The Centre for Internet and Society

Annual Report: 1 June 2008 to 31 March 2009

Contents

The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS)

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) worked on drafting a policy on web accessibility for the National Informatics Centre (NIC) which provides network backbone and e-governance support to the Central Government, state governments, Union Territory administrations, district administrations and other government bodies in India.

- The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has also asked CIS to carry out a comparative study of major international web and ATM accessibility policies and report on the same.

- CIS worked with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to formulate recommendations that made the public-funded scientific research agency opt to make its research publications open access.

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

Research Projects

The research portfolio at the Centre for Internet and Society is concentrating on developing histories and accounts of the internet in India. Through the CIS-RAW programme, the following research fellowships have already been awarded to researchers in different fields and with a wide range of interests:

1. Asha Achutan

   Affiliation: Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

   Project: <u>Rewiring Bodies</u>

   This project looks at questions of digital technology, embodiment and gender within the post-development paradigm in India. A public talk by Dr. Shefali Moitra on 'Justice and Difference' was hosted at CIS under this project. Asha is contracted to work for CIS for a period of 10 months, starting 20 September 2008.

2. Aparna Balachandran, Rochelle Pinto and Abhijeet Dasgupta

   Affiliation: Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, and Centre for Social Sciences, Kolkata

   Project: <u>Archive and Access</u>

   This project charts the changing role of the archivist in the discipline of history, and the state's interventions in digitisation and archiving, with the emergence of ICTs in India. They are contracted to work for CIS for a period of 10 months, starting 25 September 2008.

3. Shivam Vij

   Affiliation: Tehelka, New Delhi

   Project: <u>Free Speech and the Internet</u>

   This project documents the critical moments of government intervention and censorship in the emerging information society in India, concentrating particularly on the different stakeholders in the arena of freedom of speech and technology. He is contracted to work for CIS for a period of 10 months, starting 15 December 2008.

4. Namita Malhotra

   Affiliation: Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore

   Project: <u>Pleasure and Pornography</u>

This project is a historical analysis of legislation and legal battles around questions of pornography and the internet, positing pleasure as a conceptual category through which the Law's interest in and regulation of pornography and obscenity needs to be revisited. She is contracted to work for CIS for a period of 10 months, starting 19 December 2008.

5. Zainab Bawa

    Affiliation: Empowering India, Mumbai, and CSCS, Bangalore

    Project: Transparency and Politics

    This project is an analytical understanding of how the corporatised aesthetic of 'transparency', when it seeps into the governance structures in India, leads to new forms of violence and injustice, while promoting certain kinds of lifestyles and rights. She is contracted to work for CIS for a period of 10 months, starting 1 February 2008.

6. Ashish Rajadhyaksha

    Affiliation: CSCS, Bangalore

    Project: Rethinking the Last Mile Problem

    This project is a reinvestigation of the Indian model of policy implementation, which works on the 'last mile' notion of communication theory, in light of the consistent failure in bridging this last mile. He is contracted to work for CIS for a period of 10 months, starting 1 February 2008.

All of these projects, depending upon the scope and the skills of the researcher, shall variously result in monographs, journal papers, workshops and seminars, and teaching curricula for higher education within the social sciences in India.

The research portfolio has also applied for external research projects (to be administered in-house) that feed directly into our vision and substantial areas of engagement.

1. **Digital Natives with a Cause:** This is a scouting mission for the Dutch development organisation Hivos, under its Knowledge Programme, hoping to do a review of theory, practices and interventions that seek to define, regulate and understand the role of the digital native in processes of social transformation and political engagement in the world's emerging information societies. The budget for this proposal is USD 23,000.

