

Research for Improved ICT Governance
in the Asia Pacific

January 19-21

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People

LIRNEasia's organizational structure is a hybrid of traditional and virtual organizational models. It maintains a physical presence in Colombo, with a small office, however much of the work happens in a virtual setting even within Sri Lanka.

Since 2004, we have expanded from two and a half employees, to sixteen five years later (including three international interns, but not counting the CEO); new employees have added strengths and capabilities to the organization, allowing it to grow in scope as well as geographical coverage.

In the five years of its existence, LIRNEasia's organizational structure has evolved. In the course of the organic growth process, the structure and titles developed in an ad hoc manner. The incremental changes were consolidated and formalized in 2008.

The current organizational structure has three levels within the main project, and has two affiliate projects running separately. The management team comprises the CEO, the COO, two senior research managers, the senior manager of finance and operations and one research manager. The Colombo-based team includes research managers, researchers, junior researchers as well as interns. The finance and operations unit is headed by a senior manager and includes an operations manager, an accountant and two assistants. Each of the affiliate projects is headed by a project director, who may also serve as in-house consultants for other projects (as the Lead Economist and Lead Scientist currently do).

Given that we seek to develop subject expertise and have the objective of having the world think of our senior staff as specialists on specific subjects, research managers have their subject expertise reflected in a second half of their titles (e.g., Senior Research Manager and Broadband Specialist). Though they do not come to work every day, LIRNEasia's dynamic group of research and policy fellows, from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are team members in the fullest sense. All planning meetings as well as our annual trip includes at least one researcher who does not live in Sri Lanka. This setup, a solution to LIRNEasia's geographically-dispersed human resource pool, has been effective in working across multiple South and Southeast Asian countries.



LIRNEasia Annual Trip 2009, Pahiyangala, Sri Lanka

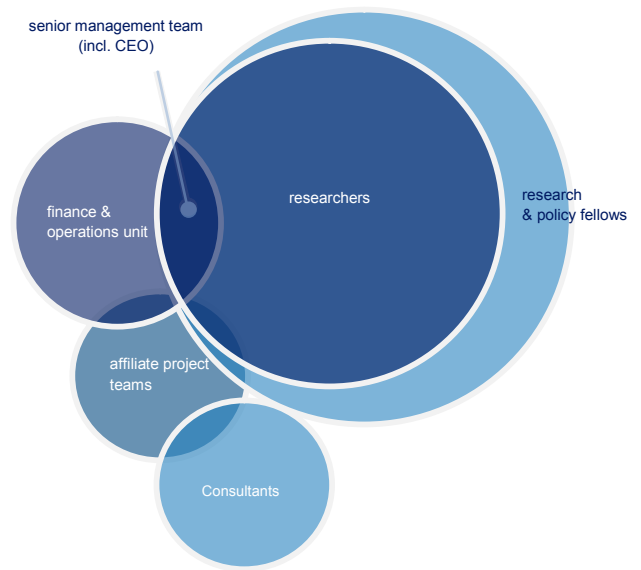


Figure 10: LIRNEasia organizational structure (2009)

The time of the General: Pakistan's telecom transformation, 2002-07, The Daily Mirror, 4-Aug-08

Practical SAARC, Lanka Business Online, 3-Aug-08

Cool solutions: Climate change and the mobile phone, Montage (Magazine), 1-Aug-08

Cheap talk: Why is it costlier to call next door than to call overseas? Himal Southasian, 1-Aug-08

Keep tabs on your ISP's quality of service through Switzerland, ICT for Peacebuilding, 4-Aug-08

MR for lower phone tariffs in SA, South Asian Media Net, 3-Aug-08

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva on 15th SAARC summit, News 1st (Channel One MTV), 1-Aug-08

Current Team



Aileen Agüero | Research Intern | Aileen is a research assistant at the IEP [Instituto de Estudios Peruanos – the Institute of Peruvian Studies], affiliated with DIRSI, LIRNEasia's sister network in Latin America. She is currently on a six-month internship at LIRNEasia. Here, her research focus is on exploring the use of ICTs, particularly mobile telecom, among low-income earners in emerging Asia compared to Latin America. At IEP, she is involved in several research projects including rural telephony, convergence and universal access of telecommunications services, and in consultancies for the Peruvian telecommunications regulator (OSIPTEL) and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Aileen holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.



Erwin Alampay, PhD | Research Fellow (Philippines) | Erwin is an Associate Professor at the National College of Public Administration and Governance [NCPAG], University of the Philippines. He is a co-founder of the Philippine ICT Research Network. Most of his research has been on universal access to ICTs and bridging the digital divide in the Philippines. At LIRNEasia, he has studied the use of mobile phones for payment transactions and related regulatory requirements. He has also led research on measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in the Philippines. Other research interests include e-governance, ICT regulation and management of non-profit organizations. Erwin holds a PhD in development administration and management from the University of Manchester, UK.



Sanchala Arangalage | Operations Manager | Sanchala is responsible for all administrative functions at LIRNEasia. She has previously worked for the Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology and the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, where she provided secretarial and administrative support in organizing meetings and seminars with local and foreign officials. She has completed her studies at the Sri Lanka Law College and is currently an apprentice lawyer. She also holds the International Professional Secretaries Diploma, from Singapore Informatics, Sri Lanka.



Subhash Bhatnagar, PhD | Research Fellow (India) | Subhash is an Honorary Professor of information systems at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad [IIM-Ahmedabad], India. As a research fellow at LIRNEasia, he leads research on the use of government services over mobile telephony (m-government) in India. Subhash is a member of the National Advisory Council on e-government. He has also served as a consultant to the World Bank and visiting professor at various universities in the USA, Asia and Africa. His research interests include national information technology (IT) policy, corporate IT strategy, IT for development, e-government and e-commerce. Subhash holds a master's degree in business administration and PhD from IIM-Ahmedabad, India.



Harsha de Silva, PhD | Lead Economist; Project Director | Harsha is an economist with a PhD from the University of Missouri. Having co-founded, built and subsequently sold Sri Lanka's largest market research agency to The Nielsen Company, he now focuses on development economics. His primary interests are in economics of ICTs in emerging Asia and economic policy in Sri Lanka. He also plays a catalytic role in the policy debate in Sri Lanka through his own weekly television show. Harsha is an Eisenhower Fellow.



Sajeevani de Silva | Researcher | Sajeevani is a researcher in LIRNEasia's Knowledge to Innovation project, where she examines the use of stakeholder networks for fostering innovation in services. Her current area of focus is on building knowledge networks among local authorities and community groups in the management of solid-waste services. Sajeevani holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and is a registered member (studying) of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK.

