

Date: 29 November 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **AfterAccess: ICT access and use in Sri Lanka**

### **Information sheet for respondents providing call detail records to LIRNEasia**

LIRNEasia is a regional ICT [information and communication technology] policy and regulation think tank. It works to improve people's lives by working to change policies through evidence that would help people's use of infrastructure and related services such as transport.

LIRNEasia has been active in Sri Lanka since 2005 conducting research to support policy changes that will help improve people's lives. Some of these research projects include studies on the use of mobility patterns to predict the spread of epidemics such as dengue and the use of big data to understand traffic patterns. LIRNEasia has, over the years, provided input to government projects related to transportation and urban planning, mostly notably the Western Megapolis Development Project. We have also conducted studies to understand how ICTs can support livelihoods of youth and the otherwise unemployed.

In its most recent work, LIRNEasia is interested in mapping the travel patterns of Sri Lankans, in order to understand their transportation needs, towards making policy recommendations regarding the same. We seek your support in this effort.

The ideal source of mobility data is the mobile phone. If we are able to track the base stations which a mobile phone connects to, over the course of the day, and if we have such data collected for a sample of the population we can then use that to predict mobility patterns for the entire population. Statistics has shown that if we are able to track such travel patterns for just 2,400 people in Sri Lanka, we are able to understand and make recommendations regarding the transport needs of every Sri Lankan. This will allow us to make recommendations to government regarding transport planning that will meet the needs of individuals and help improve their transport experience.

If you would like to support us in this valuable work, we humbly request your permission to access your travel patterns through your mobile phone, for a period of three months, starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The data we want to collect include the following:

- **which base stations your mobile phone is nearest to**
- **when you make or receive a call**
- **the date and time of the call**
- **the duration of the call**

We want to collect the same information for when you use SMS or the Internet through your phone.

# AFTER ACCESS

All data of your mobile phone activity will be kept securely with access to the raw data limited to select researchers. This data along with your survey responses will be anonymized to remove personally identifiable information so that the records cannot be traced back to you and so that your privacy can be guaranteed. Furthermore, the data will be used only to understand mobility and phone usage patterns at an aggregate level (e.g. men aged 18-45 living in Borella) and not at an individual level, further protecting your privacy.

Visit [lirneasia.net/afteraccess](http://lirneasia.net/afteraccess) for more information. Please feel free to contact the undersigned for any further information you may require

Thanking you for your support.

Yours truly,

Tharaka Amarasinghe

**Project Manager/Statistician**

+94 77 231 3513 | [tharaka@lirneasia.net](mailto:tharaka@lirneasia.net)