

12TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CPRSOUTH

31 AUGUST 2017

INYA LAKE HOTEL, YANGON, MYANMAR

MEETING MINUTES

Summary of decisions made and follow-up actions required

Agenda item	Board paper	Decisions and actions
1.0 Recording of excuses and welcome of observers		Information only
2.0 Minutes of 2016 Board Meeting		Confirmed
3.0 Tabling of decisions taken by circulation	BP 2017 2 BP 2017 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information only; travel support rules will remain unchanged; exceptions may be made by admin partner based on funds being available
4.0 Report on 2017 young scholar program and conference	BP 2017 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each board member should submit at least one qualified nominee for young scholars program from region or discipline
5.0 Proposal for new method of eliciting papers for conference	BP 2017 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic design proposed in Board paper accepted subject to relaxation of requirement for presenters to be CPRsouth alumni. At least half of the panel members should be alumni. Session topics to be decided by combination of inputs from final session plus proposals from the 2017 young scholars. An online discussion of Jhunjhunwala proposal for a larger self-financing conference in 2019 will be organized by the secretariat based on a discussion document he will share.
6.0 Revision of CPRsouth Charter, as notified in January 2017	BP 2017 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved subject to two stylistic changes
7.0 Approval of procedure for elections to fill upcoming vacancies	BP 2017 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations for 2018 board member elections will be opened in October 2017 and closed by 30th of November.
8.0 Approval of audited accounts	BP 2017 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved
9.0 Appointment of auditors	BP 2017 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wijeyeratne Associates reappointed

12th CPRSOUTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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10.0 Location of CPRsouth 2018		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maputo, Mozambique decided on. Gillwald to provide more information
11.0 Any other business		

PRESENT

Alison Gillwald, Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Erwin Alampay, Helani Galpaya, Krishna Oolun, Monica Keretts Makau, Nirmita Narasimhan, Olivier Nana Nzepa, Rohan Samarajiva, Supriya Singh, Timothy Waema, Wallace Chigona.

REGRETS

Tracy Cohen, Pirongrong Ramasoota, Jae Jong Rho, Payal Malik, Aslam Hayat, Kameshnee Naidoo.

OBSERVERS

Htaike Htaike Aung (MIDO); Phet Sayo (IDRC); Prashanthi Weragoda, Nipuni Udunuwarage, Laleema Senanayake, Sujata Gamage, Namali Premawardhana (LIRNEasia).

OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed the Board members of CPRsouth and observers to the 12th Board meeting. He requested that the meeting be chaired by Alternative Chair Alison Gillwald, who assumed the Chair.

ITEM 1

Recording of excuses and welcome of observers

Apologies were made on behalf of the Board members who were unable to be present and observers were introduced.

New Board Members Nirmita Narasimhan, Krishna Oolun, Olivier Nana Nzepa, Helani Galpaya, Monica Kerrets Makau were welcomed.

Board was informed the Aslam Hayat has resigned due to additional work responsibilities.

Status: information only

ITEM 2

Confirmation of the minutes of 11th meeting

Minutes of the seventh board meeting were previously circulated among the board members. Therefore approval of the minutes were proposed by Wallace Chigona and seconded by Rohan

Samarajiva.

Status: confirmed

ITEM 3

Tabling of decisions taken by circulation (BP_2017_2, BP_2017_3)

The board resolutions by circulation BP_2017_2, BP_2017_3 were tabled. Board paper 2 on review procedure for shortlisting of proposals for policy-relevant research papers & board paper 3 on completed papers and rules for providing funding for board members were circulated among the board members in January and were approved. The board members decided that if there is a change of the criteria of funding for board members it has to be circulated by the chairman with the board members few months prior to the conference. Ashok Jhunjunwala stated that decisions taken by circulation should not be changed and that it is up to the chair to look at the finances available for the conference and decide if and when exceptions to the rule are justified. This was agreed to.

Status: approved

ITEM 4

Report on 2017 young scholar program and conference (BP_2017_4)

Rohan Samarajiva presented the board on the number of applications received for papers, selected papers, regions the presenters came from, their gender as well as the time taken by reviewers to complete their duties. Supriya Singh suggested that board members have to be given an opportunity to present papers and Nirmita Narasimhan suggested to identify people who have presented influential policy briefs and papers elsewhere and invite them to come and present at CPR. Samarajiva stated that these concerns are better addressed under item 5 of the agenda. The decisions taken by the board members are:

- Each board member should submit at least one qualified nominee for young scholars program (from region or discipline).

Status: information and decisions taken

ITEM 5

Proposal for new method of eliciting papers for conference (BP_2017_5)

Samarajiva stated that those who had gone through the young scholar program were more likely to influence policy according to the tracer study conducted in 2016. That was the basis on which funds were obtained from IDRC. The young scholar program had been placed in the forefront and the time at resources devoted to it had been increased. The previously circulated board paper proposed to take the redesign to the next level and make the

conference a supporting activity for the young scholar program. It proposed that specific topics be assigned to board members for conference. Board members would invite papers from the CPRsouth community including young scholars' program alumni. Board members will have to become more involved and see what the young researchers are currently working on and invite them for the relevant panels. Board members can present papers themselves in their own sessions if needed.