PTA Leadership performance analysis by LIRNEasia, State of Telecom Industry in Pakistan, 31-Jul-08

Making SAARC real, The Daily Star, 27-Jul-08

SAARC leaders urged to slash Telecom tariffs (Vietnamese language), ICT News, 21-Jul-08

SAARC leaders urged to slash telecom tariffs, The Daily Mirror, 18-Jul-08

Making SAARC real, South Asia, 27-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telecom tariffs, The Bottom Line, 23-Jul-08

Telecom tariff in SAARC countries, Dawn, 21-Jul-08



Iran Fernando | Junior Researcher | Iran is a researcher in agriculture-related projects at LIRNEasia. He works with Sriganesh Lokanathan and Harsha de Silva in exploring how ICTs can improve farmers' decision-making abilities by reducing information asymmetry in market price information, and thereby improving livelihoods. Prior to joining LIRNEasia, Iran worked as a field coordinator for Business Development Center (Pvt.) Ltd. Iran holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture, specializing in agriculture economics from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and is reading for his postgraduate degree in organizational management at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.



Helani Galpaya | Chief Operations Officer [COO] & Indicators Specialist | Along with her administrative duties as COO, Helani leads research on ICT and telecom sector indicators at LIRNEasia. This ongoing research includes analyses of the telecom regulatory environment, and the compilation of mobile and broadband price indicators among various countries in emerging Asia. She works with national regulatory agencies [NRAs], national statistical organizations [NSOs] and operators in the SAARC and ASEAN regions to develop, collect and report comparable sector indicators. She also leads activities related to capacity-building of NRAs and NSOs at LIRNEasia. She is involved in researching various policy aspects of using mobile phones for more-than-voice services, and previously conducted research on the ability of ICTs in increasing product traceability in agricultural markets. She has conducted research on e-governance. Before joining LIRNEasia, Helani worked at ICTA, the apex ICT body in Sri Lanka. Prior to that, she was a management consultant in the USA, working with public and private sector clients. Helani holds a master's degree in technology and policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.



Ranmalee Gamage | Junior Researcher | Ranmalee is responsible for the compilation of LIRNEasia's bi-annual report on broadband price and quality indicators (both fixed and mobile) and international voice and roaming tariffs in the SAARC and ASEAN regions. The report attempts to capture changes in prices and quality of service of such services among these regions. Before joining LIRNEasia, Ranmalee worked at Dialog Telekom, Sri Lanka's leading mobile service provider, for four years. She is presently reading for a bachelor's degree (external) in economics and management from the London School of Economics, University of London. She is also a registered Affiliate Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK.



Sujata Gamage, PhD, MPA | Lead Scientist; Project Director | Sujata is a scientist who specializes in knowledge management—the art and science of connecting people and organizations to each other and to the knowledge they need, to do what they do better. She heads the Knowledge to Innovation project at LIRNEasia. Her current research is on knowledge management in local government in Sri Lanka. She also studies the role of universities in developing countries, assessing their capacity and experimenting with creative ways of connecting them to the development processes. Sujata has many years of experience in strategic planning and consultancy at local and US academic, research and governmental organizations. Sujata holds a PhD in chemistry from the University of British Columbia, Canada, and a master's degree in public administration from the Ohio State University, USA.



Chammi Gunathilake | Researcher | Chammi is a researcher in LIRNEasia's Knowledge to Innovation project. She is presently conducting a survey on good practices for local government authorities in solid-waste management, examining the use of networks among solid-waste managers for fostering innovation in services. She also coordinates and assists training programs for solid-waste workers of the Colombo Municipal Council, aimed at informing households about effective waste-management practices. Before joining LIRNEasia, Chammi worked as a demonstrator at the Department of Zoology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. She is currently reading for a master's degree in disaster management at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva on Sri Lanka telecom sector and security-related regulations, Biz 1st (Channel One MTV), 18-Jul-08

Choices - Real SAARC, Lanka Business Online, 18-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to cut telecom tariffs, New Age, 18-Jul-08

Cheap talk: South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Lanka Business Online, 17-Jul-08

SAARC leaders urged to slash telecom tariffs, Sri Lanka News First, 18-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telecom tariffs, The News International, 18-Jul-08

SAARC leaders urged to slash telecom tariffs, The Colombo Times, 17-Jul-08



Priyanwada Herath | Research Intern | Priyanwada joined LIRNEasia in 2008 as a part-time research intern working on a study on Indo-Lanka economic relations. She is currently assisting in research on mobile finance among those with irregular incomes in Sri Lanka. Previously, she worked as a research associate for a UNDP study on the Economic Impact of the Global Financial Crisis in Sri Lanka, and has interned at Nathan Associates in Washington DC. Priyanwada holds a bachelor's degree (special) in economics from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Tahani Iqbal | Research Fellow | Tahani is currently reading for a master's degree in public policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore. As a research fellow at LIRNEasia, she is conducting a study on mobile number portability in emerging Asia. Previously at LIRNEasia, she managed its capacity-building initiative, CPRsouth. She also researched ICT access and use among Asia's bottom of the pyramid, and compiled comparative mobile price indicators across the SAARC region. Before joining LIRNEasia, Tahani worked for the National Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process and the National Agribusiness Council of Sri Lanka. She holds a bachelor's degree (external) in economics and management from the London School of Economics, University of London.



Pratichi Joshi | Research Intern | Pratichi is on a six-month internship at LIRNEasia. She conducts research on preconditions for a knowledge-based economy in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the potential of online communication platforms for furthering LIRNEasia's mission. Before joining LIRNEasia, she worked as a teaching assistant at the Departments of Communication and New Media, National University of Singapore [NUS]. At NUS, she also assisted in research on the Global Patterns of Creative Commons License Use and the PAN Localization Project on building local-language computing capacity in Asia. Pratichi holds a master's degree in history from Delhi University and a master's degree in communications and new media studies from NUS.



Nilusha Kapugama | Researcher | Nilusha manages CPRsouth, LIRNEasia's capacity-building initiative to develop Asia-Pacific expertise and knowledge networks in ICT policy regulation. Her research areas include broadband quality indicators and national regulatory authority website indicators particularly with regards to transparency. She also has experience organizing international conferences and training courses. Nilusha's past experience includes teaching high-school-level economics and interning at the Institute of Policy Studies and Standard Chartered Bank, Sri Lanka. She holds a master's degree in development economics and policy from the University of Manchester, UK.



Abu Saeed Khan¹ | Senior Policy Fellow (Bangladesh/Malaysia) | Abu is a strategy analyst at Ericsson's Southeast Asian head office in Malaysia. Previously, he was Technology Editor for bdnews24.com, Bangladesh's first online newspaper, as well as a research analyst at EMC World Cellular Database (currently owned by Informa) covering the mobile markets of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. At LIRNEasia, he conducted research into the replicability of a microfinance approach to extending rural connectivity in Bangladesh. He has also provided consultancy expertise in telecommunications to local and international organizations. He served on the faculty of regional regulatory training courses offered by The Energy and Resources Institute [TERI] between 2001 and 2004. Abu has a bachelor's degree in Bengali language and literature from Titumir College, Dhaka.

