

Bridging the divide: Building capacity in the Asia Pacific

Rohan Samarajiva

Keynote presentation at Digital Opportunity Forum, Seoul, August 31 – September 1, 2006



LIRNEasia

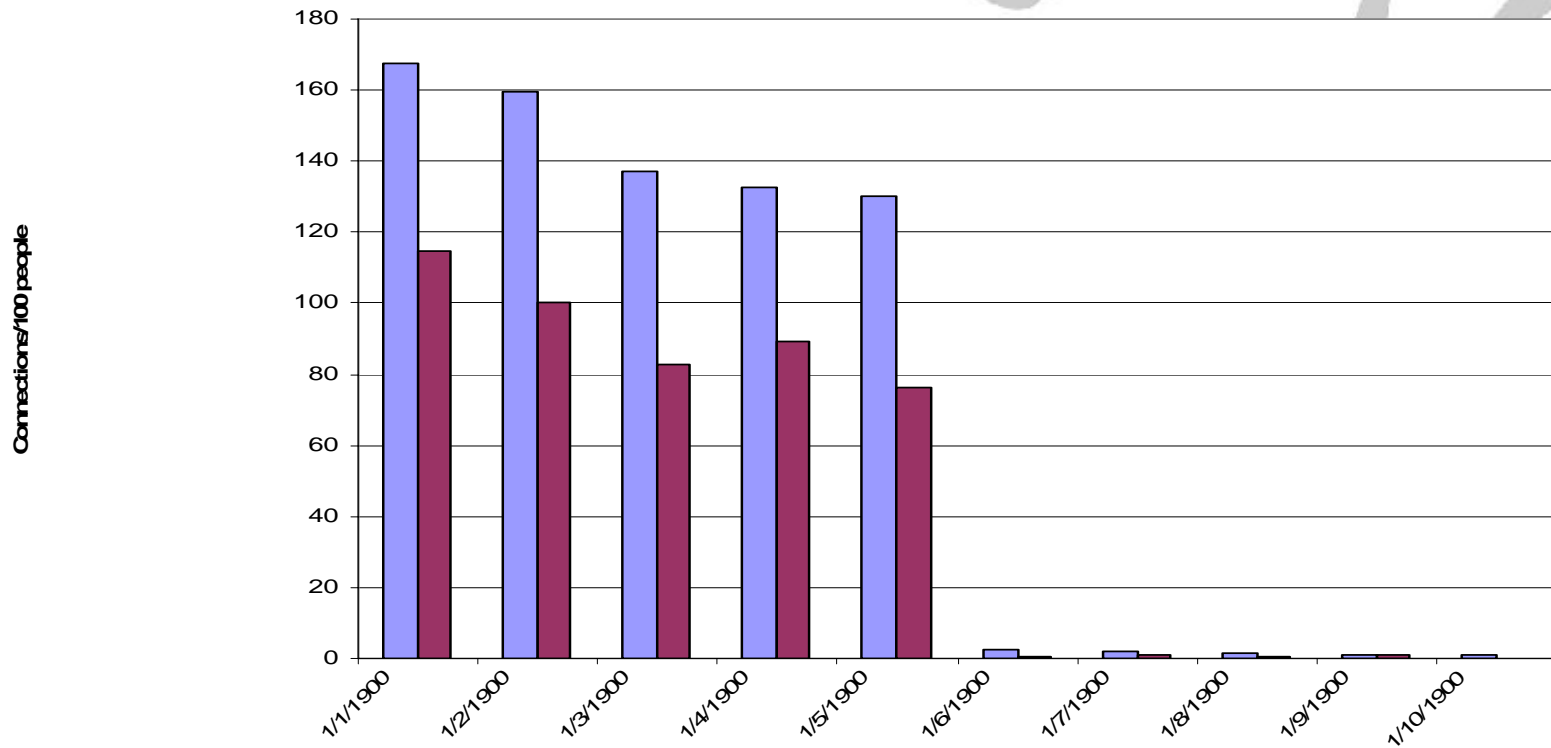
Learning Initiatives on Reforms for Network Economies

Agenda

- The divide
 - Within Asia Pacific
 - Within countries
- Reducing barriers to participation (=liberalization) as best remedy
- Need for capacity: in-situ policy intellectuals
- Qualities of in-situ policy intellectuals
- CPR*south* an initiative to build capacity



