

After initiating research to support early public sector Internet Service Providers (ISP) in several lesser-developed countries nearly 10 years ago, PAN has extended the range of research issues it funds to include access to ICT applications through research on rural access (telecentres and telecommunities), e-commerce, distance education technologies, tele-health, equity in gender access to ICTs, and local language computing & content development.

Research Focus Areas

PAN research support is focused in 3 core areas:

Policies for Better Access

Supporting policy research on effective frameworks to enable equitable access to the benefits of the information society

Technologies for Development

Supporting applied research through testing innovative and useful ICT applications in the areas of health, education, livelihoods and governance

Understanding Effects on People

Supporting socio-economic research capacity development to better understand the myriad effects ICTs are having on Asian people and communities

Working with PAN

PAN provides support through:

- Research and development grants, including competitive grants;
- Joint projects with external donor agencies;
- Internship and fellowship programs;
- Technical experimentation and training;
- Monitoring regional macro state-of-practice / state-of-art ICT4D scenarios;
- Sharing, learning and disseminating research results through workshops, seminars.

Asian researchers interested in ICTs for Development are invited to interact with PAN by submitting concept notes or research proposals, identifying specific research projects or activities.

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PAN Vision

Empowering marginalized communities in Asia to address their key development challenges through effective access and innovative applications of information and communication technologies.



Ideas
Communities
Technologies
Development

www.idrc.ca/panasia



IDRC  CRDI

Technologies
Idées
Communautés
Développement

Canada



“The PAN-supported ICT4D project has exposed the people of this mountainous and remote part of the world to a new light and opened a new horizon of opportunities for development. When I shared this initiative with the heads of different colleges from North Pakistan, some of them said that now cities would have to look at remote villages for new ideas!”

*Ms. Yasmeen Ali Panah, Principal
Degree College for Girls, Hunza, Pakistan*

About Pan Asia Networking (PAN)

The Pan Asia Networking (PAN) program initiative supports research into innovative ways of adopting Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to address key development challenges, namely in the areas of health, education, livelihoods and governance. PAN works with communication and networking technologies such as Wireless Fidelity (Wifi), WiMax, Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and information processing tools for the Internet and hand-held devices such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and cell phones. However, at the heart of its programming are people — PAN believes that everyone in Asia should be given an opportunity to harness ICTs to better their lives. To meet this objective, PAN adapts its programming to the socio-economic needs and shifting technological contexts of developing countries in Asia, ensuring that its research partners remain at the leading edge of technological improvements and development approaches.

Supporting ICT for Development Research

Asia includes some of the world’s most advanced economies and some of its poorest. The ICT for Development landscape reflects this disparity. While some countries have substantial technological bases, strong and proven institutions, and well-developed human resources, others are at the early stages of ICT development, and are eager to ‘leapfrog’ into the knowledge society. Rural populations in several of the least developed countries in Asia, such as Bhutan, Lao PDR and Cambodia, comprise over 3 billion people who do not have access to any form of connectivity.

PAN Mission

PAN researches how ICTs can contribute to community development in Asia through local capacity building and knowledge sharing.

PAN works with researchers from within civil society and academia, as well as the public and private sectors to facilitate ICT for Development research. Emphasis is placed on applied research related to community uses of ICTs - particularly those practices that lead to more equitable access, collaborative networking, local application development, and a better understanding of the socio-economic effects of ICTs.

Sample Research Projects

PAN Localization (PAN10n)

Although Asians are among the most avid users of the Internet, rural people in Asia’s developing countries are particularly disadvantaged because a large part of societal knowledge available online is not available in their local languages. PAN10N is a regional project involving Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Sri Lanka, which conducts research to generate local language Internet and computer-based tools, facilities and resources. It builds capacity in Asian ICT personnel to carry out local language computing, and it advances policy for local language content creation and access across Asia. The project is a collaborative effort between Pan Asia Networking and the Centre for Research in Urdu Language Processing (CRULP) in Lahore, Pakistan with a network of partners. For more information, please visit: www.pan10n.net.

PAN-DORA (Distance and Open Resource Access)

There is a pressing need in Asia to develop a more effective, accessible, and inclusive education system. PAN-DORA (PAN Distance and Open Resource Access) is a regional project that links distance-learning practitioners in Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. It supports tertiary education institutions that use distance-learning technologies (DLTs) to deliver affordable distance education to the masses. The project consists of nine separate sub-projects being implemented in 11 countries, covering a wide range of research topics. For more information, please visit: www.pandora-asia.org.

PAN ICT4D R&D Grants Program

The PAN ICT4D R&D Grants Program aims to build institutional research capacity and encourage innovative networking solutions to development problems. Through this program, PAN provides small grant funding to institutions with original proposals on a competitive basis and promotes information exchange by networking grant recipients. PAN’s current funding partners for this program are the Asia Pacific Development Information Program (APDIP) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), the Internet Society (ISOC), and Microsoft Operations Pte Ltd. For more information, please visit: www.idrc.ca/panasia/grants.

“To us, the PAN R&D Grants program has given much impetus not only by way of funding, but also in words of encouragement for accomplishing what many in Bangladesh thought would be impossible to accomplish. The partnership thus developed, made us feel as if we are working together for a common goal.”

PAN R&D Grant recipient



ENRAP II – Knowledge Networking for Rural Development in Asia/Pacific Region

ENRAP is an IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)-IDRC collaboration, which researches strategies, processes, methods and technologies to support rural communication and knowledge networking. The project fosters a culture of knowledge sharing and learning amongst all the stakeholders of IFAD projects in China, India, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Special focus is on methods and practical solutions fostering participation at the grassroots level. For more information, please visit: www.enrap.org.

