**E-NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER, 2009**

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**AMARC Asia Pacific extends**

**Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2010**

**To all our members and supporters!**

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[Note: All articles in this newsletter can be freely reprinted or distributed with acknowledgement to the writer and this newsletter]
Conference Update:

AMARC Asia Pacific Regional Conference on
VOICES FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND SOUND FUTURE
February 20-23, 2010, Bangalore, India

The 2nd Asia Pacific Regional Conference and Assembly to be held in Bangalore, India from 20-23 February, 2010 is generating widespread interest and momentum across the community radio sector of the region and internationally. More than one hundred community radio activists, academics, representatives of governments & donor organisations, as well as grass roots level broadcasters have registered to participate. In order to accommodate the growing interest, deadline for registration has been extended up to the end of December 2009. Online registration is available at: http://asiapacific.amarc.org/index.php?p=2_Conference_Asia_Pacific_2010.

The Regional Conference will be preceded by Women Making Airwaves for Peace (WMAP) seminar to be held from 13 – 18 February. This is a joint initiative of Women's International Network of AMARC and ISIS International, Manila. WMAP is a cross-cultural seminar that includes experience sharing, skills sharing and radio productions. Resource persons, trainers, and radio journalists will participate in the seminar. Community Radio and Disaster Management, Engendered Peace Journalism, Feminist Broadcasting, Gender Equality Policy for Community Radio, Digital Editing, Interview techniques, Radio Feature Production, and Studio Operation are some of the key theme of discussion of the WMAP seminar. The deadline for applying is January 7, 2010. More information is available at: http://www.isiswomen.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1338&Itemid=10.

The Commonwealth of Learning’s Healthy Communities initiative will run a Community Media Capacity Development workshop from 17 -19 February, 2010 as part of the AMARC Asia Pacific Conference. The main objectives of the workshop are (1) to review relevant approaches to community-based non-formal educational programming and identify success factors; (2) To introduce and use collaborative program design and participatory content development methods; and (3) To develop plans for new community learning programs in Asia Pacific to be implemented in the subsequent 18 months. For more information, please visit the Community Media Space at: (http://wikieducator.org/Community_Media/Capacity_Workshops/Bangalore)

The Community Radio Forum of India will hold a discussion on the state of community broadcasting in India and the general assembly of the Forum will be held on 19th of February. For details, please contact Dr. Vinod Pavarala vpavarala@gmail.com.


Are you interested in organising a workshop or make a presentation or exhibit in the AMARC Asia Pacific Regional Conference? Please take a look at the draft agenda to find a suitable slot and let us know of your interest. Please email, by January 5, 2010 to chhetri_prativa@yahoo.com or suman_basnet@asiapacific.amarc.org.
If you have any question about the 2nd AMARC Asia Pacific Regional Conference Program or logistical arrangements, please email chhetri_prativa@yahoo.com or suman_basnet@asiapacific.amarc.org. We can also help you with letters for visa, hotel booking, etc.

INDONESIA:

Community Based Disaster Management Utilizing Community Radio

By Jun’ichi Hibino

Combine Resources Institution (CRI), Indonesia and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)-Japan Working Group, with the financial support of the Ford Foundation, Indonesia and in collaboration with Japan International Corporation Agency Hyogo (JICA Hyogo)/Disaster Reduction Learning Centre (DRLC) organized two workshops on community based disaster management utilizing community radio in Central Java, Indonesia. The first workshop was held on August 2-3, 2009 in Timbulharjo Village, Yogyakarta. This village was hit by a powerful earthquake in May 2006 that resulted in the death of 300 people. The second workshop was held on August 4-5, 2009 in Sidorejo Village, Klaten, Central Java, which lies close to the famous volcanic mountain ‘Merapi’ and faces the risk of volcanic eruption and landslides. Each workshop had more than 40 participants representing local community radios, other community radios from Indonesia, national/local government, NGOs, JICA Indonesia and mass media.

The workshops were part of a pilot project aimed to raise community awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction Utilizing Community Radio being implemented by CRI and AMARC-Japan Working Group with the support of JICA Hyogo/DRLC from June 2009 to January 2010. The aims of the project are:

1. Capacity building of the community on disaster management;
2. Capacity building of the community radios on disaster management through on-air and off-air activities;
3. Evaluation of Disaster Management Audio Materials for community radio broadcasting (DMAM) produced by JICA Hyogo/DRLC and AMARC Japan Working Group, and further inputs to it either contents or wrapping techniques and delivery; and
4. Developing of own audio materials/programs for disaster alert and disaster risk reduction to broadcast in local community areas.

