

Board Paper 2011.4

Approval for best policy brief competition and suspension of best-paper competition for 2012 joint conference

The next conference in Mauritius will be jointly organized by CPRAfrica and CPRsouth, with CPRAfrica in the lead. This requires effort by both parties to converge procedures.

LIRNEasia was planning to seek approval for a policy-brief competition, based on the advice of the policy-brief mentor. CPRAfrica agrees with this idea.

Approval is therefore sought for a competition to select the best policy brief and a runner up. All paper givers will be mentored in the art of writing policy briefs, but to provide more incentive, it is recommended that the conference pick the top two based on the scores given by senior judges (60% weight) and votes from the audience (40%). Prizes and certificates will be awarded.

Given the brevity of policy briefs in relation to full conference papers, it is recommended that we dispense with the shortlisting procedure currently used for the best-paper competition. That means that all policy briefs will be in competition. The policy briefs will be adjudged solely as documents, with no weight being given for oral presentation.

CPRAfrica places emphasis on the scholarly quality of the papers and sees the reward as publication of the top ten papers in a special issue of *info*, a well-regarded scholarly journal. Therefore, we will seek Board approval to suspend the best paper competition run by CPRsouth for 2012.

Proposals:

1. Approve a policy brief competition to commence in 2012, using the procedures described above.
2. Suspend the best-paper competition for 2012 only.