¹Abu serves in his personal capacity and not as a representative of Ericsson.

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Channel News Asia, 17-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, The Economic Times, 17-Jul-08

Mobile phones in Sri Lanka: Everyman's new trousers? Ground Views, 16-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Yahoo! News, 16-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Yahoo! Singapore News, 17-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, KeralaNext.com, 17-Jul-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Gratispt (via AFP), 16-Jul-08



Malathy Knight-John | Research Fellow (Sri Lanka) | Malathy is a research fellow and the head of the Industry, Public Enterprise Reform, and Regulation research unit at the Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka. At LIRNEasia, she has led research in measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in Sri Lanka. She has also conducted research into the replicability of a microfinance approach to extending rural connectivity in Bangladesh and the development of a National Early Warning System in Sri Lanka. She has written extensively in these areas both locally and internationally and has served on various committees appointed by the government. She is currently reading for a PhD in telecommunications reform and regulatory governance at the University of Manchester, UK.



Asanka Kumara | Researcher | Asanka is a researcher in LIRNEasia's Knowledge to Innovation project. He is currently reading for an MPhil in environmental management at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka. His research thesis examines the effectiveness of training programs conducted by local government authorities on solid-waste management practices in Sri Lanka. LIRNEasia's Knowledge to Innovation project funds this research.



Priyadarshani Liyanage | Accountant | Priyadarshani assists the Senior Manager, Finance and Operations, with all finance-related functions at LIRNEasia. She has extensive experience working in this capacity at various organizations in the public and private sector. She is a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka [AAT], and has completed the Licentiate Level and Professional Level (Part I) at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. She also holds a Higher National Diploma in accountancy from the Sri Lanka Technical College (Ministry of Higher Education).



Sriganesh Lokanathan | Senior Research Manager | Sriganesh manages LIRNEasia's research on the use of ICTs for the efficient functioning of agricultural markets and for improved rural livelihoods in South Asia. He is also involved in researching the telecommunications regulatory environment in Afghanistan. He was one of the initiators of LIRNEasia's supply-side indicators research. Previously, he worked as a consultant and software architect in technology companies in Sri Lanka and the US. He has also worked as a researcher at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT], MIT's Laboratory for Financial Engineering and MIT's Media Lab on various technology projects. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the MIT, and a master's degree in public policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore.



Payal Malik | Senior Research Fellow (India) | Payal is an Associate Professor of economics at the Delhi University. She is also associated with National Council of Applied Economic Research, LIRNEasia, and Indicus Analytics. She has collaborated with OECD, Orbicom, University of Toulouse (France), CEPR, EU, ICEGEC (Hungary), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India [TRA], Ministry of Power, Planning Commission of India, Competition Commission of India, CSO, and WSP-SA (World Bank) previously. She has policy research experience on the issues of market structure and regulatory design for sectors such as power, telecommunication and water. In addition, she has done considerable research on the ICT sector. Recently, she has been actively engaged in competition policy research. More generally, her research is focused on the links between technology, economy and society, especially the interface between technology and competition. At LIRNEasia, she led research on measuring India's telecom sector and regulatory performance, including a study on universal service instruments as well as on the issuance of licenses for service provision and frequencies. She has written both for professional journals as well as for the economic press. Currently she is a regular columnist for the *Financial Express*, India. Payal obtained her MBA from the University of Cincinnati, USA.

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Google News, 16-Jul-08

Development through mobiles, State of Telecom Industry in Pakistan, 27-Jun-08

New report looks at economic benefits of mobile phones for those at the bottom of the pyramid, Experientia: Putting people first, 5-Jun-08

World Bank extends deadline for essay competition for Sri Lankans, The Sunday Times, 1-Jun-08

South Asian leaders urged to slash telco tariffs, Yahoo! News Canada, 16-Jul-08

Development: Development through mobiles, Daily Times, 24-Jun-08

New report looks at economic benefits of mobile phones, MobileActive.org, 5-Jun-08



Deunden Nikomborirak, PhD | Research Fellow (Thailand) | Deunden is a Research Director for Economic Governance, Sectoral Economics Program at the Thailand Development Research Institute, Thailand. As a research fellow at LIRNEasia, she has led research on measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in Thailand. She is also the former secretary to the Ministry of Finance in Thailand. Deunden holds a PhD in economics from McGill University, Canada.



K. Parvati | Cleaning Associate | Parvati ensures that we have a spic-and-span office to come to everyday, and manages all grocery purchases and housekeeping.



G. Dharmasena Perera | Office Assistant | Dharmasena, affectionately known as “Uncle”, is LIRNEasia’s “main man” for day-to-day errands and administrative affairs. He is part of the Finance and Operations Unit, assisting in banking and other administrative work.



Il-haam Petersen | Research Intern | Il-haam is on a three-month internship at LIRNEasia. Her research includes developing a typology of universities in Sri Lanka and South Africa with the aim of contributing to the understanding of university systems in developing countries. Before joining LIRNEasia, she worked as a research intern at the Human Sciences Research Council [HSRC] in South Africa where she explored indicators of science, technology and innovation potential in sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular focus on university-firm interaction. Il-haam holds a master’s degree in psychological research from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



Rohan Samarajiva, PhD | Chair & Chief Executive Officer [CEO] | Rohan is Chair and CEO of LIRNEasia. He is senior advisor to Sarvodaya (Sri Lanka’s leading community-based organization) and serves on the ICT Subcommittee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. He is a Board member of Communication Policy Research south [CPRsouth], which seeks to identify and foster policy intellectuals active in ICT policy and regulation, and of the Lanka Software Foundation. He serves on the editorial boards of eight academic journals and writes an online business column. Among his recent publications is *ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks*, published by Sage & IDRC. Rohan served as Director General of Telecommunications in Sri Lanka (1998-99), as Team Leader at the Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology (2002-04) and was a founding director of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka. He was Associate Professor of Communication and Public Policy at the Ohio State University (1987-2000), Visiting Professor of Economics of Infrastructure at the Delft University of Technology (2000-03), Honorary Professor at the University of Moratuwa (2003-04) and Visiting Faculty at the TERI University, New Delhi. He is policy advisor to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Bangladesh. Rohan is a lawyer and holds MA and PhD degrees from Simon Fraser University, Canada.



Hina Sarfaraz | Research Fellow (Pakistan) | Hina leads research on freedom of expression in the dissemination of mobile content, a part of LIRNEasia’s research on mobiles for more-than-voice. She has also conducted research on measuring Pakistan’s telecom sector and regulatory performance at LIRNEasia. She has previously served as a research assistant in the Law and Policy Department of Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan. Her key areas of interest are business, ICTs and law. Hina has a master’s degree in business administration from the Institute of Management Sciences, Pakistan, and a master’s degree in law in International Commercial Law from the University of Westminster, UK.