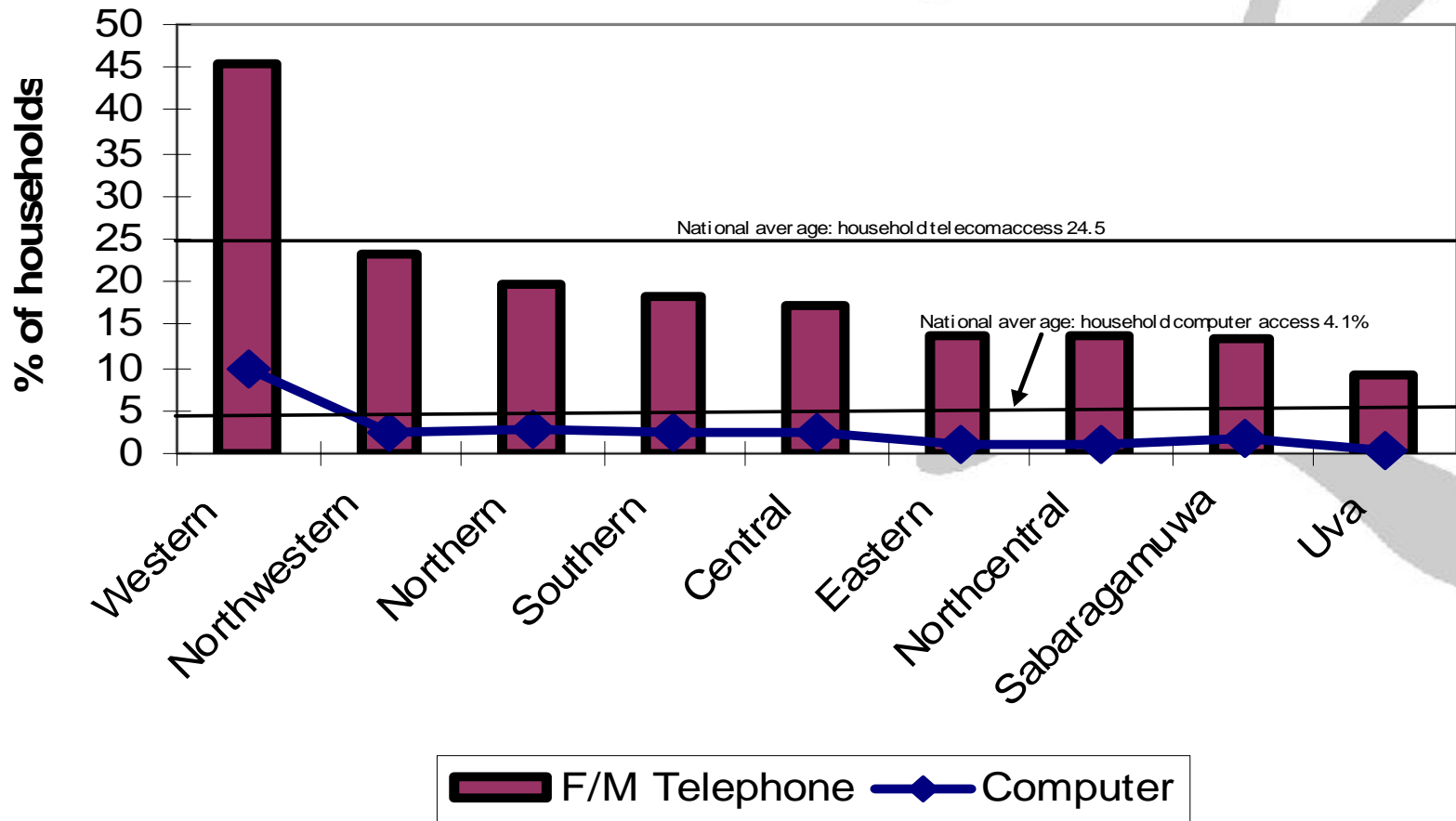
Asia Pacific: The chasm within . . .



	Hong Kong, China	Taiwan, China	Australia	Singapore	Korea, Republic	Nepal	Bhutan	Papua New Guinea	Afghanistan	Myanmar
Fixed+Mobile/100	167.65	159.43	137.2	132.67	130.29	2.25	2.04	1.41	1.18	0.96
Mobile/100	114.53	99.99	82.6	89.47	76.09	0.7	0.77	0.27	1	0.17



Unpacking the national averages. .



Is it necessary to promote ICTs?

- If promotion means spending scarce public resources, no
 - Other more worthy areas such as drinking water
 - Private investment is available for ICT infrastructure
- If promotion means removal of barriers to participation, yes