2. **Techno-social citizenship and urban restructuring in India and China:** Nishant Shah, Director – Research, is at present working at Shanghai University researching this project, which looks at how urbanisation and the technological context affect the idea

and practice of citizenship in the development of India and China. The project has been funded by Asia Scholarship Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

3. **Ford Foundation's Pathways Project:** In collaboration with CSCS, CIS will be working on communication and technology initiatives for college students, designing and staffing the same. This is a part of the Pathways Project, with a larger objective to make higher education hospitable to hitherto marginalised students; this will be achieved by improving the quality of their access to higher educational institutions and also by getting institutions to recognise the centrality of social justice questions to the sphere of higher education in which they operate. The communication and technology initiatives will focus on assisting students and faculty to use collaboration technologies, open content, and various forms of communication on the internet.

4. **CIS Comic Book Project:** Anand Ramachandran, a writer and cartoonist, is working with CIS to produce comic books on several important questions in the field of internet and society. The first two such comic books will be about piracy and the notion of the digital natives, respectively.

5. **CIS and the Centre for Knowledge Societies:** CIS is working with the Centre for Knowledge Societies, Bangalore, on a project providing data services on mobile phones.

Events organised

- [Writing the Future](#) (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, 21 October 2008) organised by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and the Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership, with support from CIS and the Kusuma Trust, at which Nishant Shah made a presentation titled 'Some Knowledge in Search of Authority: Cyberspace, Collaborations and Confusions'

Events attended

- [The Future of Celluloid](#) (Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 7–8 November 2008) organised by the Media Lab, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Calcutta, at which Nishant Shah made a presentation titled 'Of Pranksters, Jesters and Clowns – YouTube Videos and Conditions of Collaborative Authorship'

- Chutnefying English (Le Royal Meridien, Mumbai, 10–11 January 2009) organised by the Mudra Institute of Communications (MICA), Ahmedabad

Teaching

- An M. Phil. course module designed for Christ University, Bangalore, on 'Metaphors and Narratives'

- A course module designed for CSCS, Bangalore, on 'Gender and Technology'

- A workshop on 'Cybercultures' for the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 29 September – 2 October 2008

- A course module taught at MICA, Ahmedabad, on 'Metaphors and Narratives', 28 July – 5 August 2008

- CIS has been invited to assist MICA, Ahmedabad, in its launch of a Centre for Media and Culture; CIS will be involved in teaching and in curriculum design, as well as in intellectually reviewing the Centre's activities.

Publications

- 'Material Cyborgs: Asserted Boundaries' (Nishant Shah, *European Journal of English Studies*)

- 'Now streaming on your nearest screen: Contextualising New Digital Cinema through Kuso' (Nishant Shah, *Journal of Chinese Cinema*)

- 'Internet and Society in Asia' (Nishant Shah, *Inter Asia Cultural Studies*)

ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

Accessibility

1. **Readable.in:** This is a collaboration with Inclusive Planet. Readable.in aims to be a comprehensive e-book portal for the disabled in India. To further this project, we have joined the DAISY Consortium of India, which has a membership of 80 NGOs producing 'speaking books'.

2. **National Policy for Electronic Accessibility:** CIS is working with the United Nations (UN) Solution Exchange and the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People to lobby for a new policy to ensure that publicly funded Indian electronic infrastructure is accessible to the disabled.

3. **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Treaty for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled Persons:** CIS organised a signature campaign in India to lobby Indian government support for the proposed WIPO Treaty for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled Persons.

4. **National Informatics Centre (NIC) Web Accessibility Policy**: CIS contributed to NIC's Draft Policy on Web Accessibility, which is in the process of becoming a full-fledged policy document (see box).

CIS Collaboration with NIC on Accessibility Policy

The percentage of print disabled people in India is estimated to be more than 75%, consisting of the visually impaired, the elderly and the illiterate. Considering this percentage, it becomes vital that the government distribute information and enable public feedback using accessible technologies, which allow as many people as possible with differing abilities and skills to use them.

However, CIS Programme Manager Nirmita Narsimhan found, in discussions, that there were no concrete government policies in place to ensure accessibility of government websites. National Informatics Centre (NIC)—the body responsible for building government websites—also had no accessibility policy, except in draft.

