; previously held business and IT analyst positions at several local and foreign organizations including Hayleys, Sri Lanka and APS Healthcare, USA.

Chanuka Wattedegama

Field: Engineering

Areas of experience and expertise: ICT for development

Highlights: Director of Organizational Development, LIRNEasia; previously held positions at UNDP, ICT Agency Sri Lanka and Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Prashanthi Weragoda

Field: Accounting and Finance

Areas of experience and expertise:
Financial and management accounting;
corporate finance

Highlights: Director of Finance and Operations, LIRNEasia; previously held management positions at leading foreign and local companies including Shell Renewables Lanka Limited and Airservices Australia.

Joseph Wilson, Ph.D.

Field: Law

Areas of experience and expertise: Air and space law; antitrust/competition law;

mergers and acquisitions; international trade; public utilities and telecommunications regulation

Highlights: Member, Competition Commission of Pakistan; former Senior Research Fellow, LIRNEasia; Associate Professor of Law, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan; member of the New York and Lahore High Court Bar Associations.

Ayesha Zainudeen

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: ICT access and use

Highlights: Senior Researcher, LIRNEasia; manager of Teleuse@BOP studies; previously held research assistant positions at Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology of Sri Lanka and A.C.S Hameed Peace Foundation, Sri Lanka.

LIRNEasia Senior Researcher enters Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy



Sriganesh Lokanathan commenced his graduate studies in Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) in July 2006 on a full scholarship.

Sriganesh has a Bachelors degree in Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and considerable work experience, including work with Harsha de Silva (Ph.D.) on his Govi Gnana Seva (agricultural information service) project. He is currently working with regulators on LIRNEasia's ICT Indicators Database Initiative that seeks to ensure the systematic collection and dissemination of standardized ICT indicators in the Asian region, as well as on the research.

Sriganesh joined LIRNEasia as a Senior Researcher in 2005, and continued to contribute to the research on indicators and benchmarking even after moving to the US in early 2006. Since his relocation to Singapore, he serves as a link between LIRNEasia and NUS.

Partner organizations

LIRNEasia has established working partnerships with several organizations over the past year.

Organization	Project
Nielsen Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd	Teleuse@BOP2
Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka	Measuring ICT sector performance
Farmer Associations in Dambulla Area, Sri Lanka	AgInfo
HJS Condiments Ltd., Sri Lanka	AgInfo
Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka	AgInfo
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)	HazInfo
Bangladesh Network Office for Urban Safety (BNUS), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)	HazInfo
Indonesian Institute for Disaster Preparedness (IIDP)	HazInfo
Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (MDMHR), Sri Lanka	HazInfo
Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Sarvodaya), Sri Lanka	HazInfo
Burns Waste Management PLC, Sri Lanka	Linking knowledge to innovation in government services
Gampaha Municipal Council, Sri Lanka	Linking knowledge to innovation in government services
Hayleys Industrial Solutions Ltd., Sri Lanka	Linking knowledge to innovation in government services
Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association	Linking knowledge to innovation in government services
CPRsouth	Capacity building
Rural Business and Technology Incubator (RTBI), Indian Institute of Technology (Madras)	Capacity building
Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA)	Advocacy and dissemination
Telecom Authority of Maldives (TAM)	Advocacy and dissemination

4 Review of activities

Research

Teleuse at the bottom of the pyramid: 2

Measuring ICT sector performance

Measuring ICT regulatory performance

ICTs, transaction costs and traceability in agricultural markets

Evaluating last-mile hazard information dissemination

Linking knowledge to innovation in government services

Capacity building

CPR*south*

SAFIR training course

Researcher training

Internships

Teaching

Advocacy and dissemination

Rapid response

Book: Infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks

Teleuse@BOP2

Measuring ICT sector performance

Measuring ICT regulatory performance

AgInfo

HazInfo

Capacity Building

General





4 Review of Activities Research

Teleuse at the bottom of the pyramid: 2 (Teleuse@BOP2)

New growth markets in telecom, particularly in mobile, are concentrated amongst the poor, or at the bottom of the pyramid (BOP). Emerging markets have accounted for most of the new connections today. It is necessary to understand the use of telecom services, and more broadly ICTs by the BOP in these markets to see how best they can be served by industry, but also by improved policy and regulation.

The objective of this study was to provide understanding of how the BOP of five emerging Asian countries makes use of and benefits from access to telecom services. Teleuse@BOP2 is the second of LIRNEasia's demand-side surveys on telecom use at the BOP, consisting of a 6,269-sample survey, representative of teleusers at the BOP in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Thailand. Additionally, an innovative 'diary' method was used to record phone usage over a period of two weeks. Smaller samples of

higher socio-economic groups were also surveyed. Field-work was conducted in July and August 2006 by AC Nielsen affiliates in the respective countries.

Over the past year, the findings of the study have been disseminated widely through presentations at many international fora to a variety of audiences: industry (global and regional), government, media as well as civil society. The findings have also been disseminated through a short video documentary on the study and its key findings, developed by TVE Asia Pacific for LIRNEasia. LIRNEasia also organized two quiz show sessions at the Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) in December 2007; the quiz was an effective means of communicating the findings as well as stimulating interesting discussion.

Key findings

The findings showed that there was extensive use of telephones (mobile, fixed and public) by people at the BOP, even among

those who don't own their own phones. Responses indicated a potential for 140 million new connections at the BOP by mid-2008. Many of these planned connections will be mobile, and are likely to be prepaid. This growing ownership base, together with familiarity with mobile technology, SMS (texting) and electronic reload systems on prepaid connections have primed the BOP for take-up of 'more-than-voice' services such as payments, voting, information access etc. Mobiles are now (and will increasingly become) payment devices that can also send/process/receive voice, text, images; in the next few years they will also be capable of information-retrieval and publishing functions normally associated with the Internet. Because of the low levels of internet use (in its traditional form) at the BOP indicated by the research, a large share of the BOP may have their first experience with the Internet via a mobile phone, provided policy and regulation does not get in the way.

Key data

Primary access mode (% of BOP)	India	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand
Mobile phone	9	21	56	17	73
Fixed phone (household)	9	14	4	21	8
Public phone	71	35	8	30	7
Other people's phone (neighbor, relative, etc)	12	30	32	32	12

Ownership (% of BOP)	India	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand
Mobile	4.2	7.2	35.1	6.2	35.8
Fixed phone (household)	4.7	6.9	1.0	10.2	4.1
Both	0.1	2.3	3.4	2.5	5.4
Monthly average usage (number of calls)					
Outgoing	17	14	5	10	34
Incoming	18	20	10	13	47
Mobile phone use (% of mobile users)					
Prepaid	95	99	99	92	96
Postpaid	4	1	1	8	4
SMS use	35	50	100	60	30
Missed call use	36	39	65	34	40
Mobile expenditure (USD)					
Average price paid for handset	62.56	65.44	77.61	83.38	123.37
Last prepaid top-up	6.65	2.42	0.93	1.79	4.34
Internet usage and awareness (%of BOP)					
Usage	0.3	1.9	8.8	1.5	10.4
Awareness	28	64	86	71	64
New connections					
Potential new connections by mid-2008 (millions)	100	30	10	1	1
% of potential-owners that plan to get mobile phones	67	68	91	40	78

Telecenters, mobile phones and e-Government

A paper co-authored by Helani Galpaya, Rohan Samarajiva and Shamistra Soysa of LIRNEasia titled *Taking e-Gov to the Bottom of the Pyramid: Dial-a-Gov?* won one of the three Best Paper Awards given at the *International Conference on the Theory and Practice of e-Governance* (ICEGOV), held in Macao, SAR in December 2007.

The themes explored in this paper- the sustainability of telecenters and their potential as means of as a delivering government services to the BOP- have been of interest to LIRNEasia for some time. Increasing use of mobile phones by the BOP, as shown by LIRNEasia research, prompted us to warn telecenter operators in Sri Lanka in early 2007 of the likelihood of difficulties in generating revenue

at telecenters, and advise them of the need to review service-delivery models.

The sustainability of telecenters was brought into broader discussion after blogs picked up on an October 2007 talk given by Helani Galpaya, LIRNEasia's Director of Strategic Development at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California, titled, *Mobile Killed the Telecenter Star?*

In August 2007, LIRNEasia's Executive Director, Rohan Samarajiva, also made a presentation on the implications of mobile use at the BOP and the possible business models using mobile payments, to the Telecenter National Alliance at a meeting convened by Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka's largest NGO.

Measuring ICT sector performance

Accurate, comparable and timely data are essential not only for evidence-based policy making and regulation, but also for evidence-based intervention in policy and regulatory processes, a key part of LIRNEasia's mission. The objective of this study was to map the telecom sector reform trajectory of the six countries and to understand the relationship between specific policy and regulatory actions and sector performance. Conducted in India, Indone-

sia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand the study sought to develop a sustainable data collection mechanism built on partnerships between regulatory agencies in the region.

Over 73 sector-specific indicators have been collected and stored on a web-accessible database, which offers authorized users the ability to enter data for specific ICT indicators and view available comparative regional data for the same indicators. A manual was also developed

with definitions and methodologies relevant for developing Asia. Related workshops were convened with the assistance of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Institute for South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) of Singapore.

Additionally, using price data collected from service providers across the South Asian region, benchmark indicators for mobile and broadband prices were developed and publicized. In recognition of the need for accurate and relevant comparisons of mobile and broadband prices, the benchmark indicators are based on OCED user baskets, tailored for emerging Asian markets (for example the mobile user baskets are calculated separately for post and prepaid users and are based on regionally specific usage patterns); the benchmarks provide a comprehensive indicator of the costs of use, excluding only handset costs. The benchmark data is published every six months and disseminated through the media as well as among service providers and regulators. Similar mobile benchmarks for Latin America have been developed and published by DIRSI, a sister organization of LIRNEasia, using an adaptation of the OECD basket methodology in USD and in purchasing power parity (PPP)⁹ USD, as is the case with LIRNEasia. The commonalities of the methodologies derive from the 2006 New Delhi research planning meeting to which both DIRSI and RIA! were invited.

As part of broader collaboration between LIRNEasia the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), the AshokaTissa methodology to measure broadband quality of service experience (QoSE) was developed. The methodology was tested in December 2007 and January 2008 in Chennai and Colombo, focusing on the performance of business and residential packages in the ISP, local and international domains, taking into account throughput, latency, jitter and packet loss. Service providers and other

experts were invited to replicate the tests and respond at a public seminar in February 2008. In the next phase, LIRNEasia hopes to develop a software application to automate the QoSE data collection, aggregate data from a large sample of users spread across various countries and to display the results on a public website in user-friendly form.

Key findings

The Mobile Benchmarks indicated that as at

March 2008, the average monthly cost of using mobile telecom services in South Asia was lowest in Bangladesh, followed by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. These findings were broadly corroborated by a study by Nokia, a world leader in mobile handset manufacture, which calculated the 'total cost of ownership' (TCO) within a group of 80 emerging markets, these four countries were found to be among those with the lowest TCO, in fact among the only five countries with TCOs less than USD 5.¹⁰

Key data

Mobile Benchmarks, March 2008

	Afghanistan	Nepal	Bangladesh	Pakistan	India	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Maldives
Prepaid (USD)								
Low user	8.33	5.25	2.46	3.34	3.72	5.46	3.83	5.48
Medium user	20.68	12.94	5.86	8.12	8.93	14.02	9.41	13.67
High user	43.34	27.22	12.31	16.92	18.32	31.06	20.46	30.19
Prepaid (PPP)								
Low user	32.93	21.55	11.66	10.57	15.04	17.25	13.39	17.05
Medium user	81.77	53.12	27.79	25.69	36.08	44.27	32.95	42.55
High user	171.40	111.74	58.37	53.55	74.02	98.09	71.62	93.95
Postpaid (USD)								
Low user	NA	14.06	7.14	10.50	9.77	22.18	10.86	24.86
Medium user	NA	34.94	14.67	26.84	24.10	49.90	25.65	51.11
High user	NA	74.40	29.29	57.88	50.51	105.45	55.34	104.28
Postpaid (PPP)								
Low user	NA	57.70	33.83	33.23	39.46	70.04	37.99	77.36
Medium user	NA	143.42	69.53	84.95	97.39	157.58	89.78	159.06
High user	NA	305.40	138.87	183.20	204.09	333.04	193.69	324.54

NA - service not offered



AshokaTissa methodology

Ensuring quality of service experience (QoSE) is perhaps the biggest challenge posed by increasing broadband use. Advertised figures by telecom operators rarely match performance. Subscribers are frequently at the mercy of operators in the 'sellers' markets' of Asia.

LIRNEasia and the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) developed a new

methodology to test broadband QoSE, the *AshokaTissa methodology*. Six metrics of relevance to different applications were tested. Download speed (throughput), the most advertised metric, is crucial mainly for media browsing, downloading large files and streaming media. Upload speed is of great importance to a minority of users. Round Trip Time, Jitter and Packet Loss affect VOIP and games.

The methodology was used between December 2007 and January 2008 to benchmark the metrics of a few widely used broadband packages in Sri Lanka, India and Singapore. Performance of different network segments was checked during peak and off peak periods as well as weekdays and weekends.

Measuring ICT regulatory performance

Another aspect comprised an assessment of the Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE), a survey of informed stakeholders across six dimensions. The dimensions were market entry, allocation of scarce resources, interconnection, regulation of anti-competitive practices, universal service obligation and tariff regulation. Over 300 informed stakeholders, ranging from operators to private investment houses, to research institutions to media, were interviewed across the six countries.

Key findings

Research findings indicated that wherever competition existed in the six countries, growth was significant. It did not matter how effective competition came into being, but once it was in place it stimulated network roll-out. The fixed sectors of the six countries clearly demonstrated this, with significantly slower growth due to lack of competition compared to their respective mobile sectors, with their larger numbers of players in the latter.

Overall, the TRE for mobile was higher than for the fixed sector. Pakistan, followed

closely by the Philippines, had the highest TRE score for the mobile sector which could possibly be attributed to the significant number of new operators being introduced in the market due to regulatory reform. For the fixed sector, the Philippines had the highest score. The findings also indicated that universal service programs, where they do exist, are poorly managed and are probably not yielding the expected network extension results. The findings also seemed to indicate that a better TRE, resulting from credible and effective regulation, contributed to better performance of the sector.



Key data

Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE)	India	Indonesia	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka
Fixed overall	15.9	14.7	15.8	17.2	15.1
Market entry	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.7
Allocation of scarce resources	2.6	2.5	3.1	3.3	2.5
Interconnection	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.9	2.3
Regulation of anti-competitive practices	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.4
Universal service obligation	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.5
Tariff regulation	3.7	2.5	2.7	2.9	2.7
Mobile overall	16.5	16.4	17.9	17.7	16.4
Market entry	3.3	3.0	4.0	3.7	3.1
Allocation of scarce resources	2.2	2.6	3.6	3.5	2.8
Interconnection	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.4
Regulation of anti-competitive practices	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.6
Universal service obligation	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6
Tariff regulation	3.5	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.9

ICTs, transaction costs and traceability in agricultural markets (AgInfo)

The potential of ICTs to improve efficiency and productivity in agriculture is said to be large; yet evidence to support this claim is scarce. This study sought to investigate the possible contributions ICTs can make in improving agricultural markets. Two separate studies, one focusing on reduced transaction costs and the other on improved traceability, were conducted.

