About LIRNEasia

LIRNEasia is a regional information and communication technology (ICT) policy and regulation capacity-building organization active across the Asia Pacific. LIRNEasia's program of actionable research seeks to identify the institutional constraints to effective use of ICTs to improve the lives of the people of the Asia Pacific, not simply in abstract terms but in country context, and to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders to catalyze the changes conducive to greater participation by users and suppliers. LIRNEasia's overall mission of capacity building seeks to contribute to building capacity for evidence-based intervention in the public-policy process by persons attuned to the specific national contexts within which policies are made and implemented.

Currently, the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) funds the majority of LIRNEasia's programs. LIRNEasia's work has also been funded by *info*Dev, a World Bank unit that has partnered with LIRNE.NET since 2001 in the World Dialogue on Regulation for Network Economies.

LIRNEasia partners with Research ICT Africa (RIA!), Regional Dialogue on the Information Society (DIRSI) and several European universities in LIRNE.NET and is a contributor to the World Dialogue on Regulation. It is a member of the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and the Pacific Telecommunications Council. www.LIRNEasia.net is LIRNEasia's principal face to the world. Also see: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-100824-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

LIRNEasia, incorporated under Sri Lankan law as a non-profit organization, was launched in September 2004 during the World Dialogue on Regulation Expert Forum in Sri Lanka. LIRNEasia is governed by a Board of Directors comprising Rohan Samarajiva (Executive Director, LIRNEasia); Vinya Ariyaratne (Executive Director, Sarvodaya); Mervyn de Silva (Managing Director, Hayleys Engineering Solutions); Milagros Sanchez Rivera (National University of Singapore); Luxman Siriwardene (Executive DirectorDirector of Programs, Pathfinder Foundation); and Sithie Tiruchelvam (Chair, Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust) and advised by an International Advisory Board chaired by Professor William H. Melody.

About Sarvodaya

Founded as a non-governmental, non-sectarian, voluntary service organization by Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne in 1958, the Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya, which was incorporated by Parliamentary Act No. 16 of 1972, has today evolved into the single largest people's movement in the country with linkages at the global level. Sarvodaya works through 34 District Centers, 325 Divisional Centers and 4,607 registered village organizations known as Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies, serving around 15,000 village communities across the country.

Sarvodaya believes in the development of a new social paradigm of an equal non-exploitive society through village development on the Gandhian principle of Shramadana or voluntary community labor and non-violence. Consistent with this vision, Sarvodaya focuses on bringing about awareness, welfare and community development. This is achieved through the island-wide network of Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies. Fundamental to the success of this process is the participation of the people the foundation of all Sarvodaya programs.
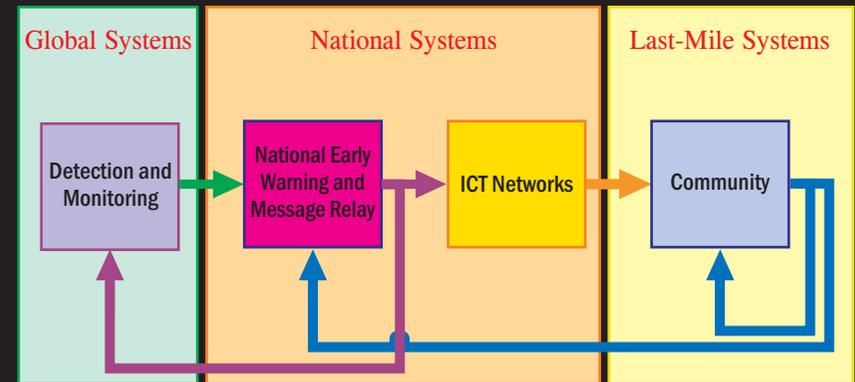
LIRNEasia
12 Balcombe Place, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka
+ 94 (11) 493 9992, + 94 (11) 267 1160
udu-gama@lirne.net

Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning: Community-based Last-Mile Warning Systems Workshop

LIRNEasia and Sarvodaya

Global Systems — National Systems — Last-Mile Systems

Detection and Monitoring → National Early Warning and Message Relay → ICT Networks → Community

November 19, 2007
Willow Room, India Habitat Centre
New Delhi, India

The HazInfo Project

The aim of the "Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination System" (HazInfo) pilot project was to deploy and assess various alert and notification technologies intended to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to natural and manmade hazards in rural Sri Lanka. The project adopts an "all-hazards, all-media" approach designed around a set of five wireless communication technologies. The pilot project involved deployment, training, and field-testing of the technologies, in various combinations, across 32 tsunami-affected villages, using Common Alerting Protocol for data interchange with content provided in three languages (English, Sinhalese and Tamil).

Announcement

LIRNE*asia*, in partnership with Sarvodaya, is organizing a series of dissemination workshops in the South Asian region to improve and discuss the findings from the "Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination Project" (HazInfo) pilot project. The HazInfo project reflects Sarvodaya and LIRNE*asia*'s shared objective of evaluating the suitability of information communication technologies (ICTs) for the "last mile" of a national disaster warning system for Sri Lanka and possible extension to other developing countries. This series of dissemination workshops aims to share knowledge among experts, community volunteers and community organizations involved in early warning activities from the Bay of Bengal Region. The knowledge-sharing event for India will take place in the Willow Room at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

Objectives

Discuss and obtain feedback on the findings of "Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Warning Dissemination: A Research Project"

Exchange lessons learned from end-to-end hazard detection and alerting systems that serve grassroots communities in India

Merge knowledge from India to develop practical solutions for communicating risk information to rural communities

Analyze and determine methodologies for measuring the performance of Community-based Early Warning Systems

Commence dialogue on the development of a regional last mile warning system

Workshop Agenda

Introduction

Welcome, Introduction and Workshop Objectives
Mehul Pandya, Coordinator, AIDMI and *Natasha Udu-gama, HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager, LIRNEasia*

Keynote Address
Screening of "The Long Last Mile" documentary

Elements of a Community-Based Warning System
Rohan Samarajiva, Ph.D., Executive Director, LIRNEasia

Session I: Methodology, Preparedness, Training & Community Organization

India Experience
P. Prasad, Chief Consultant, Welfare Organisation for Rural Lean Development (WORLD)

HazInfo Sri Lankan Experience
Menake Wijesinghe, Project Director, Sarvodaya Community Disaster Management Centre (SCDMC), Sarvodaya

Discussion

Session II: First Responder Action

India Experience
Suresh Manian, Coordination and Networking Associate, Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC)

HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience
Natasha Udu-gama, HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager, LIRNEasia

Discussion

Session III: Transmission of Warning to Local Levels

India Experience
Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya, CEO, Ekgaon technologies

HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience
Natasha Udu-gama, HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager, LIRNEasia

Discussion

Session IV: Determination of Hazard from National Level

India Experience
Dr. K. J. Ramesh, Advisor, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vikrant Mahajan, Sphere India Coordinator

HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience
Nuwan Waidyanatha, HazInfo Project Manager, LIRNEasia

Discussion

Session V: Next Steps

Roles of Policy Makers, Regulators, Private Sector, & Civil Society
Rohan Samarajiva, Ph.D., Executive Director, LIRNEasia

Tsunami Evaluations: Lessons for Early Warning System and Regional Coordination of Last Mile EW Systems
Mihir R. Bhatt, Honorary Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)

Discussion and Concluding Remarks