

Board Paper: BP_2017_4

Report on Young Scholar Program and Conference

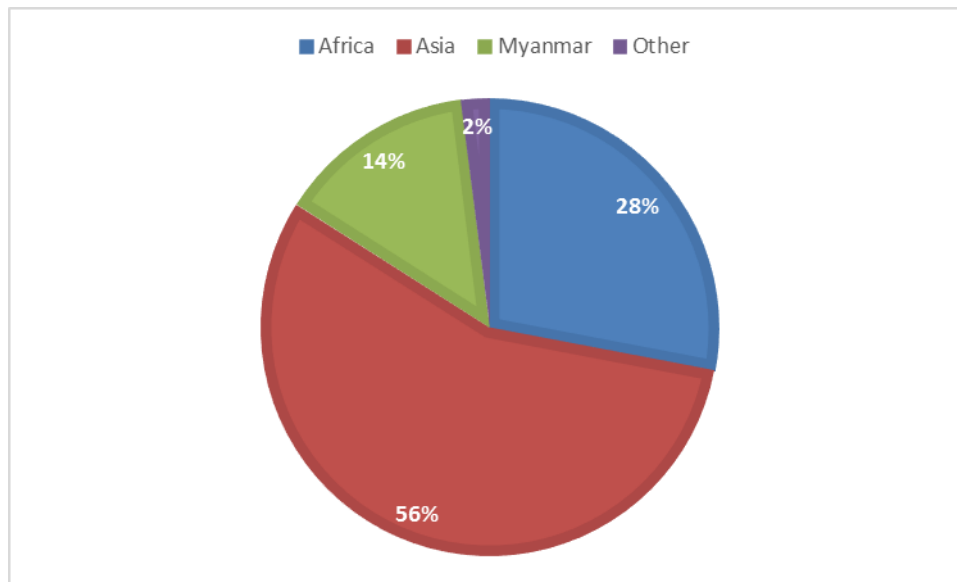
This report covers the applications and paper proposals received (two areas where we expect the Board Members to drive submissions). It presents gender analysis of the final composition of the Young BScholar (YS) program and competitive paper sessions, in relation to the raw material we had to work with. It also includes information on the selection process, including performance of the Board Members.

It provides useful information for the Board to consider along with their impressions of the quality of the papers presented. The analysis has relevance to discussion on a new method of selecting papers for the conference based on Board Paper 2017.5.

Young Scholar Program

Following the redesign, the YS Program is now foregrounded. Percentage of applications, by region, are given in Figure 1. Unless we receive an adequate number of quality applications from a range of countries, we cannot form a good “class.” Board Member engagement is especially important with regard to YS applications.

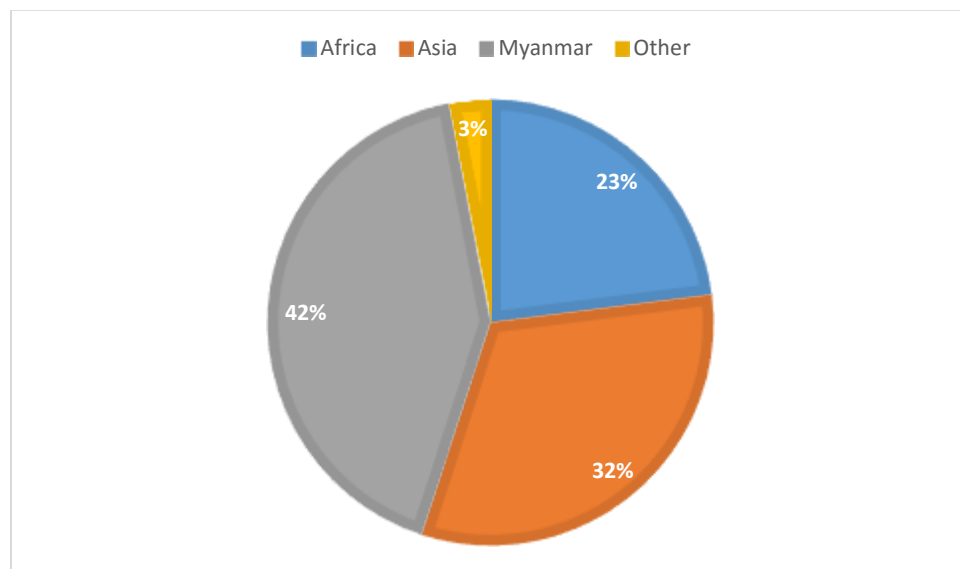
Figure 1: YS applications by region, with host country treated separately



The international applicants were assessed as one pool. The Myanmar applicants were assessed separately, given the lower costs and the tradition of offering a special opportunity to host-country nationals.

Figure 2 shows the final composition of the accepted YS. The one YS in the “other” category, paid to participate. Because of the different acceptance policy, the Myanmar component expanded. As a result, the Africa and Asia components appear smaller. However, the ratio of African to Asian (excluding Myanmar) participants shifted in favor of Africa, from 1:2 in applications to 1:1.3 in participants.

Figure 2: YS acceptances by region



The applications came from the countries listed below in Table 1. Please note that no applications were received from South Korea, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Thailand, Australia and China which are represented on the Board. Nigeria and Bhutan, which have had board members in the past, generated applications. Out of 34 selected participants, one each from Nigeria, Bangladesh and UK declined.

Table 1: YS applications by country, with indication of Board representation

Africa	Applications	BMs	Asia less MM	Applications	BMs
South Africa	8	3	India	20	3
Kenya	5	2	Bangladesh	8	
Benin	2		Nepal	8	
Ethiopia	2	1	Pakistan	5	1
Malawi	2	1	Bhutan	4	Past
Nigeria	2	Past	Philippines	3	1
Egypt	2		Sri Lanka	3	2
Ghana	1		Samoa	1	
Botswana	1		Asia less MM Sub Total	52	
Tanzania	1		Other		

Africa Sub Total	26		United States	1	
			United Kingdom	1	

The gender analysis of YS applicants and those accepted is given in Table 2. Out of 34 selected participants, 2 females and 1 male declined.