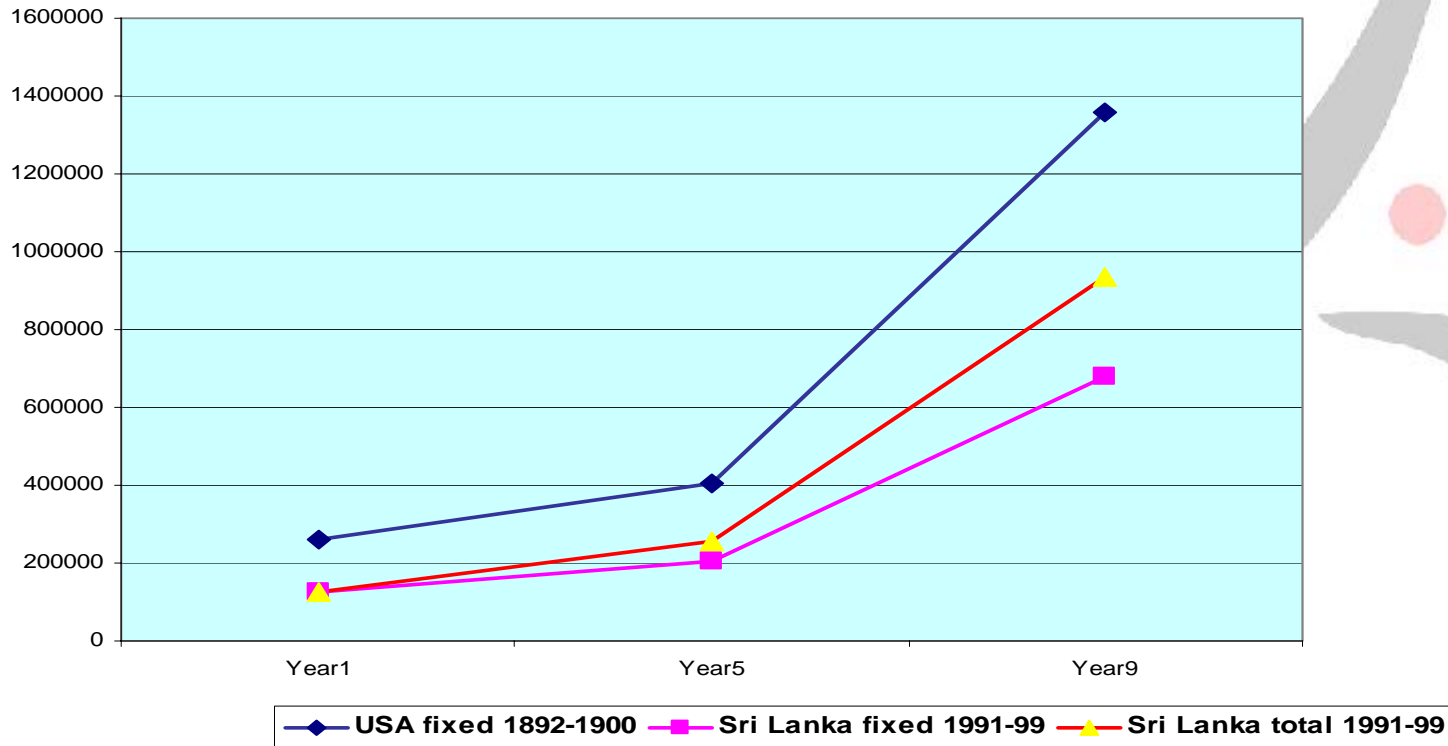


Need to remove barriers

- ❑ ICT infrastructure is undersupplied because historically evolved policy, locked in by inertia/vested interests, constrains supply
- ❑ If technology by itself could increase supply, variations in connectivity across countries would not be as dramatic as now



Results of removing barriers, Growth in connections, USA 1892- 1900; Sri Lanka 1991-1999



Reducing constraints = liberalization

- ❑ Creation of an explicit regulatory regime, separate from the incumbent or major operator
- ❑ Relaxation of entry controls to allow more suppliers to participate in the market
- ❑ Internal reform of the incumbent or major operator (including partial/complete change in ownership/control)
- ❑ Preferably in sequence



“Big bang” vs. continuing reforms

- Big bang reforms are events or transactions, e.g.,
 - Licensing a second operator
 - Privatization
 - Ending a monopoly/duopoly
- Continuing reforms = implementation and regulation, e.g.,
 - Enforcing interconnection

