

**SIRCA Research Conference: Global Dialogue on ICT for Development  
April 15-17 in Phuket, Thailand**

**The SIRCA (Strengthening ICTD Research Capacity in Asia) Programme**

The SIRCA Programme is a capacity building initiative, primarily aimed at improving the social science research skills of emerging Asian scholars in the information and communications technology for development (ICTD) space. SIRCA is managed by the Singapore Internet Research Centre (SIRC), based at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

**Objectives of the conference**

- a) Provide a platform for SIRCA Principal Investigators (PIs) to showcase current research;
- b) Present framework for the next capacity building initiative, the “global grant”; and
- c) Provide a forum for ICTD scholars to meet face-to-face, network and exchange ideas.

Date	Time	Programme	Venue
Day 0: Apr 15	19.30	Welcome dinner	<i>Bistro</i>
Day 1: Apr 16	9.00-9.15	Registration	
	9.15-10.45	ICTD experts and invitees: Introduction to SIRCA for invitees	<i>Patong</i>
		SIRCA Mentors and PIs: Presentation practice session	<i>Kata 1 &amp; 2, and Karen 1 &amp; 2</i>
	10.45-11.00	Tea Break	
	11.00-12.30	Empowering communities through ICTs Chair: Roger Harris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Agricultural market information services: Implications on the rural community in Bangladesh (Sirajul Islam)</i></li> <li>- <i>Empowerment of farming communities through the use of ICTs: A study in the Indian Himalayan region (V.L.V. Kameswari)</i></li> <li>- <i>Mobile phone application development for rural Cambodia (Phal Des)</i></li> <li>- <i>Lifeline online: E-counseling and the well-being of overseas Filipino workers and their families (Regina Hechanova)</i></li> </ul>	<i>Patong</i>
	12.30-13.30	Lunch	<i>Bistro</i>
	13.30-14.45	ICTD Applications Chair: May Lwin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Internet for learning and knowledge building: Students' perceptions and utilization in Cambodian higher education (Peou Chivoin)</i></li> <li>- <i>The Filipino blogosphere: An emerging alternative venue for political participation in the Philippines (Grace Mirandilla)</i></li> <li>- <i>Erosion and landslide hazard mapping in Vietnam (Huynh Van Chuong)</i></li> </ul>	<i>Patong</i>
	14.45-15.00	Tea Break	
	15.00-16.15	Participation in ICTs Chair: John Traxler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>An impact assessment framework to evaluate ICT-led development projects in Bangladesh (Mahfuz Ashraf)</i></li> <li>- <i>Nature of work, quality of employment and working conditions in ICT sector: A case of India (Balwant Singh Mehta)</i></li> <li>- <i>Communities, participation and technology in India (T.B. Dinesh)</i></li> </ul>	<i>Patong</i>
	17.00	Show and Dinner at Phuket FantaSea	<i>Phuket FantaSea</i>

Date	Time	Programme	Location
Day 2: Apr 17	9.30-10.30	Graduate Award presentations Chair: Ang Peng Hwa - <i>Evaluating the impact of the One Laptop Per Child project on the psychological empowerment of primary school children in rural India (Komathi Ale)</i> - <i>Acculturation of migrants in work sector: Identifying the facilitative role of mobile phones (Rajiv Aricat)</i> - <i>Mobile phones for healthcare in rural Thailand (Thanomwong Poorisat)</i>	Patong
	10.30-10.45	Tea Break	
	10.45-12.00	Future plans for global grant	Patong
	12.00-13.30	Lunch	Bistro
	13.30-15.00	ICTD experts and invitees : Global grant – Focus on South America and Africa	Patong
		SIRCA Mentors and PIs: Collaboration discussions and video interviews	Kata 1 & 2, and Karen 1 & 2
16.00	Closing of conference	Lounge 98	

### **Confirmed attendees**

#### **Mentors**

Alexander G. Flor, University of the Philippines - Open University  
 Ang Peng Hwa, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
 Arul Chib, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
 John Maurice Traxler, University of Wolverhampton, UK  
 May Lwin, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
 Rahul De, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India  
 Roger Harris, Roger Harris Associates, Hong Kong  
 Shaikh Abdus Salam, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

#### **Experts**

Matthew Smith, International Development Research Centre, Canada  
 Francisco Proenza, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona  
 Gerard Goggin, University of New South Wales, Australia  
 Gloria Bonder, FLACSO Argentina (Latin American School of Social Science), Argentina  
 Idris Rai, Makerere University, Uganda  
 James E. Katz, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA  
 Karim A. Kasim, Young Social Innovation Programme, Egypt  
 Portia Marcelo, National Telehealth Center, Philippines  
 Roxana Barrantes, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, Peru