Table 2: Gender analysis of YS applicants and those accepted

	Applied	Percentage	Accepted	Percentage
Male	49	53%	18	58%
Female	44	47%	13	42%

Competitive papers

An attractive location, advertising and deadline extensions helped us to get to a respectable pool of 113 paper proposal. Here, the Board does not have to shoulder the full responsibility, because the CPRsouth community is a major resource. Among those who submitted proposals, 40 percent had been to CPRsouth before, indicating that the community is real.

The difficulty was in converting proposals to full papers. Of the 54 that were shortlisted and invited to submit full papers, only 21 did.

Table 3: Submitted and completed papers by region

	Submitted	%	Completed	%
Asians	68	60%	15	71%
Africans	37	33%	5	24%
Others	8	7%	1	5%

Table 4 shows the effect of institutional pressure on the completion of papers. Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and China papers are from authors associated with RIA and LIRNEasia.

Table 4: Countries of authors who completed papers

Country	Completed papers
South Africa	2
Ethiopia	1
Kenya	1
Nigeria	1
Africa Sub Total	5
Sri Lanka	9
India	3

Bangladesh	2
China	1
Asia Sub Total	15
Australia	1
Other Sub Total	1

The gender analysis of those who submitted paper proposals and who are attending the conference is given below. A majority of papers have multiple authors, generally from both genders. The presenter is not always the senior author, but for the sake of simplicity, we have chosen to report data by presenter rather than senior author.

Table 5: Gender analysis of submissions and presentations

	Submitted	%	Presenters	%
Male	65	58	12	57
Female	48	42	9	43

The selection/mentoring procedure

The current procedure includes two stages. Paper proposals are reviewed double blind. A number higher than the available slots is shortlisted. The completed papers are again reviewed double blind. Those with the highest scores are selected and organized into sessions. Comments are supposed to be provided at both stages. Once the moderator and discussant are assigned further comments are encouraged.

This complex procedure cannot work if Board Members do not respond on time, or at all. Now we're running CPRsouth on a bare-bones budget. Delay and non-response consumes LIRNEasia resources in an unproductive manner and slows down the whole process. Sadly, I cannot report that the performance of all Board Members has been satisfactory, after all these years.

At one time we decided to increase the number of reviews per paper to avoid zero or one reviews being available for some papers. But this increased workload for all. We reverted to three reviews per proposal/paper.

This time we pulled in alumni, especially those who had received awards and/or who had specialized knowledge.

Table 6: Performance of outside reviewers

Outside reviewers	No of paper proposals sent	Performance	Delay (- indicates early return of review)
Christoph Stork	14	Early	-9

Danaja Maldeniya	8	On time	0
Don Rodney Junio	8	Early	-3
Enrico Calandro	6	On time	0
Fortune Nwaiwu	6	Early	-12
Goodiel Moshi	7	Delayed	2
Grace Mirandilla	7	Early	-1
Ibrahim Rohman	7	Early	-9
Jude William Genilo	9	Early	-7
Margaret Nyambura	9	Early	-2
Nuwan Waidyanatha	8	Early	-7
Rasheda Sultana	5	Early	-10
Safia Khan	-	Not Submitted	-
Sriganesh Lokanathan	7	On time	1
Sujata Gamage	9	On time	0

Except for one who failed to respond (1/14) and one who delayed (1/14), the overall performance was very good and superior to that of the Board Members who have a greater responsibility.

Table 7 shows the Board Member performance across the two stages. One day's delay is classified as on time. Failure to respond in first stage was 0/20 and in second stage 1/20. It would have been higher if not for repeated reminders. Delay rate in first stage was 4/20 and in second stage 8/20. Board Member delays were as high as 14 days in second stage and 7 days in first.

Table 7: Board member performance

Board members	No of paper proposals sent for review	Reviews returned	Delay (- indicates early return)	No of full papers sent	Reviews returned	Delay (- indicates early return)
Adam	10	On time	0	3	Early	-1
Alampay	12	Early	-7	3	On time	1
Chigona	9	Delayed	2	3	Delayed	7
Cohen	9	Early	-10	3	On time	0
Galpaya	10	On time	0	3	Delayed	4
Gillwald	10	On time	0	3	Delayed	3
Hayat	10	On time	0	2	On time	1
Jhunjhunwala	11	Early	-3	2	Early	-3
Kerrets Makau	9	Delayed	5	3	Delayed	6
Liu	10	Early	-2	2	Early	-1

Malik	12	On time	0	2	Delayed	7
Naidoo	12	On time	0	3	Early	-1
Narasimhan	8	Early	-4	3	Early	-1
Nzepa	10	Delayed	7	2	Delayed	14
Oolun	9	Delayed	2	3	Not submitted	
Ramasoota	9	On time	0	3	Delayed	7
Rho	9	Early	-5	3	On time	0
Samarajiva	9	Early	-1	2	Early	-3
Singh	12	On time	1	3	On time	0
Waema	10	On time	1	3	Delayed	7

The time given for review is shown in Table 8. In the first round 13 days were given; in the second round 9 days were given. Repeated extensions granted in order to elicit an adequate number of completed papers and the pressures of a difficult visa process caused us to compress the paper-review period as explained.

Table 8: Time given for review

Paper proposals sent	16-Mar-17
Deadline	29-Mar-17
Full papers sent	14-Jun-17
Deadline	23-Jun-17