

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT VACANCY

**THE PROJECT:** LIRNEasia, in partnership with the local institutions: Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture and the University of Peradeniya Faculty of Agriculture and Canadian academia: University of Alberta and University of Guelph, is conducting an Information Communication Technology (ICT) for Agriculture Development research. The project, titled: ***innovative uses of low cost communication technology for knowledge mobilization in agricultural communities of practice***, will take place in the Kandy and Matale Districts. The three year project officially began in July of 2012 and shall end in July of 2015.

**ABOUT US:** LIRNEasia is a policy and regulation think tank based in Colombo but working across South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands. We generate and disseminate actionable knowledge for reforms in ICT sectors and other sectors that benefit from ICTs such as agriculture and health, through applied research, dissemination of best practices, training and advisory assistance. Our primary audiences are, companies within and outside the regions we work in, governments (including bilateral and multilateral development agencies), and the media. We are building a team of Asia-Pacific-based ICT policy and regulatory professionals who can work on equal terms with the best in the world.

We are currently looking to fill the role of a Research Assistant with one or more ***self-motivated, quality-conscious*** individuals with ***strong analytical and organizational skills***. The candidate must already be enrolled or choose to enroll in a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil) program in Agriculture or related program with an emphasis in ICT, at a Sri Lankan Institute.

**DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** As a Research Assistant at LIRNEasia, working in this agriculture and ICT project, you will be expected to make significant contributions to projects over the three years. You will be expected to:

- conduct independent policy-relevant research, subject to deadlines and peer review
- make efforts to draw linkages between sociological and communications/technology research for and with research collaborators
- summarize and logically present findings of your work so that the research team members can rapidly digest results
- communicate research findings in written, graphical and oral presentations to multiple external audiences
- take primary responsibility for coordinating research and capacity building related events including international meetings, training programs
- prioritize workload with little guidance and deliver on deadline
- take responsibility for quality of your work
- demonstrate self-confidence and initiative in work you undertake
- develop strong, personal relationships with other project team members in Sri Lanka, Canada and other countries with whom you have regular contact

- use statistics and econometric concepts with a high level of competency
- undertake significant local research-related travel within Sri Lanka and overseas

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Essential criteria for the suitable candidate include:

- A Bachelor's or Master's level qualifications in agriculture from a nationally or internationally recognized academic institution.
- Academic excellence, as evidenced through a minimum second class lower grading for the degree
- Prior exposure to an ICT related project or experience and working with rural Sri Lankan communities as demonstrated through examples in the past
- Excellent writing skills, as demonstrated by recent English writing samples
- High level of computer literacy with specific experience in Word Processor, Power Point and Excel Spreadsheets
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, as demonstrated through examples in the past
- High degree of competency in English with previous experience of working in a writing-intensive environment
- Statistical analysis skills and the ability to comprehend and apply alternative evaluation methods
- Experience in working with and managing diverse groups of people
- Multidisciplinary experience or exposure, beyond the degree field of study. Social science background a plus.
- Familiarity with ICT for Development and in particular the agriculture sector

**WHAT WE OFFER:** In addition to a competitive, output-dependent remuneration package, the position will enable a motivated researcher who takes advantage of the learning-conducive work environment and networking opportunities to build a rewarding career as an international knowledge professional.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Please submit a detailed CV (no more than four pages), phone/email contacts of two non-related references who can speak to relevant experience/abilities, as well as a recent writing sample of not more than 10 pages to [hr@lirneasia.net](mailto:hr@lirneasia.net) by **15 Aug 2012** or earlier. The subject of the email should be: ***Agriculture Knowledge Mobilization Research Assistant - NAME*** (where NAME should be replaced with your given name and surname name). Due to high volume applications we expect, only candidate who are selected for a first round interview will have their applications acknowledged/contacted.