Transaction costs and ICTs in agricultural markets

This component attempted to map the transaction costs incurred by farmers, particularly focusing on information asymmetries. Over 300 small-holder farmers who sell vegetables at Sri Lanka's largest wholesale agriculture market, the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre (DDEC) were surveyed, to quantify costs incurred at different stages in the agricultural value chain. Vegetables are an important cash crop for farmers and unlike with rice, they can change crop from season to season. Farmers growing the four most heavily traded crops at the DDEC (A, B, C and D) were surveyed. In addition, two focus-group discussions were also conducted.

Key findings

Transaction costs can account for up to 15

percent of a vegetable farmer's costs. Of this, 70 percent is the cost of finding information, such as the cost of multiple trips to find out about the availability of fertilizer or seed or to find out market conditions. These costs do not appear to vary with the size of the land under cultivation, and as a result, place a greater burden on smaller farmers. While transaction costs will never be zero, they can be significantly reduced. If, for example, a farmer were to replace half of those trips with phone calls, the search cost could be reduced by 33 percent. If other methods such as SMS were used, the search cost could be further reduced. By using ICTs, the farmer can therefore reduce his transaction costs and thereby his overall cost of production.

Traceability and ICTs in agricultural markets

Traceability is becoming more important in international agricultural trade, due to growing food safety concerns among consumers. This study looked at how ICTs could improve agricultural product traceability, or the ability to track back a product from table to farm. HJS Condiments, a private sector exporter of gherkins to the EU and Japan, partnered on the project. The study researched HJS Condiments' supply chain including intermediaries and out-growers.

A total of 18 gherkin farmers were given

local-language-capable mobile phones equipped with simple, menu-driven software which enabled the bidirectional exchange of information among all three parties: the farmer, the manager of the regional gherkin collection center (the intermediary between the farmer and the exporter) and HJS Condiments. The farmer entered information (e.g. type and quantity of seed and fertilizer used) using the menu-driven application on the phone. The Center Managers and the exporter used a computer to input information. Information from the Center Managers and the exporter flowed back to the farmer via SMS. These SMSs contained information on quality problems that were found in each day's harvest and information on the quantity rejected.

Key findings:

The previous manual paper-based system allowed traceability only back to the regional (collection center) level. The introduction of ICTs (phones and computers) made it possible to trace a crate of gherkins back to each individual plot and farmer, thereby increasing traceability throughout the supply chain. The study showed that traceability could be improved and that the bidirectional flow of information could help farmers increase their income, with appropriate changes in incentives. The immediate feedback through the SMSes sent by the intermediaries and the exporter gave

farmers previously unavailable information on the quality of his produce. The nature of gherkins is such that farmers are able to correct many of these quality problems within a day – for example, by using a particular pesticide which will eliminate pest

problems, or controlling the amount of water to eliminate curving of the gherkin. The quality improves within a few days, reducing the quantity of gherkins that have to be rejected by the exporter. Immediate access to information enables the center to take

better decisions. For example, if a particular pest problem is observed in more than one plot, they can take immediate remedial action in all the plots.

Key data

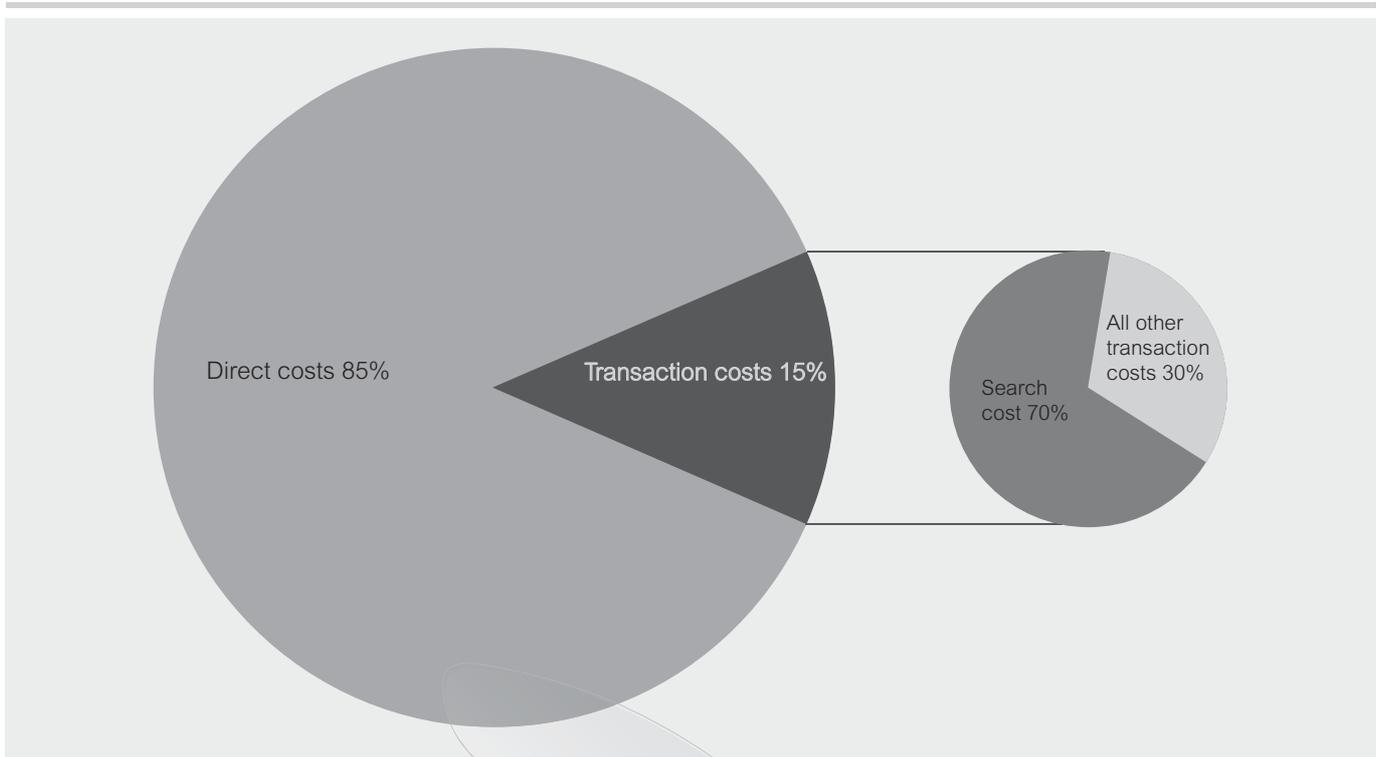


Figure 8: Transaction costs and ICTs in agricultural markets

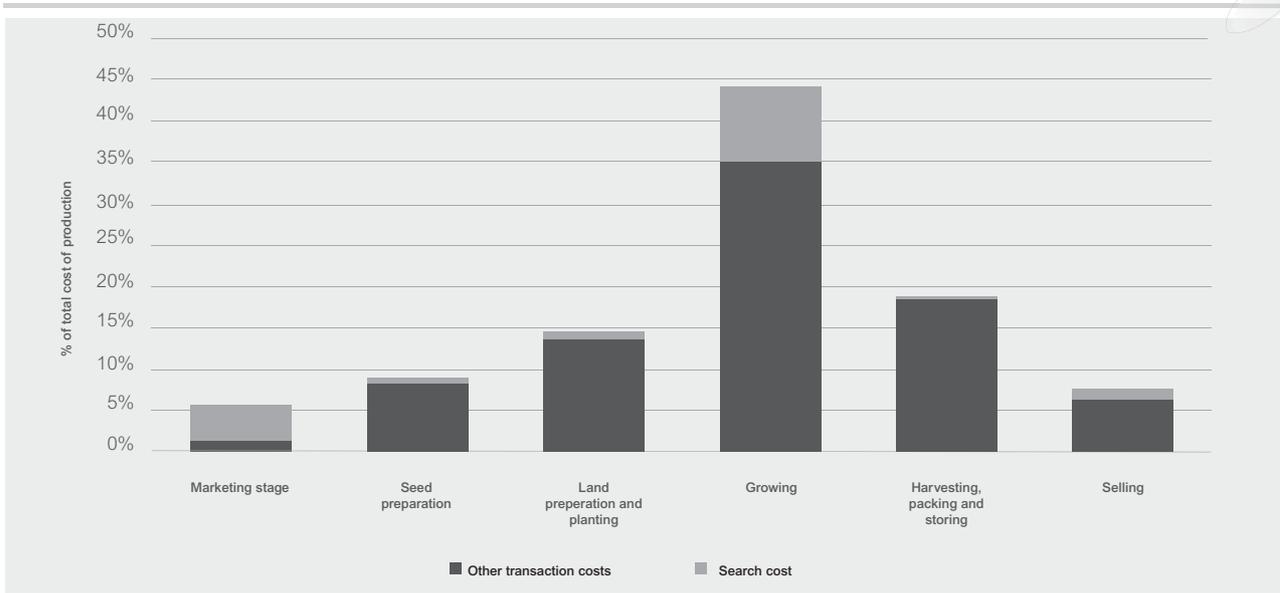


Figure 9: Search cost as a proportion of transaction costs incurred by farmers

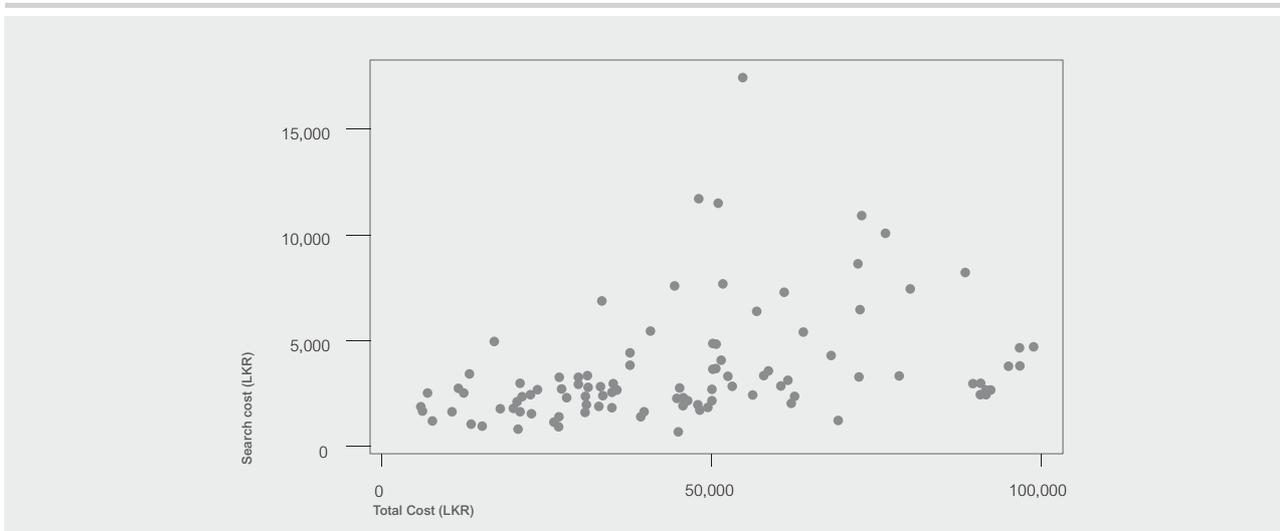


Figure 10: Search cost versus total expenditure

Evaluating last-mile hazard information dissemination (HazInfo)

Communities, the 'last-mile' of a disaster warning system, are the most crucial link in the disaster warning chain. The destruction wreaked by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar showed that the most sophisticated hazard detection and monitoring is of little use in saving lives if the warning does not get through to communities and appropriate action is not taken by them. The HazInfo project commenced in December 2005 as an action research effort in collaboration with Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Sarvodaya), Sri Lanka's largest community-based organization, with training conducted by TVE Asia Pacific. Professors Peter Anderson and Gordon Gow also made important contributions as did several private-sector firms. It was a multi-partner initiative to develop a community-based approach to disaster risk

reduction.

The objective was to test the suitability of five ICTs in a last-mile hazard information system. Through simulations, ICTs in eight different configurations, along with different combinations of training were introduced to 32 tsunami-affected Sarvodaya villages, and evaluated on reliability, effectiveness, bi-directionality, and integration of ICTs into village life. The five ICTs tested were: Addressable Satellite Radios for Emergency Alerting (AREA), Remote Alarm Devices (RAD), mobile phones, fixed phones and Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT).

Key findings

The research revealed that the combinations of AREA and mobile phones as well as AREA and fixed phones were found to be

Key data

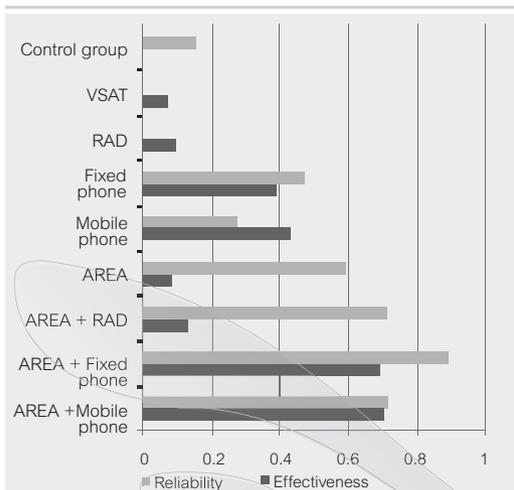


Figure 11: Performance summary of the ICTs deployed in the last-mile

most effective as an early warning technology. AREA, from WorldSpace, even performed when the GSM and CDMA networks in certain regions in the Eastern Province were switched off during military operations. The disadvantage is that the satellite based broadcast WorldSpace technology is not cost-effective with only a small number of terminals. Its high fixed costs and low costs of adding terminals mean that costs per unit decrease rapidly, making it very attractive for country or region-wide systems.

LIRNEasia disseminated the findings through the region, holding workshops in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India and Indonesia, involving national disaster risk reduction officials, experts, practitioners and media. The workshops generated interest in applying the results to suit the hazard vulnerabilities of each nation.

HazInfo: Continuation, replication and spinoffs

The Last Mile Hazard Information (HazInfo) project led to the villages establishing Emergency Disaster Management Committees, making use of the training received through the project. Sustainability of the last-mile preparedness efforts requires a dedicated cadre of trainers working out of Sarvodaya. This means a revenue stream other than donor funding is needed. A proposal that sought to generate seed funding for this purpose from the coastal hotel industry was accepted but not funded at the last minute by the Colombo office of the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA). Efforts continue to obtain seed funding.

