

Board Paper 2014.4

Report on effects of the funding rule (discontinuation of travel funding for all participants travelling from high income countries)

During the 7th meeting of the board of CPRsouth which was held in Port Louis, Mauritius, the board decided to discontinue funding of travel for all participants, travelling from high income countries (as classified by the World Bank) including for participants from countries that were funded for 50 percent of travel.

The funding rule was implemented for CPRsouth8/CPRafrica 2013 (Mysore) and CPRsouth2014 (Johannesburg). Below are details of those who were selected but who could not attend as a result.

CPRsouth8

- Rajiv Aricat, an Indian citizen residing in Singapore pulled out. He was not able to secure funding from his university (Annex 1)

CPRsouth2014

- Shyam Krishna Raja Gopalan, Indian citizen and PhD student resident in the United Kingdom was unable to attend the conference. Since he is a new student, he was not able to source his own funding (Annex 2)
- Ranjini Mei Hua was selected to present a paper in Johannesburg. However since she is a Singaporean citizen she was not eligible for the funding nor she was able to source her own funding. Her co-author, Ibrahim Kholilul Rohman, is an Indonesian residing in Spain. He too was not eligible (Annex 3)



Annex 1



Info CPRsouth <info@cprsouth.org>

RE: Travel funding for Mysore

#RAJIV GEORGE ARICAT# <ARIC0001@e.ntu.edu.sg>

Thu, Jul 11, 2013 at 7:06 PM

To: Prashanthi Weragoda <prashanthi@lirneasia.net>, Info CPRsouth <info@cprsouth.org>

Cc: Sumudu Costa <sumudu@lirneasia.net>

Attn: CPRSouth conference secretariat,

Sorry that I could not find any funding source to cover my travel expense to CPRSouth conference in Mysore. Is there any chance that LIRNEasia cover the bare minimum expenses of my travel: Return ticket (in budget airline 'Indigo') between Singapore-Bangalore is SGD 365 (No add-ons). I can connect by bus/train between Bangalore and Mysore: Rs. 750 X 2 = Rs. 1,500. Could you kindly consider this request?

I'm interested in attending the conference, and have applied for leave during the period (which is most likely to be granted, although it is in the middle of the semester).

Best regards,

Rajiv Aricat

CPRsouth, C/o LIRNEasia, 12, Balcombe Place, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka
info@cprsouth.org; +94 (0)11 267 1160 (v); +94 (0)11 267 5212 (f)
www.cprsouth.org

Annex 2

Re: CPR conference- Johannesburg Sep10-12

3 messages

Shyam Krishna <shyamkrishna.r@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 2:25 PM

To: CPRsouth Logistics <logistics@cprsouth.org>, Info CPRsouth <info@cprsouth.org>

Dear CPR Team,

First my apologies in replying back late. I needed to take the time to explore other options for funding. Unfortunately I am not able to arrange for other funding sources. Neither can I afford to self fund this and consequently would need to decline this opportunity to visit the conference. Please let me know if the situation changes. Thanks for your time and efforts.

Regards,
Shyam

On Tue, Jul 29, 2014 at 7:41 AM, CPRsouth Logistics <logistics@cprsouth.org> wrote:

Dear Shyamkrishna,

We would like to hear from you about your participation for CPR conference in Sep 2014 in JNB by 31st of this month. We need to update about all participants to our event coordinators in South Africa.

Your Early response is much appreciated

Regards

CPR Logistics team
V: +94 773 558 010
F: +94 112 675 212

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **CPRsouth Logistics** <logistics@cprsouth.org>
Date: Fri, Jul 25, 2014 at 4:40 PM
Subject: CPR conference- Johannesburg Sep10-12
To: shyamkrishna.r@gmail.com

Dear Paper presenter

We would like to hear about your travel arrangements to Johannesburg for conference to be held on sep 10-12th. As you know we will not be able to fund your airfare and hotel accommodation if you are travelling from UK. Our funding rules do not allow to pay for participant with higher coming from higher income countries.

CPR South

4 messages

Ibrahim-Kholilul.ROHMAN@ec.europa.eu <Ibrahim-Kholilul.ROHMAN@ec.europa.eu>
To: rohan@lirneasia.net, run_genie@hotmail.com
Cc: ranmalee@lirneasia.net

29 July 2014 14:48

Dear Prof Rohan,

Good evening in Colombo, hope all is going great with you. I believe this email reaches you well.

First of all, thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to present our paper for the next CPR conference in Johannesburg. It was such a pleasure for Ranjini and myself to present the paper on the topic related Indonesia (Indonesian eGov) where Ranjini herself has started already her curiosity to investigate such topic as has been presented before during the CPR South in Mauritius in 2012.

However, I just got the more recent updates from both Ranjini and Ranmalee regarding the conference funding scheme that somewhat saddened me and thus, I have some humble concerns as follows:

(1) I totally understand that based on the agreement with the donor, the organizing committees (LIRNE and RIA) cannot fund the author from developed countries which is meant to be a good stimulus to boost researchers from developing countries. But shouldn't be there some exception on this? For instance LIRNE/CPR has tremendous efforts to promote the conferences and yet the applicants from particular developing countries (e.g. Indonesia) might be still limited. How if researchers in developing countries in fact pay little interest in the topic (infrastructure, poverty and ICT) while other researchers in developed country are more interested with these aforementioned topics. Just to give more nuances in this context, I always promote this conference as the best one I have participated at, yet I got little interest from my fellow Indonesian researcher. I got a very promising collaboration with Ranjini. How if the exception is made such a way that if there is no representative from a developing country, a developed country researcher (not more) with the topic on a developing country (Indonesia) might be funded? But if there is one already from Indonesia, then we cannot squeeze another one from the US, Singapore or Sweden to be funded allowing them to talk about Indonesia at the conference.

(2) In addition to that article, it is also stated that the same treatment applies for researcher from developing countries but residing in developed countries. Wouldn't it become little bit "unfair" for international scholars from developing countries. Most of them strive to be a better scholar by going abroad (for studying, internship or work). Residing in a developed country (or even come from a developed country) might not necessarily mean that s/he is better endowed to find a travel allowance. I don't know the case in Singapore, but nowadays, it is way easier to get a travel funding for conference in Indonesia (provided by DIKTI/higher education ministries) especially for those affiliating with universities or research institutes. So, for some developing countries (at least in Indonesia) the problem is not about funding access/availability but more on limited supply of knowledge (abstract submitted). This could also relate to limited skills and ability to perform such studies by local Indonesian researcher. I asked Ranjini if there is a point she might get a funding from Singapore and she responded "well, almost impossible to get the funding when I am talking about Indonesia", which is fair enough.

Just two cents concerns of mine.

Sincerely,

Ibrahim

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