

**Minutes of the 3rd Board Meeting
6 December 2008 Beijing China**

Present:

Board members:

Ashok Jhunjhunwala (IIT-Madras, India), Rohan Samarajiva (LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka), Milagros Rivera (National University of Singapore), Rekha Jain (IIM- Ahmedabad), Myeong Cheol Park (Information and Communications University, South Korea), Yuli Liu (National Chengchi University, Taiwan ROC), Laurent Elder (IDRC, Canada), Chunhui Yuan (Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China)

Observers:

William Melody (LIRNE.NET), Alison Gillwald (RIA), Randy Spence (ESDA), Khaled Fourati (IDRC), Jonathan Aronson (TPRC), Prabir Neogi (TPRC), Jean Paul Simon (Euro CPR), Antonio Botello (DIRSI), Tambo Ichiro (JICA), Kentaro Suekane (JICA), Takanori Yasuda (JICA), Sujata Gamage (LIRNEasia), Helani Galpaya (LIRNEasia), Prashanthi Weragoda (LIRNEasia), Sabina Fernando (LIRNEasia), Nilusha Kapugama (LIRNEasia)

Outcomes of the meeting:

The 3rd meeting of the Board of CPRsouth

- Approved the audited Accounts
- Approved re -appointment of Board chair (Ashok Jhunjhunwala) and new alternate chair (Milagros Rivera)
- Appointed new Board members; Chunhui Yuan (BUPT) , Laurent Elder(IDRC)
- Discussed assessment measures of CPRsouth1 and 2
- Discussed the aims, objectives and future direction of CPRsouth and measures to develop sustainability
- Discussed the dates, location and organization of the proposed CPRsouth Conference for 2010 and 2011 (CPRsouth4 and 5)

Agenda Item 1.0 Apologies and introductions of the observers

Apologies were made for the absence of Ledivina Cariño, Patrick Xavier and Xu Yan. The observers were introduced and invited to join the meeting.

Agenda Item 2.0 Confirmation of the minutes of 2nd meeting, tabling of decisions taken by circulation

Agenda Item 3.0 Matters arising from the minutes and decisions by circulation

Minutes of the second Board Meeting were previously circulated. The minutes were confirmed and all decisions taken by circulation were tabled.

Agenda Item 4.0 Consideration and approval of audited accounts of CPR_{south2}

The Audited accounts report was previously circulated.

The Board was informed by Prashanthi Weragoda that the budgeted amount for CPR_{south2} was USD 100,000 and in anticipation of cost overruns, further approval was obtained from IDRC to increase the budget to USD 130,000. However, the actual cost of CPR_{south2} was USD 117,363 which is below the revised approved amount.

Jhunjhunwala inquired after the fund allocation for CPR_{south3}. Ms Weragoda informed him that it was USD 146,850 and that costs are likely to stay within the budgeted amount.

No objections were raised and the audited accounts were confirmed

Agenda Item 5.0 Appointment of new Board members, CPR_{south} Board Chair and Alternate Chair.

The Board Paper regarding this agenda item was previously circulated.

51. Appointment of three new Board members:

In order to replace Board members Jhunjhunwala, Jain and Liu who are stepping down at the end of their term in 2008, the Board converted itself into a nominating committee from January – March 2008 (Dec 2007). Three nominations were received: Ashok Jhunjhunwala (India), Laurent Elder (Canada) and Chunhui Yuan (China). These three nominations were proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to, resulting in their appointment as CPR_{south} Board members for a 4 year period (CPR_{south} Charter clause V article). The retiring members (Lui and Jain) were thanked for their support, advice and assistance.

5.1 Appointment of New Chair and Alternate Chair of CPR_{south} Board

Prof Samarajiva was appointed as the protem Chair for this purpose. The re-appointment of Jhunjhunwala (India) as Chair of the Board and Milagros Rivera (Singapore) as alternate chair was proposed and seconded. This was unanimously agreed, and Jhunjhunwala was re-appointed as Chair of the Board and Milagros Rivera as alternate chair. It was agreed that the re-appointment of Prof Jhunjhunwala provided continuity to CPR_{south} and its activities. Professor Samarajiva then yielded the Chair to Prof Jhunjhunwala who resumed his duties as Chair of the Board.