Following the dissemination workshop organized by LIRNEasia at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the local partner, the Civil Engineering Department at BUET indicated interest in replicating the project, given Bangladesh's particularly potent hazards. The Bangladeshi pilot is currently being developed with WorldSpace addressable radio receivers. In addition a commercial application of WorldSpace's data dissemi-

nation capabilities is being implemented that will include warning applications for the coastal areas. WorldSpace is working with an Indonesian company on using the data capabilities to distribute commercials to 550 radio stations across the archipelago. It is also working with the disaster warning authorities to use that system to distribute warning messages for broadcast by the radio stations.

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), which organized the knowledge sharing workshop in New Delhi, indicated interest in organizing a 'road show' on the subject to a number of coastal cities in India.

In Sri Lanka, LIRNEasia and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights convened a meeting of telecom providers to design mobile solutions for an effective public warning system. The SMS module that was developed as part of the project by Respere, the Sahana Company, is now an integral part of the Sahana disaster management software suite, the leading product in this space.

Linking knowledge to innovation in government services: The case of solid waste services in Sri Lanka

In all countries there are hundreds of local government units that operate with relative autonomy from the central government. The local government sector offers opportunities for effecting change that makes real differences to peoples' lives.

Innovation through 'communities of practice' is widely accepted in industry. A community of practice (CoP) is a group of individuals or organizations that share information and knowledge regarding an issue of common interest to improve the efficacy of their actions. Corporations constantly seek ways to share knowledge within their organizations or learn from their suppliers and customers. Development organizations also spend many resources on learning from each other and their stakeholders. Professionals within government organizations in developed countries form themselves into associations to improve their professional practices, among other things. Similar efforts by professionals in government organizations in developing countries are less common. Improving service delivery through the sharing of knowledge in developing country governments may have to be catalyzed by those outside government.

The aim of this project is to identify means of developing CoPs for innovation in solid waste services within local government in Sri Lanka and evaluate the costs and benefits of such interventions. Intended users of the research are central government authorities and intergovernmental organizations channeling funds to local government bodies and community organizations aspiring to improve solid waste management (SWM) or other practices by local governments.

The first phase of the project (February 2008-October 2008) is dedicated to identi-

fyng all relevant practitioners in SWM and finding the optimum means of linking them. Linking the formal knowledge community to the practitioners is also a component.

During the first five months of Phase One, seminars, workshops and miscellaneous events were organized, a newsletter was distributed and a website was developed to bring together potential CoP members for SWM. The project team worked closely with the Gampaha Municipal Council, a large municipality close to Colombo, as a model local government authority (LGA) where various innovations will be tried out.

As a result of the project, a CoP is emerging, consisting of: (a) the model LGA (b) selected peer LGAs (c) other LGAs from across the country (d) civil society (represented by the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association) (e) SWM companies (represented by Burns Waste Management PLC) (f) several major recyclers (g) K-Mode 1 or knowledge producers in formal knowledge institutions such as universities and research institutes (h) K-Mode 2 or knowledge producers outside of formal knowledge institutions (i) media and (j) the project itself.

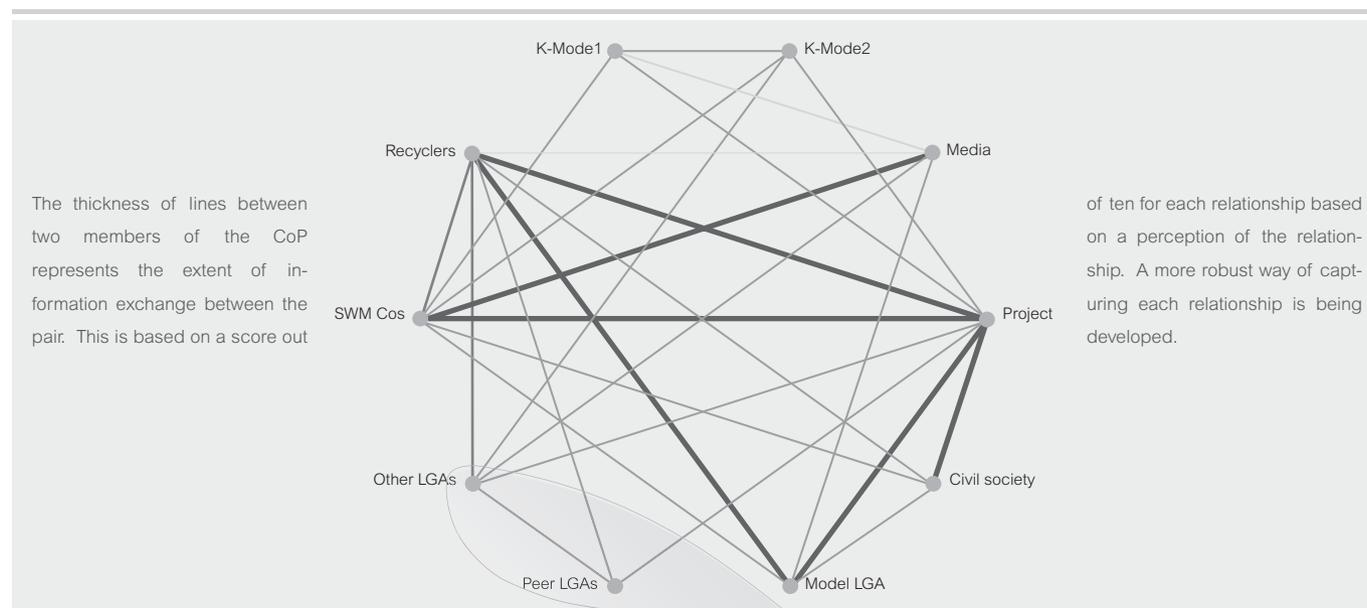


Figure 12: Community of practice resulting from the project: Current (estimated) status

It is expected that the project will function as a broker for at least two years from the start date. The project deliverable at the end of three years is an analysis of efficacy of one or more CoPs in improving SWM perfor-

mance in the selected peer LGAs, cost of the CoP intervention, incentives that would sustain the CoP and the generalizability of the method.

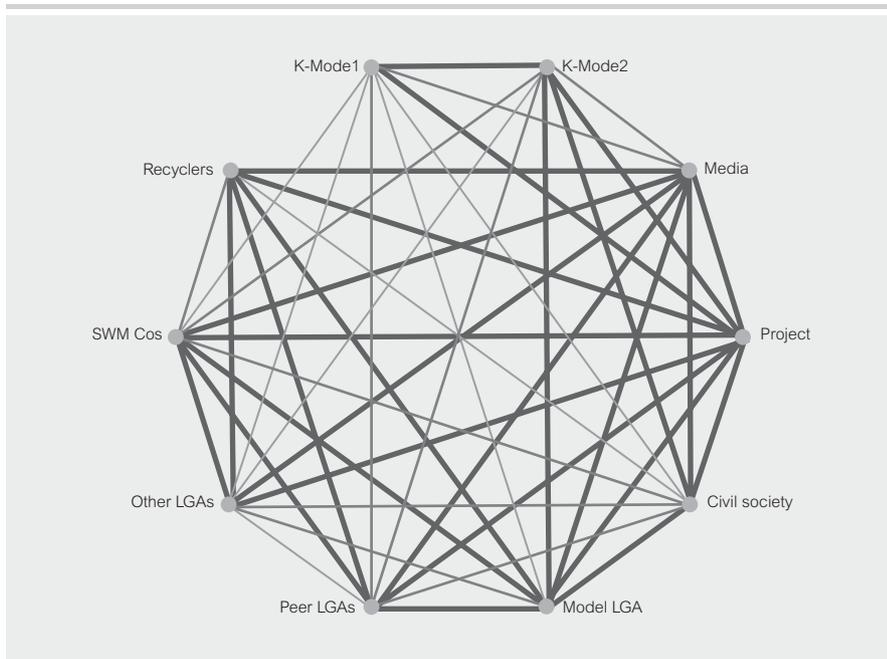


Figure 13 Community of practice resulting from the project: Ideal status



can connectivity lead to collective action over garbage on the streets or shoddy neighborhood schools?

A corporate social responsibility recycling project initiated by LIRNEasia led us to a whole new avenue of research on developing 'communities of practice' for innovation in issues that affect communities. A community of practice is a group of individuals or organizations that share information and knowledge regarding an issue of common interest to improve what they do regarding the issue. The Innovation, Technology and Society Division of IDRC has funded Director of Knowledge Networks, Sujata Gamage (Ph.D.) to conduct research on this as part of a project on Communities of practice for innovation in local government services. The action objective of the project is to enable a community of practice with a common interest in addressing solid waste management (SWM) issues in a selected region. The research objective is to determine if and how the community of practice positively affects SWM practices in the selected region.

Communities of practice

Information and communication technologies connect people and organizations better. Connectivity enables people and organizations to find solutions to their problems. LIRNEasia's

work in agricultural markets and disaster readiness demonstrates this. Can connectivity also help communities in developing societies to solve other social problems? For example,

Capacity building

Capacity building is an important element in LIRNEasia's overall mission, and considerable collective thought has been put into the design of this component. Work was initiated in mid-2005, with a systematic approach to field-building starting from a thorough and comprehensive knowledge mapping of potential communication policy researchers and practitioners in the region. Following this exercise, a networking meeting was organized in Indonesia to bring many of the identified individuals together. This was the foundation for LIRNEasia's largest and most significant capacity building initiative, CPR*south* (Communication Policy Research: south).¹¹ CPR*south* seeks to build local capacity in ICT policy and regulation in the South (encompassing the Asia-Pacific, African and Latin American regions) by identifying scholars with the

potential to contribute to ICT policy and regulatory reform, and assisting them to disseminate their research more effectively and become better policy advocates.

CPR*south*

Learning from TPRC and EuroCPR practice, CPR*south* revolves around an annual conference, organized to provide a focus for intra-South connections among scholars engaged in ICT policy and regulation research. Tutorials, where up to 30 Young Scholars learn the fundamentals of technology, markets, regulation and policy are held before or after the conference. The scholars are also given the opportunity to attend the conference and interact with paper givers and senior scholars.

Following the successful inaugural first

conference, held in January 2007 in Manila, Philippines, the second conference was organized in December 2007 in Chennai, India. Entitled *Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research* the second CPR*south* conference took place on 15-17 December 2007 and was organized in association with the Rural Business and Technology Incubator (RTBI) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras). The conference brought together 73 participants (approximately 42 percent females) from 18 countries, including young scholars, mid-career researchers, senior scholars, and observers. Most participants were from universities and research organizations, with little representation from government and industry, however tutorials for the Young Scholars were conducted on 14 and 18 December 2007.

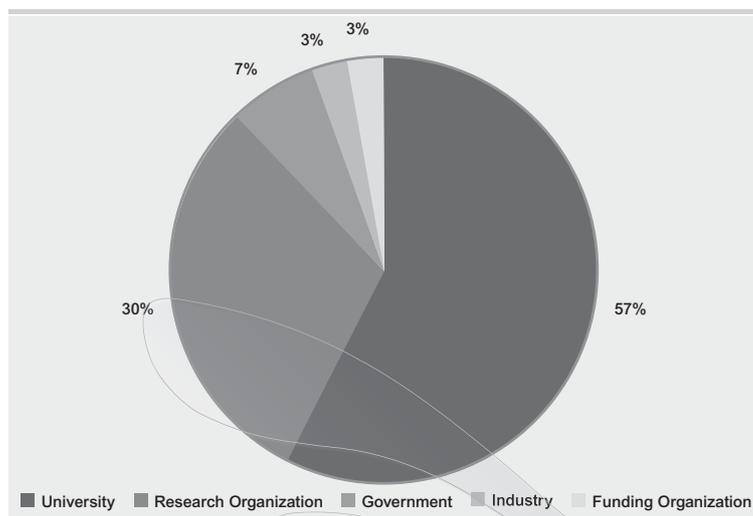
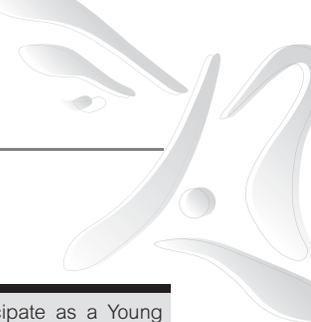


Figure 14: CPR*south*2 participants by organization



Exemplar of capacity building efforts
by LIRNEasia and CPRsouth: Grace
Mirandilla



Grace Mirandilla, ICT4D researcher from the Philippines, has been a frequent face at LIRNEasia's capacity building programs since 2005.

An Economic Policy Associate at the Policy Reform Program (PRP) of The Asia Foundation (Philippines), until recently Grace's research interests include community telecenters, ICT applications for rural areas, and policy reform

in general. Through her commitment to making an impact on the policy process, she has established herself as a high-quality policy researcher.

Grace exemplifies the success of LIRNEasia's capacity building efforts. She too feels that the interactions with LIRNEasia have contributed to her personal and professional development.

Her first interactions with LIRNEasia were at the 10th LIRNE.NET Course on Telecom Reform, conducted by LIRNEasia in Singapore in 2005, as a scholarship holder. She was an active participant, fuelling the dialogue with a number of thoughtful comments and questions.

Grace also participated at LIRNEasia's ICT Research Networking Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2005 and was subsequently hired by Lorraine Carlos Salazar (Ph.D.) to assist on the Philippines Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) study of 2006, which was a component of LIRNEasia's six-country multi-component study.

She was selected to participate as a Young Scholar at the inaugural Communication Policy Research south conference (CPRsouth1) 'Research for Improving ICT governance in the Asia-Pacific' in Manila, Philippines in January 2007. At the recently concluded CPRsouth2 conference 'Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research,' held in Chennai, India in December 2007, Grace presented a paper, entitled 'Achieving Universal Access through liberalization, regulation, and deregulation: The case of the Philippine telecommunications and ICT sector.' The paper won high praise from senior academics who reviewed and commented on her work.

On her growing successes, Grace says '[I am] glad to be a product/success story of the CPRsouth1 training course. My gratitude to you [Rohan], LIRNE[asia] and Jaime [M. Faustino], my mentor here in Manila, for helping me hone my skills.' She looks forward to developing her skills further through future CPRsouth and LIRNEasia events.

SAFIR training course

LIRNEasia was appointed Course Partner by the South Asia Forum on Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) through a competitive process, and conducted the 8th Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation in March-April 2007 in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The seven-day residential training course offered

participants the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of regulations pertaining to infrastructure industries and regulatory economics as well as topical issues related to those industries, to share their experiences, to develop practical solutions to regional problems. Attendance was less than expected, with only 36 participants in

total, from Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. A total of 21 speakers were invited from Argentina, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Because of problems in institutional design caused by the bifurcation of the funded administrative partner function and the unfunded course partner function,



LIRNEasia does not intend to continue as course partner.

