



Version 3.02

## *Strategies to achieve connectivity and convergence*

An executive course on telecom reform

LIRNEasia and CONNECTasia Forum Pte. Ltd.

Changi Village Hotel, Singapore: <http://www.changivillage.com.sg/>

June 10-14, 2007

### *Course Convener:*

Rohan Samarajiva, Ph.D., LIRNEasia / CONNECTasia Forum

The current stage of telecom and ICT reform poses many challenges to governments, regulatory agencies, operators, and other stakeholders. The certainties of yesterday are no more: individual assignments of frequencies are being questioned in the light of new standards such as Wi-Fi and WiMax; the distinctions between wired and wireless are being blurred; classic price regulation is becoming less central to the missions of regulatory agencies and new market-friendly mechanisms for extending connectivity are beginning to be implemented (and their problems are becoming evident); and all industry players are being challenged to address content issues at various levels.

More is being demanded of the regulatory process and agencies, with the same resources. Operators have to understand the regulatory process well so that they can navigate its complexities. With telecom assuming a more prominent position in economies and societies, civil society and media have to equip themselves to participate in its governance. Knowledge to deal with these new challenges is vital; the opportunity to reflect on these issues in the company of peers and away from the daily demands of the office environment is essential.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Telecom Reform Course offered by LIRNEasia and CONNECTasia Forum Pte.Ltd. (the third in Singapore) offers that learning opportunity.** It is designed to enhance the strategic thinking of a select group of senior decision makers in the telecom and related sectors in the Asia Pacific and elsewhere. After having been offered in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, the course is now being taught on a regular schedule annually in Singapore. This year, we are scheduling it prior to the major regional event Communicasia 2008, which will be held June 17-20 at the Singapore Expo, enabling those who so wish to combine two activities on one trip. If this proves an attractive feature, the course will be regularly offered in June every year.

A specialized workshop for SAARC region regulatory agencies on sector and regulatory performance indicators will be offered on June 14-15.

**Attendance at Telecom Reform courses is capped at 40. Attendees will include regulators and senior officials of regulatory agencies; senior regulatory staff at operators; and leaders of consumer and other organizations participating in reform processes.**

In addition to Dr. Rohan Samarajiva who designed and led the recent Telecom Reform courses, Mr. Muhammed Aslam Hayat (Regulatory Consultant to Grameen Phone), Dr John Ure (Telecom Research Project, University of Hong Kong); Dr. Harsha de Silva (Lead Economist, LIRNEasia) and Ms. Helani Galpaya (Director of Strategic Development, LIRNEasia) have agreed to share their expertise. In addition, there will be two keynote presentations by Dr Lai Kok Fung, CEO of Buzz City, an award winning mobile value-added service provider and Mr Sherille Ismail, Senior Counsel at the Office of Strategic Planning, Federal Communications Commission, USA.

LIRNEasia courses provide cutting-edge, policy-relevant knowledge presented by reflective practitioners, addressing the most pressing regulatory issues and drawing from ongoing research. The 2008 Course will include presentations on benchmark regulation and demand analysis that draw from ongoing research projects.

### Reference texts

infoDev, ICT Regulation Toolkit. <http://www.ictregulationtoolkit.org/>;

Melody, W.H. (ed.) (1997), *Telecom Reform: Principles, Policies and Regulatory Practices*, [www.lirne.net](http://www.lirne.net);

Mahan, A.K. & W.H. Melody (eds.) (2007), *Diversifying participation in network development: Case studies and research from WDR research cycle 3*. Monte Video: LIRNE.NET

Samarajiva, R. & A. Zainudeen (eds.) (2008), *ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks*, New Delhi & Ottawa: Sage and IDRC.

Copies of the latter three will be given at the course.

## Detailed Course Agenda

<b>Tuesday, June 10</b>		
1900	Keynote	Lai Kok Fung
	Welcome dinner	
<b>Wednesday, June 11</b>		
0830-0900	Introduction to the course	Rohan Samarajiva
0900-1015	The reform model: Is it time to rethink?	Rohan Samarajiva
1015-1045	Break	
1045-1145	Competition as the necessary condition for good performance	Harsha de Silva
1145-1300	Licensing and authorizations, drawing on ICT regulation toolkit	M. Aslam Hayat
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1500	Universal service: Should the funds be folded? What are the options? A researcher-practitioner dialog	Harsha de Silva & M. Aslam Hayat
1500-1530	Break	
1530-1630	Sector and regulatory performance indicators: Why should regulators and operators care?	Rohan Samarajiva & Helani Galpaya
1630-1715	Introduction to assignment “Banded forbearance”: Stakeholder groups assigned; begin work for mock hearing on Thursday	Helani Galpaya & Rohan Samarajiva
	Dinner on own	
<b>Thursday, June 12</b>		
0830-0930	The use of benchmarks in regulation: What operators and regulators need to think about	Helani Galpaya
0930-1030	Lessons from an international gateway liberalization	Rohan Samarajiva
1030-1100	Break	
1100-1215	What do regulators and operators need to know about demand?	Harsha de Silva
1215-1315	Spectrum regulation, including challenges of refarming (drawing on ICT regulation toolkit)	Sherille Ismail & Rohan Samarajiva
1315-1415	Lunch	
1415-1530	Competition regulation and sector-specific regulation: Are both needed? If both are in place how can they coexist?	M. Aslam Hayat & Rohan Samarajiva
1530-1600	Break	
1600-1730	Work on assignment in groups	Helani Galpaya to assist
	Dinner on own	

<b>Friday, June 13</b>		
0830-0930	Keeping fixed and mobile separate in the context of convergence: Pakistan's approach and experience	M. Aslam Hayat
0930-1030	Alternative regulatory practices and alternative dispute resolution: How to minimize going to court	Rohan Samarajiva
1030-1100	Break	
1100-1215	Transition to IP networks: Pricing and interconnection	John Ure
1215-1415	Lunch (longer break for Friday prayers)	
1415-1515	M-payments as the next new thing: Regulatory aspects (leave it to financial regulators or . . . . ?)	John Ure
1515-1545	Break	
1545-1700	Regulators' role in disaster risk reduction	Rohan Samarajiva
1900-	Certificates and dinner (speaker)	Sherille Ismail
<b>Saturday, June 14</b>		
0830-0930	Challenges of broadband: Creating the environment for investment and addressing QOS	Helani Galpaya & Rohan Samarajiva
0930-1030	Effective regulation in an imperfect world: The role of legitimacy	Rohan Samarajiva
1030-1100	Break	
1100-1300	Mock hearing: "Forbearance within benchmark limits"	Judges: Sherille Ismail, Rohan Samarajiva, et al.
1300	Lunch and dispersal	
	Hotel provided if needed; dinner on own	