The following activities are promoted to achieve these aims in Indonesia and Japan until January, 2010:

1. Community Workshops (August 2009) including Pre Workshop (July 2009);
2. The implementation of community radio program for disaster alert and disaster risk reduction (from August to November 2009);
3. The implementation of off-air activity carried out by community radio activists and community people (from August to November 2009); and
4. The publication of a handbook on how to utilize DMAM on community based disaster management (from October 2009 to January 2010)

In the workshop held in August, the participants used innovative packaging such as traditional music, comedy sketch and others to attract listeners. In the workshop community radio activists discussed the roles of community broadcasting in raising awareness on disaster risk reduction with their on-air and off-air activities such as holding a disaster memorial event, song contest with the theme of disaster, etc.

Following the successful completion of the workshops, the participants from community radio stations are producing new audio programs to raise the community’s awareness of disaster risk reduction. Combine Resources Institution and the community radio stations are measuring the impacts of broadcasting such programmes in the community. In addition, they are planning off-air activity such as traditional song contest with early warning system for disaster which can be used as radio content.

The knowledge and experiences of community based disaster management utilizing community radio based on the result of the workshop and the follow-up activity will be shared with all through the publication of the handbook ‘How to use DMAM in the Community’ due in January 2010.

**About DMAM:** The Disaster Management Audio Materials for Community Radio Broadcasting (DMAM) produced by JICA Hyogo/DRLC and AMARC-Japan Working Group contains, on a single CD-ROM, 193 audio and transcripts in 9 languages (English, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, Chinese, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese and Tagalog) for broadcasting on community radio stations when four types of disasters –earthquakes, tsunami, landslides and floods – occur. It is simple to use by inserting the CD-ROM and start the browser. From this CD-ROM community radio stations can easily provide disaster related information to their listeners and local communities. It can also be freely downloaded from: [http://www.drlc.jp/dmam/](http://www.drlc.jp/dmam/)

*Jun’ichi Hibino is the representative of Radio FMYY and member of AMARC Japan Working Group and can be contacted at hibino@tcc117.org*

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Following the 7.6-magnitude earthquake that shook Padang in end of September 2009, people were stressed due to damage to their houses, the death of their relatives and friends, and this was exacerbated by rumours of a greater earthquake to hit the region again. The panic situation resulted with the breakdown of information channel and reliable communications system.

In such situation information and communications technology that is ready to be used to disseminate information from outside to the communities and vice versa is needed. Community radio can play a pivotal role as information and communication channel. In Indonesia there are more than 600 community radio stations in different provinces and all parties’ especially local governments and aid agencies can use them as emergency radios and information channels. Community radios in Indonesia have played a major role in emergency response and post disaster rehabilitation. In early September 2009, a 7.4-magnitude earthquake hit Tasikmalaya in West Java following which the Community Radio Network of West Java promptly coordinated with its members to check the damage situation and seek much needed help. When an earthquake hit West Sumatra, community radio stations of the region like Stallon FM and Taratak Kuban promptly broadcasted information from television/satellite radio giving the situation update. Community Radio Network of West Sumatra coordinated with the community radio stations to optimize emergency response by providing reliable information, serving as communication channels and by distributing logistic aids.

Community radio stations in South Sulawesi functioned as effective information channel when four regencies of this province were flooded. Information was obtained through live report, SMS, websites, and quotes from the media. The important role of community radio as a much needed information supplier was highlighted when an earthquake struck Yogyakarta and Klaten on May 27, 2006. Community Radio Pamor, for example, broadcasted information about government-promised subsidy to finance the reconstruction of the houses and Menara Siar Community Radio in Terong, Pathuk, gave updates on aid distribution. Menara Siar Community Radio in particular honoured those women who had become the backbone of logistic coordination during the post-disaster rehabilitation period.

The role of community radio is not limited to emergency response and rehabilitation only. It can be a powerful medium to create awareness about disasters and help in educating the community on disaster mitigation. This aspect can be vital for the disaster-prone areas of Indonesia so that when a disaster occurs, people are better prepared to deal with it.