Nirmita met with representatives of NIC in Delhi and they invited her and CIS to help with reviewing their draft policy. The policy, with our comments, was returned to NIC on 18 March 2009, where it is presently under review.

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5. **Right to Information (RTI) Petitions**: To elicit information from the government on the progress of various announced public accessibility-related programmes and the utilisation of the money designated for work on accessibility, CIS submitted a number of petitions under the Right to Information Act and received replies for the same.

Events organised

*   [Meeting on National Policy for Electronic Accessibility](#) (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 7 November 2008)
*   [Workshop for Web Developers on Web Accessibility](#) (CSIR, Ghaziabad, 16–18 February 2009) in collaboration with UN Solution Exchange and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

Participants and trainers at the Workshop for Web Developers on Web Accessibility, February 2009, Ghaziabad

> **'It was a pleasure to be associated with CIS. I met Sunil and Nirmita at IGF Hyderabad, and I suggested to them that CIS and NIXI could work together on some web accessibility related issues. It was great to see the way things shaped up. I must thank and congratulate Sunil and especially Nirmita for sincere and dedicated efforts to organise a national workshop on web accessibility issues, set up a wiki and organise Hindi translation of web accessibility guidelines.'**
>
> Rajesh Aggarwal, (former) Additional CEO, NIXI

Events attended

- Workshop on 'The Digital Divide' (Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, Bangalore, 12 July 2008), at which Nirmita Narsimhan made a presentation titled 'Bridging the Digital Divide: Opportunities and Challenges'

- Techshare India 2008 (Bangalore, 29 August 2008) organised by BarrierBreak Technologies

- DAISY Forum of India meeting (Bhopal, 26–27 December 2008)

Intellectual Property Rights

1. **Regional IPR Study**: This project will look at IPR-related policy, practice, players and alternatives in 20 countries in South and South East Asia. A proposal on this project has been submitted to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

2. **Copy South**: CIS has joined the Copy South Research Group. CIS participated in the first workshop held between 7 and 10 December 2008 at Technopark in Trivandrum.

Events organised

- Lecture by Eben Moglen and Mishi Choudary on 'Who Killed Intellectual Property and Why We Did It/Globalising Public Interest Law: The SFLC Model**'** (National Law School of India University, Bangalore, 13 December 2008) in collaboration with Software Freedom Centre and National Law School of India University

- Screening of *Steal This Film* (Nani Cinematheque, Bangalore, 8 November 2008)

- Screening of *Pixel Pirate II: Attack of the Astro Elvis Video Clone* (Nani Cinematheque, Bangalore, 19 December 2008)

Events attended

- National Seminar on Privacy Rights and Data Protection in Cyber Space (KLE Society's Law College, Bangalore, 17 October 2008)

- Workshop on 'Digital Education and Copyright' at the Internet Governance Forum (Hyderabad, 3–6 December 2008)

- Workshop on 'Digital Identifiers and IPRs' at the Internet Governance Forum (Hyderabad, 3–6 December 2008)

- Inaugural Conference of the Law and Social Science Network (Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 8–10 January 2009)

- African Copyright and Access to Knowledge (ACA2K) Mid-Project Workshop (Cairo, Egypt, 12–15 January 2009)

- Consumers International's Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Access to Knowledge (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 16–19 February 2009)

'Consumers International enjoys a very productive working relationship with CIS, built on our shared ideals around the value of access to knowledge. CIS expertise continues to be invaluable in assisting Consumers International and its Indian members to advocate for more balanced intellectual property rights for consumers.'

Jeremy Malcolm, IP Programme Coordinator, Consumers International

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Teaching

- Course on 'Intellectual Property Rights' (Centre for Culture, Media, and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi)

Open Access

1. **Open Access to Law Project in Partnership with LexUM (at the Faculty of Law, University of Montreal) and the Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII)**: Funding for this project has been granted by the Open Society Institute's Information Programme (OSI-IP) and IDRC. CIS will undertake the South Asia and South East Asia component of this international study. The study will document open access to law case studies and best practices and provide a comparative analysis of the situation in the countries surveyed. The countries tentatively identified for CIS are India,

Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia. The project budget for the CIS component is USD 60,000.

