

**Board Paper 3:
Future of CPRsouth**

1.0 Background

CPRsouth was established in 2006, and the first conference was held in January 2007 in Manila, the Philippines (slightly lagged due to scheduling issues). Subsequent conferences were held in Chennai (December 2007), and Beijing (December 2008), with Colombo (December 2009) being the most recent. In addition to conferences, there have been inter-conference activities. It was *de facto* an Asia-Pacific entity in governance and operations, though it received abstracts and accepted papers from both Africa and the Latin America-Caribbean regions, based on decisions taken by the Board at its first meeting and with the support and encouragement of IDRC.

Table 1 shows that most abstracts have been received and most papers accepted from South, East and South East Asia (the West Asian data being anomalous). Asia, as conventionally understood (West Asia = MENA region does not sit well with the rest) has been clearly at the heart of CPRsouth in 2007-09. Latin America and Africa have been represented, but have been affected both by low submissions and low acceptances. Interestingly, Africa's acceptance rate has been higher than that for Europe.

Table 1: Abstracts received and papers accepted by region, 2007-2009

Region	Abstract received	Papers Accepted	Acceptance%
LAC	13	2	15.4
Europe	23	4	17.4
Africa	17	4	23.5
N America	15	4	26.7
Australasia	7	2	28.6
SE Asia	58	17	29.3
East Asia	55	17	30.9
South Asia	85	28	32.9
West Asia	2	1	50.0
Total	275	79	28.7

The Charter of CPRsouth explicitly envisaged the creation of chapters in various regions (annex 1). With the creation of the first such chapter outside the Asia Pacific, the current Board was to automatically transform itself into the Board for the Asia Pacific. Its chair and alternate chair were to serve on the new CPRsouth global Board, along with two representatives each from the new chapter(s).

In April 2010, the first CPR*africa* conference will be held in Cape Town, organized by RIA. In 2009 September, a relatively new regional organization ACORN/REDECON which has considerable overlaps with the mission of CPR*south*, held its first conference in a LAC location, hosted by CIDE, a constituent of DIRSI. The time is thus opportune to fine-tune and systematize the workings of CPR*south*, now in a way that will truly cover the Global South.

2.0 Objectives

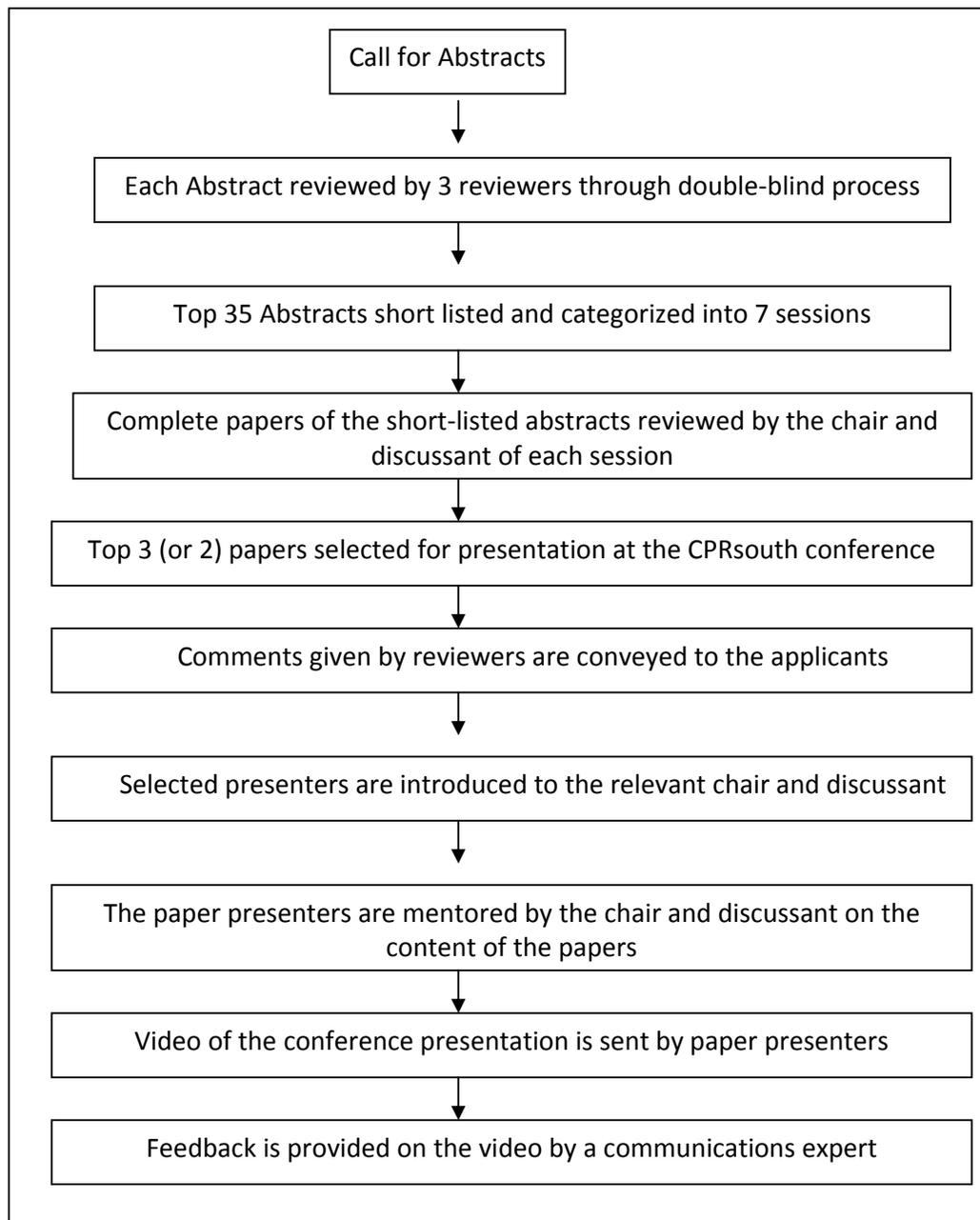
The objectives set out in the Charter were reordered in terms of priority at the second Board Meeting in Chennai, though the Charter itself was not formally amended. It is proposed that the existing objectives be retained (as reordered) with the following objectives added. This will, of course, have to be formalized by the Asia Pacific Board and/or its AF or LAC counterparts according to the procedures set out therein.