Benefiting the bottom of the pyramid? i4d Magazine, 1-Jun-08

Mobiles preconference at 58th annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Most mobiles..., 24-May-08

Myanmar’s disaster; SMS or cell broadcasting for early warning? Lanka Business Online, 19-May-08

M-gov and mobile phones for employment, ICT for Peacebuilding, 2-May-08

Book Review: ICT infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks, Current Science (Journal), 25-May-08

Mobile phone users in Pakistan gain from telecom advances, State of Telecom Industry in Pakistan, 22-May-08

Telecom without tears, The Sunday Times, 18-May-08



Nirmali Sivapragasam | Researcher | Nirmali is primarily involved in research on ICT access and use among the bottom of the pyramid in emerging Asia. She also coordinates LIRNEasia's Mobile 2.0 project which examines the basic competitive and regulatory conditions for the use of mobiles for more-than-voice, as well as case studies of the same in emerging Asia. She is also responsible for the bi-annual compilation of mobile price indicators in the SAARC and ASEAN region. Before joining LIRNEasia, Nirmali interned at the Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka, and has conducted field research for The Nielsen Company, Sri Lanka's leading market research agency. Nirmali holds a bachelor's degree in economics and management (external) with First Class Honors from the London School of Economics, University of London.



Juni Soehardjo | Research Fellow (Indonesia) | Juni is an executive at KADIN, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, where she assists the Vice Chair in ICT-related work. She is a former program manager at MASTEL (also known as the Indonesian Infocom Society), an industry association focusing on ICTs in Indonesia. At LIRNEasia, she has been involved in research on measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in Indonesia. Her areas of interest include telecommunications, broadcasting, cyber-law and cyber-crime law. She also serves as an expert to ID-SIRTII [Indonesian Security Incident Response Team on Internet Infrastructure]. She is a graduate in law from the University of Indonesia and is a certified holder of ACCS [Accredited Cyber Crime Studies] from STMIK, Indonesia.



Christoph Stork, PhD | Consultant | Christoph is a senior researcher at Research ICT Africa [RIA], LIRNEasia's sister organization. He is a consultant to LIRNEasia's project on ICT access and use among the bottom of the pyramid in emerging Asia. Christoph's responsibilities at RIA include designing and conducting quantitative and qualitative research and interacting with policymakers and regulators. His main research interest is in measuring the impact of ICTs on economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. Christoph holds a PhD in financial economics from London Guildhall University, UK.



Kasun Suranga | Trainee Accounts Assistant | Kasun joined LIRNEasia soon after completing his Advanced Level examinations and is awaiting results, at the time of writing. He assists the Accountant and Head of Finance in all accounting-related work. Kasun is studying Chartered Accountancy at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.



Natasha Udu-gama | Research Fellow | Natasha is a disaster risk-reduction consultant and contractor. At LIRNEasia, she conducted research on the use of mobile cell-broadcasting for dissemination of commercial information and disaster-warning in the Maldives. Previously, she managed the dissemination component of a study on the development of a last-mile hazard warning system in Sri Lanka, where she organized international workshops with practitioners and experts in four countries. Natasha holds a master's degree in disaster management from Cranfield University, UK.



Nuwan Waidyanatha | Research Manager (China) | Nuwan manages LIRNEasia's mobile health-related project: Evaluating a Real-Time Bio-surveillance Program. Previously, he managed research on a last-mile hazard warning system for Sri Lanka. His current research interests include developing early-warning systems and information-exchange platforms for emergency communication. He is also the Director of Spot On Solutions, which provides specialized affordable "service-type" planning solutions using Free and Open Source Software, particularly for small and medium industries in Sri Lanka. Nuwan also works closely with Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka's leading community-based organization. Previously, Nuwan worked as a Software Architect/Operation Research Analyst for various organizations both in Sri Lanka and the USA. Nuwan holds a master's degree in operations research from the University of Montana, USA. He works from Kunming, China.

E-Government vs. e-Governance in Sri Lanka: A place for Web 2.0 and mobiles? ICT for Peacebuilding, 12-Apr-08

Coverage on LIRNEasia Broadband Benchmarks research, Wired: Lanka Business Report (ETV), 29-Mar-08

Mobile is cheap in Sri Lanka, even for the poor, The Daily News, 25-Mar-08

Sri Lanka agriculture could do with dose of IT, Lanka Business Online, 25-Mar-08

Getting the basics right in e-government: Toilets first. Technology later, Public Sector Technology & Management, 1-Apr-08

Sri Lanka internal broadband connectivity good; external slow: Researchers, Lanka Business Online, 26-Mar-08

"Customs Official" responds to government censorship, ICT for Peacebuilding, 25-Mar-08



Chanuka Wattagama | Senior Research Manager & Broadband Specialist | Chanuka manages LIRNEasia's Mobile 2.0 project, which examines the basic competitive and regulatory conditions for the use of mobiles for more-than-voice, as well as case studies of the same in emerging Asia. He also leads research on broadband quality-of-service experience. In addition, he has led research in measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in Indonesia, as well as the development of indicators for measuring the effectiveness of national regulatory authority websites in providing information to stakeholders. Chanuka has over 14 years of experience working at specialist and management-level positions on developmental issues. Before joining LIRNEasia, he worked as a program specialist in ICT4D at the UNDP, where he worked on various projects including telecom regulation, disaster management and e-government. He is a regular writer and commentator on ICT issues in the Sri Lankan media, and has co-authored several books on ICTs and Media. Chanuka has an MBA from the University of Colombo and an engineering degree from the National Institute of Technology, Karnataka (India).



Prashanthi Weragoda | Senior Manager, Finance & Operations | Prashanthi is in charge of finances and accounts at LIRNEasia and has handled all financial and event-related matters since its inception in 2004. She has 20 years of finance-related experience in the fields of merchant banking, corporate finance and general financial management, including budgeting and performance monitoring. She was attached to two listed investment-banking companies in the Colombo stock exchange and subsequently worked at Shell Renewables Lanka Limited. She moved to Australia where she undertook a number of assignments for the Department of Health and Aging and for Air Services, Australia. She holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, and is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of UK.



Ayesha Zainudeen | Research Manager & Demand-side Specialist | Ayesha is involved in research into various aspects of the use of ICTs, particularly among those at the bottom of the economic pyramid [BOP]. She has managed three multi-country studies on BOP telecom access and use in Asia, between 2005 and 2008. She has also led a study on the interplay of information, payments and logistics over mobile phones in a case study of CellBazaar in Bangladesh. She co-edited *ICT Infrastructure in emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks*, which draws from Asian experiences in expanding ICT access. She researched the replicability of a microfinance approach to extending rural connectivity in Bangladesh, and was part of the team that studied the institutional requirements for an effective disaster-warning system for Sri Lanka. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the London School of Economics, UK.