Researcher training

While LIRNEasia believes in building capacity throughout the region, effort is also put into building internal capacity. LIRNEasians have participated at various training courses and conferences as a part of their training:

Workshop on implementing mobile number portability

Organized by the ITU-ASP Center of Excellence Network, Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) Node¹²

22-24 August 2007 Islamabad, Pakistan

Second meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Organized by the Internet Governance Forum

12-15 November 2007 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) Organized by the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

11-13 December 2007 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

LIRNEasia commenced a lecture series for its young researchers in January 2008, to provide them with the skills needed to conduct as well as manage research. Topics ranged from how telecom networks work to budgeting and proposal writing. Lectures are typically conducted by senior members of the LIRNEasia team, or by one of the

young researchers, based on a given text. Three lectures have been conducted as at 31 March 2008:

Advanced use of Microsoft Excel in research

Sujata Gamage, with the assistance of Ayesha Zainudeen, Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara and Tahani Iqbal, 30 October 2007

What is policy relevant research?

Rohan Samarajiva, 1 January 2008

Basics of network telecom technology

Nilusha Kapugama, 28 January 2008
(Based on Nuechterlein, J. E., and Weiser, P.J. (2005). *Digital Crossroads: American Telecommunications Policy in the Internet Age*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)

Budgeting and proposal writing

Rohan Samarajiva and Helani Galpaya, 12 March 2008

Internships

Lara Alawattegama, Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara, Nirmali Sivapragasam and Shamistra Soysa were recruited as Interns during 2007 for six to twelve month periods. They were each made permanent between 2007 and 2008.

Teaching

Harsha de Silva: University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (Executive MBA in Infrastructure), including supervision on two MBA theses; 8th SAFIR Core Course, Kandy, Sri Lanka;

2nd CPRsouth Conference, Chennai, India (Young Scholar Tutorials)

Helani Galpaya: University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (Executive MBA in Infrastructure); 8th SAFIR Core Course, Kandy, Sri Lanka (overall coordination)

Rohan Samarajiva: University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (Coordinated Law and Regulation of Infrastructures course of Executive MBA in Infrastructure; supervised of two MBA theses); 8th SAFIR Core Course, Kandy, Sri Lanka (Course Director; coordinated Regulatory Effectiveness and Telecommunications modules)

Advocacy and dissemination Rapid response

During the period, three Rapid Response activities were undertaken:

■ Rohan Samarajiva and Harsha de Silva made a policy intervention on a proposed tax on mobile users in Sri Lanka in August and September 2007.¹³ LIRNEasia used findings of the Teleuse@BOP2 research to illustrate why the proposed flat monthly tax of LKR 50 per SIM card *plus* a 7.5 percent mobile levy would disproportionately affect bottom of the pyramid (BOP) mobile users. The outcome was a floor amendment which eliminated the regressive fixed tax though the levy percentage was increased; the resulting tax structure, however, is no longer regressive. In 2008, the LIRNEasia recom-

¹² <http://lirne.net/2007/10/mobile-number-portability-the-case-for-and-against>

¹³ <http://lirne.net/2007/09/lirneasia-on-policy-influence-and-dialogue/>

mentation that tax should not be technology specific, was partially accepted with its extension to 'fixed' CDMA phones, though for some reason, the wireline phones were excluded.

■ Harsha de Silva responded on 8 October 2007 to proposed plans to roll out a backbone network by the government of Sri Lanka.¹⁴ Part of this plan included the laying of fiber optic cables along the rail tracks of Sri Lanka Railway. Cautions were raised citing the case of Nepal's failed smart subsidy program;¹⁵ recommendations were made on infrastructure-sharing, since the incumbent's backbone network built with public and monopoly revenues does not offer cost-oriented and non-

discriminatory access.

■ Harsha de Silva made a response to a consultation paper (No. 2/2008 dated 21 January 2008) issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the Access Deficit Charge (ADC).¹⁶ LIRNEasia agreed with the phasing out of the ADC tabled in the consultation paper, arguing that the ADC unjustifiably protected the incumbent and its copper-wire access network. Subsequently, on 27 March 2008 TRAI announced that the ADC will be completely removed from 1 April 2008.

Book

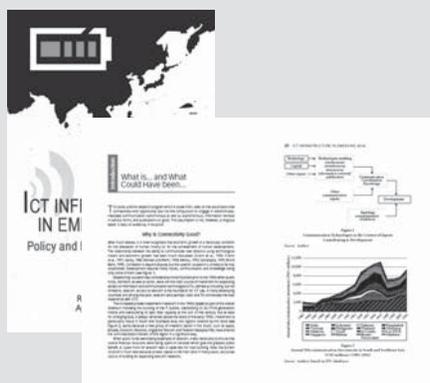
LIRNEasia's maiden book entitled *ICT Infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and*

regulatory roadblocks, edited by Rohan Samarajiva and Ayesha Zainudeen, and co-published by SAGE Publications (New Delhi) and IDRC (Ottawa), was officially launched on 16 December 2007, at the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras, IIT-M). The chief guests at the event were Professors Ashok Jhunjhunwala, of the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT-M, and William Melody, of the Denmark Technical University.

The collectively authored book draws on LIRNEasia's research conducted between 2004 and 2006, with chapters being authored by Harsha de Silva, Harsha Vardhana Singh, Divakar Goswami, Mariam Hameed, Mahinda Herath, Tahani Iqbal, Malathy

ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks

Sage (New Delhi) and IDRC (Ottawa)
ISBN: 9780761936732



'...the book explores the nexus between good governance and good telecom services, and suggests that both can – and do– reinforce each other...this book symbolizes its (LIRNEasia) open-minded and evidence-based approach, which contrasts with so much other ICT related writing reeking of intellectual arrogance or bureaucratic pomposity...'

The Sunday Times (Sri Lanka): Telecom without tears, 18 May 2008.

ICT Infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks, edited by Rohan Samarajiva and Ayesha Zainudeen, was launched in December 2007. The book

considers the problem of expanding connectivity from different angles: that of the user, the operator, the policy maker, the regulator, and civil society. It is based on LIRNEasia's first cycle of research on universal service instruments and backbone policy in India, the Grameen Village Phoneprogram in Bangladesh, Wi-Fi deployment in Indonesia, least-cost subsidy auctions in Nepal and telecom use at the bottom of the pyramid in seven Indian districts and four Sri Lankan districts. The final three chapters of the book contain responses from a telecom operator, a former regulator and a development professional.

¹⁴ <http://www.dailymirror.lk/2007/10/08/ft/17.asp>

¹⁵ <http://www.lirneasia.net/projects/completed-projects/least-cost-subsidy-nepal/>

¹⁶ <http://www.lirneasia.net/2008/03/lirneasia-on-policy-influence-trai-completely-removes-adc/>

Knight-John, Payal Malik, Onno Purbo, Rajendra Singh, Visoot Phongsathorn and Siddhartha Raja, in addition to the two editors.

Media coverage

Web

Fact or fiction: Telecommunications in Asia

Goergo, 16 December 2007

<http://www.goergo.in/?p=32>

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth

TMCnet, 26 December 2007

<http://asia.tmcnet.com/news/2007/12/26/3184529.htm>

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth

Yahoo Finance India, 26 December 2007

<http://in.biz.yahoo.com/071226/203/6ovva.html>

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth

Yahoo News India, 26 December 2007

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/071226/203/6ovtq.html>

Sri Lanka using customs authorities to censor academics: report

Lanka Business Online, 23 March 2008

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=1175043456&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=11

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New book ICT infrastructure in emerging

Asia

Yahoo Tech Groups: Bytes for All Readers and Supporters Forum, 26 December 2007

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Telecom is one of the largest contributors to growth of GDP

Blog: Book Peak, 8 January 2008

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Outdated politics hampers ICTs

The Deccan Chronicle – Chennai (India), 16 December 2007

Available at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/01/outdated-politics-hampers-ict.jpg>

Fact or fiction: Telecommunications in Asia

The Hindu (India), 17 December 2007

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Policies for ICTs

New Indian Express – Chennai (India), 20 December 2007

Available at: http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/2008/01/ict_chennai.jpg

Book extract: Subsidizing the Smart Way

Business World Magazine (India), 21 December 2007

Available at: <http://www.businessworld.in/content/>

[view/3213/3307](http://www.lirneasia.net/view/3213/3307)

(Local language coverage of book launch)

Tamil Sudar – Chennai (India), 21 December 2007
<http://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/tamil-sudar-chennai.pdf>

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth

The Financial Express (India), 26 December 2007

Available at: <http://www.financialexpress.com/news/BSNLs-monopoly-over-infrastructure-a-hindrance-to-growth/254716/>

Launch of 'ICT Infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks'

Information For Development (i4d) (India), 1 January 2008

Available at: <http://i4donline.net/jan08/jan08.pdf>

Customs playing censor, say academics

The Sunday Times (Sri Lanka), 23 March 2008

Available at: <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/080323/News/news014.html>

Teleuse@BOP2

Invited conferences¹⁷

Workshop on Telecom Regulatory Environment and Teleuse at the BOP
Organized by the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA)
14 June 2007, Islamabad, Pakistan

Presentations made by Rohan Samarajiva, Joseph Wilson, Harsha de Silva and Tahani Iqbal.

SAFIR Workshop on Universal Service Obligation

Organized by the South Asia Forum for Infrastruc-

¹⁷ Some conferences have been repeated under different project headings.

ture Regulation (SAFIR)

14-15 July 2007. New Delhi, India

Rohan Samarajiva presented a paper on 'Universal Service in Telecom: Regional experience.'

Meeting of the Telecenter National Alliance

Organized by Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Sarvodaya)

31 August-2 September 2007. Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Rohan Samarajiva chaired a session on 'Partnership building: Beyond the traditional boundaries' and made a presentation entitled 'Mobile phone penetration at the bottom of the pyramid.'

2nd Knowledge Forum of Sri Lanka Telecom Limited

Organized by Sri Lanka Telecom Limited

15 September 2007. Habarana, Sri Lanka

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on 'Owner-users, non-owner users and how they use phones at the Sri Lankan BOP'

Annenberg Research Network on International Communication Speaker Series

Organized by USC Annenberg School of Communication

1 October 2007. California, USA

Helani Galpaya presented a paper entitled 'Mobile killed the telecenter star?'

Meeting at the Quello Center

Organized by the Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law, Michigan State University

4 October 2007. Michigan, USA

Helani Galpaya made a presentation on 'Taking e-Gov to the bottom of the pyramid: Dial-a-Gov?'

2nd National University of Singapore-BuzzCity Digital Media Forum Lecture

Organized by the National University of Singapore and BuzzCity, Singapore

19 October 2007. Singapore

Rohan Samarajiva delivered the keynote speech entitled 'More than voice at the bottom of the pyramid.'

International Governance Forum (IGF) 2007

Organized by the International Governance Forum (IGF) Secretariat

12-15 November 2007. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Helani Galpaya participated in a panel entitled 'Regulatory frameworks for improving access,' presenting findings from the Teleuse@BOP study, along with telecenter data.

1st International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2007)

Organized by the United Nations University-International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) Center for Electronic Governance, Centre for Technology in Government, University of Albany and UN-APCICT - ESCAP Centre on ICT for Development

10-13 December 2007. Macao SAR, China

Helani Galpaya presented a paper on 'Taking e-Government to the bottom of the pyramid,' the paper won an award for the 'Best paper linking theory and practice'

Third Global Knowledge (GK3) Conference

Organized by Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

11-13 December 2007. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

LIRNEasia organized two quiz shows on 'Teleuse at the bottom of the pyramid' at the conference. The two sessions were hosted by Nalaka Gunawardene (TVE Asia Pacific) with presentations of findings made by Ayesha Zainudeen and Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara.

Expert Group Meeting on the Provision of ICT Access for Disadvantaged Communities through Public-Private Partnership

Organized by UNESCAP

12-14 December 2007. Bangkok, Thailand

Harsha de Silva presented a paper on 'Building private public partnerships for provision of ICT access for disadvantaged communities,' based on findings from the Teleuse@BOP2 and TRE studies.

India Telecom 2007

Organized by Government of India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

13 December 2007. New Delhi, India

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on 'creating digital opportunities from digital divide' at a session on 'Accelerating the growth of broadband,' based on findings from the Teleuse@BOP2 study.

2nd Communication Policy Research South (CPRsouth): Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research

Organized by LIRNEasia in association with the TeNeT Group and RTBI of the Institute of Information Technology (Madras)

15-17 December 2007. Chennai, India

Helani Galpaya presented a paper on 'Taking e-Gov to the bottom of the pyramid now: Dial-a-gov?' Ayesha Zainudeen presented a paper on 'The gendered aspects of telecom access and use at the bottom of the pyramid in emerging Asia.'

Pacific Telecom Conference '08:
Telecom with Vision

Organized by the Pacific Telecommunications Council

13-16 January 2008. Hawaii, USA

Ayesha Zainudeen presented a paper on 'Non-owner teleusers at the BOP: Removing the barriers to ownership.'

European Communication Policy
Research
(CPR) Conference

Organized by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS,) (part of DG Joint Research Centre of the European Commission)

31 March-1 April 2008. Sevilla, Spain

Rohan Samarajiva made an invited presentation on 'Information society policies and implementation in Asia' as an invited plenary speaker, based on Teleuse@BOP2 findings and research on Korea's information-society policies and implementation.

Colloquia

Forecasting methodology for mobile penetration

Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara, 4 September 2007

'Mobile killed the telecenter star?'

Helani Galpaya, 21 September 2007

The gendered aspects of telecom access and use at the bottom of the pyramid in Emerging Asia

Ayesha Zainudeen and Tahani Iqbal, 29 September 2007

Teleuse at the bottom of the pyramid:

An interactive quiz

Ayesha Zainudeen and Nalaka Gunawardene,
9 October 2007

Teleuse@BOP quiz show at GK3

As a part of its dissemination program, several of LIRNEasia's researchers participated in the Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) in Kuala Lumpur, 11-13 December 2007. With the assistance of TVE Asia Pacific (TVEAP), two interactive quiz shows on telecom use at the bottom of the pyramid were organized. Hosted by Nalaka Gunawardene of TVEAP, with assistance from LIRNEasia researchers, volunteers from the audience competed on two teams to answer questions based on findings from LIRNEasia's Teleuse@BOP2 research. A total of 48 questions were asked over the two days, covering topics ranging from access and ownership issues at the BOP to gender divides at the BOP to connecting the next billion subscribers. The idea was to challenge common misconceptions on telecom use among BOP users, providing ICT players in government, industry, civil society and donors evidence for better informed decisions and choices.

