

**Minutes of the 2nd Board Meeting
16 December 2007, Chennai, India.**

Present:

Board Members: Ashok Jhunjunwala (IIT Madras, India), Rohan Samarajiva (LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka), Patrick Xavier (Swinburne U, Australia), Rekha Jain (IIM Ahmedabad, India), Myeong Cheoi Park (IC University, S. Korea), Yuli Liu (National ChengChi U, Taiwan ROC), Xu Yan (U of Science & Technology, Hong Kong, China)

Observers: William Melody (LIRNE.NET), Laurent Elder (IDRC), Stephen McGurk (IDRC), Alison Gillwald (RIA!), Helani Galpaya (LIRNEasia), Prashanthi Weragoda (LIRNEasia), Tahani Iqbal (LIRNEasia), Nilusha Kapugama (LIRNEasia)

Outcomes of the meeting:

The 2nd meeting of the Board of CPRsouth

- Approved the audited Accounts
- Agreed to extend the present auditors period of appointment up to 3 years
- Approved the procedure for appointing new board members
- Accepted the need to have a member from India and China on the Board
- Discussed the dates, location and organization of the next CPRsouth Conference (CPRsouth 3).
- Discussed the aims, objectives and future direction of the CPRsouth

Agenda Item 1.0 Apologies and Introductions of the Observers

Apologies were made for the absence of Lediviña Carino and Milagros Rivera Sanchez. The observers were introduced and invited to join the meeting.

Agenda Item 2.0 Confirmation of the minutes of 1st meeting, tabling of decisions taken by circulation.

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

Minutes of the inaugural Board Meeting were previously circulated. The minutes were confirmed by Jhunjunwala and seconded by Samarajiva.

All decisions taken by circulation were tabled. The motion was proposed by Jhunjunwala and seconded by Samarajiva.

Agenda Item 4.0 Consideration and approval of audited accounts of CPRsouth 1

Audited accounts report was previously circulated.

- a) The auditors, Wijeratna & Company, were selected by the board from a shortlist of 3, drawn up by the administrative partner.
- b) The board was informed by Prashanthi Weragoda that the expenses on the line items, hosting costs, travel and per diem costs for Board Members exceeded the budgeted amount due to the available flight schedules. However, expenditure on other items remained within or under budget. Hence, the overall expenditure for CPRsouth 1 conference was within the given budget of \$ 110,000.
- c) It was decided that the appointment of the present auditors will be extended to a period of 3 years. Initially, the auditors were appointed only for CPRsouth 1.
- d) No objections were raised and the audited accounts were confirmed, proposed by Jhunjhunwala and seconded by Samarajiva.

Agenda Item 5.0 Approval of the procedure for appointing new Board Members

The Board Paper with regards to the agenda item was previously circulated.

- a) The board was reminded of the lots that were drawn during the 1st CPRsouth Board Meeting. Jhunjhunwala, Jain and Liu will be stepping down after their terms expire in 2008. Samarajiva briefed the board about the present regional, gender and institutional composition of the Board and what that would be after the three terms expired. The need to maintain a balanced composition and the importance of India and China was stressed. Furthermore it was suggested that there be Board Members from funding organisations such as the IDRC.
- b) It was suggested that Board members will be identified through a nominations process and Internet and scholarly profiles. Gillwald inquired about the possibility of nominating outgoing board members and the board was informed that it is possible to do so.
- c) Jhunjhunwala's suggestion that there be a member from China and India each on the Board at all times met with agreement. All nominees, including the funders and individuals representing the government and consumers, should be well regarded in the policy and regulation space.

- d) It was decided that the Board be converted to a nominating body from December 2007 – 31st March, 2008. Each member is allowed an unlimited number of nominations. Each country will only have one Board Member and there will be representation from India and China.
- e) Samarajiva said the document outlining the procedure for appointing new board members will be re-circulated with the proposed amendments. Of the nominations, a short list of 9 names will be drawn up by the administrative partner. The nominations list and supporting documentation will be presented to the board at the next Board Meeting to be held in Beijing.

Agenda item 7.0 Location and hosting of CPRsouth 3.

Agenda Item 7.1 Presentation by Chunhui Yuan.

Samarajiva informed the board that the decision to hold the next CPRsouth event in China had been approved by circulation.

- a) Yuan informed the board that the necessary approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Education in China. The High Tech mansion at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT) was proposed as the conference site. The board was informed of the present tariffs rates of the suggested accommodation. October was given as the suggested month for holding the conference due to the weather. Liu expressed confidence in BUPT as the hosts of CPRsouth 3 due to their vast experience hosting event such as ITS.
- b) The themes proposed for CPRsouth 3 by Yuan were “Internet and/or ICT Governance” or “Transformation Strategies of Telecom Operators”.
- c) An extensive discussion followed on the dates of CPRsouth 3. Jhunjhunwala and Yan had difficulties in attending the conference in October due to the University term time. Furthermore, Samarajiva noted that as most participants will be University students, it will be difficult for them to take part. The Board members preferred the conference to be held in December as it would be the most convenient for them. However, according to the administrative partner, LIRNEasia, the travel costs for December would be at a premium. The board members inquired about the possibilities of early bookings or group bookings in order to reduce the expenditure on airfares, however these proved to be non-viable options.