2. **CSIR Open Access Policy**: CIS Distinguished Fellow Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam was part of a committee constituted to look into the potential of open access for CSIR. Based on the Committee's recommendations, CSIR adopted a council-wide open access policy for all 39 laboratories under it (see box).

CSIR Open Access Policy

In publishing, open access is free access to articles that have traditionally been published in scholarly journals, usually distributed on the internet with limited copyright and licensing restrictions. CIS Distinguished Fellow Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam has been involved in open access advocacy for more than a decade, talking to senior scientists and policy makers about the benefits of open access and the need for India to adopt open access.

Prof. Samir Brahmachari of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which spends approximately Rs. 400 million annually on funding research, responded favourably to Prof. Arunachalam's advocacy efforts. CSIR constituted a committee of experts, with Prof. Arunachalam as a member, to discuss this issue.

The committee recommended that all CSIR labs set up institutional repositories and that all journals published by different CSIR labs be made open access. Because of these efforts, six CSIR journals are already open access, out of a total of 17 journals and two abstracting journals. Before the end of July 2009, all CSIR published journals will be made open access.

Events organised

- [Open Access Day](#) (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 14 October 2008) in collaboration with the Centre for Culture, Media, and Governance at Jamia Millia Islamia

Dr. Zakir Thomas of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) sharing an opinion at the Open Access Day, Jamia Millia Islamia, October 2008

- Talk by Jimmy Wales on 'Wikipedia and Free Culture' (Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore, 13 December 2008) in collaboration with Bangalore International Centre

- Open Access to Science Publications: Policy Perspective, Opportunities and Challenges (India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 24 March 2009) in collaboration with CSIR. For this event, CIS invited Prof. John Willinsky of Stanford University and the Public Knowledge Project and Prof. Leslie Chan of the University of Toronto and Bioline International to attend and give keynote addresses. Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam made a presentation titled 'Scholarly Communication in the Age of the Commons: The Indian Experience'. Profs. Willinsky and Chan met the Directors of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, and National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies, and spoke to them about the steps they need to take to adopt open access.

- Scholarly Communication in the Age of the Commons (National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, 26 March 2009) in collaboration with National Aerospace Laboratories and Indian Academy of Sciences, at which Sunil Abraham made a presentation titled 'Academic and Scholarly Communication in India: Copyright Law Patent Law and PUPFIP' and Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam participated in a panel discussion on 'Scholarly Communication and Openness: Emerging Trends'

Events attended

- Access to Knowledge Conference hosted by Yale Information Society Project (Geneva, 8–10 September 2008), at which Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam took part in a panel discussion on 'Open Access to Science and Research'

- Technology for Civil Society Speakers Series (Washington, D.C., 25 September 2008), organised by the International Research and Exchanges Board, at which Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam made a presentation titled 'Telecentres for Development: The Indian Experience'

- Berlin 6 Open Access Conference (Dusseldorf, 11–13 November 2008), at which Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam chaired a panel on 'Open Access to Development, Open Access around the World'

- Taiwan e-Learning and Digital Archives Program (TELDAP) Conference 2009 (Taipei, 23–27 February 2009) organised by the International Collaboration Division of the

Taiwan e-Learning and Digital Archives Program, at which Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam presented a paper titled 'Open Content in India: An Overview'

- <u>Global Research Library 2020 Asia Conference</u> (Taipei, 23–27 February 2009) organised by the Global Research Library, at which Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam presented a paper as part of the panel on 'Asian and Oceanic Requirements and Challenges'

- <u>UKOLN International Repositories Workshop</u> (Amsterdam, 16–17 March 2009), for which CIS funded the participation of Madhan Muthu of National Institute of Technology, Rourkela (amongst the first institutions in the country to adopt an open access mandate), and at which Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam also participated

Publications

- A flyer containing quotations from leading national and international open access advocates

Open Standards

1. **Draft National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance**: CIS coordinated public feedback to the Draft National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance published by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) in August – September 2008. The revised draft, which was circulated recently, incorporates three of the four suggestions submitted by CIS.

