



**Online Training Program
Influencing data governance policy in
South and Southeast Asia**

10th and 11th December 2024

Resource persons

Helani Galpaya



Helani Galpaya researches and engages in public discourse on issues related to net neutrality, policy and regulatory barriers in Internet access, e-Government and broadband quality of service. She also studies and speaks on how knowledge and information disseminated via ICTs can improve inclusiveness of SMMEs (small, medium and micro enterprises) in global agriculture value chains, and how labor is changing due to digitization and entry of digital platforms that reduce transaction costs. She is currently leading nationally representative surveys of Internet use by households and individuals in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal. She is also currently researching how experiences and perceptions of harassment, surveillance and privacy impact the way men and women differentially experience the Internet, and how online identity helps or hinders their digital and political participation

Helani serves on the Board of Editors of the Information Technology and International Development (ITID) journal, is on the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), and is a member of the Working Group on Innovation and Commercialisation of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), and [Club de Madrid](#)'s working group on Shared Societies for the 2023 Annual Dialog on Rethinking Social Development for the People and the Planet. She was a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the UN Internet Governance Forum, the Advisory Board of the Harnessing and Sharing Economy for Local Development initiative of the Centre for Implementation of Public Policies promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), Argentina and an Advisor to the UN Broadband Commission's Working Group on Bridging the Gender Divide.

Helani previously worked at the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka implementing the World Bank's e-Sri Lanka initiative. Prior to that she was a management consultant at Booz&Co (formerly Booz Allen Hamilton), New York, and worked at Citibank and Merrill Lynch in New York and Miami. She has an MSc in Technology & Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA and a BA (Cum Laude) in Computer Science from Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, USA.

Rohan Samarajiva



Rohan Samarajiva is founding Chair of LIRNEasia, an ICT policy and regulation think tank active across emerging Asia. He was CEO for eight years from its inception in 2004. His most recent co-authored book (2013) is *Information lives of the poor: Fighting poverty with technology*, published in Burmese, English, French and Spanish. He serves on the Council of the University of Moratuwa, the Board of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa and the National Advisory Council of the Sri Lanka Archives. He serves as Chair of Sarvodaya Fusion, the ICT unit of Sri Lanka's largest community based organisation and advises Advocata Institute, a Sri Lankan economic policy think tank.

He was Chair of the ICT Agency, the apex body for information and communication technology within the government of Sri Lanka in 2018-19, having been one of its founding directors in 2003-05. He was Team Leader at the Sri Lanka Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology (2002-04) responsible for infrastructure reforms, including participation in the design of the USD 83 million e Sri Lanka Initiative. Samarajiva as Director General of Telecommunications in Sri Lanka (1998-99), Honorary Professor at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka (2003-04), Visiting Professor of Economics of Infrastructures at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (2000-03) and Associate Professor of Communication and Public Policy at the Ohio State University in the US (1987-2000). He served on the Specialty Board in Biomedical Informatics of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo (2018-22). He was a member of the UN Global Pulse Advisory Group on the Governance of Data and Artificial Intelligence. He served on its predecessor, the Data Privacy Advisory Group, since 2015.

He received the SLT ZeroOne Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution as a public policy maker and advocate to influence access to cost effective and high quality digital infrastructure in 2018, was recognised as an Internet Pioneer by the Sri Lanka Chapter of the Internet Society in 2015, and was presented with the "Communication Research as an Agent of Change" award by the International Communication Association in 2009. He co-founded the academic journal *New Media and Society* and serves on the editorial board of *Telecommunications Policy*.

He was a member of the intergovernmental Joint Study Group on the India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (2003) and chaired the GATS Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka (2002-2004). He was a member of the Board (2003-22) and Chair of the Lanka Software Foundation. Samarajiva chaired the expert workshop on fixed-mobile interconnection for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2000 and the first Digital Opportunity Forum for the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) in 2006.

Pranesh Prakash



Pranesh Prakash is a co-founder of the Centre for Internet and Society, a non-profit that engages in policy research, where he was a policy director till 2018. He's an Affiliated Fellow at the Yale Law School's Information Society Project, and was an India-US Public Interest Technology Fellow at New America in 2019. In 2014 he was selected by Forbes India for its inaugural "30 under 30" list of young achievers, and in 2012 he was nominated as an Internet Freedom Fellow by the U.S. government.

His research interests converge at the intersections of technology, culture, economics, law, and justice. His work has focussed on interrogating, promoting, and engaging with policymakers on the areas of access to knowledge (primarily copyright reform), 'openness' (including open government data, open standards, free/libre/open source software, and open access), freedom of expression, privacy, digital security, net neutrality, and Internet governance.