The sixty-minute sessions also included the

screening of a short video documentary on Teleuse@BOP2, developed by TVEAP. The highly interactive sessions sparked interest and discussion at GK3 and on the website (<http://lirneasia.net/2007/12/who-is-the-least-generous-of-them-all/>) among policy experts, industry specialists and civil society representatives who were present. The quiz show turned out to be just a starting point for continued discussion and lasting organizational relationships.

Media coverage

Web

Indian telecom behind Pak, Lanka in many respects: Study

Zee News, 8 April 2007

<http://www.zeenews.com/znnew/articles.asp?aid=364615&ssid=54&sid=BUS>

Choices: Telecenters or mobiles? Connecting Sri Lankan families at the bottom of the pyramid

Lanka Business Online, 17 May 2007

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=2086475423&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24

State of Telecom in Pakistan

TelecomPk.net, 14 June 2007

<http://telecompk.wordpress.com/2007/06/14/low-income-phone-users-in-asia-vast-unmet-demand/>

Choices: Goose or eggs? Taxing Sri Lanka's mobile customers

Lanka Business Online, 3 September 2007

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=1160489410&noview=1&SEARCH_TERM=24

Mobile manufacturers trying to capitalize on rural India

Garowe Online, 4 September 2007

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/tech/Mobile_manufacturers_trying_to_capitalise_on_Rural_India.shtml

Driving productivity at the bottom of the pyramid: How ICT can help

Itpro, 3 October 2007

<http://www.itpro.lk/?q=node/382>

Blogs and online groups

Save money or make money:

Mobile services and the Asian BoP

Perspective 2.0, 19 October 2007

http://www.nitibhan.com/perspective_20/

Print

Call of the village

The Hindu Business Line (India), 2 April 2007

Available at: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/ew/2007/04/02/stories/2007040200030100.htm>

Mobile manufacturers trying to capitalize on rural India

The Economic Times (India), 4 April 2007

Available at: http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Mobile_manufacturers_trying_to_capitalise_on_Rural_India/articleshow/2336602.cms

Mobile phone market poised for rapid growth in next two years

Ceylon Daily News (Sri Lanka), 9 April 2007

Available at: <http://www.dailynews.lk/2007/04/09/fin01.asp>

Business Briefs: Cell users

The Telegraph (India), 9 April 2007

Available at: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1070409/asp/business/story_7623649.asp

South/South-east Asia: Region set for telecoms growth

Oxford Analytica Global Strategic Analysis (UK),

18 April 2007

Available at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2007/04/saseatelecoms.pdf>

Telecom: Next billion

Business India – National Edition (India), 22 April 2007

Available at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2007/06/next-billion-business-india-april-07.pdf>

Bottom of pyramid mobile access: Mobile opportunities

Information for Development (i4d) (India), 1 June 2007

Available at: <http://i4donline.net/articles/current-article.asp?articleid=1266&typ=features>

India is less talkative than Pakistan, Lanka

The Financial Express (India), 2 June 2007

Available at: http://www.financialexpress.com/print.php?content_id=168199

Low-income telephone users in Asia: Hello, can you connect us?

The Straits Times (Singapore), 12 June 2007

Available at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/2007/06/straits-times-low-income-telephone-users-in-asia/>

Phones at the bottom of the pyramid: Telecom accessibility

Information for Development (i4d) (India), 1 October 2007

Available at: <http://www.i4donline.net/articles/current-article.asp?articleid=1497&typ=Features>

Driving productivity at the bottom of the pyramid: How ICT can help

The Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka), 2 October 2007

Available at: <http://www.dailymirror.lk/2007/05.asp>

Mobile phone companies doing a Nano

Business Standard (India), 4 February 2008

Available at: http://www.business-standard.com/common/news_article.php?leftnm=lmnu9&subLeft=2&autono=312466&tab=r

Measuring ICT sector performance

LIRNEasia events

Benchmarking and regulation workshop for telecom stakeholders

Organized in association with the Telecom Authority of Maldives (TAM)

6 December 2007. Malé, Maldives

Senior representatives from telecom operators (fixed and mobile) and internet service providers (ISPs), as well as policymakers and regulatory staff from the TAM participated in the workshop conducted by Rohan Samarajiva and Helani Galpaya. Through detailed discussions the workshop participants identified a list of indicators that telecom sector stakeholders of Maldives could collect and use in making day-to-day decisions.

Broadband quality: Are you getting what is promised?

People

Lara Alawattegama_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: Internet/
broadband access and benchmarking

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia;
previously Intern at UNDP and Outokumpu,
Australia.

Sanchala Arangalage_____

Field: Law

Areas of experience and expertise: Admin-
istration; Law

Highlights: Manager of Operations, LIRNEa-
sia; previously secretary, Public Utilities
Commission of Sri Lanka as well as Public
Interest Program Unit, Ministry for Economic
Reform, Science and Technology, Sri Lanka;
final year student, Sri Lanka Law College.

Lorraine Carlos Salazar, Ph.D.⁸_____

Field: Political Science; Public Policy;
Political Economy

Areas of experience and expertise:
Infrastructure policy, regulation and reform;
comparative political economy

Highlights: Former Senior Research Fellow,
LIRNEasia; former Visiting Research Fellow,
the Institute of South East Asian Studies
(ISEAS), Singapore; previously, Assistant
Professor of Political Science, University of
the Philippines.

Harsha de Silva, Ph.D._____

Field: Economics and Public Policy

Areas of experience and expertise:

Infrastructure policy and regulation; ICT for
rural livelihood; market and socioeconomic
research

Highlights: Lead Economist, LIRNEasia;
co-founder and former Joint Managing
Director, OMS (today Nielsen Lanka); former
chief economist and treasurer, DFCC Bank;
host of the popular weekly business and
economics television program in Sri Lanka.

Helani Galpaya_____

Field: Public Policy; Business Strategy

Areas of experience and expertise:
E-government; telecommunications policy,
regulation and reform; business analysis,
strategy development; financial analysis

Highlights: Director of Strategic Develop-
ment, LIRNEasia; former Senior Project
Specialist, ICT Agency of Sri Lanka;
previously held management positions at
several US firms, including Marengo
Research, Booz Allen Hamilton and
Citibank.

Sujata Gamage, Ph.D._____

Filed: Public Policy; Capacity Building;
Knowledge Management

Areas of experience and expertise:
Research administration; Science resource
studies and Education.

Highlights: Director of Knowledge
Networks, LIRNEasia; Consultant, University
Grants commission of Sri Lanka; former
Director General, Technical and Vocational
Education Commission of Sri Lanka; former

Director, Science Resource Studies,
Quantum Research Corporation, USA;
former Strategic Planning Specialist, Ohio
State University, USA; Research administra-
tor, Ohio Board of regents, USA.

Tahani Iqbal_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise: ICT
access and use; knowledge networks

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia and
Manager, CPRsouth; previously Assistant,
Economic Affairs Department, Secretariat
for Coordinating the Peace Process, Sri
Lanka.

Nilusha Kapugama_____

Field: Economics

Areas of experience and expertise:
Research; teaching

Highlights: Researcher, LIRNEasia;
previously taught Advanced Level Econom-
ics; former Intern, Institute of Policy Studies
Sri Lanka and Standard Chartered Bank, Sri
Lanka.

Abu Saeed Khan_____

Field: Journalism; Telecommunications

Areas of experience and expertise:
Infrastructure policy, regulation and reform

Highlights: Senior Policy Fellow, LIRNEasia;
former Technology Editor, bdnews24.com;
previously consultant, Advanced Data
Network Systems Ltd. (ADNSL), Bangla-
desh as well as Policy Reform and imple-

Indicators database website
Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara, 8 February 2008

Broadband quality of service (QOS)
methodology and findings
Chanuka Wattegama, 14 March 2008

Media coverage

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*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

AFP, 16 September 2007

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gYu3x4gcP6tOK5z6vvGG98FuCXsw>

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Channel News Asia, 16 September 2007

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asia_pacific_business/view/300138/1.html

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Enews.ma, 16 September 2007

http://www.eneews.ma/south-asia-slow-hop_i69367_7.html

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

France24, 16 September 2007

<http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:-Lc83GfPWbAJ:www.france24.com/france24Public/en/administration/afp-news.html%3Fid%3D070916044351.gz4zpvzk%26cat%3Dscience+south+asia+broadband+afp&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=9z>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband

bandwagon

IOL News, 16 September 2007

http://www.ioltechnology.co.za/article_inter.php?IfeedArticleId=10444077

*Slow Band: Sri Lanka, South Asia crawling
over broadband Internet*

Lanka Business Online, 16 September 2007

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=848098492&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=5

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Mywire, 16 September 2007

<http://www.mywire.com/pubs/AFP/2007/09/15/4492346?pbl=289>

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
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TIME Net News, 16 September 2007

<http://www.time.net.my/channel/News/article.cfm?Types=International&Related=Business&ID=205445>

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bandwagon*

TODAYonline, 16 September 2007

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bandwagon*

Yahoo! News, 16 September 2007

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070916/tc_afp/srilankaittelecombroadband

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Yahoo! Australia, 16 September 2007

<http://news.yahoo.com.au/070908/19/14dm1.html>

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Yahoo! Singapore Finance, 16 September 2007

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070916/tc_afp/srilankaittelecombroadband

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Yahoo! Singapore News, 16 September 2007

<http://sg.news.yahoo.com/afp/20070916/tbs-srilanka-it-telecom-broadband-e65dddb.html>

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Yahoo! UK and Ireland News, 16 September 2007

http://uk.news.yahoo.com/afp/20070916/ttc-srilanka-it-telecom-broadband-49fa82e_1.html

*South Asia slow to hop on broadband
bandwagon*

Yahoo! XTRA News, 16 September 2007

<http://nz.news.yahoo.com/070916/8/1p1y.html>

Asian broadband take-up slow

Australian IT, 17 September 2007

<http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,24897,22430846-15306,00.html>

*South Asia lags behind on broadband
adoption*

Intelligent Community Forum, 17 September 2007

<http://www.intelligentcommunity.org/forumviewmessage.cfm?forumnbr=4845&topicnbr=8580&discussionnbr=118183>

South Asia lags behind on broadband bandwagon, analysts say

Telecom Asia, 17 September 2007

http://www.telecomasia.net/article.php?type=article&id_article=5733

South Asia slow to broadband

South Asian Media Net, 17 September 2007

http://www.southasianmedia.net/index_story.cfm?id=425808&category=Frontend&Country=MAIN

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

The News Today, 17 September 2007

<http://www.newstoday-bd.com/business.asp?newsdate=9/17/2007>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

OnLanka News, 17 September 2007

http://news.onlanka.com/pubs/article_2007_09_17_3629.html

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

Yehey! News, 18 September 2007

<http://www.yehey.com/gadgets/articles.aspx?id=181118>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

The Bottom Line, 19 September 2007

<http://www.thebottomline.lk/2007/09/19/B19.htm>

South Asian broadband slips the net

Malaysian Sun, 19 September 2007

<http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:7MpB6JQY>

3kQJ:www.malaysiasun.com/index.php/ct/10/id/303b19022816233b/+south+asia+broadband+afp&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=37

Bangladeshi spend lowest on mobile phone in South Asia

Deshi Mobile, March 2008

Available at: http://www.deshimobile.com/news_main.php?nid=960

Price of mobile services low but perceptions high

Deshi Mobile, 17 March 2008

http://www.deshimobile.com/news_main.php?nid=958

Bangladeshi spend lowest on mobile phone in South Asia

Information for Development (i4d) magazine,

24 March 2008

Available at: <http://i4donline.net/news/news-details.asp?catid=17&newsid=14039&Title=Bangladeshis-spend-lowest-on-mobile-phone-in-South-Asia>

Sri Lanka internal broadband connectivity good; external slow: researchers

Lanka Business Online, 26 March 2008

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=443800576&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=5

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South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

DZONE IT BlackBelt, 16 September 2007

<http://itblackbelt.wordpress.com/2007/09/17/south>

-asia-slow-to-hop-on-broadband-bandwagon/

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

Jayed.us, 16 September 2007

<http://jayed.us/2007/09/16/south-asia-slow-to-hop-on-broadband-bandwagon/>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

NewzFire, 16 September 2007

<http://www.newzfire.com/technology/south-asia-slow-to-hop-on-broadband-bandwagon-afp.html>

Pakistanis pay most in South Asia to access Internet

Google Group: Telecom Grid Pakistan, 17 September 2007

http://groups.google.com/group/telecom-grid-pakistan/browse_thread/thread/91a1184ffa24436/f10e3a161b010232?lnk=root

Broadband quality: Are you getting what is promised?

Nandasiri Wanninayaka, 14 March 2008

<http://wanni.wordpress.com/2008/03/14/broadband-quality-are-you-getting-what-is-promised/>

The state of 'broadband' in Sri Lanka - Take 1

ICT for Peacebuilding (ICT4Peace), 19 March 2008

<http://ict4peace.wordpress.com/2008/03/19/the-state-of-broadband-in-sri-lanka-take-1/>

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South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

The Age (Australia), 16 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/Technology/South-Asia-slow-to-hop-on-broadband-bandwagon/2007/09/16/1189881325197.html>

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Brisbane Times (Australia), 16 September 2007

Available at: <http://news.brisbanetimes.com.au/south-asia-slow-to-hop-on-broadband-bandwagon/20075016-z8y.html>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia), 16 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/Technology/South-Asia-slow-to-hop-on-broadband-bandwagon/2007/09/16/1189881325197.html>

Pakistanis pay most in South Asia to access Internet

Dawn (Pakistan), 16 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.dawn.com/2007/09/17/top16.htm>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

The Independent (Bangladesh), 16 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.theindependent-bd.com/details.php?nid=57259>

Broadband crawls in South Asia

The Brunei Times (Brunei), 17 September 2007

Available at: [http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:k8YSmNwKTBkJ:www.bruneitimes.com.bn/d](http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:k8YSmNwKTBkJ:www.bruneitimes.com.bn/details.php%3Fshape_ID%3D43892+south+asia+broadband+afp&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=38)

[etails.php%3Fshape_ID%3D43892+south+asia+broadband+afp&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=38](http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:k8YSmNwKTBkJ:www.bruneitimes.com.bn/details.php%3Fshape_ID%3D43892+south+asia+broadband+afp&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=38)

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The China Post (China), 17 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/business/2007/09/17/122930/South-Asia.htm>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

The Manila Times (Philippines), 17 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2007/sept/18/yehey/techtimes/20070918tech1.html>

South Asia slow to hop on broadband bandwagon

The Statesman (Pakistan), 17 September 2007

Available at: <http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:kk7McFp2ud4J:www.statesman.com.pk/buss/buss.htm+south+asia+broadband+afp&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=43>

South Asian broadband slips the net

7 DAYS (UAE), 19 September 2007

Available at: <http://www.7days.ae/showstoryphp?id.=58572>

Mobile is cheap in Sri Lanka, even for the poor; they just don't know it

The Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka), 13 March 2008

Available at: http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=9075

Price of mobile services here low but perceptions high

The Sunday Times (Sri Lanka), 16 March 2008

Available at: <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/080316/FinancialTimes/ft321.html>

Bangladeshis spend lowest on mobile phone in South Asia

The Daily Star (Bangladesh), 19 March 2008

Available at: <http://thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=28418>

Mobile phone service costs in Sri Lanka are cheap, even for the poor (Sinhala)

Ravaya (Sri Lanka), 23 March 2008

Available at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/new-12.jpg>

Mobile is cheap in Sri Lanka, even for the poor

The Daily News (Sri Lanka), 25 March 2008

Available at: <http://www.dailynews.lk/2008/03/25/bus16.asp>

TV and radio

Lanka Business Report: Wired: Coverage on Broadband Benchmarks

ETV, Sri Lanka. 29 March 2008

Measuring ICT regulatory performance

Invited conferences

Workshop on Telecom Regulatory Environment and Teleuse at the BOP

Organized by the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA)

14 June 2007. Islamabad, Pakistan

Presentations made by Rohan Samarajiva, Joseph Wilson, Harsha de Silva and Tahani Iqbal.

