



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  
COMMUNITY RADIO  
MOVEMENT

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**Announcement:**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AMARC: Training of Trainers for Community Radios for Fighting Poverty and Natural Disaster, October 17-20, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

The Asia Pacific section of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, AMARC, is organising two training of trainers (TOT) workshops on the role of community radio in poverty alleviation and disaster management in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from October 17–20, 2008.

The workshops, which are being organised in collaboration with Jaringan Radio Komunitas Indonesia (JRKI), Combine Resources Institution (COMBINE, Indonesia), and the AMARC-Japan Working Group will aim to strengthen the capacity of community radios to deal with issues of poverty alleviation and disaster management in the communities they serve. Ford Foundation Indonesia has provided financial support for the workshops.

The TOT on the role of community radio (CR) in poverty alleviation will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and will cover issues and topics ranging from 'Working with Community Members for Identifying Key Developmental Priorities' to 'Enabling CRs to Address MDGs in their Programming', from 'Engaging with Women and Marginalised Communities' to 'Learning from Successful Example in Communities,' from 'Decoding Policies for Programming' to 'Creating Effective Linkages Beyond Communities.'

Similarly, the TOT on the role of community radio in disaster management will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It will address issues ranging from 'Safeguarding Radio Stations at times of Natural Disaster' to 'Fast Resurrection of the station to support Immediate Relief to the Community, from the role of Community Radios in reconstruction and rehabilitation to 'Gender Sensitising Community Radios.'

The TOTs will be participated by AMARC members, CR representatives and subject specialists from Indonesia as well as other countries from the rest of the Asia Pacific region (including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Japan, Australia, Fiji, Thailand, and Pakistan). The capacity building activities will also raise issues related to climate change and food security in the framework of AMARC international coverage of the World Food Day on October 16, 2008.

*For further information about the workshops, please contact Ms. Prativa Chhetri, Project Officer, AMARC Asia Pacific Regional Office at [chhetri\\_prativa@yahoo.com](mailto:chhetri_prativa@yahoo.com) or [amarcap@wlink.com.np](mailto:amarcap@wlink.com.np) and Ms. Ade Tanesia, Program Manager – Media, Combine Resource Institution, Indonesia; email: [adetanesia@combine.or.id](mailto:adetanesia@combine.or.id), mobile number: +62 081328423965*

*A survey report on the Current Practices of Community Radios in Disaster Management Situations in Asia Pacific is ready for distribution. Please contact Ms. Prativa Chhetri, Project Officer, AMARC Asia Pacific at [chhetri\\_prativa@yahoo.com](mailto:chhetri_prativa@yahoo.com) for soft copies.*

## Indonesian Radio Network Community (JRKI) wins Tasrif Award

The Jakarta Post | Wednesday, 27 August, 2008: The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) has awarded Metta Dharmasaputra of Tempo magazine the prestigious Udin Award for uncovering an alleged tax embezzlement by one of the country's top palm oil producers, PT Asian Agri.

The award, given for exceptional contribution to press freedom, was presented by Vice President Jusuf Kalla during AJI's 14th anniversary celebration in Jakarta on the night of 26 August, 2008.

Metta was chosen for the award by a panel of judges consisting of The Jakarta Post chief editor Endy Bayuni, Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) executive director Usman Hamid and Press Council chairman Abdullah Alamudi.

"His story in Tempo Magazine on an alleged tax evasion by Asian Agri has led him into a tough situation. His cellular phone was tapped, he was terrorized, the magazine he works for is sued for Rupiya 5 billion (US\$545,000). The case is now still in trial," Endy said as quoted by Antara news agency.

The Central Jakarta District Court on Monday failed to hand down its verdict on a lawsuit brought by Asian Agri against Tempo for defamation and adjourned the trial until September 4.

Meanwhile, Asian Agri is currently being probed by the tax office for allegedly causing the state to lose some Rupiya 1.34 trillion through transferring prices and marking up expenditures. Eight people – seven Indonesians and one foreigner -- have been named as suspects in the case.

AJI also awarded the **Tasrif Award** to Hanny Sulistyningtyas of Kompas daily newspaper and **Indonesian Radio Network Community (JRKI)** for contributions in defending the public's right to information.

