



-Newsletter-

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LANDMARK RESOLUTION BY SECURITY COUNCIL

The United Nations Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution at its 5613th meeting on 23 December 2006 that urges warring parties to prevent abuses against journalists and to respect their professional independence and rights.

It is noted that the resolution "emphasizes the responsibility of States to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law" which has immense value in our context.

The next emphasis laid down in the resolution is Council's request to the states "which have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Additional Protocols I and II of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions at the earliest possible date."

The unanimously adopted measures recalled the Council's demand that "all parties to an armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel."

The resolution also indicated the Council's willingness when authorizing peacekeeping missions, to consider, "where appropriate, steps in response to media broadcast inciting genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law."

The resolution reaffirms Council's condemnation of all incitements to violence against civilians in situations of armed conflict, further reaffirms the need to bring to justice, in accordance with applicable international law, individuals who incite such violence, and indicates its willingness, when authorizing missions, to consider, where appropriate, steps in response to media broadcast inciting genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

This is a measure providing us with more space in advocating protection of human rights of journalists, media professionals and associates, including civilians at a height. The two major issues (putting an end to impunity and ratification of Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions) that the resolution has emphasized are also equally important in our works in/on Nepal at the moment.

Link to the Resolution in pdf format: <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/4898210.html>

For list of all Resolutions adopted by the UNSC in 2006 please visit:

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions06.htm

LINUX RADIO SUITE POWERS INDEPENDENT BROADCASTERS

13 December, 2006. Community radio stations in Sierra Leone and in other emerging democracies may well soon be powered by Campcaster 1.1, free and open source software that turns a PC running the free Linux operating system into an essential tool for radio broadcasting.

Campcaster 1.1, code-named "Freetown", was released last week by developers Media Development Loan Fund (MDLF). This week members of MDLF are in Sierra Leone providing training to community users.

MDLF's Douglas Arellanes says Campcaster 1.1 was built with conditions in difficult environments such as Sierra Leone in mind. It provides very stable play out and, because it runs on Linux, there are fewer problems with viruses, spyware and malware.

"In a user-friendly way, it enables both automated broadcast at preset dates and times, as well as allowing 'live' play out from the studio. At the same time, it also enables the exchange of radio programme material both online and off-line, and provides a stable, secure, extensible archive server for storing, searching and retrieving program content," says MDLF.

"Campcaster provides features that used to be only available in extremely expensive commercial radio systems," says Sava Tatić, Managing Director of the Media Development Loan Fund's Centre for Advanced Media, Prague (CAMP), which coordinates the Campware Initiative. "We believe there is a strong north-south aspect to using and extending Campcaster," Tatić says. "Every time a station in North America or Europe adapts and extends Campcaster, stations in places like Sierra Leone benefit."

Tatić says, however, that Campcaster's relevance is not limited to the developing world: stations in the developed world are starting to adapt the system to their own needs. In Vienna, for example, Austria's Radio Orange is adapting Campcaster's play out system to work with its existing digital archive, while in Hungary, a network of independent radio stations is integrating Campcaster's storage server into its IKRA project, a generic public website engine for radio stations.

Because all of the Campcaster software is free and open source, stations are free to adapt it to their individual needs, but are strongly encouraged to share their efforts with others.

Campcaster was developed by an international team of software developers, user interface designers, media activists and radio professionals who have worked for more than 12 months on the 1.1 "Freetown" release, says Tatić.

"Campware representatives have coordinated their work with the Cornet community radio network on the software, and members of the development team will travel to Freetown, Sierra Leone later this month to provide training to partners implementing and servicing Campcaster locally."

Campcaster 1.1 is the latest release from the MDLF's Campware Initiative, which creates free and open source tools for independent media in emerging democracies. Initial funding for Campcaster was provided by a grant from the Open Society Institute.

The tools are all free and available for download at the Campware website at www.campware.org. Developers can visit the developers' page at <http://code.campware.org/projects/campcaster>.

Received from: Jacob Thorsen, Development Worker of MS Nepal, Community Radio Lumbini, Kapilvastu, Nepal, jacobthorsen@gmail.com

New Publications:

A VERY USEFUL PUBLICATION TO THE RADIO BROWSER - GET YOUR FREE COPY

This publication tells you where to search for information on the Internet on development related themes. It's like a directory.

According to the institute of development studies who published the book:

“You're interested in international development, there are thousands of websites you could go to, but what if you only have time to visit five? Would you know where to go?”

Drawing on the collective expertise and experience of IDS Knowledge Services staff, the guide highlights websites that are a good place to start searching for information on over 30 development themes. And if these starting points inspire you to explore the Internet further, we've included some handy hints on how to improve your search results.

A limited number of FREE copies are available for development organisations from low- and middle-income countries. If you are eligible and would like a copy, please send an email including your name, organisation and address, to:

agoodplacetostart@ids.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can download a free PDF version of the book here:

[A Good Place to Start \(PDF, 1mb\)](#)

Source of information: David MJR telradio@yahoo.com. Join the radio browser group at radiobrowsing@yahogroups.com

New Publication:

VOICES OF CHANGE: STRATEGIC RADIO SUPPORT FOR ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY DR. ANDREW SKUSE

Published by the Information and Communication for Development (ICD) team of the DFID, this paper provides a summary of the scope of radio's involvement - and its potential and actual impact - in fulfilling the broader goals and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. To begin, the document explores the ways in which radio can play - and has

played - a role in raising public awareness and support for the MDGs, which the author suggests is "critical to their achievement". Additional chapters detail how radio has been used in specific contexts and ways around the world to sustain livelihoods, help people claim a voice and be heard, support better health and education, and prevent/mitigate conflict and natural disasters. The paper's core premise is that ICD initiatives are central to upholding the rights of economically poor people to receive and share information - and thus lie at the core of poverty reduction efforts.