SAFIR Workshop on Universal Service Obligation

Organized by the South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR)

14-15 July 2007. New Delhi, India

Rohan Samarajiva presented a paper on 'Universal service in telecom: Regional experience.'

36th Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy

Organized by Telecom Policy Research Conference (TPRC)

26-28 September 2007. Virginia, USA

Helani Galpaya presented a paper on 'The Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) Assessment: Methodology and implementation results from six emerging economies.'

Monthly meeting of Rotary Colombo West

Organized by Rotary Colombo West

7 November 2007. Colombo, Sri Lanka

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on 'Making Sri Lanka's telecom sector # 1 (or at least # 2) in the region: What will it take?'

Expert Group Meeting on the Provision of ICT Access for Disadvantaged Communities through Public-Private Partnership

Organized by UNESCAP

12-14 December 2007. Bangkok, Thailand

Harsha de Silva presented a paper on 'Building private public partnerships for provision of ICT access for disadvantaged communities,' based on findings from the Teleuse@BOP and TRE studies.

LIRNEasia presents its research in Pakistan



Four researchers presented LIRNEasia research at a stakeholder event organized by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in June 2007.

Following opening remarks by the Chairman of PTA, Major General (retd.) Shahzad Alam Malik, Rohan Samarajiva (Ph.D.) and Joseph Wilson (Ph.D.) presented findings from the 2006 Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) study conducted by LIRNEasia, giving

prominence to Pakistan's good performance in the mobile sector. Harsha de Silva (Ph.D.) discussed the results of the Teleuse@BOP2 survey conducted in five countries, pointing out the disparate access to ICTs between men and women at the BOP in Pakistan. Tahani Iqbal presented the comparative analysis of mobile prices in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, using an adapted OECD price basket methodology; she showed that Pakistan had the lowest SMS prices among the three countries studied.

The Workshop was held in Islamabad on 14 June 2007, and was attended by over a hundred participants from government, the private sector, academia and civil society. The event received a significant amount of media coverage, being featured in many local and national newspapers, online forums, and television in Pakistan.

Colloquia

TRE manual: Proposed structure and content

Lara Alawattagama, Shamistra Soysa and Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara, 19 April 2007

The Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) assessment: methodology and implementation results from six emerging economies

Helani Galpaya, 21 September 2007

Media coverage_____

Web

Pakistan exceeds in Telecom Regulatory Environment

Online International News Network, 15 June 2007
<http://www.onlinenews.com.pk/details.php?id?=113546>

Pakistan exceeds in Telecom Regulatory Environment

The PakTribune, 15 June 2007
<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?181154>

Pakistan holds better environment for mobile telecommunication

AAJ News, 15 June 2007
<http://news.aaj.tv/news.php?pg=2&show=detail&nid=69576>

Telecom regulation termed best in region

Dawn Internet Edition, 16 June 2007
<http://www.dawn.com/2007/06/16/nat19.htm>

Pakistan has more conducive regulatory environment for telecommunications services than India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and Indonesia

Asia Pacific Telecom, 1 July 2007
http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/summary_0199-6823165_ITM

Pakistan exceeds in Telecom Regulatory Environment

PakTelecom.Net, 8 February 2008
<http://www.paktelecom.net/blogg/pakistan-exceeds-in-telecom-regulatory--environment/>

Print

Telecom regulatory environment and its future

The Nation (Pakistan), 4 June 2007
Available at: <http://www.nation.com.pk/daily/jun-2007/4/bnews8.php>

Mobile regulatory environment exemplary

The News (Pakistan), 15 June 2007
Available at:http://www.news.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=60531

Mobile telecommunication: Pakistan now offers better regulatory environment

Daily Business Recorder (Pakistan), 15 June 2007
Available at:<http://www.brecorder.com/index.php?id=577736&currPageNo=1&query=&search=&term=&supDate=>

Pak ahead of regional countries

Pakistan Observer (Pakistan), 15 June 2007

Pakistan ahead of regional countries

Daily Times (Pakistan), 15 June 2007
Available at:http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C06%5C15%5Cstory_15-06-2007

Pakistan has better telecom regulatory environment

Daily Times (Pakistan), 15 June 2007
Available at:http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C06%5C15%5Cstory_15-6-2007_pg5_9

Don't waste public money on telecom infrastructure

The Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka), 8 October 2007

Available at:<http://www.dailymirror.lk/2007/10/08/ft/17.asp>

Telecommunication tariffs: No regulation only competition

Macrotrack Monthly Newsletter (National Council of applied Economic Research (India)), Volume IX, Number 12

Pakistan ahead of regional countries in telecom regulatory environment

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), 25 February 2008
Available at:http://www.pta.gov.pk/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=955

AgInfo

LIRNEasia events_____

Workshop on transaction costs and traceability: Potential for ICTs in the agricultural value chain

21-23 February 22008, Kandalama, Sri Lanka

A workshop was held to discuss the policy-level implications and business-level possibilities of using ICTs to reduce transaction costs in the agricultural value chain as well as to improve traceability of products sold, based on the AgInfo project. Participants at the event included senior level policymakers from the Ministry of Trade, Marketing Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs, the Information and Communication Technology Agency and the National Agri-business Council; top management from

leading agriculture companies, including HJS Condiments and CIC Agribusiness; a senior economist from the World Bank and a senior program analyst at the United Nations Development Program; and leading local academics in the agricultural economics field. Presentations were made by Visoot Phongsathorn, Deputy Director of Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness's Business and Financial Services and Subhash Bhatnagar (Ph.D.) of the Indian Institute of Management (Ahmadabad). LIRNEasia researchers emphasized how the use of ICT-based traceability applications could lead to improved quality of produce and reduced wastage. Furthermore, researchers illustrated how the use of mobiles could lower transaction costs, such as transport costs incurred during the decision-making and selling stages in the agricultural value chain.

Public lecture: Benefits of ICT applications to farmers with emphasis on transaction costs: experiences from India

25 February 2008. Colombo, Sri Lanka

A public lecture by Subhash Bhatnagar (Ph.D.) of the Indian Institute of Management (Ahmadabad) was held.¹⁸ LIRNEasia's research on the Sri Lankan case was also presented, and discussion from the floor followed. The lecture was attended by

around 60 persons, including the general public and members of the media.

Colloquia _____

Transaction costs and traceability 1 : Potential for ICTs in the agricultural value chain

Helani Galpaya, Harsha de Silva, Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara and Shamistra Soysa, 5 February 2008

Transaction costs and traceability 2: Potential for ICTs in the agricultural value chain

Harsha de Silva, 18 February 2008

Media coverage _____

Web

ICTs for development in agriculture (Sinhala)

Ethalaya.com, 25 February 2008

<http://www.ethalaya.com/25022008ict.htm>

SMS price infos to empower farmers

Sri Lanka News First, 27 February 2008

<http://www.srilankanewsfirst.com/General/1725.html>

Research team says telecoms can reduce transaction costs in agriculture

The Money Report, 28 February 2008

http://www.moneyreport.lk/fullstory.php?newsID=1947863983&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=4

ICT to substantially reduce agricultural costs to farmers

Itpro, 2 March 2008

<http://www.itpro.lk/?q=taxonomy/term/50>

ICT solutions reduce wastage

South Asian Media Net, 8 March 2008

<http://www.southasianmedia.net/cnn.cfm?id=478098&category=Science&Technology&Country=SRI%20LANKA>

Cyber market: Sri Lanka agriculture could do with dose of IT

Lanka Business Online, 25 March 2008

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=1143807477&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=5

Blogs and online groups

[BANGLA-IT] Colloquium and workshop on 'Potential for ICTs in the agricultural value chain'

News of Information Technology in Bangladesh, 2 February 2008

<http://bd-it.blogspot.com/2008/02/bangla-it-colloquium-and-workshop-on.html>

Mobile phones can substantially reduce agriculture transaction costs - reveals LIRNEasia research

One World - My Utopia, 25 February 2008

<http://blogs.rehan.com/2008/02/mobile-phones-can-substantially-reduce.html>

Mobile phones can substantially reduce agriculture transaction costs - reveals LIRNEasia research

Yahoo Groups: Digital Development (DigiDev) - Sri

Lanka, 25 February 2008

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/digidev/message/533>

Print

Mobile phones use can help reduce agricultural production costs for farmers (Sinhala)

Ravaya, 25 February 2008

Available at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/ravaya.JPG>

SMS price infos to empower farmers

The Morning Leader (Sri Lanka), 27 February 2008

Available at: <http://www.themorningleader.lk/2008/227/Business.html>

Farmers suffer due to lack of information

The Nation (Sri Lanka), 2 March 2008

Available at: <http://www.nation.lk/2008/03/02/busi1.htm>

ICT to substantially reduce agricultural costs to farmers

The Sunday Times (Sri Lanka), 2 March 2008

Available at: <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/080302/FinancialTimes/ft309.html>

ICT solutions reduce wastage in agricultural products

The Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka), 8 March 2008

Available at: http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=8601

HazInfo

LIRNEasia events_____

The role of telecom operators and broadcasters in a national public warning system

Organized by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (MDMHR, Sri Lanka), with the support of LIRNEasia

7 September 2007. Colombo, Sri Lanka

A meeting was held with six of the eight main telecom operators, disaster management-related government agencies, the UNDP, and technical institutes in Sri Lanka to discuss the role of each type of organization in disaster warning. Findings from the HazInfo project were presented by Rohan Samarajiva and Natasha Udu-gama, and feedback was obtained from participants. Key speakers at the event included the Secretary of the MDMHR and the Director General of the Disaster Management Center (DMC), MDMHR.

Sharing knowledge on disaster warning: Community-based last mile warning systems I

Organized in association with the Bangladesh Network Office for Urban Safety (BNUS), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)

25 October 2007. Dhaka, Bangladesh

The main objective of this workshop was to obtain feedback on findings from the HazInfo project as well as exchange lessons learnt in disaster warning with grassroot

communities and participants working in similar fields in Bangladesh. Rohan Samarajiva, Nuwan Waidyanatha and Natasha Udu-gama presented findings from the HazInfo project. Participants consisted of researchers, students, practitioners, and policymakers in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as well as invited international participants from the private sector. Presentations were made by the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, BUET, Department of Geology, Dhaka University and S. Rangarajan (Ph.D.) of WorldSpace Corp.

Sharing knowledge on disaster warning: Community-based last mile warning systems II

Organized in association with the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)

19 November 2007. New Delhi, India

The main objective of this workshop was to obtain feedback on findings from the HazInfo project as well as exchange lessons learnt in disaster warning with grassroot communities and participants working in similar fields in India. Rohan Samarajiva, Nuwan Waidyanatha and Natasha Udu-gama presented findings from the HazInfo project. A variety of stakeholders were present, including representatives from the Indian government, private sector and NGOs. Presentations were made by the

Welfare Organization for Rural Lean Development (WORLD), Ekgaon Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd, Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre, Ministry of Earth Sciences, AIDMI and Sarvodaya's Community Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka.

Sharing knowledge on disaster warning: Community-based last mile warning systems III

Organized in association with the Indonesian Institute for Disaster Preparedness (IIDP)
5 March 2008. Jakarta, Indonesia

The main objective of this workshop was to obtain feedback on findings from the HazInfo project as well as exchange lessons learnt in disaster warning with grassroot communities and participants working in similar fields in Indonesia. Rohan Samarajiva, Nuwan Waidyanatha and Natasha Udu-gama presented findings from the HazInfo project. Informative presentations were made by the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), KOGAMI Padang, GTZ-GITEWS, Bureau of Meteorology and Geophysics (BMG) and the University of Syiah Kuala, Aceh.

Invited conferences

Disaster: Relief and Management: International Cooperation and Role of ICT

Organized by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the League of Arab States (LAS) and other United Nations Agencies in cooperation with

the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
14-17 April 2007. Alexandria, Egypt

Nuwan Waidyanatha made two presentations on 'Last-mile hazard warnings system in Sri Lanka' and 'Challenges of implementing the common alerting protocol in Sri Lanka' at two sessions, entitled 'Governmental NGOs ICT networks for emergency and humanitarian assistance' and 'Policy and regulatory issues in disaster communications planning and management,' respectively.

4th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM)
Organized by the ISCRAM-Community and the Delft University of Technology
13-16 May 2007. Delft, Netherlands

A paper co-authored by Nuwan Waidyanatha on 'Hazard warnings in Sri Lanka: Challenges of internetworking with common alerting protocol' was presented at a session titled, 'Flexible data structures and services.'

Canadian Communication Association Conference

Organized by the Canadian Communication Association
30 May-1 June 2007. Saskatoon, Canada

Findings from the HazInfo project were presented by Gordon Gow (Ph.D.).

2nd International ISCRAM-CHINA Work-

shop

Organized by the ISCRAM-Community and the School of Economics and Management, Harbin Engineering University
26-27 August 2007. Harbin, China

Nuwan Waidyanatha presented a paper on 'Common alerting protocol message broker for last-mile hazard warning system in Sri Lanka: An essential component.'

1st Wireless Rural and Emergency Communications Conference

Organized by the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' and the IEEE Communications Society
1-2 October 2007. Rome, Italy

Gordon Gow (Ph.D.) presented a paper on 'Community-based Hazard Warnings in Rural Sri Lanka: Performance of Alerting and Notification in a Last-Mile Message Relay,' based on findings from the HazInfo project.

19th Meeting of the Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF)

Organized by the Wireless World Research Forum
5-7 November 2007. Chennai, India

Nuwan Waidyanatha presented a paper on 'Challenges of optimizing common alerting protocol for SMS based GSM devices.'

The Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
7-8 December 2007, New Delhi, India

Vinya Ariyaratne (M.D., M.PH., M.Sc. (Com

m. Med), M.D.(Comm.Med.)), Executive Director of Sarvodaya made a presentation on 'Capacity developing of the poor for reducing risks of disasters: The Sarvodaya experience in Sri Lanka,' taking the HazInfo project as a case study.