Prof Jhunjhunwala on resuming his duties as Chair of the Board suggested that a group (“Elders Council”) of senior researchers/scholars be formed to provide an additional impetus/driver to the work of the CPR_{south} Board. This group of senior scholars (about 25-30) could include the retiring Board members (thus providing for their continued involvement in CPR_{south} activities) and other senior scholars selected from various countries. In addition to providing useful advice and support they could also assist in identifying key research problems for the region and/or specific country. This proposal is to be developed further and sent to the Board by circulation.

Agenda item 6.0 Assessment of CPR_{south1} and CPR_{south2}

The presentation made by Dr Gamage, highlighted two strategies for CPR_{south} – “presence” and “preparedness” and the need to develop both in order to maximise opportunities for appropriate policy intervention when a ‘policy window’ opens. This was particularly applicable in the broader context that policy solutions are not necessarily dependent on government/political intervention.

The past and current composition of the Young scholar and paper presenter applications were discussed in the context of CPR_{south1} and CPR_{south2} (where data was available). This included a comparison of the number of applications received, acceptances, retention (i.e. re-application) rates and country/regional representation. It was noted that:

- The CPR_{south} community was growing and the need to keep the membership engaged (current numbers:126)
- Currently most of the successful applications were from those with an academic background (mode 1) and there was a need to encourage/canvass applications from Mode 2 (non academic eg: operators). This presented challenges in the form of maintaining the quality of the papers in addition to resource and timing/scheduling implications.
- It was suggested that Operator associations be canvassed to make presentations and that additional slots be provided for this purpose. Melody noted that there was a need for caution and appropriate measures to ensure that this was not used by the operators as a propaganda/self advertisement opportunity. One such measure suggested was to provide for a policy debate format, facilitating the presentation of an “opposite view”. This was also considered a useful experience for Young scholars.
- The term “Young Scholar” was considered and the need to change its definition was discussed (eg: to accommodate those who want to repurpose/change their field). It was finally agreed to retain the current method and criteria for choosing Young scholars as it was considered appropriate.
- Methods to maintain interest and accommodate increasing numbers of applications to CPR_{south} conferences given the resource and timing implications were discussed. It was noted that any increases in participation would require a budget increase of an approximate cost of \$1500 per person. Extending the length of the conference was not considered feasible. Parallel sessions was considered a possibility noting that this would be a policy decision for the Board. A partial subsidy, with the applicants’ organisation/university agreeing to fund part of the expenses was also considered a possibility, noting that some universities may have funding restrictions. Another option was to institute a system based on a GDP threshold, whereby all representatives from countries above a particular GDP threshold (eg; Malaysia GDP) would be required to pay their airfare, whilst common costs would be provided for. Another possibility was to formulate lists of those countries that would and would not be eligible for partial/full scholarships. This was not considered suitable as it could potentially restrict those residing in some countries who would otherwise have been eligible (eg: Cambodian residing in Hawaii). It was also noted that there was a need to provide incentives for representatives/scholars from high income countries to attend CPR_{south} conferences and that those able to fund themselves should do so without the perception of an automatic right to funding. A Board Paper considering this issue will be circulated.

Agenda Item 7.0 Overview of finances and fund raising efforts

Samarajiva informed the Board of progress in fund raising efforts and that JICA's interest and participation at CPR*south3* and KADO's interest indicated some positive progress. It was noted KADO was unable to attend CPR*south3* and may attend CPR*south4*.

Other fundraising initiatives discussed included:

- Identifying and carving out suitable components within the conference program that could be marketed. Examples include the Dinner speech (both or either) and sale of dinner tables. It was noted that should a long term endowment based arrangement be put in place it would require either the creation of a legal persona and/or LIRNE*asia* to be entrenched as Administrative partner for a long period of time.
- It was also noted that the implementation of such fund raising initiatives or any other sponsor based activities should be/are the responsibility of the Host Partner. It was also noted that currently, LIRNE*asia* (as the Administrative Partner) pays an administrative fee to the Local Partner based on a MoU arrangement. It was suggested that this fee could include a component to cover the cost of organising a sponsored event.

Agenda Item 8.0 Agenda item 8. Progress on Internship program

Nilusha Kapugama provided an update of the internship program. LIRNE*asia* and IIT Madras have an intern each as a result of the program. Nuwan Waidayanatha of LIRNE*asia*, based in China is currently looking to employ an Intern. Jain asked if the Intern at the end of his/her term is expected to make a presentation at the next CPR*south* conference. Samarajiva responded to the effect that there was no mandatory requirement for the Intern to make a presentation at CPR*south* conference and in any case the internship program whilst a part of CPR*south* is also conducted for the purposes/benefit of the sponsoring organisation. He also noted that the Intern could present a paper subject to the usual conditions of relevance etc, or be sponsored to attend as a Young Scholar by the Intern's sponsoring organisation.