Usman Hamid said JRKI had been consistent in disseminating information to the public through a network of community radio, a method that had become very efficient for farmers, fishermen, rural communities, environmental groups and other civil society groups.

As for Hanny, Usman said her story on an alleged bribery case against the Attorney General's Office (AGO) top official, Urip Tri Gunawan – a state prosecutor, was one of the first that reached the public.

"Her story on corruption and bribery practice in the AGO has opened the eyes of the public," he said.

## Training Workshop on Community Radio in Bangladesh: How to Get Started and Keep Going



The Ministry of Information, People's Republic of Bangladesh recently formulated the Community Radio Installation, Broadcasting and Operation Policy 2008. Primarily 116 organizations were identified as eligible for approval for community radio decided by the National Regulatory Committee. On 23 July 2008 Ministry of Information sent an official letter to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and Home Ministry to issue security permit for the selected 116 community radio stations. As a consequence, investigations by three Government intelligence wings are underway at the field level to find out required integrity, quality and legal status of the CR initiators.

With the objective to train manpower for the smooth operation of the community radio stations, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) has set up a Community Radio Academy, which provides training courses, technical support, research and development support for the community radio

stakeholders.

With the recently adopted Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy – 2008 and with the view of familiarising the technical operation of Community Radio and strategy of work-plan for sustainable operation of community radio in Bangladesh, BNNRC organized a daylong training workshop on "Community Radio: How to Get Started and Keep Going in Bangladesh" at IDB Auditorium in Dhaka on Wednesday, 27 August, 2008.

A total of 136 representatives from 98 community radio initiators including non-government development and research organizations took part in the workshop.

### **Session 1 and 2: Key Concept and Guideline of Community Radio and Community Radio**

Chief Executive Officer of BNNRC, AHM Bazlur Rahman gave the welcome address and presented key concepts of community radio operation and CR Policy 2008 in the workshop. He pointed the need for a business plan and work plan for a full-fledged community radio studio in the respective community location. So, every initiator should have a clear concept of the policy and technical expertise regarding setting up a community radio station. During the question-answer session, CR initiators demanded reduction of import tax on the community radio equipments and minimum charge for BTRC frequency allotment for community radio as this is the starting phase of CR operation in Bangladesh.

### **Session 3: Community Radio Technology**

Technical Expert of Community Radio Academy, Mr. Sohel Awrangzeb presented a paper on the technical aspects including studio set up, equipments, production and broadcasting techniques and budget for a community radio station. Through question-answer session, participants were familiarised with the technical aspects regarding commencement of community radio operation.

#### **Session 4: Gender Relations and Development (GRD) in Community Radio Operation**

Consultant of BNNRC, Mr. A H M Abdul Hai presented a paper on Gender Relations and Development in Community Radio Operation during the fourth working session which was chaired by researcher at the Institute of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), Ms. Shaila Simi. A proposed gender policy in community radio mentioning women's access to the airwaves, women's representation on air, special needs of minority women, women's representation at all levels of station management, use of appropriate technology and funding and capacity building for women's radio complying with the gender policy for CRs was presented by AMARC-WIN AP representative.

Among the recommendations of the policy it includes training for women; use of free and open source software, a quota of at least 30 per cent for women's leadership and representation; and special radio programmes for women. The policy also suggested more practical measures such as space allotment for child-care; flexible working hours; women-friendly equipment set-up and broadcast schedules; adequate lighting and security at the station; and transportation arrangements for women who live in remote areas.

#### **Session 5: Plenary Session**

At the plenary session, participants gave their valuable suggestions regarding the way forward to enhance their capacity and skills in program production, broadcasting, technical set-up and operation of community radio stations. In this respect, NGO leaders stressed on the regular training and capacity building workshops for increasing the community radio human resources capacity. They gave much emphasis on the active role of National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) in arranging training courses on community radio operation. They hailed the BNNRC initiative of opening a national help desk in its secretariat for facilitating information and technical support to the community radio initiators. From the Community Radio Academy, training courses on the technical aspect, research and development support round the year have been expected by the community radio stakeholders.

In the workshop, development organizations declared their commitment of distributing a large number of free radio sets among their stakeholders to aid and encourage poor community people to listen to community radio.

