

About the Project contributors

LARA ALAWATTEGAMA is responsible for the compilation of LIRNEasia's Broadband Benchmark report under the guidance of Professor Rohan Samarajiva and Helani Galpaya. She is also involved in research on Korea and the Information Society and the way in which it can be replicated in the South Asian region. Lara has also worked on compiling the Telecom Regulatory Environment (TRE) manual, for use as a benchmark in undertaking future TRE studies. Before joining LIRNEasia, Lara was attached to a United Nations Development Project dealing with poverty alleviation where she worked as an intern; she also completed internship programs with Outokumpu, Australia. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Sydney, with majors in Government and International relations and International Business and a minor in Political Economy.

HUGO CARRIÓN GORDÓN is an Electrical Engineer, with a specialty in telecommunications from the Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Ecuador. His graduate studies focused on ICT Management, education and training. He has also undertaken professional development at the Arkansas University, the Instituto de Teletécnicas (USA), the Escuela de Organización Industrial (Spain), and the Public Administration Institute in Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia. His main areas of interest are ICT and knowledge management. He has conducted research and conducted training courses on these topics. He worked at the Secretaría Nacional de Telecomunicaciones, in the Business School of the Universidad del Pacífico, at the Superintendencia de Telecomunicaciones and the Centro de Estudios para la Comunidad of the Escuela Politécnica Nacional. He has an extensive work experience as a consultant and specialist in engineering studies, technology plan development and technical auditing. Currently, he is an ICT and business consultant for several international organisms. He is also the director of IMAGINAR (Research Center for the Information Society, Knowledge and Innovation), and professor at the university.

ALEJANDRA DAVIDZIUK worked at LIRNE.NET and the Universidad San Andrés (UDESA, Buenos Aires). She holds an MA in International Affairs with a concentration in socioeconomic development from The New School and is a PhD candidate at the Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social (IDES), Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento (UNGS). Her main area of interest is Communication for Development, focusing on the role of ICT in processes of development and innovation from an inclusive and participating point of view.

MONICA KERRETT-MAKAU is a consultant and international researcher based in Africa. Her background includes a PhD in Public Policy with emphasis on the communications sector. Monica has worked with both telecom operators and regulatory authorities on various consultancies in Africa and is a member of Research ICT Africa (RIA!), a research think tank in Africa, seeking to inform and improve public policy in the ICT field through rigorous research. She can be contacted on mkmakau@yahoo.co.uk

OPAL K. LAWTON Lawton is an independent consultant in ICT policy and costing. She has over 16 years experience in the telecommunications industry. She spent 13 years at Cable & Wireless Jamaica (1992-2005) where she worked in various roles, including, Senior Pricing Analyst and Regulatory Finance Manager. During and after the process of market liberalization she worked on a range of policy issues including interconnection, retail price control, accounting separation and universal service. She managed the team that developed and implemented a system of financial reporting to address commercial as well as regulatory requirements for several Cable & Wireless businesses in the Caribbean. She extended her reach regionally, when she was seconded to work with Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) in April of 2005. In her role as Costing Specialist she did analytical and advocacy work on the cost model used to support the costing of interconnection and other services. She also worked on a range of reg-

ulatory issues. Since May of 2007 she has been working as an independent consultant in ICT policy & costing. She has done work for CANTO on Connect the Caribbean Initiative, which is a project related to the ITU's Connect the World Initiative. Opal has a BA Mathematics & Social Sciences and MBA (Finance) from The University of the West Indies.

STEVE ESSELAAR is a researcher at the LINK Centre University of the Witwatersrand. In 2003, Esselaar worked on a set of case studies on VSAT in Algeria, Tanzania and Nigeria. In 2004 he oversaw several of the e-Index country studies' data capture and graphic presentation, including that of South Africa. Arising from the African e-Index he produced a paper with Research ICT Africa! colleague Christoph Stork on ICT Diffusion in Sub-Saharan Africa. He has a joint honours degree in Politics and Philosophy from Rhodes University and an MBA from the Gordon Institute of Business Science University of Pretoria where his dissertation was on the strategic impact of Voice over Internet Protocol on South African Telecommunication Operators.