4th Annual Canadian Risk and Hazards Network Annual Symposium

Organized by Justice Institute of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and University of British Columbia

6-8 November 2007. Vancouver, Canada

A paper on 'Lessons from Sri Lanka: Public alerting in rural and remote communities' was submitted, based on findings from the HazInfo project was presented.

Emergency Preparedness Conference

Organized by Pacific Northwest Preparedness Society

20-22 November 2007. Vancouver, Canada

Findings from the HazInfo project were presented.

10th Annual Symposium on Wireless Personal Multimedia Communications

Organized by the LNM Institute of Information Technology

3-6 December 2007. Jaipur, India

A paper entitled 'Last-mile hazard warning system in Sri Lanka: Performance of World-Space addressable satellite radios for emergency alerts' based on findings from the HazInfo project was presented.

Third Global Knowledge (GK3) Confer-

ence

Organized by Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

11-13 December 2007. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

LIRNEAsia organized a session on 'Making communities disaster resilient' at the conference, moderated by Rohan Samarajiva with presentations made by Samarajiva, Nuwan Waidyanatha and Natasha Udu-gama.

2nd Communication Policy Research South (CPRSOUTH): Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research

Organized by LIRNEAsia in association with the TeNeT Group and RTBI of the Institute of Information Technology (Madras)

15-17 December 2007. Chennai, India

Nuwan Waidyanatha presented a paper on 'Last-mile hazard warning system in Sri Lanka: Performance of the ICT First Responder training regime' and Natasha Udu-gama presented a paper entitled 'A last-mile hazard warning system for disaster risk reduction in Sri Lankan villages: Community organization.'

Colloquia

Last-mile hazard warning system in Sri Lanka: Lessons learned from the pilot phase

Nuwan Waidyanatha, 3 July 2007

Sharing knowledge on disaster warning: Community-based last-mile warning systems

Nuwan Waidyanatha and Natasha Udu-gama, 2 October 2007

Providing sustainable hazard information in Sri Lanka

Natasha Udu-gama, 3 December 2007

Media coverage

Web

Tsunami 'Sahana:' Sri Lankan disaster relief technology wins world recognition

Lanka Business Online, 9 April 2007

http://www.LankaBusinessOnline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=546293598&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=5

Need for early warning systems underscored

The Daily Star, 2 October 2007

<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=6270>

ICTs and natural disasters

IDRC News / GK3, 1 December 2007

http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-118105-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

AREA ready for deployment

Satellite Today, 27 December 2007

<http://www.satellitetoday.com/st/headlines/21805.html>

Heavenly alerts: Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India

Lanka Business Online, 27 December 2007

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=2122122686&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=10

Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India

The Singhalaya News Agency, 28 December 2007
<http://www.sinhalaya.com/news/english/wmview.php?ArtID=14500>

Here's what occurred while SatNews was away for the holidays!

Satnews.com, 3 January 2008
http://www.satnews.com/cgi-bin/display_story.cgi?number=1117881731

Blog and online groups

SMS alerts during emergencies - Lessons from Sri Lanka's alert on 13 September 2007
Blog Comments,
(ICT4Peace)

3 September 2007
<http://ict4peace.wordpress.com/2007/09/13/sms-alerts-during-emergencies-lessons-from-sri-lankas-tsunami-alert-on-13-september-2007/>

[BANGLA-IT] The 'DIGITAL DIVIDE' between SIDR and Katrina (post-cyclone SIDR thoughts - Part 2)

News of Information Technology in Bangladesh,
19 November 2007
<http://bd-it.blogspot.com/2007/11/bangla-it-digital-divide-between-sidr.html>

New disaster warning technology on anvil
Zee News (India), 16 December 2007

http://www.zeenews.com/_articles.asp?aid=413606&sid=NAT

Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India

Disaster Awareness, 27 December 2007
<http://disasterawareness.spot.com/2007/12/sri-lanka-tested-satellite-disaster.html>

Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India

Dishnews - Satellite Television News, 30 December 2007
<http://medianetwork.co.in/dishnews/YaBB.pl?num=1198991087/0>

The Long Last Mile

www.humanitarian.info, 1 February 2008
<http://www.humanitarian.info/2008/02/01/the-long-last-mile/>

Print

Indian Ocean tsunami warning capabilities improving

The Sunday Island (Sri Lanka), 1 April 2007
Available at: http://servesrilanka.spot.com/2007_04_01_archive.html

New disaster warning technology on anvil

NIDM (India), 16 December 2007
Available at: <http://nidm.gov.in/News%20in%20PDF/2007/December/16-12-07.pdf>

New disaster warning technology on anvil

The Times of India (India), 16 December 2007
Available at: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/New_disaster_warning_technology_on_anvil/articleshow/2625862.cms

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/New_disaster_warning_technology_on_anvil/articleshow/2625862.cms

New disaster warning technology on anvil

Hindustan Times (India), 16 December 2007
Available at: <http://www.hindustantimes.in/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?id=4cf47019-4242-401a-937e-2f974ddfd587&&Headline=New+disaster+warning+technology+on+anvil>

Radio messages to warn of natural disasters

The Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka), 30 December 2007
Available at: <http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2007/12/30/new17.asp>

Disaster alert

Data Quest; governance: Strategies for nextgen government (India), 31 December 2007
Available at: <http://irneasia.net/2008/01/hazinfo-project-featured-in-dataquest-india>

TV and radio

Sudut pandang: Interview with Natasha Udu-gama

Astro Awani, Malaysia. 11 December 2007

Biz 1st: Interview with Rohan Samarajiva (Ph.D.) and A.T. Ariyaratne (Ph.D.) on disaster warning in Sri Lanka HazInfo project

Channel One (MTV), Sri Lanka. 28 December 2007

Capacity Building

LIRNEasia events

2nd Communication policy research south (CPR_{south}): Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research

Organized by LIRNEasia in association with the TeNeT Group and RTBI of the Institute of Information Technology (Madras)

14-18 December 2007. Chennai, India

The conference was attended by 73 participants from 18 countries, representing universities, research organizations and governmental organizations. The annual conference is aimed at bringing together communication policy researchers and practitioners from the 'South' to share recent research but also assist these scholars to disseminate their research more effectively and become better policy advocates. Tutorials, on relevant topics for Young Scholars were conducted on 14 and 18 December 2007.

8th South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) core course on infrastructure regulation

1-8 April 2007. Kandy, Sri Lanka

LIRNEasia was selected as the Core Course partner for the SAFIR through a competitive selection process. In this capacity, the 8th core course was designed and conducted by LIRNEasia. Thirty six participants attended the eight-day course. Course faculty included Rohan Samarajiva, Payal

Malik and Joseph Wilson of LIRNEasia, leading international consultants, researchers and practitioners from such institutions as the World Bank, Center for Policy Research (India), Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka as well as the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority of Pakistan. In addition to the core content, the course featured three parallel streams for the Electricity, Telecommunications as well as the Oil Gas and Pipeline Industries.

Media coverage

Empowering the rural communities Information for Development (i4d) magazine

January 2008

<http://i4donline.net/jan08/jan08.pdf>

General

Invited conferences

Conference on the Doha Development Agenda and the Future of the Multilateral Trading System

Organized by the Sri Lanka Law College, Colombo
31 July-1 August 2007. Colombo, Sri Lanka

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on 'Sri Lanka's telecommunications commitments under GATS: Assessment and issues for the future.'

36th Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy

Organized by Telecom Policy Research Conference (TPRC)

26-28 September 2007. Virginia, USA

Payal Malik presented a paper on 'India's universal service obligation for rural telecommunications: Issues of design and implementation.'

Meeting at Quello Centre

Organized by the Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law, Michigan State University

4 October 2007. Michigan, USA

Payal Malik made a presentation on 'Reconciling Competitive markets in telecommunications with universal service: Lessons from India.'

19th Meeting of the Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF)

Organized by the Wireless World Research Forum
5-7 November 2007. Chennai, India

Chanuka Wategama presented a paper on 'Wireless mesh networking as a means of connecting rural communities.'

Third Global Knowledge (GK3) Conference

Organized by Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

11-13 December 2007. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Chanuka Wategama participated on a panel on regulatory transparency and effectiveness, presenting findings of a survey of the websites of national regulatory authorities in Asia conducted by LIRNEasia in 2005.

2nd Communication Policy Research South (CPR_{south}): Empowering rural communities through ICT policy and research

Organized by LIRNEasia in association with the TeNeT Group and RTBI of the Institute of Information Technology (Madras)

15-17 December 2007. Chennai, India

Chanuka Wategama presented a paper entitled 'Connected villages as a means of empowering the rural poor: A case study from Sri Lanka.'

Asian Business Forum 2008

Organized by the Asia Marketing Federation and the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing

26 January 2008. Colombo, Sri Lanka

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation at a session on 'Using technology to create marketing opportunities.'

Aspen Institute India Joint Roundtable on Communications Policy

Organized by the Aspen Institute, India and Aspen Institute, USA

7-9 February 2008. Kovalam, India

Rohan Samarajiva participated at the roundtable, along with senior representatives of global telecos and regulatory authorities.

GSMA Mobile World Congress

Organized by GSM Association

11-14 February 2008. Barcelona, Spain

Rohan Samarajiva chaired a panel discussion on 'Convergence in Regulation - Designing Regulation for Convergence.'

Launch of the report on 'Building Sri Lanka's Knowledge Economy'

Organized by the World Bank, Colombo, Sri Lanka
25 March 2008. Colombo, Sri Lanka

The event was moderated by Harsha de Silva with presentations made by Rohan Samarajiva, and Sujata Gamage among others.

LIRNEasia at GSM Association events, Macau and Barcelona

LIRNEasia was invited to participate at the GSM Association's (GSMA) Mobile Asia and World Congresses during this year.

Rohan Samarajiva, Executive Director of LIRNEasia, was invited to chair a panel session on 'Innovative private and public partnerships' at the Government Symposium of the GSMA Mobile Asia Congress held in Macau, China from 12-15 November 2007. Senior Policy Fellow, Abu Saeed Khan moderated a session on mobile broadband at the event.

Rohan was also invited to chair a panel session on 'Convergence in Regulation - Designing Regulation for Convergence' at the Ministerial Program of the GSMA Mobile World Congress held in Barcelona, Spain, from 11-14 February, 2008.

Both events brought together senior representatives from government, the telecommunications industry, regulatory authorities, and academia. The session that Rohan chaired in Barcelona included Maria Del Rosario Guerra, Minister for Communications, Colombia, Binali Yildirim, Minister of Transport and Communications, Turkey, Daniel Pataki, Chairman European Regulators Group (ERG), Mickael Gossheine, CEO Jordan Telecom Group, and Sol Trujillo, CEO Telstra.

Founded in 1987, The GSMA is a global trade association representing more than 750 GSM mobile phone operators across 218 territories and countries of the world. The GSMA Mobile World Congress combines the world's largest exhibition for the mobile industry with a stimulating and insightful congress that brings together prominent leaders and personalities from mobile operators and equipment vendors, as well as Internet and entertainment.

Colloquia

Intelligence benchmark regulation: Forbearance within benchmark limits
Ayesha Zainudeen, 11 April 2007

Research and policy processes

Rohan Samarajiva and Helani Galpaya,
7 June 2007

Streamlining LIRNE network websites
Indi Samarajiva, 17 July 2007

In-situ capacity building for telecom reform in Asia- Beyond CPRSouth2
Sujata Gamage, 7 August 2007

LIRNEasia: Towards a virtual organization - First steps

Chanuka Wattagama and Nilusha Kapugama, 23 October 2007

Key performance indicators (KPIs) for LIRNEasia

Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara and Shamistra Soysa, 6 November 2007

Mobile payments and banking: Dialog eZ Pay vs. Sampath Mobile Cash
Lara Alawattagama, 4 December 2007

Communication and technology: What's new?

Robin Mansell (Ph.D., Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science),
19 January 2008

Telecenter sustainability

Harsha Liyanage (Ph.D., Managing Director, Sarvodaya Fusion, Sri Lanka),
7 February 2008

Media coverage

Web

Free Speech

Lanka Business Online, 12 June 2007

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=538826416&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24

Missed call: Sri Lanka urged to speed up telecom reforms

Lanka Business Online, 2 August 2007

http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=420899523&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=5

Choices: Taxes in Sri Lanka; limiting the damage or doing good?

Lanka Business Online, 10 September 2007

<http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?nid=202991115>

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva on mobile taxes in Sri Lanka

Virakesari Online, 1 October 2007

<http://www.virakesari.lk/Biz/index.asp>

Choices: Posts or telecom? Sri Lanka's dysfunctional communications family

Lanka Business Online, 8 October 2007

<http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?nid=545475263>

Choices: Rural or urban? Agriculture or services for Sri Lanka's future?

Lanka Business Online, 28 January 2008

<http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?nid=1088105733>

Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans for Sri Lanka

AOL News, 25 February 2008

<http://www.aol.in/news/story/200802242333901200001/index.html>

Bharti Airtel may be redrawing plans for Sri

Lanka

Indo-Asian News Service (IANS), 25 February 2008

Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans for Sri Lanka

Kerala.com, 25 February 2008

<http://www.kerala.com/news/newsDetails.php?nid=3242>

Sri Lanka - Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans

Lankaeverything.com, 25 February 2008

<http://www.lankaeverything.com/vinews/technology/20080225044928.php>

Bharti Airtel may review its Sri Lanka plan

NDTVProfit.com, 25 February 2008

<http://www.ndtvprofit.com/2008/02/25110549/Bharti-Airtel-may-review-its-S.html>

Blogs and Online Groups

Digital Opportunity in Asia-Pacific

ITU Corporate Strategy Newslog - Digital Opportunity in Asia-Pacific, 19 July 2007

<http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/newslog/PermaLink.guid,a463b8602601-4858-87f1-bbe3e0a611b9.aspx>

Real broadband

Montage, 22 August 2007

<http://montagesl.wordpress.com/2007/08/22/real-broadband/>

SL needs special attention on broadband connectivity

Status of the Media Freedom in Sri Lanka, 7

September 2007

<http://blog.freemediasrilanka.com/2007/09/03/sl-needs-special-attention-on-broadband-connectivity.aspx>

Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans for Sri Lanka

ElaKiri.com, 25 February 2008

<http://elakiri.com/forum/showthread.php?t=66702>

Print

Switching networks no longer a nightmare

The Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka), 12 October 2007

Available at:<http://www.dailymirror.lk/2007/10/12/ft/05.asp>

Read the radio signal right: A case for auctioning spectrum

Indian Express (India), 10 December 2007

Getting the basics right in e-government: Toilets first. Technology later

Public Sector Technology & Management, Volume 5.2, March – April 2008

TV and Radio

Biz 1st: Interview with Ashok Jhunjunwala (Ph.D.)