Gilwald sought clarification from the IDRC representative whether it would be possible to expend resources on senior scholars who would be invited to present papers by Board Members. Phet Sayo stated that IDRC leaves the design and delivery of the program to CPRsouth. Samarajiva stated that he would seek written authorization to deviate from the original proposal.

Gillwald suggested extending call for papers beyond young scholars group and to have a smaller conference with high quality papers. She also suggested incorporating policy makers and regulators to the conference from next year. Samarajiva responded saying its difficult raise additional funds at this moment and pointed out the difficulties experienced in obtaining the participation even of policy makers and regulators from the host country.

Jhunjunwala stated that some broader participation is required when speakers who have not been previous participants of CPRsouth are invited. Samarajiva agreed to propose a mechanism because considerable amounts of money may be spent on persons who are not the prime beneficiaries, the young scholars.

Jhunjunwala also brought up the issue of organizing a much larger conference where posters and parallel sessions would be part of the design and participants would pay to participate. Since planning for such an event in 2019 would have to begin early, he offered to work up a discussion document in 2017.

After the basic idea was accepted, Samarajiva invited the Members to submit three topics that would be appropriate for sessions in 2017 by morning tomorrow. He promised to use those topics in the last session of the conference. The outcome of the crowdsourcing proposed by the Board and input from the young scholars who had developed proposals would feed into the identification of topics for 2018. He would circulate

The decisions taken by the board members were:

- The basic design proposed in the Board paper was accepted subject to relaxation of the requirement that all presenters had to be CPRsouth alumni. At least half of the panel members should be young scholars.
- Board members to submit session topics by next morning. One key input will be the final session where board members along with CPRsouth participants decide on the panel topics for next CPRsouth conference. The proposals from the 2017 young scholars will also feed into the process.

- An online discussion of Jhunjhunwala proposal for a larger self-financing conference in 2019 will be organized by the secretariat based on a discussion document he will share.

Status: approved and decisions taken

ITEM 6

Revision of CPRsouth Charter, as notified in January 2017 (BP_2017_1)

Supriya Singh suggested change clause II, 1 “objectives” of CPRsouth charter as:

- To facilitate the creation, sustenance and continuous advancement of policy intellectuals capable of informed and effective intervention in broadly defined ICT policy, strategy and connected regulation processes in specific country and regional contexts in the Asia-Pacific (AP) and Africa (AF).

And clause III, 1 as:

- Encourage and promote high scholarly standards in research that can inform broadly defined ICT policy, strategy and connected regulatory processes within its domain.

Status: approved

ITEM 7

Approval of procedure for elections to fill upcoming vacancies (BP_2017_6)

A vacancy was opened up after the resignation of Aslam Hayat. Board members decided not to fill this vacancy until 2018 as the number of board members of CPR has increased due to the merger of the two organizations. Gillwald flagged a point saying that the Mozambique regulator is interested in joining the board, but the board have to wait until he finish his term as the regulator in Mozambique.

Helani Galpaya raised a point on the previous item (Item 5), on the new design for CPRsouth conference: funding for board members are available every other year; what would happen if the board member who is assigned a session is not funded to attend the CPRsouth conference next year?

Samarajiva responded saying that they would decide on topics that are important to the sector and the organization collectively at the session and will assign the session topics to board members later. Samarajiva also said that the nominations for 2018 board member elections will be opened in October 2017 and closed by 30th of November and that there are no limitation on reappointment of existing board members.

Approval of election procedure was proposed by Galpaya and seconded by Jhunjhunwala.

Status: approved

ITEM 8

Approval of audited accounts (BP_2017_7)

Approval of audited accounts of CPRsouth 2016 was proposed by Jhunhunwala and seconded by Wallace.

Status: approved

ITEM 9

Appointment of new auditors (BP_2017_8)

WIJEYERATNE AND COMPANY was re-appointed as auditors for CPRsouth. This decision was proposed by Jhunhunwala and seconded by Samarajiva.

Status: approved

ITEM 10

Location of CPRsouth 2018

Gillwald proposed Mozambique as the next venue for CPRsouth. The current regulator of Mozambique, Dr. Américo Muchanga has expressed interest in hosting CPRsouth 2018. It is likely that his organization will sponsor the conference dinner and requests will be made of the operators in Mozambique to sponsor activities of the conference. Gillwald will provide more information.

The board decided to hold CPRsouth 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique as it was the only proposal the secretariat received to hold the conference next year.

India or China was tentatively proposed as possible locations for CPRsouth 2019.

Status: information and decision taken

ITEM 11

Any other business

The board thanked the chair and the team for all the hard work done to put together CPRsouth 2017 in Myanmar.