

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

April 2005 – July 2006

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

1.0 WORLD DIALOG ON REGULATION (WDR) PROJECTS

1.1 2005 Asian Expert Forum (Singapore, September 30, 2005)

Organized the Expert Forum to present LIRNEasia's research to participants and also obtain their feedback. Participants included telecom operators, policy makers, regulators, civil society and researchers.

1.2 Prepared the following case studies under the 2005 WDR research theme (*Diversifying Participation in Networks*):

- ***Conditions for the success of least cost subsidies: the experience of Nepal***
An assessment of Eastern Nepal's ICT infrastructure roll-out through least-cost subsidy auctions, and comparison with design of Sri Lankan least-cost subsidy auctions. Project team included Harsha de Silva and R.K. Tuladhar.
- ***Universal Service: India Case Study***
A study of the design and implementation of India's Universal Service policy and regulatory instruments, including the Access Deficit Charge (ADC). Project team included Harsha de Silva and Payal Malik.
- ***Replicability of a Microfinance Approach to Extending Telecom Access***
An investigation of the conditions for replicating the Grameen Telecom approach for extending access to telephone services through microfinance mechanisms to rural areas in Bangladesh. Project team included Malathy Knight-John, Ayesha Zainudeen and Abu Saeed Khan.
- ***WiFi "Innovation" in Indonesia: Working around hostile market and regulatory conditions***
An evaluation of the replicability of WiFi-based access innovations in Indonesia. Project team included Divakar Goswami and Onno Purbo.

2.0 TELECOM USE ON A SHOESTRING (2005)

A three-country study of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka to understand the use of telecom services by the 'financially constrained' in South Asia. Substantive studies of 4 locations in Sri Lanka and 8 in India were carried out in April and May of 2005, along with a literature-based study of Bangladesh. The survey comprised of 2099 Indian respondents and 1100 Sri Lankan respondents, and was conducted by TNS Lanka, assisted by the LIRNEasia counterpart team. Project team included Ayesha Zainudeen, Rohan Samarajiva, Ayoma Abeysuriya (TNS Lanka), Harsha de Silva, Divakar Goswami, Mariam Hameed, Tahani Iqbal, Malathy Knight-John, Sriganesh Lokanathan, Avanti Moonesinghe, Neluka Silva, Chanuka Wattergama, Prashanthi Weragoda.



3.0 DAM SAFETY PROJECT

Under LIRNEasia's **Disaster Warning and ICTs** program, a concept paper was developed for an Early Warning System for Dam Related Hazards, including an examination of the lessons learnt from the Kantale dam breach of 1986, awareness raising on potential dangers of dam breach, and influencing government to implement appropriate measures for monitoring and mitigating effects of dam breaches. This was done in collaboration with The Vanguard Foundation, ITDG and the Sri Lanka National Committee on Large Dams. Project team included Rohan Samarajiva, Divakar Goswami and Rebecca Ennen.

A Press Conference to present the interim concept paper was held at the Auditorium, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on August 10, 2005. A second media event was held on January 23, 2006 to hand over the final concept paper to the Disaster Management Centre, Government of Sri Lanka.

4.0 MEASURING ICT SECTOR AND REGULATORY PERFORMANCE (PHASE 1)

The first phase of the **Measuring ICT Sector and Regulatory Performance Project** (ongoing) included a regional workshop held in collaboration with TRAI, in Delhi, India from March 1-5, 2006. The workshop consisted of over 60 participants from all SAARC+1 countries, including representatives from government, regulatory agencies, and industry associations. Tim Kelly and Lilia Perez Chavolla (ITU), and Sam Paltridge (OECD) were among the resource persons at the workshop. Project team included Rohan Samarajiva, Prashanthi Weragoda, Chanuka Wattegama, Sriganesh Lokanathan, Divakar Goswami and Tahani Iqbal.