Bangladeshis spend lowest on mobile phone in South Asia, i4d Magazine, 24-Mar-08

Mobile phone service costs in Sri Lanka are cheap, even for the poor (Sinhala language), Ravaya, 23-Mar-08

Mobile benchmark studies in South Asia and Latin America, LIRNE.net, 21-Mar-08

Bangladeshis spend lowest on mobile phone in South Asia, The Daily Star, 19-Mar-08

Customs playing censor, say academics, The Sunday Times, 23-Mar-08

Sri Lanka using customs authorities to censor academics: Report, Lanka Business Online, 23-Mar-08

The State of "broadband" in Sri Lanka-Take 1, ICT for Peacebuilding, 19-Mar-08

Former LIRNEasians

A key element of LIRNEasia's mission is capacity-building. While CPRsouth is the primary external manifestation of this objective, internally LIRNEasia seeks to raise the profiles of its own researchers too. LIRNEasia tries to help its own researchers develop career paths, particularly among its younger researchers. LIRNEasia tries to provide the platform for researchers to build up their own knowledge, expertise and credibility in their areas of specialization as well as develop new ones which overlap with LIRNEasia's own focus areas.

Among those who worked with us on various projects part-time as well as full-time, some have gone on to take up senior posts in the public sector, for instance, Deunden Nikomborirak (PhD) in the Thai Ministry of Finance, Sabina Fernando (PhD) in the Australian Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts, Joseph Wilson (PhD) in the Competition Commission of Pakistan, Harsha Vardhana Singh (PhD) in the World Trade Organization and Chanuka Wattegama in the United Nations Development Programme. Some have left to pursue careers as international consultants such as Divakar Goswami and Lorraine Salazar (PhD) and in other private sector companies such as Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara, Shamistra Soysa and Samangi Hewage. Others have left to pursue further studies such as Lara Alawattegama, Tahani Iqbal and Sriganesh Lokanathan.

Though we are sad to see them go, it also means that they will carry our name and values further afield and possibly come back to us like Chanuka and Sriganesh did. Even the poaching by consulting firms we take as a compliment. We want each of our members to advance their careers, but to all who leave, we extend the invitation to return.

Lara Alawattegama | Lara is currently following a master's degree in accounting at the Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. As a researcher at LIRNEasia, she was involved in benchmarking regulatory websites as well as compiling broadband price and quality indicators in emerging Asia. She also assisted in the development of a manual for LIRNEasia's multi-country assessment of telecom regulatory environment. Lara holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Sydney, with majors in government, international relations and international business and a minor in political economy.

Sabina Fernando, PhD | Sabina played an instrumental role in setting up LIRNEasia, and looked after its organizational functions during the initial months. She was the key organizer of LIRNEasia's launch event cum Asian Expert Forum in 2004, and assisted with CPRsouth's inaugural conference in Manila, Philippines in 2007 and continues to help with CPRsouth. She is currently based in

Australia. She holds PhD and master's degrees in law from the University of Sydney. She is a Barrister of the Inner Temple, UK and holds a law degree from the London School of Economics, UK.

Divakar Goswami | Divakar leads Deloitte Research's Technology, Media and Telecom [TMT] team from India and provides thought-leadership to Deloitte on major issues facing the TMT industry through research reports, client briefings and presentations at industry events. He has over ten years of international experience in the telecom sector having worked on a variety of mobile convergence and regulatory reform projects. As Director of Projects and Organizational Development at LIRNEasia, Divakar was in charge of projects and organizational matters; he also led research on the ICT sector in Indonesia, leading to one of LIRNEasia's most significant projects in terms of policy impact, and was responsible for the Pacific component of a global assessment of local capacity for ICT policy and regulation. Divakar was ABD at the Ohio State University and has two MA degrees from the US and India.

Samangi Hewage | Samangi is currently a coordinator for nature and cultural activities at a leading hotel in Sri Lanka. As project manager for the Knowledge to Innovation project at LIRNEasia, she worked with municipal councils in Sri Lanka among other entities, to build a network of stakeholders with resources to educate and implement the program through the network. She holds a bachelor's degree in forestry and environmental science and her PhD thesis in botany is currently under evaluation at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Nishantha Hewavithana | As a statistician at LIRNEasia, Nishantha was involved in research on telecom access and use among the bottom of the pyramid, as well as on the use of ICTs in lowering transaction costs in agricultural markets. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and statistics from University of Colombo and is reading for an MBA in finance at the University of Colombo.

Onno Purbo | Onno is a research fellow with the ICTs for Development [ICT4D] program area of the IDRC. As a research fellow at LIRNEasia, he was involved in research into the use of Wi-Fi to extend connectivity in Indonesia. He established and led a technology movement through which several innovative and alternative low-cost Internet technologies have been introduced and adopted by Indonesian ICT communities, such as Wi-Fi-based Internet Infrastructure and VoIP MaverickNet. Onno is a former civil servant and retired lecturer, and holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Waterloo, Canada.

Price of mobile services low but perceptions high, Deshi Mobile, 17-Mar-08

Broadband quality: Are you getting what is promised? Nandasiri Wanninayaka, 14-Mar-08

ICT solutions reduce wastage in agri products, The Daily Mirror, 8-Mar-08

Interview with Subhash Bhatnagar on AgInfo research, Biz 1st (Channel One MTV), 7-Mar-08

Price of mobile services here low but perceptions high, The Sunday Times, 16-Mar-08

Mobile is cheap in Sri Lanka, even for the poor; they just don't know it, The Daily Mirror, 13-Mar-08

ICT solutions reduce wastage, South Asian Media Net, 8-Mar-08

Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara | Dimuthu is an Executive in Risk Management at DFCC Bank, Sri Lanka. As a researcher at LIRNEasia, he served as the in-house statistician, leading the statistical analysis on the use of ICTs among the bottom of the pyramid, as well as in other projects. He was also involved in research which explored the use of ICTs in reducing transaction costs in agricultural markets. He was involved in the development of a decentralized database for the collection of accurate ICT statistics amongst regional telecom regulators. He holds a bachelor's degree with First Class Honors in computer science and statistics from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and is a Level 3 candidate of the Chartered Financial Analyst program.

B.K.T. Ratnakanthi | Kanthi is currently a teacher in Geography and Primary Education at Yashodara Girls' School, Colombo. As a researcher for LIRNEasia's Knowledge to Innovation project, she focused on using newsletters, blogs and other media to keep a network of stakeholders in solid-waste management informed of developments in the sector. Kanthi holds a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Colombo. She has also worked as a journalist for several public and private-sector electronic media institutions.