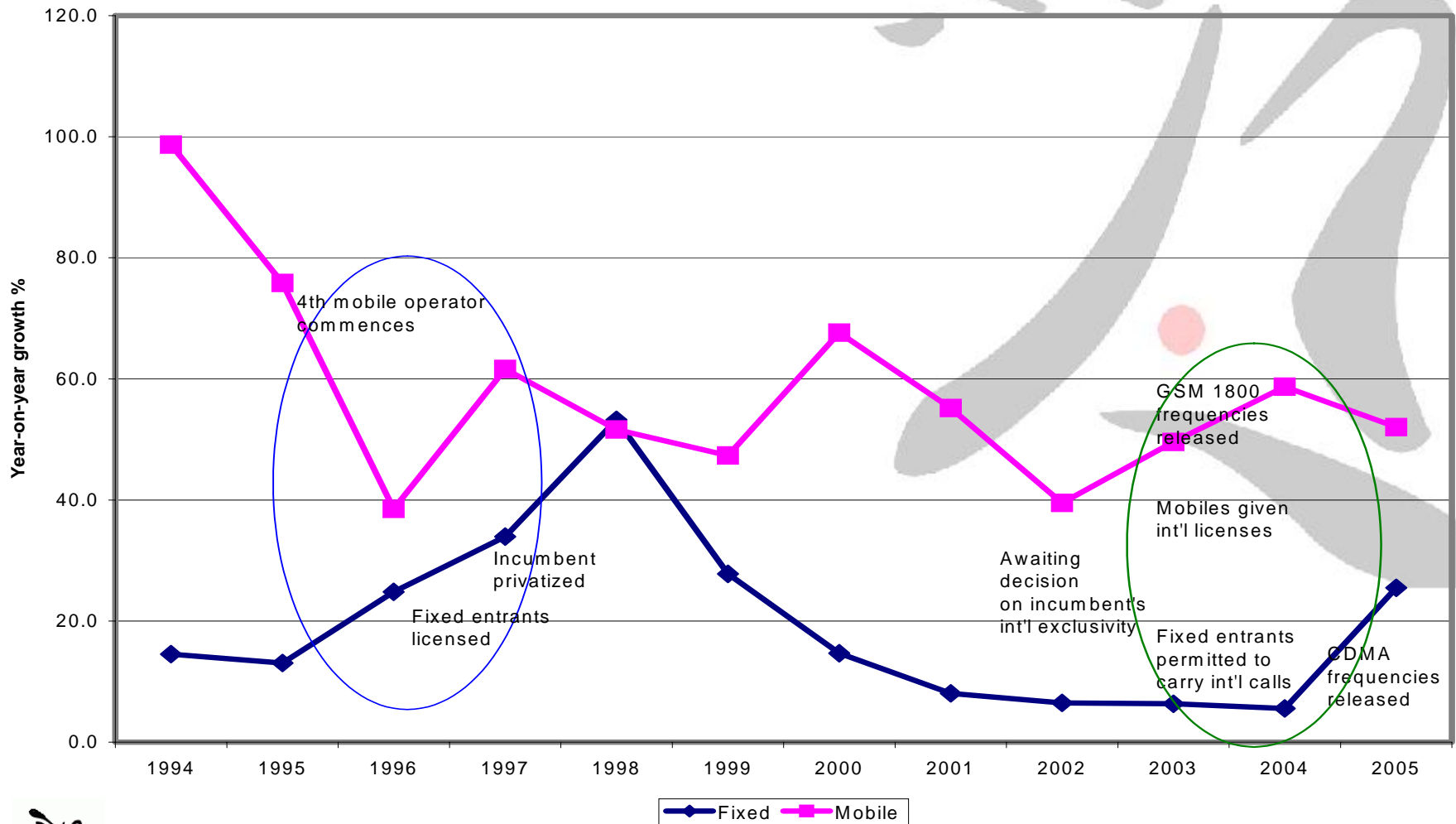


“Big bang” vs. continuing reforms: Capacity

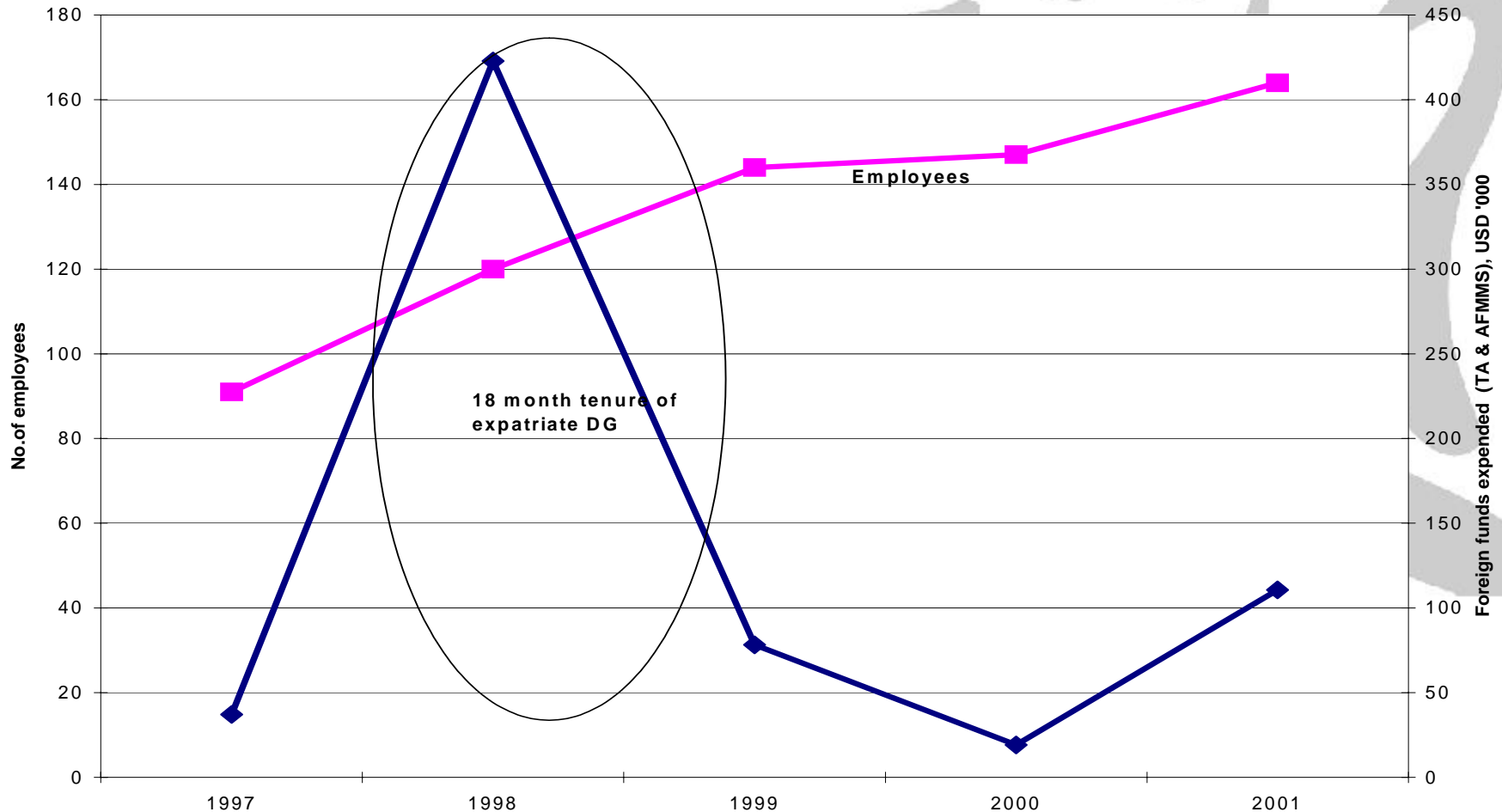
- Big bang reforms can be done with external consultants
 - Need to manage them, but . . .
- Implementation and regulation require local expertise and will
 - Ideal is synthesis of international and local knowledge
 - Some countries have used long-term expatriate consultants and hired top management internationally, to good effect
- Both require in-situ expertise, latter more than former