Radios gain from Community Based Disaster Management Utilizing Community Radio workshops: Radio Lintas Merapi, which had participated in the Community Based Disaster Management Utilizing Community Radio workshop held in August 2-5, 2009 has had to deal with volcanic eruption of Mount Merapi and Radio Angkringan on a regular basis. Earthquakes and floods are common in their area. For both stations, this workshop was very important because for the first time they held a special gathering with residents to discuss the role of radio in disaster education for the community. Sukiman, the leader of Lintas Merapi Community Radio said that the workshop had inspired them to produce programmes to warn about the early signs of volcanic eruption. Lintas Merapi would also consult with volcanologists to present correct information.
In the workshop new approaches of spreading awareness was created, for example, the *macapatan* (Traditional song) group which broadcasts in Radio Angkringan was encouraged to compose songs about early warnings for dealing with an earthquake. Local idiom became the primary choice in stirring up public awareness of disaster mitigation. The workshop also encouraged community radio to expand its roles to off-air activities like children’s painting contest with disaster theme, awareness workshops in schools, etc. The importance of the workshop was recognized when CARE, an INGO supported the participation of a community radio from Central Kalimantan. Central Kalimantan is susceptible to disasters related to forest fires, so this workshop gave them the opportunity to develop an audio product concerning a warning system for signs of forest fire and preparedness on how to deal with it.

Indonesia is vulnerable to various forms of natural disasters such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, hurricane, flood, tsunamis, etc. The model developed in the workshop should be expanded and applied in all community radio stations in the country so that it can spearhead disaster reduction education through both on-air and off-air programmes. Mainstream media usually does not address public awareness campaigns but community radio stations on the other hand can be empowered to support its local communities in reducing the risks of disasters in the future. The suffering and loss brought about by disasters is best forgotten but it is important to learn the lessons from it. In this regard the community radios can ensure better preparedness for disasters so that loss and suffering is minimized and help fill in the information gap.

*(Ade Tanesia works for Combine Resources Institution in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and can be contacted at adetanesia@combine.or.id)*

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### Association of Community Radio Broadcasters of Nepal Elects Executive Committee

The sixth annual general meeting of the Association of Community Broadcasters of Nepal, (ACORAB) has elected a new Executive Committee in October, 2009. Min Bahadur Shahi, the incumbent President of ACORAB has been reelected to the position. Mr. Shahi is the Chairman of Community Radio Karnali in far Western Nepal. Mr. Lok Prasad Banjara of Radio Gandaki has been elected Central Vice President. The newly elected executive board members have committed to work strategically on advocacy and lobbying for consolidating community radio movement and institutionalize ACORAB and its member community radios. For information about ACORAB, please visit: [http://www.acorab.org.np/](http://www.acorab.org.np/).

*On behalf of the members, AMARC congratulates Mr. Shahi on his re-election and extends to him and the Executive Committee best wishes for a successful tenure.*
Rainbow Waves

By Eva Gubat

The Filipino youth and professionals have found a convenient way to express themselves through the Internet. Blogs and websites have mushroomed, with news and personal notes shared instantaneously.

The Filipino lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community—minority simply in terms of quantity—also uses the Internet for personal, social and entrepreneurial purposes. Rainbow Rights Project (R-Rights), a law-based advocacy group of lesbian and gay lawyers and legal activists dedicated to promote discourse on LGBT rights has been reaping the fruits of the Internet. Support for events and activities were made possible through blogs. Communication with similar groups in different locations like Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Baguio of the Philippines is made easier through Facebook and Multiply. With its membership growing, our group decided to include radio in our efforts.

R-Rights’ radio show is the group’s latest medium for LGBT rights advocacy. The radio show also serves as a fresh take on traditional media’s approach towards LGBT. Most often than not, TV and radio shows with deeply rooted heterosexual contents and direction talk about LGBT concerns to serve as “fillers”, invite gays only to spice up shows or as token representation. R-Rights’ radio show is a genuine forum to discuss LGBT issues and concerns straight from the very people who experience them. The show is also meant to make a difference through a medium with a wider reach. As affirmed by trainer Bianca Miglioretto of Isis International, Manila, radio reaches more people at minimal costs.

And so from September 5 to 6 and September 12 to 13, 2009, our group composed of a new generation of LGBT activists convened for a unique workshop where conversation flowed and ideas unravelled. The radio show indeed started from an idea—a member was looking for a far-reaching and cost-effective medium in advocating for LGBT rights. Proposal to seek financial aid was undertaken, with funding support made possible by Global Fund for Women.