2. **Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards**: CIS joined the Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards at the Internet Governance Forum in Hyderabad and also contributed to the authoring of the Agreement on Procurement in Support of Interoperability and Open Standards.

Events attended

- <u>National Consultation on Open Solutions in e-Governance</u> (India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 23 October 2008)

- <u>Workshop on Reforming the International ICT Standardisation System</u> at the Internet Governance Forum (Hyderabad, 6 December 2008), at which Sunil Abraham participated in a panel discussion

> **The Centre for Internet and Society played a critical role in representing consumer interests in issues such as open standards and government procurement at the third UN Internet Governance Forum in Hyderabad in 2008 and equitable access for the disabled persons in India's electronic accessibility policy. CIS has also galvanised support nationally and at WIPO for the Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay Treaty proposal incorporating the World Blind Union submission on a Treaty for Reading Disabled Persons. Knowledge Ecology International values its partnership with CIS in areas of intersection and looks forward to fruitful collaborations in the future.**
>
> Malini Aisola, Research Associate, Knowledge Ecology International

Publications

- CIS contributed a report on Open Standards to *Global Information Society Watch 2008 Report* (*GISWatch*). *GISWatch* is published in print and online by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Third World Institute (ITeM) and Hivos.

Free and Open Source Software

Events organised

- [National Public Meeting on Software Patents](#) (United Theological College, Bangalore, 19 December 2008), co-organised with a number of other non-profit organisations and small and medium enterprises, at which Pranesh Prakash made a presentation titled 'Software Patents Applied for and Granted in India'

Prabir Purkayastha of the Delhi Science Forum, making a presentation during the National Public Meeting on Software Patents, Bangalore, October 2008

- [Software Freedom Day Essay Competition](#) (Bangalore, 20 September 2008)

- InfoActivism Camp (Doddaballapur, Karnataka, 19–25 February 2009) in collaboration with the Tactical Technology Collective (lead organiser), Aspiration, the Alternative Law Forum, and Mahiti, with funding from Oak Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Open Society Institute, and Hivos

Events attended

- Free Software, Free Society Conference 2008 (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 9–11 December 2008), organised and supported by the Kerala IT Mission, SPACE, Association for Progressive Communications, Free Software Foundation of India and Smart City, at which Sunil Abraham made a presentation titled 'Growing Global Information Commons'

RTI Applications

- CIS filed an application under the Right to Information Act to Viswevarya Technological University, the largest technological university in India with 144 colleges affiliated to it, to find out more about the effect of agreements with software vendors on curriculum design.

Internet Governance

1. **Dark Fibre:** We have provided a sponsorship of Rs. 3,00,000 for a film project titled *Dark Fibre* by Jamie King, director of *Steal This Film*, and Peter Mann. This docu-fiction will examine the cable industry in Bangalore from an internet perspective. Siddhartha Chadha will be documenting the making of the film in a series of blog posts, of which one has already been published (as of 31 March 2009).

2. **Analysing Wikipedia:** A set of analysis and helper tools for Wikipedia. A Bangalore-based mathematician Hans Mathew Varghese has already developed some algorithms to detect pack behaviour on Wikipedia and is at present working with Kiran Jonnalagadda on this project.