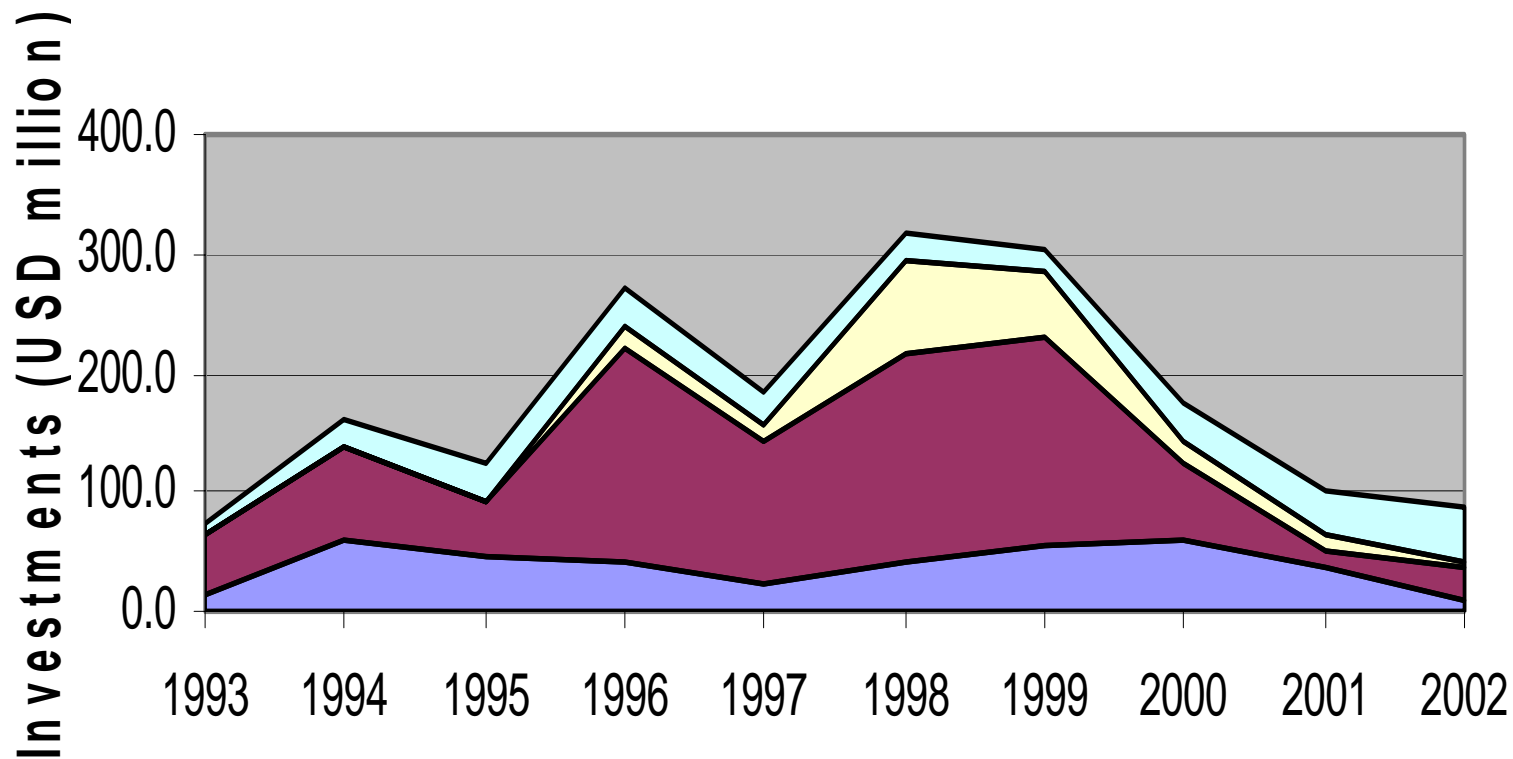
Sri Lanka year-on-year growth & reforms, 1994-2005



Expenditures from a World Bank Credit & employee growth in regulatory agency



Telecom Investment In Sri Lanka (USD mn)



■ Incumbent (Govt. on-lending) ■ Incumbent (internal) ■ Fixed Entrants ■ Mobile



Capacity

- **Narrow conception**
 - Skilled personnel in government and national regulatory agency
- **Broad conception**
 - Expertise in government and NRA + with all stakeholders, including consumer and civil society groups
- **Broad is more appropriate than narrow, for a model that rests on procedural legitimacy**



Why in-situ expertise?

