



Adelaide Convention Centre
25-27 September 2019
"Leading the Way - Towards Zero"

Australasian Road Safety Conference 2019 - LMIC Scholarship Report

ARSC2019 | 25 - 27 September 2019 | Adelaide Convention Centre

Background

The ARSC2019 International sub-Committee (Attachment 1), developed a Scholarship Program that enabled Conference participation through travel funding support for five road safety advocacy practitioners from low and middle-income countries. A total of AUD \$22,500 was made available thanks to support from the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, and we had remaining funds of \$2,890 from ARSC2018.

This year, the LMIC Scholarship Program targeted applicants from low- and middle-income countries involved in community advocacy for road safety. The applicants were permitted to co-author with an external party or researcher, notwithstanding the co-author would not be eligible for any award. (Application information and criteria - see Attachment 2).

Applications were assessed and ranked for strength of application against the defined selection criteria by two members of the sub-committee. A key criterion was to describe the outcomes and impact on road user behaviours to be gained from conference participation. The Conference PCO (Premier Event Concepts) administered the scholarships on behalf of ACRS and Austroads, the joint conference Founding Partners.

All scholarship awardees were assessed through the conference peer review process and were required to present their road safety initiatives at a special symposium at the Conference.

A record number of applications were received resulting in five scholarship awards in accord with the criteria.

The Scholarship Awardees

The five scholarship awardees who attended ARSC2019 brought to the conference a wealth and diverse LMIC road safety experience and knowledge, enriching the conference discussions. All scholarship awardees were from low and middle-income countries.

The scholarship awardees, their countries of origin and conference presentation titles are provided in the table below. (Photographs at Attachment 3).

Table 1: Scholarship Awardees

Name	Employer & Country	Title
Mr Ali Zayerzadeh,	Road Safety Pioneers, Iran	<i>4th and 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week Activities in Iran</i>
Ms Sumana Narayanan,	Citizen consumer and civic Action Group, India	<i>Changing Mindsets and Approaches to Road Safety</i>
Mr Arif Uddin	Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh	<i>Community Engagement in Implementing the Safe System Approach: Learnings from Speed Management and Safe Crossing Demonstration Project</i>
Ms Christine Paguirigan,	Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS) Inc., Philippines	<i>#BuckleUpKidsPH: The Role of Social Media in the Holistic Approach for Child Restraint Systems (CRS) Campaign in the Philippines</i>
Ms Le Nguyen	Asia Injury Prevention Foundation, Vietnam	<i>Reducing Distracted Driving Behavior among University Students: the Effectiveness of an Empowerment-based Intervention in Cambodia and Vietnam</i>

Benefits of attending and presenting at the Conference

The scholarship awardees were highly appreciative of this opportunity for themselves and their country providing very positive comments about the networking opportunities, knowledge transfer and potential for further capacity building for their road safety capabilities.

On the final day of the Conference, Lori and Ray conducted a focus group meeting session with the five scholarship awardees to gain their feedback on their experiences throughout the conference.

Specific comments were canvassed from the awardees and recorded as follows:

1. What have been the positive contributions by the LMIC Scholarship awardees?

The participants advised that they became aware that there are some good advocacy programs in Australia, but Australians are perhaps not optimising available resources for these initiatives. They said that in their countries non-government organisations (NGOs) have done a lot with little resourcing.

Christine felt that, as a group, the scholarship awardees were able to demonstrate the power and opportunity of NGOs to save the need for expensive advertising. Sumana added that, in India people have effectively used social media to get road safety messages to target audiences in a cheaper and effective way. Arif added that NGOs have to optimise minimal resources and that the successful work being done in LMICs may also work in Australia. For instance, LMIC NGOs can rally more community emotion for road safety. Ali advised that the Mashad (Iran) experience of using data at a community level to muster support for road safety community actions by a range of government and private sector organisations may help to inform Australian community programs. Sumana also suggested that Australian practitioners might learn

from LMIC participants about the need to break barriers to address/engage different language and culture groups.