He is a prominent voice on these issues, with the newspaper Mint calling him “one of the clearest thinkers in this area”, and his research having been quoted in the Indian parliament. He regularly speaks at national and international conferences on these topics. He has a degree in arts and law from the National Law School in Bangalore, and while there he helped found the Indian Journal of Law and Technology, and was part of its editorial board for two years.

Ashwini Natesan



Ashwini Natesan is a qualified legal consultant, researcher and lecturer specializing in Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT) law. Currently based in Sri Lanka, she consults on TMT law issues with a leading law firm, Julius and Creasy. She is also a Research Fellow at LIRNEasia, where her focus areas have been data protection, AI Policy, regulation of social media etc. Independently, she has also worked on several right to information / open data research projects.

She is on the Board Director at a leading non-banking financial institution and was previously a part of the law reform committee on privacy and media law in Sri Lanka. She is an Internet Law and Policy Foundry Fellow (2022-2024). She has diplomas and certifications to her credit including one on AI Policy by Centre for AI and Digital Policy.

She holds a Master of Laws/ LL.M (International Business Law) from the National University of Singapore. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai, India.

Key Publications:

- Lead author of the policy paper on “Health data protection policy for Sri Lanka,” a collaborative effort with the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka. (2018)
- Co-authored a research paper on “AI and governance on Ethical principles in Singapore & India” (Primary author for legal and regulatory section (2021)
- Key Legal Challenges in Regulating AI, published in the National Law Conference Publication of Sri Lanka. (2022)
- “A Litmus Test for RTI in Sri Lanka; Analyzing the Linkages Between RTI and Increased Transparency/ Combating Corruption” Sri Lanka's Right to Information Regime and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Thoughts for Reflection’ research funded by UNESCO IPDC (International Programme for the Development of Communication) (2022)
- Co-authored paper on “Open Government & Freedom of Information: The Sri Lankan experience” Open Government & Freedom of Information: The Asian Perspective (Routledge) (Awaiting Publication)
- Co-authored paper on “Mapping the Impact of Securitization of Social Media Regulation on The Rule Of Law - Subregional Trends in Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh” (Awaiting Publication)

Key Speaking Engagements

- Asia- Pacific Broadcasting Union – IP & Law Committee Conference (2023) “Use of personal data for journalistic purposes”
- Internet Law and Policy Foundry Panel discussion / Podcast (2022) on “Different Perspectives of the Metaverse”
- Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development Leaders Summit (2021): “Is regulation the silver bullet to combat disinformation on social media”
- National Law Conference Sri Lanka (2021) “Understanding Cyber Defamation”

Grace Mirandilla-Santos



Mary Grace Mirandilla-Santos is an independent researcher specializing in telecommunications and information and communications technology (ICT) policy, and the impact of technology on development and society. Her areas of interest include telecom/ICT regulation and competition policy, e-government, e-democracy, and universal ICT access.

Muhammad Aslam Hayat



Muhammad Aslam Hayat's career spans over 30 years, building on experience with reputed international organizations. He has served in both public and private sectors in the ICT space. He has also worked as the Center Director (CEO) of Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Centre (PIRRC) based in Fiji as part of LIRNEasia team, a jointly funded project of World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Aslam has assisted in National Telecom Policy and Biometric Verification process. He was instrumental in developing ICT Policies and laws in the Pacific region. He also worked on the Universal Service Fund Policy 2006, Mobile Cellular Policy 2004, De-regulation Policy 2003 and drafted Electronic Transaction Ordinance 2002 and Higher Education Commission Ordinance 2002.

He has attended many ICT conferences and presented papers on ICT and regulatory topics. One of his articles on Data Protection and Islam has been published in Information & Communications Technology Law. His article "Economics of international telephony and Bangladesh" appeared on www.bdnews24.com. On mobile payments, he wrote an article on Sri Lanka situation "Mobile payments: Will Colombo keep its leadership in South Asia?" in 2009. His recent article on spectrum Management titled "How Pakistan Handled Spectrum: Lessons for Others?" is published in May 2010 at Voice and Data. He wrote a piece on a burning issue of fake SIM sale to present the case of mobile cellular operators and highlight flaws in the government policy.

His recent contributions on ICT include:

- A Bad Policy
 - (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/magazine/money-matters/822234-a-bad-policy>)
- Additional Frequencies
 - (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/magazine/money-matters/888339-additional-frequencies>)
- Time to Rethink
 - (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/magazine/money-matters/807765-time-to-rethink>)
- Along Way to Go
 - (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/magazine/money-matters/800559-along-way-to-go>)

Semanta Dahal



Semanta Dahal is a practicing Nepali attorney with more than a decade working in Nepal's legal sector. On topics like foreign investment, private equity, project financing, public-private partnerships (PPP), energy and infrastructure, cross-border power trade, and infrastructure concessions, he has provided advice to both Nepali and international clients. He has also participated on discussions with parliamentarians and provided advise to Google, Mastercard and others on topics related data privacy and social media regulations.