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## Sustainability of Community Radios is closely Linked with Capacity Building

By Marcelo Solervicens, Secretary General, AMARC International

In Ghana, on the margins of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities in African soil, the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) held a seminar of the Capacity Building Committee of the International Board attended by more than 15 participants from all regions of the AMARC network.

As other action committees set up by the international board, the Capacity Building Committee is intended to facilitate members' participation to ensure implementation of the objectives of the 2007-2010 Strategic Plan, as well as to review the knowledge sharing and capacity building activities and to make recommendations that facilitate the pertinence and the effectiveness of AMARC interventions.

Among other recommendations, the Capacity Building Committee proposed to act as soon as possible in bringing up to date information on the existing knowledge sharing and capacity building resources in the community radio network as well as by stakeholders at the international, regional and local levels. This will help to fine-tune the definition of the types of interventions by AMARC that will add value and reinforce or make a difference to what is already being done by community radios and stakeholders in different countries.

Among other matters, the Capacity Building Committee recommended that the AMARC website becomes much more of a sort of resource pool for training manuals and other written materials. It should also facilitate information on human resources available to increase knowledge sharing among regions on advocacy, content development and radio techniques, technical support and other vital areas for the development of the community communication project. In this regard, the Capacity Building Committee insisted on the need for proper coordination, joint efforts and exchange with community radio stakeholders working in the field.

From this perspective, capacity building coordination is an integral part of the global strategy of AMARC seeking to develop a strong and independent community radio movement. AMARC needs to reinforce its effectiveness in coordinating knowledge exchange on setting-up community radios, including advocacy for a legal environment that recognises the social objectives and the public service contribution of community radios; in ensuring their social, institutional, technical and financial sustainability and making sure that they make a difference for they put forward a communication process through community ownership of the media, giving voice and empowering local communities for social inclusion, democratisation and development objectives.

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## Including the Often Excluded: Community Radio as an Instrument in Ensuring Marginalized Women's Exclusion

By Mavic Cabrera-Balleza

AMARC Women's International Network/International Women's Tribune Centre

The women's movement's *raison d'être* is to challenge discrimination and exclusion of women. There are many bases of women's exclusion: class, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, political persuasion, age, (different-abledness (disabilities), HIV/AIDS— but at the core of this is our gender, society's construction of us—women. These bases are all reinforced because of women's exclusion in policy and decision-making. Moreover, all these factors interface and reinforce women's absence from decision making and a vicious circle is created.

Before I start lamenting over the problems of women's exclusion, I would like to acknowledge the fact that some important inroads in decision-making have been made by women in a number of areas including politics, economics, and the media.

In this presentation, I will speak to women's exclusion from policy and decision-making on peace and security issues such as peace negotiation processes, truth and reconciliation councils, decision-making on economic packages and food distribution in conflict-affected areas.

In peace building It is a given that women are already participating in peace building and conflict resolution at community level and in informal spaces. But women disappear when the peace and security discussions become high-level, formal and official. One reason for this is the fact that the issue of peace and security is equated with defence and military and therefore is solely the men's business.

### Facts and Figures

I would like to share quick facts and figures on women's participation (or lack thereof) in formal discussions and decision-making processes on peace and security:

- Out of 30 peace operations (peacekeeping, political, and peace building missions), there is currently 1 woman appointed as SRSG and 1 woman in the position of DSRSG:
  - Liberia (UNMIL): SRSG Ellen Margrethe Løj (Denmark), appointed October 2007
  - Liberia (UNMIL): DSRSG Henrietta Joy Abena Nyarko Mensa-Bonsu (Ghana), appointed August 2007
- Women were marginally present in the Sudan North-South Peace Negotiations that culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9 January 2005. They are, however, altogether excluded from the Peace Negotiations on Darfur.
- In Liberia, women were included as Observers in the peace negotiations.
- Since 1901, the Nobel Peace Prize for the recognition of peace efforts and courage in war situations has been awarded to men on 80 occasions, to organizations on 20 occasions, and to women on just 12 occasions.
- In Sierra Leone only 6 per cent of DDR participants were women and 0.6 per cent girls, despite making up an estimated 12 per cent of combatants; the low rate of participation was attributed

in one study to women and girls being classified as followers, slaves, and domestics, even when they had engaged in active combat.