2. What have been the benefits to the LMIC Scholars?

Arif reported that the learnings from this experience have resulted in effective new actions in other countries. He cited the example of the contributions that this program made to road safety in Malaysia following the scholarship experience by his colleague, Kulanthayan KC Mani, who benefitted from his scholarship in 2016.

LMIC scholars not only learn from their experience in the Australasian Conference presentations by those from high income countries, but also learn from each other when they come together at ARSCs. Sumana advised, for example, that she learned and was encouraged by the use of social media in Philippines.

Ali highlighted the benefit of making new road safety contacts for more extensive reports – expanding his network for LinkedIn, consolidating friendships and learning progressively.

Le benefit said that learning about Australian road safety will benefit Vietnam. In addition, she said that learning more about Ali's activities during UN road safety week with the variety and scope of activities inspires her to see what can more can be implemented in Vietnam.

3. What improvements can be made to the LMIC Scholarship program?

Sumana advised that although the scale may be different, fundamental problems are the same. So, we should emphasise our shared challenges. Le suggested that it may help scholars more to attend/present in mainstream sessions where they can exchange on practices consistent with their individual expertise. She suggested that after each session the scholarship awardees could have a discussion to brainstorm and come to conclusions and publish outcomes with ACRS and the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

4. How can we offer a mentoring service to people from LMICs – whether or not through the Scholarship program – to help better enable LMIC speakers to get through the peer review process more readily?

Arif has seen people that can speak well and know a lot, but they could benefit from a short course on how to write a publishable paper, perhaps via the Global Alliance. He said that Scholarship awardees could be supported to put good papers on ACRS website or Journal. Separately, Lotte Brondum, executive director of the Global Alliance also advised that the Alliance is also seeking to encourage members to publish papers. Christine suggested that the ACRS website could be a one stop shop showing a model paper to assist LMIC writers. The difference between pro formas for research versus practitioner abstracts/papers was not entirely clear.

Arif said that there are examples of papers on the ACRS website but the mindset is that we have to write in a scientific way like academics. Also, there may be a fear by some people to present in front of lots of people. He said that it may help to put up examples of presentations from previous LMIC Scholarship awardees, as well as abstracts/papers by practitioners and others. Sumana offered that there is a need to emphasise that evaluation is important, but doesn't have to be highly sophisticated. Ray agreed saying that the papers don't need to do Chi-square analysis – just logical reasoning.

Ali pointed out that the time frame is not conducive to getting value out of mentors. If there is an offer on website – e.g. do you want to present? do you want help with preparing abstract or advice of any kind? - this could encourage participants from LMIC to take this up. It could also publish reminders about when

and what needs to be done by potential presenters. Christine also suggested that the website include a description of expertise of available mentors.

Arif suggested a newsletter and network site as a Google group email perhaps with a topic to give people encouragement to share short stories. Perhaps it would encourage potential participants if a newsletter could describe some ARSC2019 presentations from LMIC in the near future.

Maybe in partnership with Global Alliance a short online training session on conference and journal publications could be provided. Also, it would be good to post papers on Global Alliance website.

General consensus and themes

- a) It was generally agreed that road safety issues in High Income and LMICs were essentially the same – it is really a matter of scale especially fatality ratios, population and traffic density.
- b) The real benefits in any conference presentation and attendance was to learn directly about global issues and then being able to relate those issues to the participants' own countries.
- c) LMICs generally have multiple languages and cultures which need to be included as challenges in the conversation to assist in the way forward.
- d) In the road safety environment, there is a need to develop a mindset change within the communities to that of safety in attitude, behaviour and culture. i.e. establish a road safety culture
- e) Successful programs in one country can be transferrable to another country (with relevant modifications)
- f) Lack of resources is not an acceptable excuse. A lot can be done with limited resources by understanding and undertaking resource optimisation
- g) If the law is not in place and safety issues are involved, you can still proceed with advocacy to achieve safety outcomes e.g. child restraints. Safety outcomes can be achieved in the interim.
- h) Social media is a very effective tool for community messages to inform the general public about critical road safety issues