5.0 REGULATORY WEBSITE SURVEY

Partly as a contribution to the **Measuring ICT Sector and Regulatory Performance Project** (ongoing) and partly as a systematic extension and application of the web survey methodology presented at the Cairo WDR Forum, which assessed African regulatory websites, a performance evaluation of 27 telecommunication National Regulatory Authority (NRA) websites in the Asia-Pacific region was undertaken. The objective of this was to benchmark their performance as e-government service providers. Project team included Chanuka Wattegama.

6.0 ASIAN BACKBONE STUDY

A study of backbone networks in the South Asian region, the terms and conditions of access, where they exist and the consequences of their absence or exclusionary access regimes. Project team included Harsha Vardhana Singh, Rohan Samarajiva and Ayesha Zainudeen.

7.0 RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM

Two activities were undertaken by Rohan Samarajiva:

7.1 Provided assistance to the Telecom Regulatory Body of Indonesia (BRTI; Badan Regulasi Telekom Indonesia) with activating process of asymmetric regulation in a multi-operator environment (March 8-11, 2005).

7.2 Provided assistance to the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) in the form of an op-ed article in the Daily Star newspaper and a confidential advisory memo to the Minister of Telecom immediately following a UNDP sponsored presentation on optimal utilization of the new submarine cable (December 2, 2005).



8.0 REGULATORY TRAINING COURSE (SINGAPORE, SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2005)

A successful training course (Telecom Reform Course on Catalyzing Change: Strategies to Achieve Connectivity and Convergence) for 36 persons from 18 countries was held in Singapore, in partnership with Infocomm Development Authority and Nanyang Technological University. The executive training course was designed for members and senior staff of Asian regulatory agencies. Project team included Rohan Samarajiva and Prashanthi Weragoda.

9.0 NETWORKING MEETING (INDONESIA, OCTOBER 1-3, 2005)

A two and a half day residential program, with approximately 30 participants from 14 countries, consisting of researchers and policy and regulatory officials was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The preliminary findings of the Indonesian WiFi study were presented to several senior government officials, including the Indonesian Director General of Telecommunications, at the inaugural session of the meeting on October 1, 2005. This meeting was held in partnership with the Indonesian Telecom Society Mastel as a component of a larger program of knowledge mapping and network building (see **Capacity and Field-building Program** under Ongoing Activities).

10.0 LIRNEASIA RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (SRI LANKA, DECEMBER 19, 2005 AND INDIA, MARCH 6, 2006)

LIRNEasia showcased its research for 2005 to CEOs and Managing Directors of local telecom operators, regulatory officials, donor agencies, investment analysts and the media.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

1.0 WORLD DIALOG ON REGULATION (WDR) PROJECTS

1.1 Measuring ICT Sector and Regulatory Performance

Under the WDR 2006-2007 research theme (*Sector and Regulatory Performance Indicators*), LIRNEasia has initiated a multi-component, multi-sector project that examines the progress that has been made after liberalization through an assessment of the regulatory and sector environment, vis-à-vis supply and demand side studies. This includes:

- **Indicators Project**

Development of an indicators manual with key stakeholders, to arrive at standardized supply-side indicators relevant to developing Asia that can be adopted in the region. The study will be carried out in six countries (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka), and will consist of a Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) scorecard, an analysis of reforms that have been implemented in the respective countries, and a measurement of changes in sector performance, using the indicators being developed. Project team includes Harsha de Silva, Divakar Goswami, Malathy Knight-John, Sriganesh Lokanathan, Payal Malik, Lorraine Salazar, Suhardi and Joseph Wilson.

- **Telecom Use on a Shoestring (2006-2007)**

Building on the Telecom Use on a Shoestring project undertaken in 2005, this study will be conducted in five countries (India, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka) and will comprise of a quantitative and qualitative component, including the use of diaries to record telephone use. Fieldwork commenced in July 2006, with preliminary results expected in September 2006. LIRNEasia's research partner on this project is AC Nielsen Sri Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd, who will conduct the fieldwork. Project team includes Ayesha Zainudeen, Harsha de Silva, Kabir Hashim, Ranga Kamaladasa, and Sabrina Eliatamby.



1.2 Participation in WDR Online Dialog

Prepared brief summaries of research areas as a starting point for global online discussion.