The workshop’s training program included a backgrounder on the medium, show conceptualization, techniques, operations, editing, and production and creation of a live radio show complete with breakers and features. Memorable aspects include the lesson on feminist and gender fair broadcasting; hands-on digital editing using the software Audacity; mock interviews that signified techniques and ethics behind the craft; and an actual radio show production that ended in constructive critique by the group and by Bianca Miglioretto.

The group is looking at launching the radio show in November as a response to the 16 days of activism against gender violence observed worldwide. Through the years since the group was
formally registered in 2005, Rainbow Rights has partnered with other groups and has held dialogues, forums, and workshops on LGBT concerns such as family and parenting, relationship matters, discrimination and violence, and civil, criminal and political rights. The radio show is the group’s latest endeavour to advocate for LGBT rights while still having fun and meeting new people in a gender sensitive context. We have been bombarded by other voices over the radio; now, it’s rainbow voices’ turn to be heard.

To know more about Rainbow Rights project (R- Rights) please visit their website at http://rainbowrightsproject.multiply.com/ or email the group at: r_rightsproject@yahoo.com. Eva Gubat is a member of Rainbow Rights and can be contacted at eva.gubat@gmail.com

Launch of SEWA Community Radio Station at Manipur

Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) launched its own community radio, the 49th community radio in India on 26 November, 2009. The radio is operational from SEWA Academy's rural training centre at Manipur village, Sanand Taluka, Gujarat. In April of 2005, SEWA began its first community radio program, entitled Rudi no Radio (Rudi's Radio), a weekly 15-minute program produced and broadcast by employees of SEWA Academy for a rural audience through Akashvani, India's national radio. This initiative is entirely managed by women. Sewa can be contacted at sewaacyd@youtele.com.

AMARC extends it best wishes to the SEWA Community Radio on its launching the first all women team in India. AMARC has contributed to the capacity building of this team and recently concluded a 2nd training program on Community Radio Management and Advanced Radio Production Training for SEWA in August 2009.

Women Massacred in Horrific Political Killing in Southern Philippines

By Madonna T. Virola

On November 23, 59 people were massacred in Maguindanao in southern Philippines, including 21 women. The group, who were travelling in a convoy of vehicles, was intercepted by assailants, believed to be Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., in impoverished Maguindanao province in war-strife southern Philippines. Police said some of the victims may have been buried alive in shallow graves. They convoy was travelling from Buluan town to Shariff Aguak to register the gubernatorial candidacy of Vice Mayor Esmael Mangadadatu. Since the Vice Mayor received death threats if he challenges the incumbent, he sent his wife and two sisters, believing that they will be spared from violence in accordance with Islam which highly reveres women. But everybody was shocked when the Mangadadatu were peppered with bullets on a short distance, including lawyers and nearly 30 journalists who accompanied them.

The murdered women included Esmael’s wife Genalyn, his sisters Eden and Farina and lawyers Concepcion “Connie” Brizuela and Cynthia Oquendo of the National Union of Lawyers in the Philippines (NULP).

That week was International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women, an annual tribute to the Mirabel sisters who were brutally killed by Dominican Republic dictator General Trujillo on November 25, 1960.
**Violence Against Women Condemned**

Indignation rallies were held nationwide to protest the “barbaric killings”. Women’s rights advocates like Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said that the incident showed that women are the most “vulnerable in the mad scramble for power during elections.” Julius Matibag, lawyer from the NULP related that his colleges Connie and Cynthia, who accompanied their client Mangadadatu, were killed by “mentally perverse perpetrators”. His group vowed to pursue justice by rendering free legal services.

The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines led rallies to put an end to a culture of impunity with over a hundred journalists killed under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration.

**Martial Law**

On December 5, Arroyo declared Martial Law in Maguindanao, excluding areas of the insurgent Moro Islamic Liberation Front. She said she needed to use military powers to suppress an uprising led by the Ampatuans, whose 3,000-strong militia force had threatened to attack if their leaders were arrested for the massacre. The alleged perpetrators, the Ampatuans, are close allies of President Arroyo. They gave her huge margins that made her win in previous elections.

On December 12, Martial Law was lifted, easing the critiques Arroyo is just testing the waters to declared Martial Law countrywide in order to extend her term which expires on June 2010.

Meantime, women activists are joined by other groups in appealing for international pressure to bring justice soon to the massacre victims.

*Madonna, donnavirola@gmail.com, works with Asia Calling in the Philippines.*