

8th Annual Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka

Communicating research and influencing change

An initiative by the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)

Agenda

Day 1 - 29th November 2007

09.15 – 09.45 **Registration**

09.45 – 10.30 **Introduction to Symposium**

Keynote Addresses

Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)

Megan Lloyd-Laney, Department for International Development, UK

10.30 – 11.00 *TEA/COFFEE BREAK*

11.00 – 12.30 **Session 1: Making your voice heard: The challenge of communicating research to decision makers**

*Chair: Sunil Bastian, CEPA Chairman and Research Fellow,
International Centre for Ethnic Studies*

Giving Evidence a Voice: Lessons from engaging with policymakers

Fiona Remnant, Senior Professional, Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)

Ask the Primary Stakeholders: Research for change and the Estate Workers Perceptions study

William Duggan and Rathna Jeganathan, WUSC Plantation Communities Project

Working with policymakers in different countries

John Young, Director of Programmes, Research and Policy in Development, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Using evidence-based research in government

Dhara Wijayatilake, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation

12.30 – 13.30 *LUNCH*

13.30 – 15.00 **Session 2: Bridging the gap: How can communities benefit from better access to research and information?**
Chair: TBC

Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management: A paradigm for effective use of research

S.P. Jayasooriya, Junior Researcher, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

Policy influence for inclusive growth: Scaling up ICT for development through the Village Knowledge Centre Programme

Shipra Sharma, Research Officer with the telecentre.org program, India

Financial literacy as a tool for poverty reduction in Nigeria

Bola Fajemirokun, Executive Director, Development Initiatives Network, Nigeria

Policy Change and Community Participation: The case of *Bal Panchayats* (Child Parliaments)

Amit Chowdhury, Centre Head/Coordinator, Consumer Unity Trust Society (CUTS) - Centre for Human Development

15.00 – 15.30 *TEA/COFFEE BREAK*

15.30 – 16.30 **Session 3: The added value of networks and knowledge sharing**

Chair: Manique Mendis, Centre for Integrated Communication Research and Advocacy

The Evidence Based Policy in Development Network

Naved Chowdhury, Research and Policy in Development Programme, Overseas Development Institute

Knowledge Management Initiatives in Sri Lanka

Azra Abdul Cader, Co-ordinator Poverty Assessment and Knowledge Management Programme, CEPA

A Networked Research Approach

Kate Czuczman, Editor & Communications Coordinator, International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD)

Presented by Priyanthi Fernando, Executive Director, CEPA

16.30 – 17.30 **Session 4:
 Panel Discussion: Challenging knowledge hierarchies**

Chair: Priyanthi Fernando, CEPA, Sri Lanka

Panellists: Vishaka Hidellage, Practical Action, Sri Lanka
 Andrew Kumbatira, Malawi Economic Justice Network, Malawi
 Sam Kasiriye, Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute, Uganda
 Tomas Mugica, CIPPEC, Argentina

17.30 – 17.45 *Wrap up of Day 1 – Priyanthi Fernando, Executive Director, CEPA*

Day 2 – 30th November 2007

08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 9.15	Welcome back
09.15 – 10.45	<p>Session 5: Taking it off the page: Alternative mediums of communication to influence change <i>Chair: Sharmini Boyle, YA TV</i></p> <p>Providing Practical Answers: The Janathakshan system as a bridge between communities, researchers and policymakers <i>Suvira Srivastav, Web Portal Coordinator, Practical Action Sri Lanka</i> <i>Presented by Ramona Miranda, Team Leader, Communications Programme, Practical Action Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Using Electronic Media to Communicate Messages <i>Nalaka Gunewardene, Director and CEO, Television for Education - Asia Pacific (TVE Asia Pacific)</i></p> <p>Community Radio <i>Eric Fernando, Communications Consultant and Sunil Wijesinghe, Station Manager Kothmale Community Radio</i></p> <p>Off The Page theatre evening <i>Audience discussion on the use of theatre and film in the context of the previous night's performances</i></p>
10.45 – 11.15	<i>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</i>
11.15 – 12.30	<p>Session 6: Panel Discussion: Influencing government within a restricted environment <i>Chair: Prashan Thalayasingam</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i> Mirak Raheem, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka Dr Sin Somuny, Medicam, Cambodia Naya Paudel, Forest Action Nepal Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, Point Pedro Institute, Sri Lanka</p>
12.30 – 13.15	Closing Session
	<p>Valedictory speech <i>Michael Walton, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi. Former Director of the 2006 World Development Report on 'Equity and Development'</i></p> <p>Vote of Thanks <i>Priyanthi Fernando, Executive Director, CEPA</i></p>
13.15 – 14.15	<i>LUNCH</i>