2.0 CAPACITY AND FIELD-BUILDING PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AN ASIA-PACIFIC KNOWLEDGE NETWORK ON ICT POLICY AND REGULATION

LIRNEasia is in the process of studying researchers within its areas of competence and interest, as a starting point to a larger systematic mapping of Asian researchers in the ICT field. This exercise will center on an annual research conference, “Communication Policy Research: South (CPRsouth)” that will provide a focus for intra-Asian (and intra-South) connections among scholars engaged in ICT policy and regulation research. While LIRNEasia will provide the required support functions for three years (subject to availability of resources), the governance of the conference and the associated field-building activities will be in the hands of a self-perpetuating but changing Board of Directors. Project team includes Sujata Gamage and Tahani Iqbal.

3.0 BASELINE SECTOR ANALYSIS OF THE BPO INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

LIRNEasia and the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) partnered to conduct a baseline sector analysis of the BPO sector in Sri Lanka, to assess its direct, as well as indirect impacts on the country, and to identify opportunities and constraints for its growth. Data was collected by AC Nielsen Sri Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd. The project is expected to be completed in August 2006. Project team includes Harsha de Silva, Sriganesh Lokanathan and Dilshani Samaraweera.

4.0 ICTs, TRANSACTION COSTS AND TRACEABILITY IN AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

LIRNEasia is conducting research on the potential of ICTs in implementing traceability programs among small farmers, in collaboration with an USAID-funded initiative called Govi Gnana Seva (GGS) or Farmer Knowledge Service, specifically conceived to address the information asymmetry problem faced by rural farmers in Sri Lanka. Project team includes Harsha de Silva and Helani Galpaya.

5.0 EVALUATING LAST-MILE HAZARD INFORMATION DISSEMINATION (HAZINFO) PROJECT

As part of LIRNEasia’s **Disaster Warning and ICTs** program, LIRNEasia is evaluating the suitability of five different ICTs deployed in varied conditions for their suitability in the last-mile of a national disaster warning system for Sri Lanka. Indicators of effectiveness that will be evaluated in this study are reliability, reaction time, bi-directionality, and integration of ICTs into village life. Simulated drills will be conducted over a six month period where hazard warnings will be disseminated to individual villages in the quadrants and their hazard response will be systematically assessed. The villages’ response to any naturally occurring hazard will also be evaluated during the entire project duration of 24 months. LIRNEasia is partnering with Vanguard Foundation, World Space, Solana Networks, TVE Asia Pacific, Sarvodaya and Dialog Telekom on this project. Project team includes Rohan Samarajiva and Nuwan Waidyanatha.

6.0 VIRTUAL ORGANIZATION

Developing LIRNEasia into an effective and regional “virtual organization” by identifying a sustainable model for regional collaboration through the use of ICTs. The workings of the organization will be studied for 6-9 months and a proposal will be developed to obtain funds to establish an office elsewhere that can function as a virtual extension of the present one. Project team includes Sujata Gamage and Divakar Goswami.



7.0 BEYOND TECHNOLOGY

Authoring a book offering solutions to the problem of rural access to reliable, affordable ICTs in the developing world, namely through smart subsidies, regulatory reform and institutional change. First draft is near completion; and publishing is expected in mid 2007.

A workshop was held in Bandarawela, Sri Lanka in December 2005 with participation from Asian researchers/academics writing on this subject, to discuss content and obtain input. Project team includes Rohan Samarajiva, Ayesha Zainudeen, Luxman Siriwardene, Harsha de Silva, Harsha Vardhana Singh, Helani Galpaya, Divakar Goswami, Mahinda Heart, Tahani Iqbal, Abu Saeed Khan, Malathy Knight-John, Payal Malik, Onno Purbo, Rajendra Singh, Visoot Phongsathorn and Chanuka Wategama.

8.0 SOUTH ASIAN INVESTOR FORUM

Developing an annual investor forum where investors can talk to regulators and vice versa. Discussions are underway with the heads of both the Indian and Pakistani regulatory agencies.