Events attended

- Workshop on Low Cost and Sustainable Access at the Internet Governance Forum (Hyderabad, 5 December 2008)
- Cyber Crime, Cyber Law, Cyber Society (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 8–9 February 2009) at which Sunil Abraham made a presentation titled 'Is Piracy a Cyber Crime or

Alternate Developmental Paradigm? Legal and Technical Perspectives from the Global South'

MISCELLANEOUS

Events organised

- Talk by Dr Shefali Moitra on 'Justice and Difference' (The Centre for Internet and Society, 14 November 2008), as part of *the monster album of feminist stories*

- Discussion on 'Fear and Gender in Public Space' (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 16 January 2009)

- Talk by Abhishek Hazra, artist, on 'Inheritance of Alphanumeric Characters' (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 24 January 2009)

- DigiActive Meetup with Mary Joyce, digital activist (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 26 February 2009) in collaboration with DigiActive

- Talk by Kiran Sahi on 'The Internet and Illusions of Space and Liberty' (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 7 March 2009)

- Talk by Julie Freeman, artist, on 'Art and Science from the Tiniverse: An Artist's Perspective on Nanotechnology' (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 9 March 2009)

- Talk by Patrice Riemens on 'The Dark Face of Google' (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 27 March 2009)

- Talk by Emma Ota, artist and curator, on 'Technology and the Mediation of Place' (The Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 28 March 2009)

Events attended

- Knowledge Society Debates (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, 8-9 January 2009) organised by the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKERI), in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and the Steps Centre

CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE NORMS COMPLIANCE

Identity and Values

The Centre for Internet and Society was registered as a society in August 2008, and brings together a team of practitioners, theoreticians, researchers and artists to work on the emerging field of Internet and Society. CIS aims to critically engage concerns of digital pluralism, public accountability and pedagogic practices, with particular emphasis on South-South dialogues and exchange.

Through multidisciplinary research, intervention, and collaboration, we seek to explore, understand and affect the shape and form of the internet, and its relationship with the political, cultural, and social milieu of our times.

Registration No.: SOR/BLU/DR/57/08-09 dated: 04-07-09

Registered Office: Centre for Internet and Society, #106, Vineyard Jasmine Apartments, Bank Avenue, 1st Main Road, Babusapalya, Banaswadi, Bangalore - 560043

Bankers: State Bank of India, Race Course Road Branch, 29/4, Race Course Road, Trade Centre, Bangalore - 560001

Auditors: Nath Associates

Governance

Details of board members as on 31 March 2009:				
Name and Gender	Position on Board	Occupation/ Designation	Area of Competency	Professional charges (per month in rupees)
Sunil Abraham (Male)	President	Computer Engineer	IPR Reform	1,40,000
Achal Prabhala (Male)	Vice President	Researcher	IPR Reform	Nil

Lawrence Liang (Male)	Secretary	Lawyer	IPR Reform	40,000
Nishant Shah (Male)	Treasurer	Researcher	Cybercultures	96,000
Subbiah Arunachalam (Male)	Member	Scientist (retired)	Open Access and ICT4D	40,000
Vibodh Parthasarathi (Male)	Member	Associate Professor	Media	Nil
Atul Ramachandra (Male)	Member	Social Worker	ICT4D	Nil

Staff, Travel, and Salaries

List of Staff:	
Name	**Designation**
Sunil Abraham	Director – Advocacy
Nishant Shah	Director – Research
Nirmita Narsimhan	Programme Manager
Pranesh Prakash	Programme Manager
Sanchia de Souza	Publications Manager
Ajoy Kumar C.	Administrator
Velankanni Royson	Office Assistant

Details of International Travel by Staff:				
Sl.No.	Name and Designation	Destination and Purpose	Gross Expenses (in rupees)	Sponsored By
1	Pranesh Prakash, Programme Manager	Cairo, Egypt (ACA2K Mid project workshop)	94,000	CIS
2	Pranesh Prakash, Programme Manager	Kuala Lumpur, CI's A2K Meeting	75,000	Consumer International
3	Sunil Abraham, Director – Advocacy	Thailand access to law research + Meeting with Consumers International	65,778/18,865	OSI Sub Board/CIS
4	Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam, Member	Geneva, A2K3 Panel XI Conference	8,560	CIS/A2K3
5	Dr. Leslie Chan	Delhi/Bangalore, open access conferences	51,058	CIS
6	Madan Muthu	UKOLN International Repositories Workshop, Amsterdam	40,394	CIS