Mr. Dahal advised the Office of the Investment Board of Nepal on the drafting, negotiation, and completion of significant infrastructure PPP agreements, including the completion of PDAs for more than 3000 MW projects, each with a value of over \$1 billion. He has also provided government advice on the writing of the PPP laws, the Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act, and other investment-related laws in comparable engagements.

Additionally, he provided guidance in the formation and design of the Business Oxygen Private Limited, private equity fund for the IFC and oversaw negotiations for twelve projects totaling more than forty crores Nepali rupees. He recently provided the GON advice over the 500 million USD Compact for Nepal from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Semanta studied law at the National Law School of India University and the University of Nottingham with a focus on international economic law. His interests include working with aspiring business owners to offer legal counsel, and as a hobby, he wants to be able to recognize and name all of Nepal's mountain peaks.

Ibrahim Kholilul Rohman



Ibrahim Kholilul Rohman is currently Senior Research Associate at Indonesia Financial Group Progress (IFG Progress). He is particularly responsible for researching the role and pathways of digitization in the financial sector and how digitization will impact the improvement of the industry, especially in insurance and pension funds. Ibrahim spent ten years in Europe working in various positions. He was a research fellow at the United Nations University- Operating Unit on Policy Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) in Guimaraes, Portugal. He was assigned to assess the role of electronic governance on country competitiveness.

Prior to joining UNU, he was a research fellow at JRC Directorate Growth and Innovation- European Commission. He was in charge of a project analyzing the competitiveness of the EU's ICT sector on their R&D activities. The project is served as an input for the Europe's

Digital Progress Report (EDPR). Ibrahim teaches Digital Economics at the undergraduate program of the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia. He earned his PhD in 2012 in Technology Management and Economics from Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. He got his bachelor and master's degree in economics from the University of Indonesia. He has published several articles on Telecommunications Policy and Science and Public Policy. He is also an active op-ed contributor with more than 30 articles in the Jakarta Post on various topics concerning digital economy, ICT and transportations.

Data governance commitment:

1. The potential of eID implementation in Indonesia, with Ministry of ICT Gov Indonesia, 2018
2. eID workshop, Bali 2018, with Ministry of ICT Gov Indonesia

Engagement in digital economics:

1. Impact assessment of Indonesia's digital economy, The World Bank, 2020
2. Spectrum pricing, with Ministry of ICT, 2021
3. Broadband speed impact on growth, with Ericsson and Chalmers, 2013
4. Several research with EC and UNU EGOV

Oliver Xavier Reyes



Oliver Xavier Reyes is currently a Senior Lecturer at the U.P. College of Law, where he teaches Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure, Transportation and Public Utilities, and Constitutional Law. A member of the Philippine Judicial Academy Corps of Professors with the PHILJA Court Technology Department, he also serves Senior Legal Associate with the Technology Law and Policy Program of the U.P. Law Center, where he works on projects involving the intersection of technology and law. He has regularly delivered lectures for MCLE sessions on Data Privacy, Cybercrime, and Artificial Intelligence.

He also is a lecturer with the University of the Philippines - Open University in its Data Protection Officer Certification Course. He has previously taught at the De La Salle University College of Law, the Lyceum of the Philippines College of Law, and the FEU College of Law.

A member of the Philippine Bar since 2002, Prof. Oliver had previously worked for the Supreme Court of the Philippines as the Judicial Staff Head for now-retired Associate Justice Dante O. Tinga. Prof. Oliver then worked with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative as Senior Program Manager working on projects involving the automation of

Philippine trial courts, and building the capacity of lawyers in Southeast Asia to litigate cases involving freedom of expression online and online privacy. A co-founder of the internet rights advocacy group Democracy.Net.Ph, Oliver is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law

Jompon Pitaksantayothin



Jompon Pitaksantayothin is an Associate Professor of Information Technology Law at the Division of International Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Republic of Korea). Before moving to South Korea, he was an Assistant Professor of Comparative Law at Mahidol University (Thailand). He worked for Burapha University (Chonburi) and University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (Bangkok) as a full-time lecturer.

His academic interests cover information technology law, cybercrime and society and law, examining these issues from social, legal and criminological perspectives. Thai is his mother tongue.

His recent publications:

- “The Promotion of Gender Equality on Social Media: Freedom of Expression and Challenges Posed by Artificial Intelligence” in Hongladarom, S. (Ed.), *Feminist AI in Southeast Asia*, (e-book) (2023)
- “Cyber Terrorism Laws in the United States, the United Kingdom and Thailand: A Comparative Study”, *Chulalongkorn Law Journal* (2014)
- “Internet Censorship by Law: A Challenge to the Constitutional Right to Freedom of Expression in Thailand”, *UUM Journal of Legal Studies* (2014)