9.0 WEBHAMUWA

Webhamuwa.com records the thoughts of displaced people in 50 tsunami affected Sarvodaya villages along the Sri Lankan coast, to ensure that their interests are taken into account when reconstruction and rehabilitation decisions are made. This project is supported by the World Bank.

PUBLICATIONS

1.0 ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES

- R. Samarajiva, Mobilizing information and communications technologies for effective disaster warning: Lessons from the 2004 tsunami, *New Media and Society* (7(6), 2005: 731-47. <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN022464.pdf>. Prepublication version: <http://www.lirneasia.net/2005/07/icts-and-early-warning>
- Gamage, S. & Samarajiva, R. (2005). From Capacity to Presence: Research on Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure Reform in the Internet Age. Accepted for publication in *Information Technology and International Development*, MIT Press, Boston, USA, October 2005, at http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/02/ITID_1.pdf
- Wategama, Chanuka (2005) Book Review: The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time, by Jeffrey D Sachs. *The Southern African Journal of Information and Communication*, Issue 6 2005, Johannesburg, South Africa, pp112-117

2.0 BOOK CHAPTERS

- R. Samarajiva & A. Dokeniya with Sabina Fernando, Shan Manikkalingam & Amal Sanderatne, Regulation and Investment: Sri Lanka Case Study, in *Stimulating Investment in Network Development: Roles for Regulators*, eds. A.K Mahan and W.H. Melody, 2005, pp. 141-76. Monte Video: World Dialogue on Regulation. <http://www.regulateonline.org/content/view/435/31>
- P. Malik, Regulation and Investment: Case Study of the Indian Telecommunications Industry, in *Stimulating Investment in Network Development: Roles for Regulators*, eds. A.K Mahan and W.H. Melody, 2005, pp. 177-226. Monte Video: World Dialogue on Regulation. <http://www.regulateonline.org/content/view/435/31>



- H. de Silva & A.S. Khan, Regulation and Investment: Case Study of Bangladesh, in *Stimulating Investment in Network Development: Roles for Regulators*, eds. A.K Mahan and W.H. Melody, 2005, pp. 226-58. Monte Video: World Dialogue on Regulation. <http://www.regulateonline.org/content/view/435/31>

3.0 POLICY DOCUMENTS

- R. Samarajiva, D. Goswami and R. Ennen, Concept paper for a dam-related hazard warning system in Sri Lanka, A participatory study on actions required to avoid and mitigate dam disasters, Version 2.0. <http://www.lirneasia.net/2006/01/dam-safety-concept-paper-released> 23 January.

4.0 WDR PAPERS

- Malik, P. & de Silva, H. (2005). Diversifying Network Participation: Study of India's Universal Service Instruments. World Dialog on Regulation, September 2005, at <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/02/Malik%20de%20Silva%20Sept%202005%20final.pdf>
- Wattegama, C. (2005). Benchmarking National Telecom Regulatory Authority Websites: A Survey of Websites of Telecommunication Regulators in the Asia-Pacific Region, Version 2.0. World Dialog on Regulation, November 2005, at <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/02/Wattegama%202005%20Benchmarking%20NRAs.pdf>
- Knight-John, M., Zainudeen, Z.A. & Khan, A.S. (2005). An Investigation of the Replicability of a Microfinance Approach to Extending Telecommunications Access to Marginal Customers, Version 3.1. World Dialog on Regulation, December 2005, at <http://www.lirneasia.net/projects/grameen-phones-replicability/>
- de Silva, H. & Thuladar, R.K. (2006). Smart Subsidies: Getting the Conditions Right – The Experience of Expanding Rural Telecoms in Nepal. World Dialog on Regulation, January 2006, at <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/02/de%20Silva%20Tuladhar%202006%20Nepal%20final.pdf>
- Zainudeen, Z.A. (2006) Telecom Use on a Shoestring: The case of Bangladesh, Version2.0. WDR World Dialog on Regulation, January 2006, at http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/02/Zainudeen%202006%20teleuse%20on%20a%20shoestring_bangladesh%20meta%202.0.pdf
- Zainudeen, Z.A., Samarajiva, R. & Abeysuriya, A. (2006). Telecom Use on a Shoestring: Strategic Use of Telecom Services by the Financially Constrained in South Asia, Version2.0. World Dialog on Regulation, February 2006 at <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/02/Zainudeen%20Samarajiva%20Abeysuriya%202006%20teleuse%20strategies.pdf>
- Goswami, D. & Purbo, O. (2006). Wi-Fi “Innovation” in Indonesia: Working around Hostile Market and Regulatory Conditions, Version 2.0. World Dialog on Regulation, May 2006, at <http://www.lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2006/05/wdr0611.pdf>

