

Board Resolution by Circulation 2008.6

Proposal

1.0 Decision on the location of CPR*south4*

Background

1.0 The locations of the first three CPR*south* conferences were decided on the basis of the host country being home to a large concentration of potential ICT policy and regulation policy intellectuals and, of course, the presence of enthusiastic local hosts, preferably represented on Board (the hosts of CPR*south3* are not represented on the Board, but their enthusiasm and commitment may be exceptional). The strategy has paid off, with a large representation of Filipinos at Chennai. Hopefully, there will be many Indians at the event in Beijing.

Possible locations for CPR*south4*

1.0 Option 1

The Republic of Korea, with a population approaching 50 million, a world leader in ICT manufacture and use, and with many PhDs and graduate students working on subjects of interest to CPR*south*, is an attractive choice. Board Member Professor Park is based at the Information and Communication University (ICU), an internationally oriented institution that is host to students from much of the South. ICU has considerable support from KADO [Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion], which is a potential co-funder of CPR*south*.

2.0 Option 2

Sri Lanka, with a population of 20 million, is the operating base of LIRNE*asia*, the Administrative Partner of CPR*south*. It is represented on the Board. It does not have a large pool of potential ICT policy intellectuals, and by some calculations has too many for its size. The main drawing cards are the facts that organizational tasks are easiest in Sri Lanka, its visa regime is perhaps the most liberal among the countries which have hosted conferences so far and the potential synergies from the major international conference LIRNE*asia* is planning to mark its fifth anniversary. In addition, it brings back the conference location to South Asia, possibly setting the pattern of alternating between East/South East Asia and South Asia (Manila, Chennai, Beijing, ??).

The lack of a large enough pool of potential policy intellectuals can be remedied by drawing from South Asia as a whole.

Recommendation

1.0 Sri Lanka should be the location for CPR*south4* and the Republic of Korea the location for CPR*south5*.

2.0 This will allow for:

- Exploitation of the synergies and cost-savings of running the conference back-to-back with the LIRNE*asia* fifth anniversary event.
- Enough lead time to cultivate KADO and other Korean sources for the additional funding that will be required to hold a conference in a location in Korea (For example, if the decision is taken now, LIRNE*asia* will endeavor, with the assistance of Professor Park and others, to visit Seoul for meetings with ICU and KADO prior to December 2008 and invite the relevant Korean entities to participate in the Beijing conference).