Recommendations for future scholarships and funding for 2020

1. That an earlier call for LMIC Scholarship submissions be made;
2. That an earlier offer of mentoring services be posted on the Conference website;
3. That more support and encouragement be provided to participants from LMICs to write publishable papers be given; and
4. Opportunities for global networking be established through partnerships with international organisations, such as the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

In addition, it should be noted that the relationship between the Scientific Sub-Committee processes and International Subcommittee processes needs to be clarified, and accompanied by appropriate communication. While some LMIC submissions to the Scientific Sub-Committee are incorporated into the LMIC Symposium, others are not, and this resulted in a scheduling issue. The issue is related to broader questions about whether all symposia need to have their presentation details recorded through the Editorial Manager submission system, and what discretion the Scientific Sub-Committee can exercise in relation to symposia, apart from the acceptance of a symposium and its scheduling.

Attachment 1: ACRS International Sub-Committee

ACRS INTERNATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE 2019	
Dr Mark King, (Chair)	CARRS-Q, QUT
Dr Lori Mooren	Safety and Communications Pty Ltd
Dr Ray Shuey	Strategic Safety Solutions Pty Ltd
Mr Martin Small	Martin Small Consulting
Mr Rob McInerney	iRAP
Mr Blair Turner	ARRB
Ms Olivia Sherwood and Mr Christopher Karas	Department of Transport, Infrastructure, Cities and Regional Development
Mr Philip Bourke	Austrade
FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE 2019	
Dr Chika Sakashita	Global Road Safety Solutions
Dr Judy Fleiter	Global Road Safety Partnership

Road Safety Advocacy Scholarship Initiatives

The ACRS is pleased to announce the availability of several scholarships for road safety community advocates from low to middle-income countries (LMIC) to present their good practice initiatives at the Australasian Road Safety Conference in Adelaide in September, 2019.

Scholarships are provided to enable the presentation, sharing and discussion of programs and initiatives designed to reduce road trauma and which may be replicated or modified in other similar nations. Successful applicants will be invited to present at a special Community Advocacy Symposium as part of the 2019 Conference.

Opportunities will be available to network with experienced international community advocates and road safety experts in a broad range of road safety disciplines.

Applicants are required to submit an original extended abstract in the prescribed format by email to the International Sub-Committee for consideration by 5p.m. Saturday 29 June 2019 (Australian EST).

Successful applicants will be awarded a scholarship to include:

- Return economy flights to Adelaide
- Accommodation at the Conference Venue for the duration of the conference
- Conference attendance fees and ticket for gala dinner
- Airport Transfers and Visa fees
- Per diem allowances

Eligibility for the granting of a scholarship:

- ❖ Community road safety advocate who has carried out road safety advocacy programs
- ❖ The submission of an extended abstract (in the prescribed format) of good practice community advocacy through **monitoring and evaluation**. (May be co-authored, however, the presenter must be a community advocate for road safety)
- ❖ Good command of the English language - for presentation and discussion purposes
- ❖ Prepared to present their initiatives and findings at the ACRS conference in September, 2019.

Format for the extended abstract:

- Extended Abstract Title: Maximum 20 words
- Abstract: Maximum 100 words
- Body text: Maximum 500 words (excluding abstract, tables, graphs, references)
- Submit in Microsoft Word (not .pdf)
- Cite references and provide reference list in the APA Style <http://apastyle.org/>

Further general guidelines are provided at http://acrs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Extended-Abstract_Word_Template-FINAL.docx disregard submission dates and submission location.

Closing date 5p.m. Saturday 29th June, 2019. Submissions (and enquiries) to be Emailed to Dr Mark King mark.king@qut.edu.au, and/or Dr Lori Mooren lorimooren@iinet.net.au, and/or Dr Ray Shuey rs@isf.org.au

Attachment 3 - Photographs



Above: LMIC Scholarship Winners

Sumana Narayanan, Le Nguyen, Christine Anne Paguirigan,
Monjurul Hoque Mohammad Arif Uddin & Ali Zayerzadeh
with Dr Ray Shuey, Hon Llew O'brien, Mr Martin Small and Dr Lori Mooren