5.0 TRADE PRESS

- Samarajiva, R. & Zainudeen, Z.A. (2005). e-Government as a part of Sri Lanka's overall development strategy, *egov Magazine (India)* Vol. 1 Issue 3, May-June 2005, at <http://www.egov.csdms.in>



- Samarajiva, R. Learning from the tsunami, *Sri Lanka Institute of Directors Power Pages*, 5(1), March, Cover Story, at <http://www.lirneasia.net/2005/02/learning-from-the-tsunami>

6.0 NEWSPAPERS/ELECTRONIC NEWS PUBLICATIONS

- “Bridging the digital divide in Sri Lanka: The 'mobile' way” by Wattegama, Chanuka. Daily News, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Colombo, April 04, 2005
- “Rural Telephony – TRAI has got it right, finally!” by Payal Malik. The Indian Express: Op-Ed October 31, 2005, at http://www.indianexpress.com/res/web/plr/full_story.php?content_id=81085
- “Making the most of submarine connectivity for Bangladesh” by Rohan Samarajiva. The Daily Star, December 6, 2005, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/2005/12/06/d512061501104.htm>

6.1 Column on LBO: Choices by Rohan Samarajiva (Most of these articles have been translated into Sinhala and published in Ravaya, the Sinhala weekly review)

- “BPOs or daha dahasak wewu: Sri Lanka's decision making could put it out of service”, April 20, 2005 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1803905964&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Discussion Paper: If we care about our children...: Ridding Year 1 school admissions of corruption and influence”, May 6, 2005 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1789103828&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “The Price of Free: The cost of free water”, July 11, 2005 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1786313422&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Googling Monkeys – Talk shows and googling monkeys: Effective political discourse in the Information Age”, August 11, 2005 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1074252709&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Ostrich Call: An MOU to implement MOUs”, December 9, 2005 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1180560902&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Simple Solutions: Workaround or workthrough?”, December 23, 2005 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=159257464&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Avoiding or managing congestion: Congestion becomes a hot topic as Sri Lanka's telecom sector goes through another growth spurt...”, January 26, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1702706426&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Citizens Choice – Vote: With the ballot or with your feet?”, February 21, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=973273158&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Odd Bunch: Normal or peculiar standard time?”, March 16, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1760049024&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24



- “Cross Currents: BPO or KPO?”, March 28, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1871328888&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Wishful Thinking – Infrastructure: Back to basics?”, April 13, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=876275017&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Coming Clean: The money of politics or the politics of money?”, May 1, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=2028664657&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Credibility Factor – The Sri Lankan state: Failed, failing or maligned?”, May 12, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=497166982&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Penny 4 U – Traffic congestion: On the road to Seoul or London?”, May 22, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1845627343&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Wrong Lie: Lies or the bitter truth?”, June 8, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=1312774241&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Wishing Well: Toll or troll?”, June 21, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=984227178&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Mixed Signals: To appoint or advertise?”, July 3, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=2146526699&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24
- “Different Strokes: Kiri or kekiri?”, July 11, 2006 at http://www.lbo.lk/insight_fullstory.php?newsID=222878524&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERM=24

7.0 EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

- Expert Consultation for the basis of developing a concept paper on an Early Warning System for Dam Related Hazards (with participation of Professors Tissa Illangasekare and Anura Jayasumana from Colorado, USA), May 20, 2005.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 1.0 **WSIS THEMATIC MEETING ON MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS FOR BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE** – Seoul, Republic of Korea; June 23-24, 2005
Organized by the Ministry of Information and Communication of the Republic of Korea (MIC), ITU and Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO).

