

## Board Resolution by Circulation 2008.4

### Proposal:

- 1.0 Professor William Melody, former Managing Director of LIRNE.NET and the World Dialogue on Regulation (WDR) for Network Economies Programme and a key person in the founding of both the Telecom Policy Research Conference (TPRC) in the US in the 1970s and Euro Communication Policy Research in Europe in the 1980s, to be invited as the dinner speaker on Day 1 of CPRsouth3.

### Background:

- 1.0 CPRsouth conferences have three invited slots: the keynote address at the opening session (arranged by the host organization, in consultation with Admin Partner); the dinner speech (arranged by the Admin Partner, in consultation with the Board) and the Senior Scholars' panel (a subset of the Board arranged by the Admin Partner). The present proposal is regarding the dinner speaker. A separate paper is being sent on the Senior Scholar's panel; the opening session can be handled directly with the host organization, as per tradition.
- 2.0 Past dinner speakers have been the present CPRsouth chair, Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala and Dr. Sanjiva Weerawarna, Founder Chairman and CEO of WSO<sub>2</sub>. Both speakers were well received by their respective audiences, which the evaluations bear testament to. The objective is to match the high standards which have been set by Ashok and Sanjiva.
- 3.0 The requirements given to the past speakers in Manila and Chennai were to 'inform and inspire, with emphasis on inspire.' In light of CPRsouth's present objectives to nurture policy intellectuals, it is practical to invite an individual who has had experience in both academia and in policy and regulation.
- 4.0 Given that the speaker at the opening session will be from the host country, the dinner speaker will normally be from another country.

### Rationale:

- 1.0 Professor William H. Melody, or Bill Melody, was the Founder and Managing Director of LIRNE.NET. [www.lirne.net](http://www.lirne.net) An individual who has had vast experience as both a scholar and a policy intellectual. He participated in the earliest stages of telecom reform and computer/communication convergence. In addition, he has been a major contributor to the research and policy literature for more than 40 years with more than 150 publications in books, reports and professional journals. He was an adviser and expert witness on economic and regulatory issues for the US Department of Justice in US v. AT&T, which led to the AT&T divestiture.
- 2.0 Professor Melody continues to be a Visiting Professor at the Technical University of Denmark, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. He was editor and author of six chapters in "Telecom Reform: Principles, Policies and Regulatory Practices" (1997), which has been used in training and university programs in more than 100 countries.

- 3.0 Professor Melody's thinking on the need for in-situ capacity has been highly influential in the design of *CPRsouth*. He was involved in the founding of both TPRC and EuroCPR. This event can be used as a vehicle to formalize relations with those organizations and to pre-empt the formation of 'TPRC south.'
- 4.0 A glimpse into hands-on experiences of Bill Melody in the world of telecom policy and regulation will certainly be an added windfall for the participants. I am confident of his abilities to inspire the younger participants into taking on the challenging work of policy regulation and policy relevant research. His experiences in research, policy regulation, teaching and supervising graduate level students will certainly enable him to inform the audience.
- 5.0 I believe that having Bill as the dinner speaker is in keeping with the objectives of *CPRsouth*, which is to nurture more policy intellectuals. His work with regards to LIRNE.NET is witness to that. Therefore I propose Bill to be the dinner speaker for *CPRsouth3*, Beijing, 2008.