Lorraine Salazar, PhD | Lorraine is a Senior Research Analyst at McKinsey & Company. Previously she was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines and was a visiting research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. As research fellow at LIRNEasia, she led research on measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in the Philippines. Her research interests include comparative political economy of Southeast Asia, in particular market reforms and regulatory issues in telecommunications, ICTs, and utilities. She obtained her PhD from the Australian National University in 2004.

Harsha Vardhana Singh, PhD | Harsha is Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization, Geneva. Previously he served as Secretary cum Principal Advisor and Economic Advisor to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, and as consultant to national and international organizations. He was an Honorary Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations and visiting faculty at the TERI University, New Delhi. As a research fellow at LIRNEasia, he led a study which explored why adequate network backbone may not be available, or adequate access to it may not be provided, based on a case study of India. At present, he is concurrently an Adjunct Professor at the Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He holds a PhD in economics from Oxford University, UK.

Thiruchenduran Somasundaram | Thiruchenduran is a former project assistant for the Knowledge to Innovation project at LIRNEasia, where he worked with local authorities in Sri Lanka in building a network of stakeholders with resources to educate and implement the program through the network. He holds a bachelor's degree (special) in food science and technology from Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

Shamistra Soysa | Shamistra is an Associate Consultant in the Performance Improvement Consulting team at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sri Lanka. As a researcher at LIRNEasia, she studied the use of ICTs in reducing transaction costs and improving traceability in agricultural markets, as well as in the delivery of governance services. She also worked on improving the methodology and developing a manual for LIRNEasia's telecom regulatory environment [TRE] assessments, and assisted in conducting the TRE study in the Maldives. She holds a bachelor's degree in experimental psychology from the University of Bristol, UK.

Ratna Kaji Tuladhar | Ratna is a private consultant in telecommunications policy in Nepal. As a research fellow at LIRNEasia, he participated in research in Nepal which sought to identify the conditions needed to make smart subsidies successful in bridging access-gaps in rural telecommunication services. He has 35 years of management experience at the Nepal Telecommunications Corporation. He holds a bachelor's of engineering degree in electronics from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, India.

Joseph Wilson, PhD | Joseph is a member of the Competition Commission of Pakistan. Prior to being appointed to the Commission, he was an Associate Professor of Law at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan. As a senior research fellow at LIRNEasia, he led research on measuring telecom sector and regulatory performance in Pakistan. Joseph has earned Doctor of Civil Law with Dean's Honor List and master's of law degrees (LLM) from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. He also holds an LLM from the University of Georgia, USA. He is a member of the State Bar of New York, USA and Lahore High Court Bar, and also serves on the international advisory board of the Loyola University Chicago's Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, USA.

ICT to substantially reduce agricultural costs to farmers, The Sunday Times, 2-Mar-08

ICT to substantially reduce agricultural costs to farmers, Itpro, 2-Mar-08

Research team says telecoms can reduce transaction costs in agriculture, The Money Report, 28-Feb-08

SMS price infos to empower farmers, Sri Lanka News First, 27-Feb-08

Farmers suffer due to lack of information, The Nation, 2-Mar-08

Bangladeshis spend lowest on mobile phone in South Asia, Deshi Mobile, 1-Mar-08

SMS price infos to empower farmers, The Morning Leader, 27-Feb-08

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*Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans
for Sri Lanka, AOL News, 25-Feb-08*

*Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans
for Sri Lanka, ElaKiri.com, 25-Feb-08*

*Sri Lanka: Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing
plans, Lankaeverything.com, 25-Feb-08*

*Pakistan ahead of regional countries in Tele-
com regulatory environment, Pakistan Tele-
communication Authority (PTA), 25-Feb-08*

*Mobile phones use can help reduce agricultural production
costs for farmers (Sinhala language), Ravaya, 25-Feb-08*

*Mobile phones can substantially reduce agriculture
transaction costs - reveals LIRNEasia research, Digital
Development (DigiDev) - Sri Lanka, 25-Feb-08*

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language), Ethalaya.com, 25-Feb-08*

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¹Not serving in an official capacity.

Mobile phones can substantially reduce agriculture transaction costs reveals LIRNEasia research, One World - My Utopia, 25-Feb-08

Bharti Airtel may review its Sri Lanka plan, NDTVProfit.com, 25-Feb-08

First Asia Business Forum 2008 in Sri Lanka, Asian Tribune, 14-Feb-08

Mobile phone companies doing a Nano, Business Standard, 4-Feb-08

Bharti Airtel may be redrawing plans for Sri Lanka, IANS, 25-Feb-08

Bharti Airtel may be re-drawing plans for Sri Lanka, Kerala.com, 25-Feb-08

Pakistan exceeds in Telecom regulatory environment, PakTelecom.Net, 8-Feb-08

Partnerships & Relationships

LIRNEasia's philosophy is to work with individuals, not necessarily organizations (as exemplified by the move of co-hosting the 2009 conference on regulatory efficacy from the National University of Singapore to the University of Hong Kong due to the relocation of the key liaison from the former to the latter in 2008). Over the past five years we have worked with a number of organizations, ranging from funding to research to government organizations. Some of these relationships have been related to a specific project or activity; others have been on a continuing basis.

We consider "partnerships" as lasting interactions (as opposed to one-off interactions) where something in kind is brought to the table, where risks as well as rewards are shared. This is as opposed to a contractual relationship, where there is a defined exchange of either services or goods for a sum of money, or a joint-venture which is a one-off interaction. Some contractual relationships and joint ventures do however result in longer-lasting partnerships.

LIRNEasia's philosophy on partnerships includes two key guidelines. Firstly that all partnerships should be directed towards LIRNEasia's medium and long-term strategic direction; and secondly that partnerships should be pursued with parties where the partner complements LIRNEasia's competencies, filling a gap that LIRNEasia by itself cannot. LIRNEasia's strongest relationship, with Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka's largest community-based organization, exemplifies this. Starting with the dam safety project in 2005, Sarvodaya has contributed to LIRNEasia's research efforts through its presence in 15,000 Sri Lankan villages. These include the HazInfo project (2006-08) and the Real-Time Bio-surveillance project (2008-10). Sarvodaya's Executive Director has served on the LIRNEasia board from inception and LIRNEasia's CEO serves as advisor to Sarvodaya. The design of LIRNEasia's expression of interest for the Think Tank funding from the Gates and Hewlett Foundations managed by IDRC is based on the depth and strength of this five-year collaboration. In this manner, over the past five years, LIRNEasia has developed partnerships with over 40 organizations.