Harsha de Silva made a presentation on the Govi Gnana Service.



- 2.0 15TH ANNUAL WORLD FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS FORUM, SYMPOSIUM AND CASE CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (IAMA) POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON “INAUGURATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN THE GLOBAL FOOD CHAIN: EXPERIENCES FROM NORTH AFRICA, THE NEAR EAST AND ASIA” – Chicago, Illinois; June 29-30, 2005**

Organized by USAID, World Bank, International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Harsha de Silva made a presentation on the Govi Gnana Service.

- 3.0 SEMINAR ON LEVERAGING PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR RURAL ICT DEVELOPMENT – Chiang Rai, Thailand; July 5-7, 2005**

Organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and World Bank.

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on optimizing regulation for rural ICT access.

- 4.0 14TH AMIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE “MEDIA AND SOCIETY IN ASIA: TRANSFORMATIONS AND TRANSITIONS” – Beijing, China; July 18-21, 2005**

Chanuka Wattegama made a presentation on “The role of media in a disaster: A Good Samaritan in the clothes of communicator?”

- 5.0 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION RESEARCH (IAMCR) ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Taipei; July 26-28, 2005**

Organized by IAMCR and hosted by Shih Hsin University, Taiwan.

Rohan Samarajiva gave a plenary presentation on ICTs and disaster warnings.

- 6.0 NATIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE – Colombo, Sri Lanka; August 15-16, 2005**

Chanuka Wattegama made a presentation on “ICT for Human Development in the Third World: - The Reality and the Myth”

- 7.0 ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON COMPETITION POLICY AND LAW IN ASIA (7-UP 2 PROJECT) – Hanoi, Vietnam; August 16-17, 2005**

Organized by the Centre for Competition Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS)

Malathy Knight-John and Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on competition principles in telecom regulation.

- 8.0 MEDIA PROFESSIONALS’ CONVENTION – Tholangamuva, Sri Lanka; September 9, 2005**

Organized by the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA)

Rohan Samarajiva delivered the keynote address.

- 9.0 WORKSHOP ON “WIRELESS COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE”, ANNENBERG RESEARCH NETWORK ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION – University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, USA; October 7-8, 2005**

Organized by the USC Annenberg School for Communication.



Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on wireless communication and development.

- 10.0 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BUILDING AN INFORMATION SOCIETY: ROAD TO TUNIS –** Dhaka, Bangladesh; October 23-25, 2005
Organized by the Ministry of Science & ICT, Government of Bangladesh and UNDP-Bangladesh.

Chanuka Wategama made the keynote address for the *Internet Governance and Telecom Regulation* session of the workshop.

- 11.0 CEO CONFERENCE “OFFSHORE TO SRI LANKA” –** Colombo, Sri Lanka; November 11, 2005
Organized by the ICT sub-committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the World Bank, in partnership with the Board of Investment (BOI) and ICTA.

Rohan Samarajiva moderated a panel discussion.

- 12.0 MEASURING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS PARALLEL EVENT) –** Tunis, November 15, 2005
Organized by UNCTAD and other entities.

Rohan Samarajiva chaired the session on *Core ICT Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation* and made a presentation on ICT indicators. Chanuka Wategama also made a presentation.

- 13.0 WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) –** Tunis, November 17-18, 2005
Organized by the IDRC and *infoDev*.

LIRNEasia researchers played an active role in the conference – Rohan Samarajiva was a panelist for the *Do Policy and Regulation Matter?* session, Harsha de Silva chaired the *Policy Processes* session, while all of LIRNEasia's research for 2005 was presented by Harsha de Silva, Divakar Goswami, Rohan Samarajiva, Chanuka Wategama and Ayesha Zainudeen.

- 14.0 RIA! POLICY DIALOGUE –** Tunis, November 17, 2005
Organized by the Research ICT Africa!