- Thirty percent of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front were estimated to be female but only 4,500 soldiers of the 26,000 demobilized in 2003 (17 per cent) were women and 91 per cent of the loans distributed to combatants were given to men.
- In El Salvador, women ex-fighters held 40 per cent of leadership and 30 per cent of combat roles, yet were neglected during the DDR process with 70 to 80 percent of female combatants estimated to have received no benefits under the Government's land transfer programme; women were also absent from the UN-supervised formation of both a new National Civil Police and the Armed Forces Reserve System

*[source: [www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/WPS](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/WPS)]*

### Women Talk Peace project

I would like to present a project of the International Women's Tribune Centre, an NGO that works on human rights, human security and peace building that uses community radio to raise awareness, stimulate action and promote government accountability to international laws on women and peace and security.

Implemented in Uganda, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and in smaller scale in Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, and the Philippines, IWTC'S Women Talk Peace project aims to use the media to facilitate women's equal and fair participation in political decision-making process – using the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security as a policy framework. It highlights the "3 Ps" of the Resolution which are: **participation** of women at all levels of decision-making on peace and security issues; **protection** of women in times of conflict; and **prevention** of conflict.

Women Talk Peace uses different media—print, the new media, audio-visual media and radio—special emphasis on community radio because it is affordable and accessible and it transcends literacy barrier. Radio is also a non-dedicated medium which allows women to perform their multiple tasks while they are listening to the radio programs.

For the radio programs, we use different formats—radio plugs or public service announcements, radio features and dramas.

### Components

The Women Talk Peace project has several components:

- Awareness raising – Considered as a basic step, awareness raising includes orientation on the Resolution 1325 as an international law and how it interfaces with national laws and policies on violence against women, gender equality and women's empowerment. It also entails translation of "UNese" into different local languages and outing them into context that reflect the realities of women in conflict-affected areas.
- Capacity building – The Women Talk Peace project uses various innovative and creative approaches such as *writeshops*, workshops, participatory theatre, focus group discussions, collective story telling and script writing, collective production and programming. These approaches allows for an effective knowledge-sharing and skills building among local women's organizations, theatre groups, community radio stations and other community actors.



- Transformation of women's images in the media from that of victims of conflicts to that of decision-makers and peace builders – The Women Talk Peace project also challenge the dominant images of women in conflict which is those of helpless victims and refugees' image and highlight the role of women as peace builders and decision-makers.
- Promoting partnership between women's groups and community radio stations/broadcasters – The Women Talk Peace project promotes partnership between local women's groups and community radio stations in order to sustain the information flow on Resolution 1325 and women, peace and security issues and consequently stimulate action. Radio Apac, the Alliance of Community Radio in Liberia, and Mama FM in Uganda are some of the partners of IWTC in this project.
- Building a constituency around an international law (Resolution 1325) on women' peace and security – In order to pressure governments to fully implement Resolution 1325, a strong cross-sectoral constituency needs to be built and mobilized. The Women Talk Peace project facilitates dialogues among women's organizations, media, academe, faith-based organizations, security sector (i.e., police and military) and other government entities responsible for peace keeping and peace building.
- Promoting ownership - Recognizing the fact that the UN is too far removed from the realities of most local communities, the Women Talk Peace project aims to bridge the gap between international actors and people in local communities by finding the connecting points between international laws and policies and national ones. The project underlines that Resolution 1325 has to be implemented NOT because it is a law adopted by the UN but because it could potentially make a difference to women's lives particularly women who are impacted by wars. The people are made aware of the law and it is emphasized that they should be part of the implementation.
- Promoting government accountability to fully implement an international law like Resolution 1325 – The ultimate objective of the Women Talk Peace project is to get governments to fully implement Resolution 1325.

What the Women Talk Peace initiative illustrates is that part of the responsibility of community media is to emphasize again and again that women will continue to be invisible, excluded and discriminated against if we do not get to the root causes of exclusion. We also need to convince other social actors that in essence what we as women achieve will not be a benefit only for women, but rather a gain for everyone. If we are to achieve that parity at all levels, men too must be persuaded of the benefit.

The challenge for all of us is to use community media and other communication tools effectively to promote women's greater participation in policy and decision-making in such a way that it will not be characterized narrowly as a "women's issue."