Panel at conference co-organized with the University of Hong Kong and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore



Sarvodaya President, Dr A.T. Ariyaratne; Sarvodaya Executive Director, Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, Sarvodaya Fusion Managing Director, Dr Harsha Liyanage and LIRNEasia CEO, at Sarvodaya HQ

Photo courtesy of Canada's International Development Research Centre (www.idrc.ca): IDRC Board of Governors in South Asia, January 2009

[BANGLA-IT] Colloquium and Workshop on "Potential for ICTs in the Agricultural Value Chain", News of Information Technology in Bangladesh, 2-Feb-08

Choices - Rural or urban: Agriculture or services for Sri Lanka's future? Lanka Business Online, 28-Jan-08

Telecom is one of the largest contributors to growth of GDP, Book Peak, 8-Jan-08

Here's what occurred while SatNews was away for the holidays! Satnews.com, 3-Jan-08

The Long Last Mile, Humanitarian info, 1-Feb-08

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva, Kelin Kathawa (Sirasa TV), 23-Jan-08

Switch off those annoying toys, The Hindu Business Line, 7-Jan-08

Table 3: LIRNEasia partners: 2004-09

Partner	Organization type	Project/area	Partner type
DIRSI [Regional Dialogue on the Information Society], Latin America and the Caribbean	Academic	Assessing local capacity for ICT policy and regulation in the Pacific	Research partner
Balangoda Urban Council, Solid Waste Management Center, Sri Lanka	Public	Knowledge to Innovation [K2I]	Innovation partner
Burns Waste Management, Sri Lanka	Private	K2I	Innovation partner
Carnegie Mellon University: Auton Lab, USA	Academic	Evaluating a Real-Time Bio-surveillance Program [RTBP]	Research partner
Central Environment Authority, Sri Lanka	Public	K2I	Implementation partner
Commissioners for Local Government in Nine Provinces, Sri Lanka	Public	K2I	Research partner
CONNECTasia Forum, Singapore	Private	Capacity-building	Conference co-host
CPRsouth	Academic	Capacity-building	Training partner
Dambulla Dedicated Economic Center, Sri Lanka	Public-private	Agricultural Information and Markets [AgInfo]	Research partner
Department for International Development, UK	Public	General	Funding partner
Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore, Singapore	Academic	General	Research partner
Dialog Telekom, Sri Lanka	Private	Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination: a research project [HazInfo]	Technology partner
Farmer associations in Dambulla area, Sri Lanka	Civil society	AgInfo	Research partner
Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka	Public	K2I	Implementation partner
Gampaha Municipal Council, Sri Lanka	Public	K2I	Innovation partner
HJS Condiments, Sri Lanka	Private	AgInfo	Research partner
Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka	Civil society	Measuring ICT sector and regulatory performance	Workshop co-host
International Development Research Centre, Canada	Public	General	Funding partner
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka	Civil society	HazInfo; RTBP; General	Research partner
Lanka Software Foundation, Sri Lanka	Public	HazInfo	Technology partner
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore	Academic	Capacity-building	Masters enrolment; Internships
LIRNE.NET, Denmark	Academic	General	Research partner
MASTEL, Indonesia	Civil society	Networking meeting; Measuring ICT sector and regulatory performance	Workshop co-host and Research partner
Microimage, Sri Lanka	Private	AgInfo; HazInfo	Technology partner
National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, Diliman	Academic	Capacity-building; Advocacy and dissemination	Conference co-host; media event co-host
National Solid Waste Services Center, Sri Lanka	Public	K2I	Implementation partner

Launch of "ICT infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and regulatory roadblocks", i4d Magazine, Jan-08

2007

Disaster alert, DataQuest, 31-Dec-07

Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India, Dishnews - Satellite Television News, 30-Dec-07

Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India, The Sinhalaya News Agency, 28-Dec-07

Empowering the rural communities, i4d Magazine, Jan-08

Radio messages to warn of natural disasters, The Sunday Observer, 30-Dec-07

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva and A.T. Ariyaratne on disaster warning in Sri Lanka, Biz 1st (Channel One MTV), 28-Dec-07

Partner	Organization type	Project/area	Partner type
Pakistan Telecom Authority, Pakistan	Public	Advocacy and dissemination	Workshop co-host
Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka	Civil society	AgInfo	Public lecture co-host
Plastic Recyclers Association, Sri Lanka	Private	K2I	Innovation partner
Research ICT Africa	Academic	Assessing local capacity for ICT policy and regulation in the Pacific	Research partner
Respere Lanka, Sri Lanka	Private	RTBP	Research partner
Rural Business and Technology Incubator, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India	Academic	Capacity-building; RTBP	Conference co-host; research partner
Simon Fraser University, Canada	Academic	HazInfo	Research partner
Solana Networks, Canada	Private	HazInfo	Technology partner
Sri Lanka Girl Guides' Association, Sri Lanka	Civil society	K2I	Dissemination partner
Telecom Authority of Maldives, Maldives	Public	Measuring ICT sector and regulatory performance; Mobile 2.0	Workshop co-host
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, India	Public	Capacity-building	Conference co-host; training partner
Telenor Research and Development Centre, Malaysia	Private	Teleuse @ the Bottom of the Pyramid [Teleuse@BOP]; Capacity-building	Funding partner
The Edge Institute, South Africa	Academic	Capacity-building	Conference co-host
The Nielsen Company, Sri Lanka	Private	Teleuse@BOP	Research partner
TVE Asia Pacific, Sri Lanka	Private	HazInfo	Training partner
University of Alberta, Canada	Academic	HazInfo; RTBP	Research partner
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka	Academic	K2I	Research partner
Vanguard Management Services, Sri Lanka	Private	National Early Warning System for Sri Lanka [NEWS:SL]; Early Warning System for Dam Hazards; HazInfo	Funding and dissemination partner
Western Province Waste Management Authority, Sri Lanka	Public	K2I	Implementation partner
World Dialogue on Regulation	Academic	General	Research partner
WorldSpace Corporation, USA	Private	HazInfo	Technology partner

Heavenly alerts: Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India, Lanka Business Online, 27-Dec-07

Sri Lanka tested satellite disaster warning system to be used in India, Disaster Awareness, 27-Dec-07

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth, TMCnet, 26-Dec-07

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth, Yahoo! News India, 26-Dec-07

AREA ready for deployment, Satellite Today, 27-Dec-07

New book: ICT infrastructure in emerging Asia, Yahoo! Tech Groups: Bytes for All Readers and Supporters Forum, 26-Dec-07

BSNL's monopoly over infrastructure a hindrance to growth, Financial Express, 26-Dec-07

University relations

From the start, LIRNEasia has sought to engage with academia, developing relationships with universities. LIRNEasia enrolled the second of its researchers in the master's program at the Lee Kuan Yew [LKY] School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, in 2008. LIRNEasia also received its first research intern from the LKY School in 2009; it is hoped that these exchanges will continue. The annual CPRsouth conference was successfully organized in collaboration with the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) and the Beijing University of Posts and Telecom (China). LIRNEasia's first training course in 2005 was held in collaboration with the Nanyang Technological University (Singapore). Peter Anderson, Associate Professor at the Simon Fraser University (Canada) spent his sabbatical at LIRNEasia assisting with the simulations for the HazInfo project. Gordon Gow from the University of Alberta (Canada) started his collaboration with LIRNEasia with the HazInfo project and continues with the Real-Time Bio-surveillance project.