Rohan Samarajiva served as a resource person.

- 15.0 SEMINAR ON ‘SUBMARINE CABLE CONNECTIVITY: NATIONAL READINESS’ –** Dhaka, Bangladesh; December 1, 2005
Organized by the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

Rohan Samarajiva delivered the keynote speech.

- 16.0 EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP ON SENSOR BASED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EARLY TSUNAMI DETECTION –** Maui, Hawaii; February 9-10, 2006
Organized by the University of Pittsburgh and sponsored by the US National Science Foundation.

Rohan Samarajiva made two presentations, the first one about the actual experiences of tsunami warning in Sri Lanka, and the second on LIRNEasia's HazInfo Project.

- 17.0 APC REGIONAL ICT POLICY CONSULTATION MEETING –** Dhaka, Bangladesh; April 19-21, 2006
Organized by the Association for Progressive Communication.



Ayesha Zainudeen presented the findings of the Telecom Use on a Shoestring project undertaken in 2005 and Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on what civil society can do in ICT policymaking and regulation.

- 18.0 ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE (A2K) CONFERENCE** – New Haven, USA; April 21-23, 2006
Organized by Yale Law School.

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on wireless communication and development.

- 19.0 APECTEL33 MEETING** – Calgary, Canada; April 23-28, 2006
Organized by the Government of Canada and other public and private organizations.

Divakar Goswami made a presentation on leased line data and Rohan Samarajiva presented findings from the Telecom Use on a Shoestring project of 2005.

- 20.0 INTERNATIONAL FORUM, GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP, COLOMBO, 9 MAY 2006.**
Rohan Samarajiva made a plenary presentation “Action research on last-mile hazard information.”

- 21.0 RESEARCH ICT AFRICA (RIA!) ANNUAL MEETING** – Dakar, Senegal; May 28-June 2, 2006
Rohan Samarajiva made two presentations, one on TRE assessment and the other on wireless technology.

- 22.0 ITS (INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY) 2006** – Beijing, China; June 12-16, 2006
Organized by the Beijing University of Posts & Telecommunications (BUPT), Center for E-commerce, HKUST Business School (HKUST) and China Consulting Center for Science and Technology (CCCST).

Payal Malik presented a paper on India’s Universal Service Instruments and Malathy Knight-John presented a paper on the Bangladeshi Microfinance program by Grameen Phone and chaired a session on Spectrum Regulation and Transaction.

- 23.0 USING ICT FOR EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ASIA FORUM 2006** – Colombo, Sri Lanka; June 26-28, 2006
Organized by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO).

Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on the lessons learnt from the tsunami and was a panelist for the *Cost of Disasters* session and chaired the first day’s sessions; Nuwan Waidyanatha made a presentation on the HazInfo Project and was a panelist for the *Disaster Mitigation* session.

- 24.0 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM** – Belihuloya, July 7, 2006
Organized by the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

“The university in the age of the Internet,” dinner presentation by Rohan Samarajiva

PRESENTATIONS

- 1.0** Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on “*Mobilizing Information and Communication Technologies for Effective Disaster Warning: Lessons Learnt from the 2004 Tsunami*” at a Colloquium



organized by the Department of Communication, University of California, San Diego; June 1, 2005

- 2.0 Luxman Siriwardene, Review of Post-1977 Economic Reforms in Sri Lanka, edited by Dr Saravanamuttu Muttukrishna presentation at book launch, May 30, 2005.
- 3.0 Rohan Samarajiva made a presentation on telecom opportunities "*Telecom: Opportunities for Public and Private Sector Participation*" to a delegation of Korean ICT leaders – Korean Embassy, Sri Lanka; December 8, 2005

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1.0 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Meetings with IDRC, CIDA, USAID and UNF in Ottawa, Canada and Washington DC, USA (May 2006)

2.0 STAFF TRAINING

- 2.1 Telecom Reform Course on Catalyzing Change: Strategies to Achieve Connectivity and Convergence, 7th LIRNE.NET Course on Telecom Reform in Singapore, September 25 -30, 2005
Ayesha Zainudeen, Payal Malik and Abu Saeed Khan took the course.
- 2.2 Evaluating Social Programs: Executive Training at J-PAL, 1st course offered by the MIT Poverty Action Lab in Massachusetts, USA, May 30-June 3, 2006
Harsha de Silva participated in the course on an MIT scholarship.