□ In-situ experts

- Have tacit knowledge necessary to effectively maneuver through the policy battlefield
- Enjoy a legitimacy that external consultants do not
- Can participate in policy/regulatory process more effectively than external consultants
- Can quickly mobilize within the windows of opportunity offered by a dynamic political and policy process



Qualities of in-situ expertise

- ❑ Just-in-time learning
- ❑ Open-source research



Just-in-time learning

- ❑ Expertise not limited to narrow range
- ❑ Breadth is expected
- ❑ Requirements for JIT learning
 - Knowledge of underlying theoretical issues
 - Network of research relationships to draw from
 - The Internet to make information gathering and learning possible
- ❑ Example: intervention in Bangladesh on undersea cable policy and regulation issues



SAT-3 in West Africa & SMW4 in Bangladesh compared

- ❑ 28,800 km
- ❑ Initial capacity 120 Gbps
- ❑ USD 670m cost
- ❑ Commissioned May 2002
- ❑ 15 countries; 17 landings
- ❑ 1st & only submarine cable for W. Africa
- ❑ ~20,000 km
- ❑ Initial capacity 160 Gbps (12.5% of design capacity)
- ❑ USD 500m cost
- ❑ Commissioning 13 Dec 2005 in Dubai
- ❑ 14 countries; 15 landings
- ❑ 1st & only submarine cable for B'desh



SAT-3/W Africa & SMW4/B'desh

- ❑ Closed club consortium
- ❑ Only ½ circuit sales; now loosening up
- ❑ Closed club consortium, with greater flexibility
- ❑ Full circuit sales allowed
- ❑ Only consortium can sell IRUs for 2 yrs; members may sell after 2007



W. Africa '02 = Bangladesh '05



Open-source research

- “Given enough eyes, all bugs are shallow” --Linus [Torvald]’s Law
 - Users as co-creators
- Speed as well as accuracy are important in policy-relevant research
- Publish drafts; obtain comments; revise
 - Also increases buy in



Example: LIRNEasia's disaster early warning research, Jan-Mar '05

Video News Conference With Local & Foreign Experts for Disaster Warning System at LIRNEasia - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.lirneasia.net/2005/02/feb-10-2005-1030am-sl-time-video-news-conference-disaster-wa

http://images.ohiolink... Getting Started Web of Science Latest Headlines Press It - LIRNEasia Firefox Logo

Video News C... infoDev: Public... Library at My R... ::2006 DOF... vagaries - defi... ENCIP - Europ... About the TPRC Learning and T...

LIRNEasia
Learning Initiatives on Reforms for Network Economies

IRDC CRDI

Blog Photos Contact About Profiles Projects Archives Documents login

< Draft Concept Paper on a National All-Hazards Warning System for Sri Lanka Monthly column >

search blog archives

Video News Conference With Local & Foreign Experts for Disaster Warning System

set as noteworthy edit

Published by **Divakar Goswami** 1 year, 6 months ago in [News](#), [Events](#), [Documents](#), [Disaster](#).

A video news conference connecting experts in disaster warning systems in Colombo, Vancouver and Hawaii answered questions posed by the Sri Lankan press and television journalists. This event was organised by **LIRNEasia** and **Vanguard Foundation** on February 10 at the Distance Learning Center on SLIDA's campus in Colombo.

The event was launched by the release of the **draft report** on a **National All Hazard Disaster Warning System** written by local and international experts. This draft report emerged from an Expert Consultation that was held in January 26, 2005 where broad input was obtained from Sri Lankans with disaster management expertise, experts in hazard warning and the public who responded to newspaper advertisements. The primary purpose of the video news conference was to discuss the concept paper with the Sri Lankan media in order to give the widest possible publicity to the draft report that was written up on the basis of international best practice and local input.

The proceedings have been videotaped and will be available as streaming video at a future date. Media coverage of this event will be posted on this site as they become

Related Entries

- [Hazard Warning Initiatives: Media Event](#)
- [Adapting to an ICT based Emergency Warning System](#)
- [My talk on disaster warning in Honolulu](#)
- [Effectiveness of Disaster Assistance](#)
- [Waves of Compassion: Sarvodaya's Tsunami to Deshodaya Plan after Six Months of Action](#)
- [Expert Forum: National All Hazard Disaster Warning System Trip Report, Honolulu, January 16-19, 2005](#)
- [Warning System Expert Consultation](#)
- [LIRNEasia recommendations resonate among policymakers](#)
- [Clinton on the last mile in disaster](#)

Find: Find Next Find Previous Highlight all Match case

Done

Waiting for www.nytimes.com...

5:43 PM Saturday 8/12/2006

Communication Policy Research *south*, a capacity building example

□ Objectives

- Identify current and future scholars with likelihood of becoming in-situ experts
- Create an environment conducive their development and mutual reinforcement
- Assist them to raise their Internet profiles
 - Beneficial both for scholarship and for policy-regulation