3.0 Modalities

It is proposed that the decentralized structure originally envisaged in the CPR*south* Charter be retained. This will allow each region to address issues specific to each and keep costs down, both by minimizing travel distances and reducing the need for interpretation. The operations in the Asia Pacific and Africa will be more or less as envisaged in the original design, but the LAC region will require some modifications because of the emergence of ACORN/REDECON. In addition to the parallel functioning of the “chapters,” the proposal contains specific mechanisms to ensure cross-fertilization of ideas among the regions.

In the case of the Asia Pacific and Africa, the main activity will continue to be the annual conference which has a strong capacity-building/mentoring element built into its design (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Flow chart of how papers are selected and input/mentoring provided



In addition, the between-conferences, survey/push-poll and website activities will continue (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Survey results

	2009	2008	2007
Academic Activity Only		8	11
Policy Activity Only		3	2
Both Academic and Policy Activity		23	5
Total		34	18

Tables 3A, 3B and 3C: Selected website metrics for the period, 5 May 2008 – 9 Nov 2009

Site Usage	
Visits	8509
Page views	29649
Pages/visits	3.48
Bounce Rate	47.02%
Average time on site	00:03:53
% New visits	60.55%

Traffic Sources Overview	
Search Engines	4,608 (54.15%)
Direct Traffic	2,243 (26.36%)
Referring Sites	1,658 (19.49%)

Country	Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
India	1,236	3.16	00:04:08	69.01%	44.98%
Sri Lanka	1,128	4.93	00:06:08	34.22%	39.45%
United States	932	2.56	00:02:09	73.82%	55.47%
Philippines	560	2.74	00:03:20	72.50%	54.46%
China	395	4.17	00:05:15	45.32%	37.72%
South Korea	356	4.95	00:04:10	37.36%	35.67%
Japan	300	4.43	00:04:19	30.33%	42.00%
Bangladesh	278	3.79	00:05:24	41.01%	32.37%
Canada	249	2.79	00:03:27	67.87%	49.00%
United Kingdom	242	4.80	00:05:44	79.34%	53.72%

The evaluation of the work of CPR*south* in 2007-09 will also assist in improving these activities.

Novel features will be a cross-regional research overview session that will be organized at each of the three regional events (being a research overview, this will have to be based on presentations by senior scholars and/or those from regional research organizations such as DIRSI, RIA and LIRNE*asia*). In addition, the invited senior scholar will sit in as an observer at the regional board meeting (if any), participate in the selection of papers and the mentoring of

policy intellectuals, and, also participate in the delivery of tutorials for young scholars, as appropriate. Three interactions a year, if accompanied by adequate feedback to the “home” chapter will serve well the cross-fertilization of ideas.