HERNAN GALPERIN (Ph.D., Stanford University) is Associate Professor at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California (USA) and Visiting Professor at the Universidad de San Andrés (Argentina). He is also Steering Committee member for DIRSI, an ICT policy research consortium for Latin America and the Caribbean. An expert on telecommunications policy and development, Dr. Galperin leads a number of research projects related to the regulation and development impact of new information and communication technologies in Latin America, funded by a variety of foundations and international donors such as IDRC, ECLAC, USAID and UNDP. He has published extensively in major journals such as *Telecommunications Policy*, *The Information Society* and *Information Technologies and International Development*. His most recent book, *Digital Poverty: Latin American and Caribbean Perspectives*, was published by Practical Action Publishing and IDRC in 2007.

BRUCE GIRARD is executive director of the Comunica Foundation. Based in Uruguay, Comunica coordinates a network of researchers and activists specialised in ICTs and media and telecommunications policy and regulation. Girard is active in policy areas related to media, information and communication technologies and communication rights, He regularly consults to UNDP on a pro-poor ICT networks, applications and services project and some conclusions of this ongoing work were published in *Community-based Networks and Innovative Technologies: New models to serve and empower the poor*. While at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands from 1998-2002, Girard researched trends in international governance of media and communication, co-authoring the book *Global Media Governance*. Girard was a founder of the Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) and co-edited the book *Communicating in the Information Society* (2003).

GUSTAVO GÓMEZ is a communicator and researcher and has been the director of the Communication Rights and Legislation Programme at AMARC-LAC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters-Latin America and the Caribbean) since November 2001. An expert on public policy and regulatory frameworks in broadcasting, ICTs, freedom of expression and communication rights, he has conducted research, provided advisory services and/or drafted recommendations in a number of countries in the region, at the invitation of governments, Congresses, social organizations and international agencies (UNESCO, FAO, World Bank, among others).

He was a member of the promotion committee for the "La Onda Rural" a Latin American Initiative on Communication for Development (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation 2004-2007), the AMARC Action Committee on Digital Technologies before the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and recently formed part of the National Commission on Open Digital Terrestrial Television in Uruguay established to advise the government. He served on the advisory committee for the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) ICT Policy Monitor project (2002-2003) and was the coordinator of the Latin American Broadcasting Legislation Database project (UNESCO-AMARC-ALER, 2002-2003).

He actively participated in the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as in regional events related to the WSIS process, and is a member of the AMARC permanent delegation to international agencies such as the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

MALATHY KNIGHT-JOHN is the lead researcher on LIRNEasia's project to investigate the replicability of GrameenPhone's approach to extending rural connectivity through the use of micro-finance in Bangladesh. She was one of the co-authors of the National Early Warning System (NEWS:SL) concept paper produced by LIRNEasia. She is a Research Fellow and Head of Public Enterprise Reform, Competition Policy and Regulation research at the Institute of Policy Studies (Colombo). Knight-John has written extensively in these areas both locally and internationally and has also contributed directly to national economic policy by producing policy briefs and serving on various committees appointed by the government. She is currently reading for a PhD at the Institute of Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, focusing on *The Political Economy of Telecommunications Reform and Regulation in Developing Countries: The Case of Sri Lanka*.