Channel One (MTV), Sri Lanka. 7 September 2007

The state of business: Interview with Rohan Samarajiva (Ph.D.) on taxes on CDMA phones

ART TV, Sri Lanka. 8 November 2007

Kelin kathawa: Interview with Rohan Samarajiva (Ph.D.)

Sirasa TV, Sri Lanka. 23 January 2008

Biz 1st: Interview with Subhash Bhatnagar (Ph.D.)

Channel One (MTV), Sri Lanka. 7 March 2008

Organizational meetings_____

Research planning meeting: Measuring ICT sector and regulatory performance and Teleuse@BOP2

11-12 August 2007. Ahungalla, Sri Lanka

Meeting to revise mission statement, organizational values and develop performance indicators

30 June 2008. Kandalama, Sri Lanka

Research review meeting: Teleuse@BOP2

11-13 May 2007. Galle, Sri Lanka



5 Financial statement 2007-08



Report of the Auditors

To the members of LIRNEasia

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of LIRNEasia, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2008, the Income Statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these Financial Statements in accordance with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementation and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Scope of audit and basis of opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements, based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the said Financial Statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the said Financial Statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Statements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the Association maintained proper accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2008 and the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the Association's state of affairs as at 31 March 2008 and its result for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards

Sgd.

Wijeyeratne & Company
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Colombo
30 June 2008

Statement of Income

Year ended 31 March

	Notes	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
Turnover	5	14,942,002	11,741,271
Other income	6	361,148	1,756,611
		15,303,150	13,497,882
Administrative expenses		(12,637,154)	(12,316,780)
Profit from operations	7	2,665,996	1,181,102
Finance cost		(2,081,214)	(851,218)
Profit before taxation		584,782	329,884
Taxation	8	-	-
Profit after taxation		584,782	329,884

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March

	Notes	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,052,530	2,564,313
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables		2,124,443	14,116,871
Cash and Bank balances		3,097,302	30,451,365
		<u>5,221,745</u>	<u>44,568,236</u>
Total assets		<u>8,274,275</u>	<u>47,132,549</u>
Equity and liabilities			
Reserves			
Profit and loss account		<u>(327,257)</u>	<u>(912,039)</u>
Specific funds			
Funds and projects	10	(2,890,769)	41,140,732
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		10,501,725	6,707,822
Bank overdraft		990,576	196,033
		<u>11,492,301</u>	<u>6,903,855</u>
Total equity and liabilities		<u>8,274,275</u>	<u>47,132,549</u>

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors;

Directors:

Sgd.
Rohan Samarajiva
 Executive Director

Sgd.
Luxman Siriwardena
 Director, External Relations

Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March

	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net profit before taxation	584,782	329,884
Adjustment for		
Depreciation	978,979	587,971
Cash generated from operating activities before working capital charges	1,563,761	917,855
Increase/Decrease in Working Capital		
Trade and other receivables	11,992,428	(7,480,451)
Trade and other payables	3,793,903	(1,920,852)
Cash generated from / (used in) operating activities	17,350,092	(8,483,447)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,467,196)	(1,686,314)
	15,882,896	(10,169,761)
Cash flow from financing activities		
Funds received from project	(44,031,501)	20,767,448
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents	(28,148,604)	10,597,687
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	30,255,332	19,657,645
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,106,726	30,255,332

Statement of Changes in Equity

Year ended 31 March

	Profit and loss account LKR	Total LKR
Balance as at 1 April 2006	(1,241,923)	(1,241,923)
Net profit for the year	329,884	329,884
Balance as at 1 April 2007	(912,039)	(912,039)
Net profit for the year	584,782	584,782
Balance as at 31 March 2008	<u>(327,257)</u>	<u>(327,257)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March

1. Fundamental accounting assumption and policies

General accounting

The Financial Statements of the association have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles conformity with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

2. Assets and bases of their valuation

2.1. Property, plant and equipment

Cost incurred in acquiring, improving or extending a property, plant and equipment have been treated as capital expenditure. Property, plant and equipment have been recorded at cost.

2.2. Depreciation

Depreciation is to be calculated in order to write-off the cost of property, plant and equipment less their residual value on a straight line basis over the expected useful lives of the concerned assets.

Depreciation is provided proportionality in the year of purchase and in the year of disposal of assets. The principal annual rates for depreciation have been used as given below:

Computers	25%
Furniture and fittings	25%

2.3. Other receivables

Other receivables have been stated at their amounts estimated to be realised.

3. Liabilities and provisions

All known liabilities have been accounted for in preparing the Financial Statements.

4. Income and expenditure

Incomes and expenditures have been accounted on accrual basis.

5. Turnover

Turnover has been defined as income receivable in respect of project management fees provided during the year.

	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
Income received	14,942,002	11,741,271

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March

	2008	2007	
	LKR	LKR	
6. Other income			
Exchange gain	-	1,140,876	
Interest income	361,148	615,735	
	<u>361,148</u>	<u>1,756,611</u>	
7. Profit from operations			
The following items have been charged in arriving at operating profit.			
Audit fees	18,000	15,000	
Consultancy fees	982,237	432,655	
8. Taxation			
No provision for income tax has been made for the year due to tax losses computed in accordance with the Inland Revenue Act No. 10 of 2006.			
9. Property, plant and equipment			
	Furniture and fittings LKR	Computers LKR	Total LKR
Cost			
As at 1 April 2007	1,472,685	1,842,391	3,315,076
Additions	631,354	858,842	1,490,196
Disposals	(23,000)	-	(23,000)
As at 31 March 2008	<u>2,081,039</u>	<u>2,701,233</u>	<u>4,782,272</u>
Accumulated depreciation			
Balance as at 1 April 2007	358,103	392,660	750,763
Charge for the year	452,980	526,172	979,153
Disposals	(173)	-	(173)
Balance as at 31 March 2008	<u>810,910</u>	<u>918,832</u>	<u>1,729,742</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March

	Furniture and fittings LKR	Computers LKR	Total LKR
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2008	1,270,129	1,782,401	3,052,530
As at 31 March 2007	1,114,582	1,449,731	2,564,313

10. Funds and projects

	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
Tsunami Memorial Fund	334,908	548,341
Hazard Information project	(517,748)	1,903,255
3R project	9,673,176	108,000
Social Science Research	-	295,644
Teleuse on Shoestring II project	295,644	(48,632)
SAFIR	-	(1,866,731)
Bottom of the Pyramid Book II	-	(25,750)
IDRC Project-103017-001	(10,558,667)	39,547,625
<i>infoDev</i> Capacity Gap project	(2,118,080)	678,981
	(2,890,769)	41,140,732

11. Directors' interest in contract

Dr. Rohan Samarajiva who is a Director of the Organization received a sum of LKR 2,805,343 from LIRNEasia as consultancy fees during the year.

Statement of Income

Year ended 31 March

	Schedules	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
Turnover			
Income received		14,942,002.25	11,741,271.27
Other income	1	361,148.27	1,756,611.44
		<u>15,303,150.52</u>	<u>13,497,882.71</u>
Less: Expenses and outgoings			
Administration expenses	2	12,637,153.59	12,316,779.77
Finance cost	3	2,081,214.31	851,218.05
		<u>(14,718,367.90)</u>	<u>(13,167,997.82)</u>
Profit for the year		<u><u>584,782.62</u></u>	<u><u>329,884.89</u></u>

Schedules to the Statement of Income

Year ended 31 March

	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
1. Other income		
Exchange gain	-	1,140,876.43
Interest income	361,148.27	615,735.01
	<u>361,148.27</u>	<u>1,756,611.44</u>
2. Administration expenses		
Audit fees	18,000.00	15,000.00
Consultancy and research fees	982,237.00	432,654.83
Courier charges	91,063.45	28,127.95
Training and educational expenses	-	759,462.86
Professional fees	62,069.10	848,234.00
Rent	467,250.00	798,841.97
Printing and stationary	1,593,512.58	165,331.00
Telephone charges (local and international)	701,606.01	720,610.35
General expenses	618,534.35	140,000.00
Water	27,306.50	14,842.50
Travelling expenses	1,113,058.08	2,476,465.68
Board meeting expenses	100,441.80	-
Project expenses	-	1,346,925.03
ICT expenses	-	780,206.49
Accounting charges	6,528.00	278,100.00
Staff welfare	1,015,476.79	46,963.10
Colloquium expenses	-	13,242.00
IT maintenance	-	110,525.00
Casual wages	99,850.00	158,280.00
Office maintenance	-	204,577.30
EPF	257,107.47	-
ETF	64,276.77	-
Salaries	2,142,562.25	-
Business development and improvement expenses	1,184,523.02	1,348,132.87
Web maintenance	180,000.00	180,000.00
Insurance	102,639.25	58,653.44
Newspaper / magazine, advertising	170,002.40	255,825.62
Furniture fittings hiring & maintenance charges	360,000.00	360,000.00
Electricity	299,956.24	187,806.78
Depreciation	979,152.53	587,971.00
	<u>12,637,153.59</u>	<u>12,316,779.77</u>

Schedules to the Statement of Income

Year ended 31 March

	2008 LKR	2007 LKR
3. Finance cost		
Interest expenses	681,370.92	666,999.26
Bank charges	78,328.91	160,732.32
Exchange loss	1,284,549.26	-
Debit tax	36,965.22	23,486.47
	<u>2,081,214.31</u>	<u>851,218.05</u>

Schedules to the Balance Sheet

As at 31 March

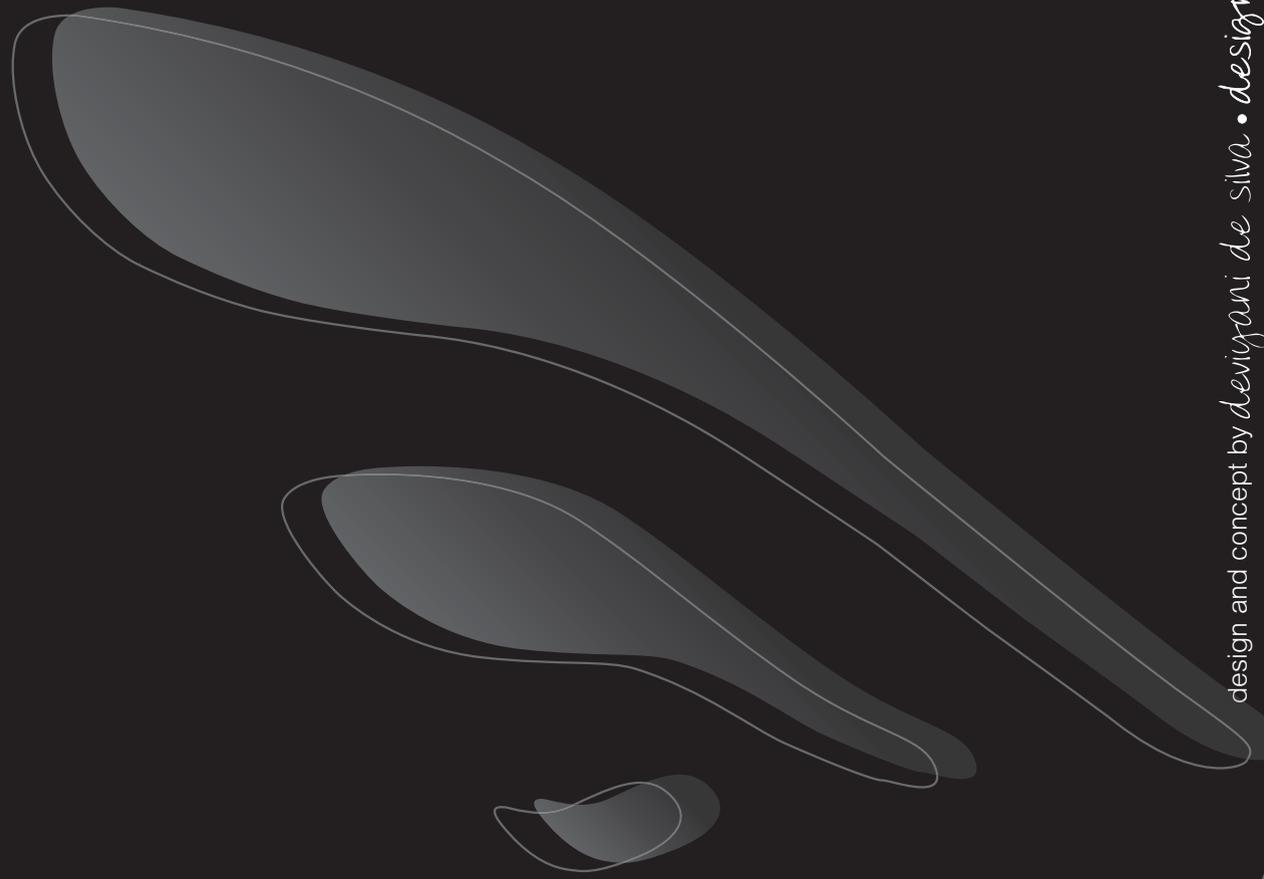
2007
LKR

1. Trade and other receivables - LKR 2,124,442.28	
Deposit for cooler and bottles	19,000.00
Rent deposit	180,000.00
Rent advance	385,000.00
Furniture fittings hiring and maintenance advance	385,000.00
Staff and other receivables	211,699.60
Credit card deposit	202,100.00
Pre-payment (Schedule 1.1)	358,101.82
USB stock	383,540.86
	<u>2,124,442.28</u>
1.1. Prepayment - LKR 358,101.82	
Prepayment hotel reservation - Canada	164,738.15
Car park charges	45,002.02
Advances	148,361.65
	<u>358,101.82</u>
2. Bank Balance - LKR 3,097,302.40	
Cash at bank	3,080,522.40
Cash in hand	16,780.00
	<u>3,097,302.40</u>
3. Trade and other payables - LKR 10,501,725.57	
Accrued expenses (Schedule 3.1)	4,192,493.32
Direct non-related project expenses	6,309,232.25
	<u>10,501,725.57</u>
3.1. Accrued expenses - LKR 4,192,493.32	
Telephone bills	46,417.72
Audit fees payable	30,650.00
Water	2,414.00
Electricity	38,620.00

Schedules to the Balance Sheet

As at 31 March

	2007 LKR
EPF, ETF and PAYE	138,642.39
Withholding tax payable	164,464.63
Traveling payable	60,000.00
Credit card payment	222,832.30
Unsettled bills - Creative Blinds	11,396.63
Project expenses	3,427,096.27
Lexus Innovation (unsettled bill)	500.00
Scenic Vetures (unsettle bill)	14,200.00
Project reimbursement	35,259.38
	<u>4,192,493.32</u>
4. Bank overdraft - LKR 990,576.44	
Bank overdraft	<u>990,576.44</u>



design and concept by *devigani de silva • design*

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