3.0 COLLOQUIA

- 3.1 April 1, 2005 - **Public Goods & Supply of Warning System**
Rohan Samarajiva and Harsha de Silva made a presentation and discussed the feasibility of providing an all-hazards early warning system (public good).
- 3.2 April 29, 2005 – **Hazards to Disasters: The Role of Electronic Communication**
Discussed presentation on "*Mobilizing information and communications technologies for effective supply of disaster warnings: Lessons from the 2004 tsunami*" by Rohan Samarajiva and Asantha Sirimanne.
- 3.3 May 20, 2005 – "*Diversifying Participation in Network Development: Moving Beyond the Market*"
Presentation of preliminary findings of the review of current subsidy mechanisms for expansion of rural telephony in India (Access Deficit Charge and Universal Service Fund instruments) by Payal Malik and Harsha de Silva.
- 3.4 June 15, 2005 – "*Benchmarking National Telecom Regulatory Authority websites of Asia-Pacific Region*"
Chanuka Wattegama presented findings from the benchmarking study of regulatory websites.
- 3.5 August 26, 2005 – "*Conditions for Replicating the Grameen Telecom Microfinance Approach to Rural Telecommunications Access in Bangladesh*" (Interim Paper)
Malathy Knight-John, Abu Saeed Khan and Ayesha Zainudeen presented preliminary findings from the study.



- 3.6** September 2, 2005 – **Methodology for Analysis of Leased Line Tariffs**
A presentation of preliminary methodology for the comparative analysis of leased line tariffs by Sriganesh Lokanathan.
- 3.7** September 12, 2005 – **Indonesia WiFi Access Innovation**
Divakar Goswami presented initial findings from the assessment of WiFi-based expansion of internet access in Indonesia.
- 3.8** September 16, 2005 – **ICT Indicators for Benchmarking Performance in Network and Services Development**
Results from a study to identify and further develop an Asia-based knowledge base in telecom reform by Sujata Gamage.
- 3.9** December 23, 2005 – *“Developing a Knowledge Base for Telecom Reform in Asia: Measures of Quality and Usability”*
Presentation of preparatory research for the Workshop on ICT Indicators for Benchmarking Performance in Network and Services Development (Delhi, March 1-3, 2006) by Sriganesh Lokanathan.
- 3.10** January 24, 2006 – *“Methodologies for estimating grey markets as well as issues related to data collection in informal markets in the telecom sector”*
Presentation by Dr. Muttukrishna Sarvananthan.
- 3.11** May 18, 2006 – A review the first cycle of LIRNEasia's research program, and a discussion of the challenges ahead of with the new research program. Rohan Samarajiva made the presentation.
- 3.12** June 18, 2006 – **A Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Message Relay**
Nuwan Waidyanatha made the presentation, with assistance from Nabil Seddigh, Rupinder Singh, Dr. Gordon Gow and Biswajit Nandy (in Canada, via Skype).
- 3.13** July 6, 2006 – **Assessing Telecom Knowledge Capacity**
Presentation and discussion of the paper on *“Telecom Policy Research in Asia: A Framework for Assessing Knowledge Capacity”* by Sujata Gamage.
- 3.14** July 13, 2006 – *“Base Line Sector Analysis of the BPO Industry in Sri Lanka”*
Dilshani Samaraweera presented the preliminary findings from the study.
- 4.0** **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
- 4.1** LIRNEasia moved into a three-storey building in Borella, Sri Lanka to accommodate a growing body of researchers in February 2006.
- 4.2** A Research Planning Meeting to determine LIRNEasia's research focus for 2006-2007 was held in Gurgaon, India from March 4-5, 2006.
- 4.3** Website development (Ongoing – *see Web Stats*).