- d) August was not considered due to Beijing being the hosts for 2008 Olympics. The possibility of holding the conference in February or March 2009 was discussed. However, these proved to be non viable due to the Chinese New year being in February and the LIRNEasia training course being held in March. The importance of having a settled time was stressed by Liu. The importance of maintaining the quality of papers and number of participants was stressed by Helani Galpaya and Liu.
- e) Therefore due to the travel costs for December being prohibitive, it was decided that the possibilities of holding the conference in the 1st or 2nd weeks of November would be explored along with other options. Prashanthi Weragoda was instructed to coordinate with the Board Members, Yan, Xavier and Liu to find the most pertinent time.

Agenda Item 6.0 Assessment: CPRsouth 1 and CPRsouth 2

Agenda Item 6.1 Presentation by Rohan Samarajiva

Agenda Item 6.2 Discussion

The presentation was to be made by Sujata Gamage, but following in her absence, it was made by Samarajiva.

- a) The discussion focussed on the future of CPRsouth. Xavier proposed that the participants of CPRsouth get some experience through government institutions or an organisation such as LIRNEasia in order to build policy intellectuals. Jhunjhunwala suggested identifying 25-30 centres (organisations or universities) in Asia such as IIT Madras which are willing to provide internships to nurture the participants, in particular the Young Scholars. Jain informed the board that IIM Ahmedabad can be taken as another such centre. Samarajiva asked for a clarification in terms of the purpose and objective of identifying the centres, as to whether it was for joint research or to exchange scholars. Jhunjhunwala said it could serve both purposes and the CPRsouth conference to be point of culmination for the work done.
- b) Samarajiva informed the board that at present, the conference was all the administrative partner can organise with the available funding. If LIRNEasia is to take on additional responsibilities it would require more funding to employ more people for the tasks.
- c) The experience of TPRC and EuroCPR was explained by Melody. Both started as conferences and later branched out to additional tasks such as special training courses and projects which nearly led them to becoming bankrupt. He

further stressed that at present both TPRC and EuroCPR are partially funded and cautioned the board in taking further steps which may lead to financial and administrative difficulties.

- d) It was noted by Jhunjunwala that identifying the centres would be the key factor. There onwards he suggested that board members should take the responsibility of building the links between the centres and CPRsouth. He further added that Board members should also be responsible for raising the necessary funding without being dependent on external funders. Samarajiva noted that at present LIRNEasia is working on a database of telecom policy and Regulation scholars. The centres could be identified through the database.
- e) It was suggested by Jhunjunwala that the Board members try and mobilise resources in order to start the network of centres by the next CPR*south* meeting. He further suggested that ½ a day should be allocated at the next CPR*south* conference so that the board can discuss how the activities can be taken forward. Samarajiva seconded the idea and further added that perhaps each centre can sponsor a young scholar for the conference. He further stressed that the Board members have a responsibility to encourage individuals from their institutions to apply as paper presenters and young scholars. Jain reiterated her willingness to make IIM Ahmedabad a centre.
- f) Laurent Elder commented on the need for CPR*south* to be more attractive by having ICT scholars of a higher calibre if it is to become self funded. Melody informed the board that TPRC and EuroCPR are still partly externally funded. He further emphasised the need for subsidizing young scholars and distinguished guests in order to encourage participation.
- g) Stephen McGurk commented that the group model which was being suggested at the meeting may result in a decrease in the competitive pressure and may result in a fall in the quality of the organisation. He said further added that at present the conference had a clear attempt at address the policy questions and that CPR*south* should retain it as it was the value addition of the conferences.
- h) It was noted by Jhunjunwala that the competitive pressures will still exist as the groups have to fund themselves. The CPR*south* conference is to act as an umbrella for bringing together individuals associated with research, policy and regulation in the ICT sector. He agreed that it would be 3-5 years before CPRsouth can reach a stage of being self or partially funded.

- i) Melody also commented on the issues with regards to the contention between policy and academia.
- j) The board was asked for guidance with regards to the objectives of CPR*south*, the quality of papers presented and the general content of the conference itself. Yan commented the quality of papers had considerably improved in comparison to CPR*south* 1. The importance of publications in academic journals to gain visibility in the policy making sphere was highlighted by Jain. Yuan offered to have some of the CPR*south* papers published in the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunication Journal.
- k) McGurk noted that if CPR*south* aims to focus on the Policy Intellectuals, then the selection process has to be tougher. Samarajiva suggested getting the paper presenters of the conference to write the research paper in accordance the academic requirement for the selection process and then present the policy brief of the said paper at the conference. Melody and Jain suggested that the conference focus more on the policy research in order to maintain quality of the initial research. Xavier suggested including a session on policy analysis in the tutorial sessions.
- l) The possibility of having papers from regulators and policy makers was also discussed. It was noted by Jhunjhunwala that policy researchers will not submit papers that are solely written by them and it will have to be co-authored. He further added that the double blind selection process currently utilised for selecting the paper presenters for CPR*south* will not conducive for the papers sent by the practitioners. Samarajiva emphasised the need to get the message across to individuals in consulting firms etc.
- m) In accordance with the Charter, the two objectives of CPR*south* are:
 - 1. To develop capacity, stimulate interest, and promote research and systematic study in information and communication technology (ICT) policy and regulatory issues in the South, broadly constituted to include the Asia-Pacific (AP), Africa (AF), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Central Asian regions (CIS).
 - 2. To facilitate the creation, sustenance and continuous advancement of policy intellectuals capable of informed and effective intervention in ICT policy and regulation processes in specific country and regional contexts in the south.



A decision was taken by the Board to give more prominence to objective No. 2, over objective No. 1.

The meeting was then adjourned.