Distribution of Staff according to salary as on 31 March 2009:			
Salary plus benefits paid to staff (in rupees)	Male	Female	Total
<5,000		1	1
5,000- 10,000	1		1
10,000 – 25,000	1		1
25,000 – 50,000	3	1	4
50,000 – 1,00,000	1	1	2
1,00,000 – 1,50,000	1		1
Total	7	3	10

Monthly remuneration of three highest paid employees and lowest paid employee (in rupees):			
1,40,000	96,000	55,000	2,000

Staff Gender Distribution as on 31 March 2009:			
Gender	Paid full time	Paid part time	Paid consultants	Volunteers
Male	5		2	
Female	2	1		
Total	7	1	2	

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We at the Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, thank our donor, the Kusuma Trust, for its support of our work.

We also thank our supporters, especially those who co-organised events with us and participated enthusiastically at our events and our friends in the media who brought the attention of their readers to our work and opinions.

Event organisers:

- Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore
- Aneka, Bangalore
- The Asia Pacific Writing Partnership
- Aspiration, San Francisco
- Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore
- Centre for Culture, Media, and Governance at Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi
- DeepRoot Linux, Bangalore
- Delhi Science Forum, Delhi
- DigiActive
- Free Software Foundation of India, Mumbai
- Free Software Users Group, Bangalore
- Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore
- Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

- INSAF (Indian Social Action Forum), Delhi

- IT for Change, Bangalore

- Mahiti, Bangalore

- Media Lab, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Calcutta

- Movingrepublic, Kerala

- Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad

- National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore

- National Internet Exchange of India

- National Law School of India University, Bangalore

- OpenSpace, Bangalore

- Sarai/CSDS, Delhi

- Servelots - Janastu, Bangalore

- Society for Promotion of Alternative Computing and Employment, Trivandrum

- Software Freedom Centre

- Swathanthra Malayalam Computing, Kerala

- Tactical Technology Collective

- Turtle Linux Lab, Bangalore

- UN Solution Exchange

- Wiki Ocean, Pune

- Zyxware Technologies, Trivandrum

Media coverage:

- [Move towards patenting software draws flak](#) (The Hindu, 24 August 2008)

- [Will patenting take the byte out of IT here?](#) (The Hindu, 24 September 2008)

- [Software Patenting](#) (Time Out Bengaluru, 3 October 2008)

- [Software patenting will harm industry, consumer](#) (The Hindu, 5 October 2008)

- [Government websites: Access denied to special users](#) (The Deccan Herald, 8 December 2008)

- [Sex and Jobs](#) (Time Out Bengaluru, 6 February 2009)

- [Accessible websites could become a reality](#) (The Deccan Herald, 11 February 2009)

- [Bloggers battle India's supreme court over prosecution for internet threats](#) (The Guardian, 26 February 2009)

- [Getting the net out of its web](#) (Daily News and Analysis, 8 March 2009)
- [Can you read me?](#) (The Bangalore Mirror, 11 March 2009)
- [Open access conference seeks to free research](#) (The Indian Express, 26 March 2009)

APPEAL

Please help us defend consumer/citizen rights on the internet!

- Write a cheque in favour of 'The Centre for Internet and Society' and mail it to us at No. D2, 3rd Floor, Shariff Chambers, 14, Cunningham Road, Bangalore – 560052.

- Volunteer with us; get in touch by writing to Sunil Abraham at sunil@cis-india.org.

REQUEST FOR COLLABORATION

The Centre for Internet and Society invites researchers, practitioners, and theoreticians, both organisationally and as individuals, to collaboratively engage with internet and society and improve our understanding of this new field.

To discuss research collaborations, see our website and write to Nishant Shah, Director—Research, at nishant@cis.india.org.

To discuss advocacy-related collaborations, write to Sunil Abraham, Director—Advocacy, at sunil@cis-india.org.