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| **Title:** | Innovative ICT projects addressing openness, inclusion, human rights, and access get ISIF Asia funding for 2013 | |

Brisbane, Australia Day, 14 January 2013

Thanks to renewed financial support, the Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia) will distribute a total of AUD 330,000 in grants to 11 project teams in 9 Asia Pacific economies in 2013. These projects offer innovative approaches to development, addressing the challenges described by the ISIF Asia funding categories: innovation on access provision; innovation on learning and localization; code for the common good; and rights.

Phet Sayo, IDRC Program Officer, highlighted the impact of small grants funding: "The small grants mechanism allows us to achieve many things. More than a decade of experience in seed funding for ICT for development initiatives has proved it is possible to spur on local innovations with inspiration from broader global ICT trends, and the impacts on society. At the IDRC, we are interested in building research fields, including ICT for development, and the emerging field of open development. Seed funding enables us to learn about the trends, ideas, and actors in the region."

ISIF Asia is a mechanism to give back to the local Internet community by investing in ICT research and development; to support research that can assist Internet growth in the Asia Pacific region; and to facilitate networking and information building throughout the Internet community. "Sida believes that new technology can serve as a tool to create innovative, effective solutions that can assist people living in poverty to improve their daily lives. The ISIF Asia grant winners of 2013 are clear examples of how this can be achieved," said Sida ICT4D Program Officer Ola Pettersson.

The renewed financial support, from IDRC, Sida, ISOC, Dot Asia, and APNIC, has enabled ISIF Asia to reactivate its grant funding capabilities. APNIC Director of Learning and Development Dr Philip Smith thanks the commitment of funding organizations in their support of ISIF Asia's goal to improve ICT growth in the region, particularly in developing economies.

"The ISIF Asia program had limited resources during 2011 and 2012, and could only give awards to innovators in the region. It is really exciting to be able to provide more substantial support again."

The 2013 ISIF Asia Grant winners submitted project proposals aligned with the funding categories and eligibility criteria, offering innovative approaches to Internet development. Teams will implement their projects within a 6 to12-month period, and final technical reports will be shared through a Creative Commons License.

2013 ISIF Asia Grant winners by category

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Innovation on access provision

- Smart Phones for the Deaf Blind, Bidirectional Access Promotion Society (India)  
- A Cloud Based Application Measuring and Controlling Electricity Used for Indonesian Houses, Binus International University (Indonesia)  
- Pacific Islands Schools, Connectivity, Education, and Solar (PISCES) Project, iSolutions (Micronesia)

Code for the common good

- Real-time Hepatitis Reporting and Surveillance System in Low-Resource Settings using ICT and Mobile Phones, UM Healthcare Trust (Pakistan)  
- Driver Distraction Management Using Sensor Data Cloud, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)

Innovation on learning and localization

- Integrated Maternal and Child Healthcare Delivery and Training for Community Health Teams, Access Health International (Phillippines)  
- Developing Mobile Based Application to Support Pregnant Women, Yagiten Pvt. Ltd. (Nepal)  
- Building Low-Cost Telecommunications Infrastructure in Myanmar: Localization and Training of a Practical Guide, First Myanmar Korea Group Co. Ltd. (Myanmar)

Rights

- Internet Rights are Women¹s Rights, Point of View in partnership with Association for Progressive Communications (India)  
- Promoting Women¹s Rights and Safety Online: Addressing Electronic Violence Against Women (eVAW), Foundation for Media Alternatives (PH)  
- Sinar Project, Transparency Internal Malaysia (Malaysia)

About ISIF Asia

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ISIF Asia is a Grants and Awards program aimed at stimulating creative solutions to ICT development needs in the Asia Pacific region. ISIF Asia places particular emphasis on the role of the Internet in social and economic development in the region.

Since 2008, the program has supported 39 projects, each of which has benefitted their communities and inspired similar projects around the world.

Learn more at [www.isif.asia](http://www.isif.asia)