Our unique blend of communication scholars and activists puts us in a good position to assess and change the climate of thought and perception in which we live and work. We are also in a good position to develop theory and influence practice in ways that will bring about attitudinal change which will recognize the value of women's contribution in peace building and conflict resolution and consequently will bring about just and lasting peace.

*This article is an abstract of the presentation made by Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, President of AMARC WIN at OURMedia in Ghana, Africa.*

## Conference Report:

### Representing Radio Sagarmatha at AIDS 2008

By Pramila Manandhar

Producer/Reporter, Radio Sagarmatha



The XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008) was held in Mexico City, Mexico from 3 to 8 August, 2008. With more than 24,000 stakeholders consisting of scientists, health professionals, development workers, community and political leaders along with huge number of journalists from 104 countries, the conference was the second largest in the history of International AIDS Conference and the first one to be held in Latin America.

The focus of the XVII International AIDS Conference, 2008 aimed to replicate successful approaches and models as well as to collectively reflect on the solutions of problems, barriers and obstructions faced by many countries. This was an opportunity to present strong evidence to influence key political leaders and donors, to increase the commitment to HIV and AIDS prevention, cure and treatment.

I began my journey to Mexico on 30 July, 2008 and reached Mexico on the night of 2 August after obtaining my visa in New Delhi, India. Arrangements had been made for receiving me at the airport and a hotel room booked accordingly.

AIDS 2008 featured a set of programme activities to build bridges between science, community and leadership programmes and to generate action and commitment from the participant. The programmes were categorized into three groups:

- i. The Global Village
- ii. The Cultural programme
- iii. The Youth programme

During the five days at the conference from 3 through 7 August, I had the opportunity to participate at the various events like workshops, performances, fashion shows, discussions, etc all based on AIDS. Though there were two programmes on Nepal one was withdrawn by the facilitator and the other was cancelled as the facilitators did not show up. This disappointment was made up for by the Blue Diamond Society of Nepal who gave a wonderful performance "From victimization towards inclusion - celebrative diversities". The modern themed dances narrated the stories and conveyed the realities of discrimination and abuse and the call for action, not only to prevent the spreading of HIV but also to care for those who live with it and to correct the injustices that cause HIV. I interviewed five people during the course of the conference and will be including some of them in my programme 'Positive Stories'.



On 8 August I went to Oaxaca with Arabella, Veronica from Borabora Radio, and Federico from AMARC and on 9 August we headed to Tlahuiloltepec, to celebrate Radio Jempoj's seventh anniversary. Even though the programme was conducted in Mexi, which none of those accompanying

me spoke, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and the place was similar to any small village in Nepal. I had the opportunity to visit Oaxaca and Mexico City also.

I have been doing programmes on AIDS and related topics in my radio station for quite some time now with the programmes mostly revolving around the cause of AIDS, retroviral therapy, precautions, safety measures and policy issues on the subject but never had we ever thought of the problems of sexual minorities regarding AIDS. The workplace difficulties have never been addressed by any of the radio stations or even broad-sheet papers. The problems of positive disables are always overshadowed by the political issues. The sex workers have always been looked down but their vulnerability to the infection has never been addressed. The conference has opened my eyes towards various issues regarding AIDS, that need media's intervention. Belonging to the community radio, it becomes even more important for us to understand and address the problems of the community.

After participating in the conference, I gained new perspective regarding AIDS and a better understanding of the global activities on it. It has not only given me the opportunity to interact with the journalists from other part of the world but has also introduced me to the team of efficient people who work in the field.

Language was a main barrier at this conference as only few Mexicans spoke English but I managed to get around with sign language.

I left Mexico on 12 August and arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal on 14 August, 2008. Overall it was a good learning exposure and an enriching experience and am ever grateful to AMARC and Radio Sagarmatha for providing this opportunity for me. I am determined to make use of my participation in the conference in my programmes.

*Ms. Pramila Manandhar works as a program producer/reporter in Radio Sagarmatha, Kathmandu, Nepal and her participation in the AIDS2008 conference was supported by AMARC. She can be contacted at [pramila\\_online@yahoo.com](mailto:pramila_online@yahoo.com).*

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