AMY MAHAN was senior researcher and coordinator for LIRNE.NET. Recent research focused on ICT for development, public access to ICTs, regulatory information practices, and civil society participation in policy and regulatory processes. Mahan worked in the field of regulation and policy research during the past 15 years, including in Australia at the Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technologies (CIRCIT); in Canada at the Centre for Policy Research on Science and Technology (CPROST), Simon Fraser

University; and in the Netherlands in the Economics of Infrastructures programme, Delft University of Technology. Mahan developed training materials and presentation materials including multi-media training kits for the Association of Progressive Communications (APC) and handbooks for UNDP on e-government and telecentre management. Recent books include *Diversifying Participation in Network Development* (2007 with W.H. Melody), *Stimulating Investment in Network Development: Roles for Regulators* (2005 with W.H. Melody); and *How to Build Open Information Societies: A Collection of Best Practices and Know-How* (2005 with Yuri Misnikov). She was guest editor, along with William Melody, of a special issue of *info on Network development: wireless applications for the next billion users* (Vol. 11, Issue 2, 2009). As a founding member of LIRNE.NET, she ensured wide dissemination of the network's research products and worked with the other project leaders to coordinate research practices across the regional centres.

ALVARO MAILHOS has a strong scientific background with post-graduate studies in Uruguay and Germany and extensive research experience. He has recently developed a deep interest in ICTs and their impact on social development. Alvaro works part time at Fundación Comunica, providing research and administrative support, including maintaining the website of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). He also holds a part time teaching position at the Departamento de Ciencias Cognitivas y de la Salud, Facultad de Psicología, Universidad Católica del Uruguay.

WILLIAM MELODY was the founder of LIRNE.NET and continues to advise the initiative. He is Visiting Professor at the Center for Communication, Media and Information Technologies (CMI), Aalborg University, Denmark; Media@LSE, London School of Economics; LINK Centre, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; Distinguished Visiting Professor (2004), Law School, University of Toronto; and Emeritus Professor, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands.

Former Chief Economist, US FCC, and adviser and expert witness for the US Department of Justice in *US v. AT&T*, Melody has a PhD in Economics (Nebraska, 1966), and has held academic appointments leading new multidisciplinary programme development in seven countries: University of Pennsylvania 1971-76; Simon Fraser University 1976-85; Economic and Social Research Council and Oxford University 1985-89; Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technologies, Melbourne 1989-94; Technical University of Denmark 1995-97; Delft University of Technology 1997-02.

Melody is a contributor to the research and policy literature with more than 150 publications, and former editor, *Telecommunications Policy*. His edited volume, *Telecom Reform: Principles, Policies and Regulatory Practices* (1997), is used in training programs in more than 100 countries. He is a periodic consultant and advisor to universities and research centres around the world, for UN and other international organisations, government and corporate organisations.

CHANUKA WATTEGAMA is the LIRNEAsia Organizational Development Director and leads the Mobile 2.0@BOP project that focuses on the non voice mobile usage at the grassroots level. In addition, he is also the lead researcher for the projects Broadband Quality of Service Benchmarking, NRA Website Survey and the country study of the Telecom Regulatory Environment analysis in Indonesia. For the 2005 research cycle Chanuka led the Virtual Organisation and NRA website survey projects. Before undertaking his current position, he worked as Programme Specialist ICT4D at the UNDP-APDIP out-posted to Colombo Regional Center's MDG Initiative. His focus was ICT for poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs. In this capacity he has worked on various projects on different areas covering poverty reduction, Telecom Regulation, Gender and ICTs, Disaster Management and e-Government. He has over 14 years experience at specialist and management level in for Development. As a researcher, he has co-authored the Sri Lankan chapters for the books *Cyber Communities of Asia* (AMIC, Singapore), *Media in Asia* (Sage Publishers, New Delhi), *Internet in Asia* (AMIC, Singapore) and *Digital Review of Asia Pacific* (APDIP, Orbicom and IDRC). He was also the lead researcher for Sri Lanka in a nine-country study on ICT for Human Development in Asia, by UNDP. He is a regular writer and commentator on ICT issues in the Sri Lankan media. He was the founder consultant editor of *Pariganaka*, the largest selling ICT magazine in Sri Lanka with a circulation of more than 40,000 copies. He has won the Science Writer of the Year Award, presented annually by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, twice.