

Report on LIRNE*asia* Tsunami Memorial Research Fund

Rohan Samarajiva
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- 1.0 In March 2005, LIRNE*asia* completed its first disaster warning research project, in partnership with the Vanguard Foundation. The relevant documents are at <http://www.lirneasia.net/2005/03/national-early-warning-system/>. Also use search term “disaster warning” on www.lirneasia.net.
- 2.0 The project was funded by IDRC as part of the larger contract with LIRNE.NET/DTU. However, the Sri Lankan researchers (Samarajiva, Knight-John and Zainudeen) donated their professional fees from this project to create the LIRNE*asia* Tsunami Memorial Research Fund (TMRF), within the LIRNE*asia* account.
- 3.0 In response to a widely circulated e-mail from Rohan Samarajiva to mark the 3rd month remembrance for the tsunami victims, LIRNE.NET and Professor Robin Mansell made additional contributions to the TMRF.
- 4.0 Strengthened by the existence of the Fund, LIRNE*asia* and its partner Vanguard Foundation, agreed to requests for another disaster warning project, this time dealing with dam safety. Successful efforts were made to obtain funds for this project subsequently. CIDA’s Local Initiatives Canada Fund came through with partial funding (approx. USD 8,000). The project was completed in January 2006. Documents are at: <http://www.lirneasia.net/2006/01/dam-safety-concept-paper-released/>. Also use search term “dam safety.”
- 5.0 LIRNE*asia* also won a grant of USD 5,000 from the Country Office of the World Bank to assist Sarvodaya, one of its local partners, to develop “webhamuva”, a web-based platform to communicate the voices of the tsunami victims: <http://www.webhamuva.org/>. See also: <http://www.lirneasia.net/2006/04/webhamuva-showcased-at-small-grants-launch-world-bank/>. Also use search term “webhamuva.” The expenses of this ongoing project are likely to exceed the amount received. The shortfall will be met from TMRF.
- 6.0 In addition, the TMRF covered the costs of Dr Gordon Gow’s public lecture on disaster warning issues in Colombo in July 2005.
- 7.0 The work done on the first disaster warning project provided the basis for the large proposal that was developed for a Last Mile Hazard Information Project, funded by IDRC, which is ongoing. The existence of the TMRF is of great assistance in the implementation of the highly complex and large (over USD 400,000) project. For example, it enabled LIRNE*asia* to recruit a qualified and highly motivated professional to manage the project by supplementing the below-market compensation that had been written into the project. Use search term “hazinfo.”
- 8.0 In sum, the TMRF has enabled LIRNE*asia* to respond quickly to demands in the disaster warning space. Where possible, additional funds have been mobilized for this work. But the TMRF has enabled us to take on projects when our initiative was needed, not when the money was available; it has also enabled us to “lose money” on disaster projects when we needed to spend extra to get the desired results.

**Accounts of LIRNEasia Tsunami Memorial Research Fund in LKR, as at June 15,
2006 (LKR)**

Funds received from Knight-John, LIRNE.NET, Mansell, Samarajiva and Zainudeen at outset	1,364,969.95
Fees from disaster projects donated by Samarajiva, 2006	735,000.00
Total Income	2,099,970.00
Supplementation of CIDA funding for dam safety project (project audited and closed)	1,022,447.94
Bank charges for incoming wires	2,692.44
Total Expenditures	1,025,140.00
Balance Remaining	1,074,830.00