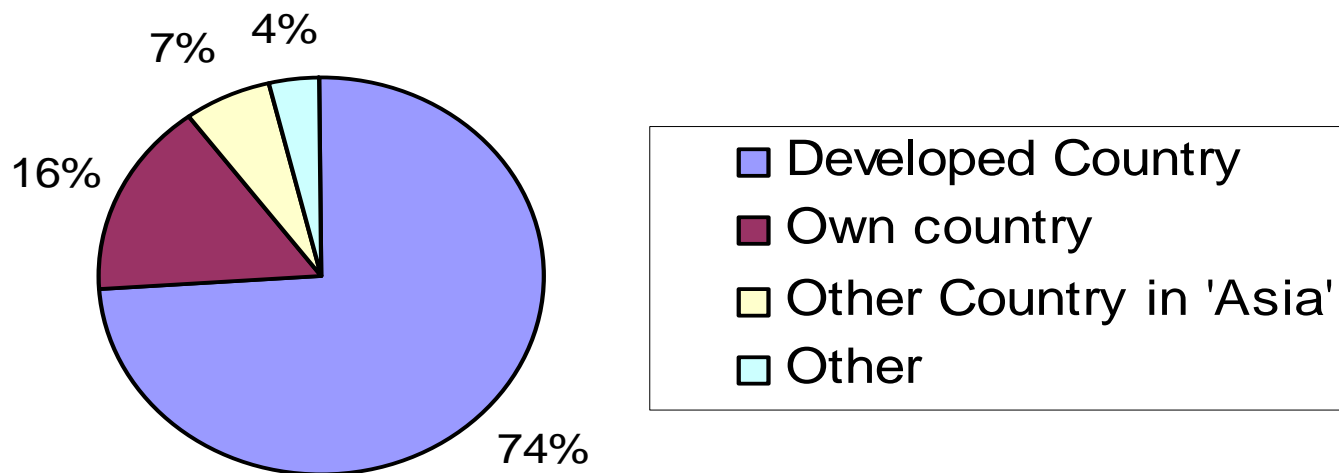


CPR*south*

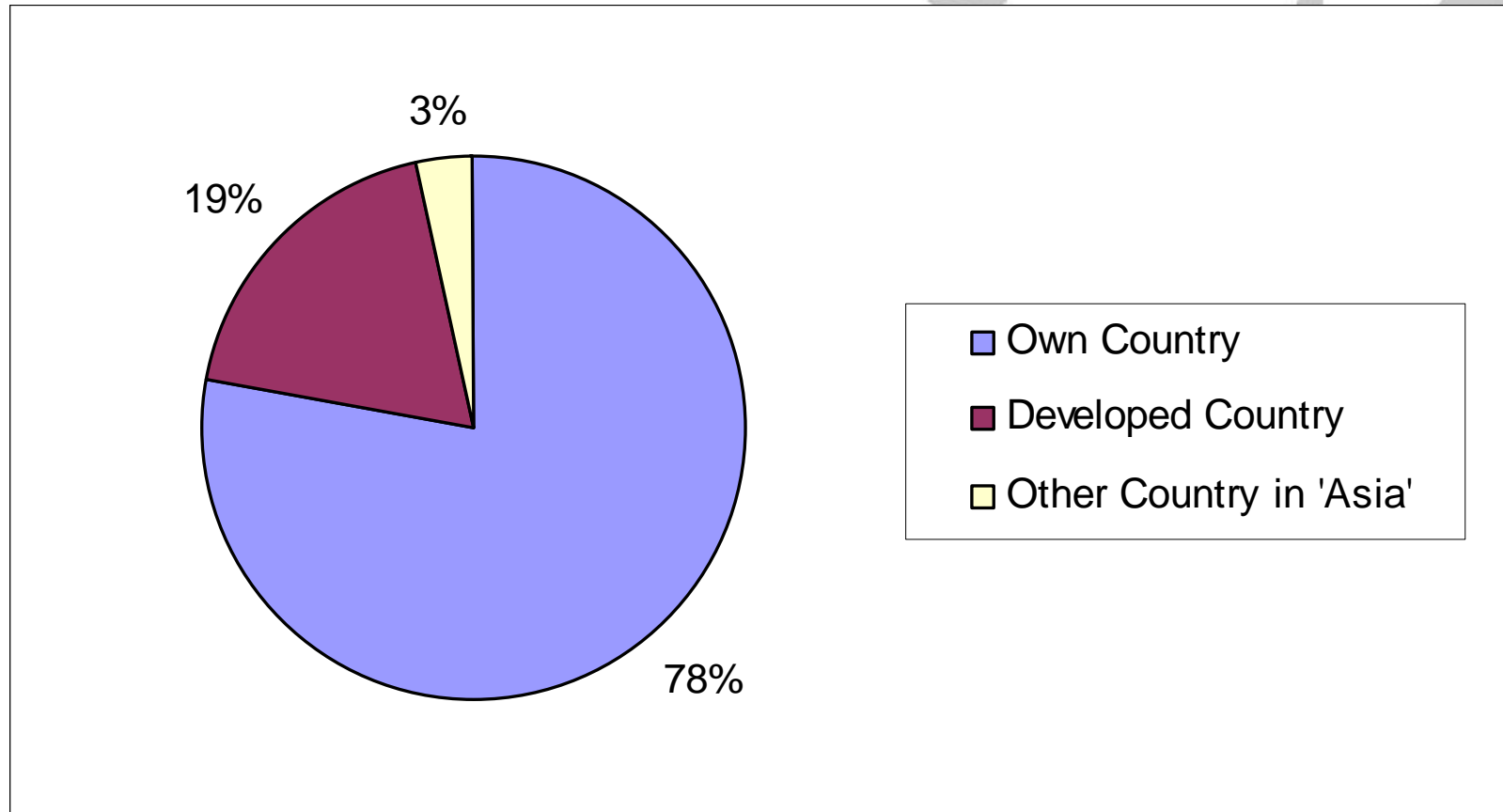
- A field building exercise, modeled on
 - Ford, SSRC field-building
 - Telecom Policy Research Conference (TPRC) in the US, 1972-
 - Euro CPR in Europe, from UK CPR in 1986
- Relying on knowledge mapping rather than existing networks, because they are relatively less developed in Asia Pacific