In the case of the LAC, DIRSI will design a mechanism to select and place LAC scholars within the ACORN/REDECON program, ensuring also that adequate representation of LAC interests in ensured within the governance arrangements of ACORN/REDECON.

Every three years, there shall be a *CPRsouth* event (one day; 10 papers) that will involve the best junior scholars of each region, in addition to the seniors. Best efforts will be made to introduce web-based methods of extending the reach of each regional event, especially the triennial *CPRsouth*.

The new inter-continental design will work best with a three-year funding cycle as demonstrated by the following table of proposed activities.

Table 4: Proposed schedule of regional and intercontinental activities

Year	CPR <i>africa</i>	“CPR <i>lac</i> ”	“CPR <i>asiapac</i> ”
2010	Cape Town, April	---	X’ian, December
2011	??, April	??, ??	??, December
2012	??, April + CPR<i>south</i> (1 day)	??, ??	??, December
2013	??, April	??, ??	??, December
2014	??, April	??, ??	??, December
2015	??, April	??, ?? + CPR<i>south</i> (1 day)	??, December
2016	??, April	??, ??	??, December
2017	??, April	??, ??	??, December
2018	??, April	??, ??	??, December + CPR<i>south</i> (1 day)

4.0 Governance

The 2007 Charter envisaged a light governance structure that would include the chair and alternate chair of each chapter. This assumed a governance structure in each of the regions similar to that set up in the Asia Pacific. This assumption is proving to be false. The extensive coordination that will be required especially of research exchanges, suggests that it would be better to have a coordinating committee comprising two members from each region (as in the original Charter), but to leave it to each region to decide who the two representative would be, ideally including a representative of the regional research organization.

5.0 Training component

Each regional conference will bring to one place a group of senior policy intellectuals who would most likely be good instructors in a regulatory training course. If the priorities and resources of the host chapter so permit, a training course for staff of regulatory agencies, policy bodies and stakeholders, may be held adjacent to the *CPRsouth* event. This will not be a uniform or regular

activity, but will depend on each Chapter. For example, *LIRNEasia*, which has conducted several training courses in Asia, recently decided to discontinue them, putting its resources behind those of RIA, which has just started on this path. The 2010 *CPRafrica* event will be accompanied by a training course at which *LIRNEasia* researchers will teach. In addition, those units seeking to support the training work with scholarships will include such in its funding request.

6.0 Internship Component

The *CPRsouth* Board in 2007 decided to explore the possibilities of internships. A survey of the then Board members (Table 5) showed interest and commitment.

Table 5: Responses to internship questionnaire

Name of Board Member	Interest in Internship
Ashok Jhunjhunwala	Interested and committed
Ledivina Carino	
Milagros Rivera	Interested but unable to commit
Rekha Jain	
Myeong Cheol Park	
Rohan Samarajiva	Interested and committed
Patrick Xavier	
Yuli Liu	
Xu Yan	

LIRNEasia has trialled the internship program, including the bringing of interns from Latin America and Africa, in addition to those from the Asia-Pacific (Table 6).

Table 6: LIRNEasia interns

Name	Duration	Region
Priyanwada Herath	6 months (October 2008-February 2009)	Sri Lanka, South Asia
Aileen Aguero (DIRSI)	6 months (May-December 2009)	Peru, Latin America
Pratichi Joshi (NUS)	5 Months (July –Dec 09)	India, South Asia
Il-Haam Petersen	3 Months (Oct-Dec 2009)	South Africa, Africa

For simplicity of operation, it is proposed that each of the regional units be given full authority over any internship program it wishes to propose, including the funding of interns from other regions. Ideally, internship program will involve commitments to mentorship and more than one institution in the respective region.

7.0 Recommendations

1. As provided in Clauses VI(2) and VI(3), the Board should act to transform *CPRsouth* into a chapter-based organization forthwith, as the initial chapters, the Asia Pacific and Africa.
2. Decide on the name by which the Asia Pacific Chapter shall be known.
3. Instruct *LIRNEasia* to modify the paper selection criteria to admit only papers that deal with Asia Pacific relevant topics.

4. Mandate LIRNEasia to prepare draft revisions to the Charter that reflect the Board's conclusions from the discussion arising from this Board Paper while retaining the original decentralized structure envisaged in the CPRsouth charter.
5. Accept the principle of a triennial global CPRsouth event as described above commencing in 2012 in Africa. Implementation will be subject to availability of funding and the agreement of CPRafrica.
6. Continue and expand the internship program of the Asia Pacific chapter, subject to additional resources being mobilized by host entities and subject to their control.

