

11TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CPRsouth

9 SEPTEMBER 2016, Z HOTEL KIHINANAI, ZANZIBAR

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Name	Board member/ Observer
Alison Gillwald, PhD	Board member
Aslam Hayat	Board member
Helani Galpaya	Board member
Zhong Liu, PhD	Board member
Rohan Samarajiva, PhD	Board member
Supriya Singh, PhD	Board member
Lishan Adam	Board member
Wallace Chigona	Board member
Timothy Waema	Board member
Koesmarihati Sugondo	Board member
Reg Coutts, PhD	Board member

Agenda Item	ACTION/DECISION
1. Apologies and welcome	
2. Confirmation of the minutes of 10th meeting and tabling of decisions taken by circulation Proposed: Rohan Samarajiva Seconded: Reg Coutts	
3. CPRsouth board members – feedback on review process, and complaints about the review process There seem to have been some inconsistency among reviewers' approaches to the review process. Some, for example, provided no comments at all, which caused problems with the selection process, especially where scores were clumped together, and reviewers neither expressly accepted nor rejected abstracts. In adjusting the reviews, those abstracts that had two positive score and one negative one as outlier were invited to submit. This incorporated a number of papers that were on the threshold and some of these turned out to be amongst the best papers. All RIA papers on the threshold were excluded to avoid a conflict of interest on the part of the chairperson. Some reviewers said that they had only commented when there was a qualification to their mark, they did not realise it was compulsory. Hence some of their reviews carry remarks and others not. Zhong Liu proposed that a formal journal acceptance review format be	Board members to be informed by new secretariat. RESOLUTION: Reviewers will need to provide a written review of the abstract against the agreed criteria, indicating reasons for selection and submit a written review of submitted paper and finally review the response from candidates on how they have addressed revisions to accept final version

<p>adopted and this was seconded by Rohan Samarajiva.</p>	
<p>4. Chairperson’s Report</p> <p><i>Highlights:</i></p> <p>The location of this year’s conference was probably responsible for record number of abstract submitted and a better set of paper for selection, but unfortunately a large number of drop outs were experienced this year following selection – caused by illness, conflicts, etc.</p> <p>The high level engagement of senior officials by Bitange Ndemo through COSTECH, and Alison Gillwald through the regulator, TCRA, resulted in very senior participation at the conference and ongoing engagement.</p> <p>Introductions made by Ang Peng Hwa were also very helpful. This of course came at some cost in terms of intensity of resources and engagement by chairperson and secretariat - preparation of key note addresses for the DG, dependency on goodwill of senior partners for on-arrival visas and government clearance.</p>	<p>Chairperson’s report to be circulated to all members of the board</p>

The remoteness of the venue also meant we were dependent on assured facilities which were all working and tested in advance of the meeting, but once scaled up with the arrival of all delegates of the two conferences (IDRC Partners meeting and CPRsouth) the bandwidth could not cope with the number of delegates trying to access the network and it was impossible to get online much of the time. The microphones and projectors were also old and did not operate properly with continued, sustained use. The most negative impact was on the conference app which had been purchased, and designed in such a way as to facilitate a completely paperless conference. All programmes, changes in schedule, notifications and evaluations had been loaded onto the app. (Unfortunately the available print facilities were not designed to support the volume of printing required when the network failed, and were also only available only at a very high cost). Despite the purchase of dongles to set up hotspots, contingency plans for bandwidth, projectors and printers were inadequate and delayed the programme, agendas for side meetings and the electronic programme and notification. The app is however still available for future use.

Research ICT Africa experienced considerable pressure in running the conference with unclear funding outcomes, as the funding available from IDRC shifted. Without operational funding or even cost recovery for management and administrative functions, the securing of funds and renegotiating them under conditions of currency volatility – together with changing amounts available for current and future conferences, and piggybacking the IDRC partners' meeting onto CPRsouth – placed considerable strain on the organisation and impacted negatively on the core research projects of Research ICT Africa.

For these reasons the chairperson had taken the decision that RIA could not continue as secretariat. RS indicated that he had thought that with the meeting in Maropeng, CPRsouth had come to an end. He regarded the extension of the conference through the chairperson having secured funds for a further two years to 2016 as a bonus. He was happy to hear from the chairperson that IDRC was considering further multi-year funding of the conference and Young Scholars for a further period. He indicated that subject to receiving the full indirect costs amounts to fund the conference, LIRNEasia was prepared to resume this function and discussions with IDRC.