In 2009, LIRNEasia organized an academic conference in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. This was followed up by a writing workshop and will result in an edited volume.

LIRNEasia researchers have taught courses and supervised post-graduate students at the University of Moratuwa (Sri Lanka) and at the University of Colombo; the Chair and CEO was invited to speak at the National University of Singapore, the first and second international symposia of the Sabaragamuwa University (Sri Lanka) in 2006 and 2008, at the University of Salzburg in Austria, and at Jamia Millia University in India, among others. He delivered a keynote address at the founding meeting of new media researchers in Taiwan at Tamkang University in 2008 and spoke at the opening plenary of a workshop organized by the Indira Gandhi National Open University in 2009. Efforts were made to co-develop a public lecture series with the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration, but this did not proceed beyond the first two in 2004 and 2005, delivered respectively by Professor Bill Melody and by Dominic Scott of Cisco.

Private sector relations

Relationships have been developed with the private sector, through interactions with industry associations (GSM Association, Cellular Operators' Association of India, Indonesia's MASTEL, etc) as well



CPRsouth3 Young Scholars, 5-9 December 2008, Beijing, China

as interactions with the companies themselves. LIRNEasia has provided industry briefings to the private sector in several of the countries that it works in and is invited to many industry meetings. Successive interactions with the Telenor Research and Development Center in Malaysia led to a substantive funding contribution to LIRNEasia's Teleuse@BOP3 research.

Funder relations

LIRNEasia's research and capacity-building program has been primarily funded by the International Development Research Centre of Canada and the Department for International Development, UK. Substantial project funding contributions have been received from Telenor Research and Development Centre, Malaysia. Specific project grants have been obtained from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (Canadian International Development Agency), the



LIRNEasia researchers with visiting members of the IDRC Board of Governors and staff near the Kalu River estuary, Sri Lanka, January 2009

ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, *infoDev* (World Bank), the United States Agency for International Development and the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion of the University of California at Irvine. A CSR contribution from Hayleys Industrial Solutions triggered a series of events that led to the design and implementation of the affiliate project, K2I.

Other relations

Good relations were maintained with sister organizations RIA (Africa) and DIRSI (Latin America), through regular interactions via email, the participation of LIRNEasia researchers at regional research workshops organized by RIA as well as DIRSI, and similar participation of RIA and DIRSI researchers at LIRNEasia workshops and meetings. LIRNEasia is a member of the International Communications Association and the Global Knowledge Partnership, and has had an active presence at annual conferences.

New disaster warning technology on anvil, NIDM, 16-Dec-07

Fact or fiction: Telecommunications in Asia, Goergo, 16-Dec-07

ICTs and natural disasters, IDRC/GK3, 1-Dec-07

Education technology still top of RI's list: Govt, The Jakarta Post, 16-Nov-07

New disaster warning technology on anvil, Hindustan Times, 16-Dec-07

Sudut pandang: Interview with Natasha Udu-gama on HazInfo research, Astro Awani, 11-Dec-07

[BANGLA-IT] The "Digital divide" between SIDR and Katrina (post-cyclone SIDR thoughts: Part 2), News of Information Technology in Bangladesh, 19-Nov-07

Awards, honors & scholarships: 2004-09

Eisenhower Fellowship | Lead Economist Harsha de Silva (PhD) was named the Sri Lanka Fellow for the Eisenhower Fellowship 2010 Multinational Program in July 2009. The award recognizes outstanding individuals from the public service, private business and the professions. It provides professional/leadership development programs to individuals who have demonstrated potential for advanced leadership and positive impact in their home countries.

International Program for Development Evaluation Training Scholarship | Senior Research Manager, Chanuka Wategama was awarded a scholarship to attend the International Program for Development Evaluation Training course, organized by the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank and Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada from 8 June-3 July 2009.

ICA Communication Research as an Agent of Change award | Chair and CEO Rohan Samarajiva was awarded the International Communication Association 2009 Communication Research as an Agent of Change Award in May 2009. The award honors one person each year whose work has had a demonstrable impact on practice outside the academy, with clear benefits to the community.

Best Paper award, ICTD 2009 | Research Fellow, Subhash Bhatnagar (PhD) and co-author Nupur Singh's paper, *Results from a study of impact of e-Government projects in India* was selected as the best paper at the 2009 International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development, organized by Carnegie Mellon, Qatar, held in Doha, Qatar in April 2009.

Best Paper award, CPRsouth3 | Dimuthu Ratnadiwakara's paper, co-authored with Harsha de Silva (PhD) and Shamistra Soysa, *Transaction costs in agriculture: From the planting decision to selling at the wholesale market: a case-study on the feeder area of the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre in Sri Lanka* was awarded the Best Paper prize at the Third Communication Policy Research South conference organized in collaboration with the Beijing University of Posts and Telecom held in Beijing, China in December 2008.

Best Paper Linking Theory and Practice award, ICEGOV 2007 | Helani Galpaya, Rohan Samarajiva (PhD) and Shamistra Soysa's paper *Taking e-Gov to the bottom of the pyramid: Dial-a-gov?* won one of the three best paper awards given at the 1st International Conference on the Theory and Practice of e-Governance [ICEGOV], organized by the United Nations University, the Center for Technology in Government and United Nations ESCAP, held in Macao, SAR in December 2007.

2006 DOF award for Best Presentation | Director of Projects and Organizational Development, Divakar Goswami won one of three Best Presentation awards for his presentation, *The DOI applied to Indonesia: Assessing ICT policy and regulatory environment* at the Digital Opportunity Forum, organized by the Korean Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion [KADO] and the ITU, held in Seoul, South Korea in August-September 2006.

MIT Poverty Action Lab Executive Training Scholarship | Lead Economist, Harsha de Silva was awarded a scholarship to attend the MIT Poverty Action Lab Executive Training on Evaluating Social Programs in Massachusetts, USA in May-June 2006.

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva on dam safety regulations, V FM, 11-Nov-07

Interview with Rohan Samarajiva on taxes on CDMA phones, The State of Business (ART TV), 8-Nov-07

Switching networks no longer a nightmare, The Daily Mirror, 12-Oct-07

Choices - Posts or telecom: Sri Lanka's dysfunctional communications family, Lanka Business Online, 8-Oct-07

Feature on dam safety, Ravaya, 8-Nov-07

Save Money or Make Money: mobile services & the Asian BOP, Perspective 2.0, 19-Oct-07

Don't waste public money on telecom infrastructure, The Daily Mirror, 8-Oct-07