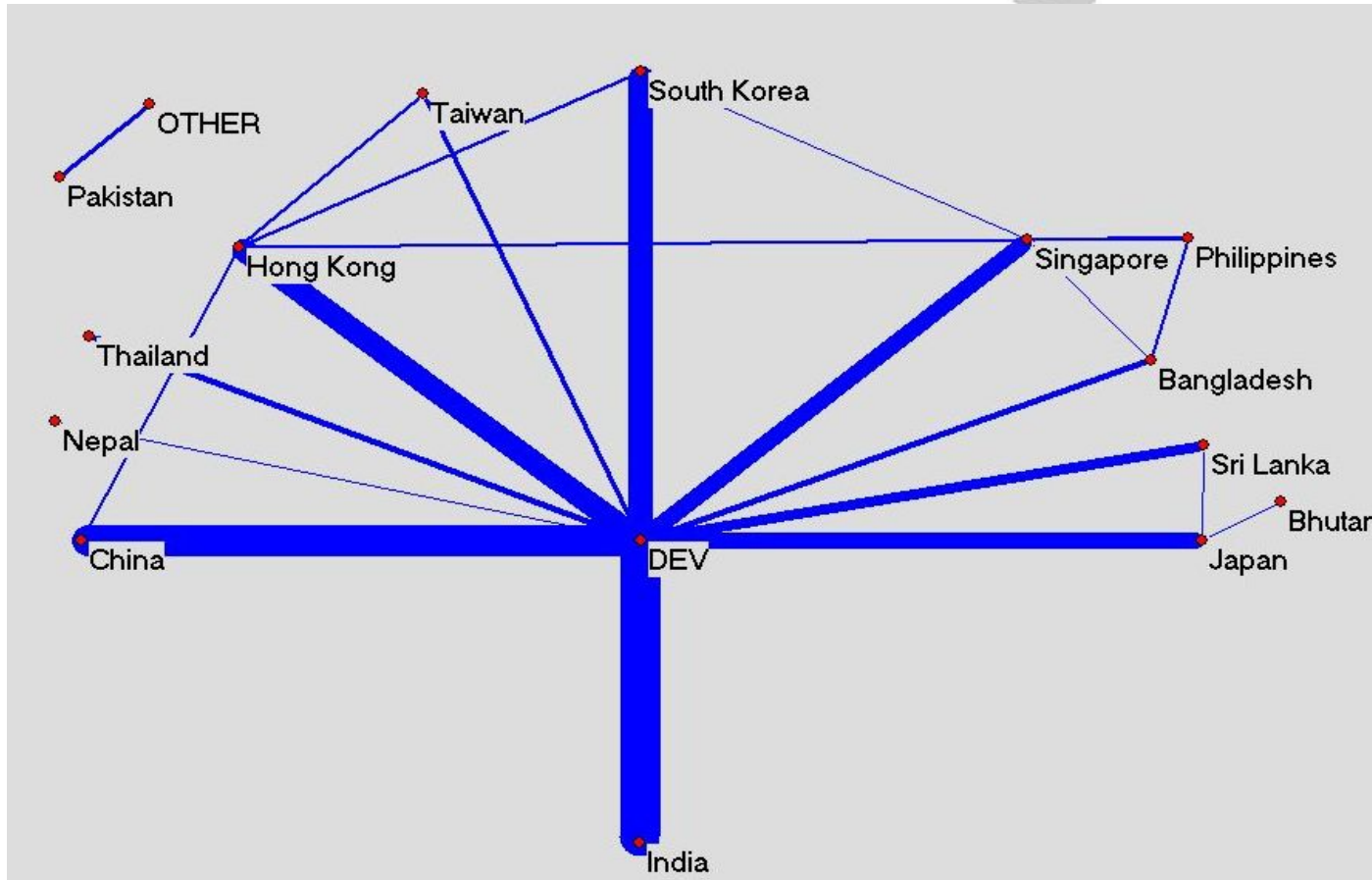
Citations: Most from developed countries;
second own country; least within Asia-Pacific



Most co-authorships within own country; developed second; Asia last



Co-authorships by country



CPR*south* 2007: Research for improving ICT governance in Asia Pacific

- Inaugural conference in Manila, January, 19-21 2007
 - In collaboration with National College of Public Administration & Governance, University of Philippines, Diliman
- Independent Board of Governors
 - Adopt constitution and business plan
- Website: institutional archive for research
- Observers from Africa & Latin America-Caribbean to consider broadening scope beyond Asia Pacific after a few years



Rohan Samarajiva

samarajiva@lirne.net

www.lirneasia.net



LIRNEasia

Learning Initiatives on Reforms for Network Economies