

**Abstract: Living the  
Information Society in Asia**

*For it is inescapable that every culture must negotiate with technology,  
whether it does so intelligently or not. A bargain is struck in which technology  
giveth and technology taketh away (Postman 1992, 5)*

“The quote from Postman’s *Technopoly* captures the ambivalence and many of the contradictions that people experience with technology. It is as true today, with information and communication technologies (ICTs), as it was during the industrial revolution with the steam engine and industrial factories. Technology affects us at various levels, and for both good and ill;” (Alampay, 2009, xvii), hence with this day and age, ICT research becomes crucial and requires greater sensitivity in order to provide policies and plans for practical action. This book entitled: ***Living the Information Society in Asia*** is a contribution to this goal. It is a collection of papers from different parts of Asia, namely, China, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Thailand, and the Philippines. These papers were presented at the first “Living the Information Society Conference” held in Manila on 23-24 April 2007. This publication draws a clear picture of ICT interventions and interactions ranging from mobile phone relationship, the birth of the cyber network, reformulating spatial dimension of sociability, techno- nationalism, cultural politics of new media, e-barrio, GIS adoption to the impact of Business Process Outsourcing. It highlights the diverse issues that emanate from our living in a society that is enmeshed with ICTs: how they change our relationships, our lifestyles, our work, and how differently people are affected by it. This book, which was primarily funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada, was edited by Dr. Erwin Alampay of UP-NCPAG.

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