Prof Jhunjhunwala suggested that the Board members decide as a policy to make arrangements to send at least one person to the CPR*south* conference. This person it was suggested be sponsored by the Board Member's contact institutions (approximating a total of 20-25 institutions). Given that there are nine Board members, this number could initially total 6-9 participants and overtime extended to 10-12. This was envisaged as a parallel process to the CPR*south* presenters. The sponsored participant could be either a Young Scholar or a paper presenter. However, it was noted that justifying the sponsorship would be easier if the person were to make a presentation. It was agreed that this suggestion adds value to the proposal relating to the formation of an "Elders Council".

A Board paper on this issue to be circulated.

It was also suggested that the Local partner be given the choice to arrange sponsorship for either the dinner speaker or the Opening speaker as a fundraising exercise. It was noted that traditionally, the Opening speaker was chosen from the Local partner country, whilst the Dinner speaker was not subject to any restrictions, other than "inspirational' content.

Agenda item 9. Plans for CPR*south* Africa

Allison Gillwald described the aim of the CPR*south* Africa chapter as primarily providing opportunity for African researchers to present their research. Subsequently, opportunity would be provided for regulators to intersect with this process, who would then be invited to chair sessions etc (although not to present research).

The intention is to ensure that CPR*south*Africa be confined initially to the African region (with cross pollination/assistance from CPR*south* Asia chapter). Similarly, the Latin America chapter intends to focus on drawing participants from the region and then once established (perhaps in a year or two) to consider holding a joint CPR*south* meeting in Africa, Asia, Latin America etc.

Samarajiva agreed. He also noted that the current CPR*south* will automatically become the Asia Pacific chapter at the formation of the Africa Chapter (CPR*south* Charter Clause VI). He also agreed to provide assistance/support to the Africa chapter by for eg: Board members to participate at the Africa event as an expression of solidarity, advertise call for papers through existing systems etc. It was therefore agreed that it would be best if the Africa conference was instituted as an independent event. In terms of timing it was decided that the early part of 2010 would be suitable.

Allison Gillwald to provide a note to the Board on this issue, to be followed by a Board paper formalising CPR*south* conversion to the Asia Pacific Chapter.

Agenda Item 10: Beginning the conversation on the location of CPR*south*5 (December 2010), with decision to be finalised by circulation

Samarajiva indicated that Korea would be the first option (particularly in the context of work done to engage KADO) to host CPR*south* in 2010. Another possibility was JICA, however it was noted that this presented difficulties as there was no Board Member representation from Japan – and thereby consequent issues with identifying a local partner etc. The Information and Communications University (ICU) was also considered as a possible partner and then rejected on the basis of uncertainty due to merger propositions etc. It was also agreed that holding a CPR*south* conference in Korea and/or Japan would be expensive and difficult under the current budget. Cambodia and Vietnam was suggested, however the lack of local partners (and Board member representation) from these counties did not make it feasible.

Jhunjunwala again reiterated the need to cultivate 25 institutions and that effort should be made to do this in the intervening 2 year timeframe until the proposed conference. Indonesia and Malaysia were also mentioned for their lack of representation on the Board. Samarajiva indicated that there were advantages to knowing the location of a proposed conference in advance (i.e. approximately 1-1.5 has been the precedent set for CPR*south* conferences) and in working with a representative Board Member in the planning process. Elder indicated that in the interests of future sustainability of CPR*south*, there was a benefit in initiating contact with Japan and he suggested that the Board write to key telco/public policy universities in Japan and invite them to a conference in Sri Lanka (2009). Samarajiva agreed and said he had contacts in Japan that he would approach for this purpose.

In conclusion it was agreed that Plan A for holding CPR*south* 2010 is Japan, failing which Plan B would be Korea or China or India. It was noted that both India and China can always be the fallback position. Samarajiva informed the Board that China's Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunication had previously expressed an interest in hosting CPR*south*3 or at least holding some sessions there, however due to Govt approval procedures this was not possible.

Chunhui Yuan indicated that should Chongqing University agree to host, that they would require the CPR*south* conference papers to be published/cited under Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunication. This led to a discussion on the location/citation and download data of existing CPR*south* papers. Sujata Gamage informed the Board that all current papers are on the CPR*south* website and LIRNE*asia* agreed to check the citation index of CPR*south* papers on scholar.google.