<p>5. Ratification of new board members</p> <p>The chairperson thanked the board members for the spirit in which the election took place. There were 12 nominations for 9 vacancies on the board. (8 member terms came to an end in September 2016, and 2 members resigned during the course of the year, but by email consensus, so as to keep the board a financially manageable 20-member group, it was agreed to only open 9 vacancies) There was no need to preference African or women board members to improve African and women representation. Of the board members whose terms end in September 2016, 3 stood for re-election and were re-elected to serve again. The chair thanked outgoing board members Reg Coutts, Koesmarihati Sugondo, Shi-Ji Gao, Ang Peng Hwa, and Rajendra Kumar for their dedicated service to CPRsouth.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION: The board ratified the results of the election, Ashok Jhunjunwala, Payal Malik and Zhong Liu were re-elected to the board, and the following new board members were welcomed in absentia: Monica Kerrets Makau, Tracy Cohen, Helani Galpaya, Olivier Nana Nzepa, Krishna Oolun and Nirmita Narasimhan.</p> <p>ACTION: Chairperson (outgoing, A. Gillwald) to write letters of thanks to outgoing members – especially those who were not in attendance at CPRsouth 2016 - and inform and welcome new board members.</p>
<p>6. Election of chairperson and deputy</p> <p>The positions of both Chair and Deputy Chair were up for renewal in Sept 2016, and the Chairperson thanked the deputy chairperson (Payal Malik, who was unfortunately not able to attend) for her support, but indicated that RIA currently lacked the capacity to continue serving as secretariat for CPRsouth, or serve as chairperson, and she was therefore not available to stand again. She proposed that since LIRNEasia’s CEO had agreed that LIRNEasia take over the secretariat once more, LIRNEasia’s chairperson, Rohan Samarajiva, should serve as chair for CPRsouth, as there was a logic to the chairperson being close to the secretariat. This nomination was unanimously supported and accepted by RS.</p> <p>Proposed by: Alison Gillwald Seconded by: Tim Waema RS proposed that Alison Gillwald serve as deputy chairperson to provide continuity to project Seconded: Lishan Adam Alison Gillwald accepted nomination as deputy chair.</p>	

<p>7. Financials</p> <p>Chair introduced financials by highlighting difficulties of exchange fluctuation. ZAR is a volatile currency. The budget for this international conference was granted in ZAR, and with only 6% overheads budgeted in order to secure the funding, RIA subsidised considerable resources to project (20% of RIA Executive Director and 75% of administrator's time for first 6months of 2017).</p>	<p>Summary statement presented by Hettie Dreyer</p>
<p>8. Consideration and approval of audited accounts of CPRsouth 2015</p> <p>Hettie Dreyer from RIA, and Snijder and Associates were thanked for their thorough and timeous audit. HD was also thanked for her zealous management of funds and for her excellent financial reporting to IDRC.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION: Audit approved</p> <p>ACTION: Financials to be sent to LIRNEasia for continuity.</p>
<p>9. CPRsouth2015 performance indicators (Knowledge Mapping)</p> <p>Chairperson remarked that the sterling efforts of Chenai Chair who ran the mapping survey managed to get feedback from 44 respondents, a slightly higher number than usual, as it was sent all those who had participated since the joint Africa/Asia conference was instituted in 2012. This provides a sound basis for the knowledge mapping analysis.</p> <p>Over 6 conferences, CPRsouth has brought together two regional communities of scholars as a community of 198 paper presenters in total, a core representing five institutions (LIRNEasia, RIA, University of Nairobi, University of Cape Town and IIT-Chennai). 48 researchers have presented 2 or more papers during 2010 to 2015 period.</p> <p>Recommendations from this year's knowledge mapping exercise are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build on the core of five institutions and the 48 researchers who have presented more than once; 2. Elucidate more success stories and use those stories for inspiration to others; and 3. Further evaluate the pros and cons of holding the African and Asian conferences together in light of the fact that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Submissions of abstracts to the conference may also be driven by location of conference; b. Repeat paper presenters reduces the chances of new comers to the conference; and c. No apparent interaction between the regions 	<p>RESOLUTION Chairperson to arrange tracer study with available funds.</p>

<p>10. Venue for CPRsouth 2017</p> <p>The Chairperson reported that with the extension by IDRC only granted to the end of 2016, and with no formal proposal for approval from IDRC for an extension of CPRsouth beyond 2016, a venue for the conference in 2017 has not been finalised. She reported that on the assumption that further funding can be secured, board member Prof. Pirongong Ramasoota, University of Chulalongkorn, has expressed her institution’s interest in hosting the 2017 CPRsouth conference in Asia, though she was clear that she could not serve as the secretariat.</p> <p>Board member, Aslam Hayat, Chief Corporate Affairs & Strategy Officer of Telenor Pakistan, who had presented an extensive motivation to the board in Maropeng to host the conference the following year in 2015, indicated his willingness to host the 2017 meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan. He assured the board that necessary security and visa guarantees would be put in place to make this a less daunting prospect than it might seem from the outside. The chair thanked Aslam for his offer and indicated the importance of the strong institutional backing that his offer came with. Dr Samarajiva said he had tentatively identified Myanmar for the next Asian conference but was not sure he would be able to secure institutional support by 2017. The board agreed that as the chairperson, he should with his counterpart in Myanmar and Pakistan and make a decision which should be communicated to the board as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION incoming chairperson (R.Samarajiva) to liaise with partner in Myanmar, and Aslam Hayat, and report decision to the board by the end of the year.</p>
<p>11. Any other business</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was brought to a close.</p>	