For full document, please visit: <http://www.comminit.com/strategicthinking/st2006/thinking-1880.html> or contact ICD@dfid.gov.uk or Andrew Skuse andrew.skuse@adelaide.edu.au

INDONESIA: AIRWAVES ARE HELPING COMMUNITIES TO RECOVER AND REBUILD IN ACEH AND NIAS

NOVEMBER 2006. Not only have new houses appeared on the scenes of destruction, so have schools, a meunasah (community building) and a health centre. What makes the village special though is its new radio station...

Aceh, Indonesia, November 23, 2006 – Two years after the tsunami, rehabilitation and reconstruction is slowly changing the face of devastated areas in Aceh including Meunasah Kedee village in Aceh Besar. Not only have new houses appeared on the scenes of destruction, so have schools, a meunasah (community building) and a health centre. What makes the village special though, is its new radio station.

Appropriately, MKe FM (MKe: Meunasah Kedee) broadcasts all day from the reconstructed community building on 107.8 FM.

This ARRnet (Aceh Reconstruction Radio Network) member radio gives a new purpose to the community. Says Adi, 25, head of MKe radio: "This radio has helped us heal by giving us something to do after the tsunami."



With eight announcers, the station reaches eight villages - not just with songs and entertainment programs but important information on the reconstruction process. "From the start I have used this radio to announce village meetings," he says and the head of the village Syahrizal, agrees "it has been a most effective means of invitation."

Another MKe announcer, Rika, says "Some NGOs working on rebuilding this area have also used our service to inform villagers about aid donation," and there is another plus for her, "I get to meet new friends, people recognize us as radio announcers. We are now quite famous!"



Talk show in MKe FM

Most of the radio crew are youth activists devoting their spare time after studies or work to developing programs. In the early days, the station broadcasted talk shows about sex among youth and invited a psychologist to discuss behaviour changes after a trauma. “We also have special programs for children in the morning, it is not only adults who suffered from the tsunami” Adi explains. During the last Ramadan, the radio had special talk shows with religious leaders as the impact of Syariah is a key factor in Aceh today.

ARRnet, funded by the Japan Social Development Fund, has built 19 community radios to date; five are under the umbrella of its earlier avatar AERnet (The Emergency Radio Network).

AERnet was established soon after the tsunami to meet people’s information and communication needs. In 2007, some 15-20 new radio stations are planned to strengthen the link between donor and the community.

Community building activities are a direct result of the work of radio stations in other areas too. A community expo was reported by Kuala Gigieng FM (Baitussalam sub-district), a festival of children’s singing was reported by Suara Ukhuwah FM (Masjid Raya sub-district), and a special program on aid distribution to victims living in barracks was reported by Sukma FM (Suka Makmur sub-district).

In Sukma FM, Tampok Blang village, Suka Makmur sub-district, a [PEKKA](#) member is the announcer.

PEKKA, an empowerment program for single women who are heads of their households, is funded by the Japan Social Development Fund and administered by the World Bank. “This radio helps build the network of women members, we broadcast information on meetings and activities that build leadership – we even used it once to distribute questionnaires to PEKKA members in this district about their program interest,” says Maryani (30), PEKKA member who is also a radio announcer.



PEKKA members who actively join Sukma FM Radio

In the near future, the Bank is planning to develop training in the use of radio and production of different types of programs and formats for village facilitators working in projects such as [KDP](#), [RALAS](#), [SPADA](#) and [UPP](#).

[COMBINE](#) is the local NGO that implements the community radio program in Aceh and Nias. They are now starting to provide training and education to improve community capacity in operating community radios in the village.

“We now have two main focuses, radio journalism and programming. We hope, will improve broadcast quality and the substance of our programs,” says Henky Satrio, ARRnet program manager.

“Through this radio, we also hope to facilitate a two way dialogue between communities and aid organizations,” says Imam Prakoso, Director of COMBINE.

Source:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/INDONESIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:21139926%7EmenuPK:224605%7EpagePK:2865066%7EpiPK:2865079%7EtheSitePK:226309,00.html>

This article is also available in Indonesia Bahasa at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/INDONESIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:21189906~isCURL:Y~menuPK:224605~pagePK:2865066~piPK:2865079~theSitePK:226309,00.html>

Upcoming event:

OURMEDIA 6 (OM6) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 9 TO 13, 2007, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Conference theme:

Sustainable Futures: roles and challenges for community, alternative and citizens' media

Introduction:

The conference is aimed at uncovering how research into ‘citizens’ media’ can assist us to understand the cultural changes currently taking place with regards to open public participation and social inclusion. OURMedia 6 will draw together expertise from theorists, policy-makers and practitioners to develop discussions about the future sustainability of citizens’ media. The conference will be hosted by the School of Communication Arts of the University of Western Sydney with support from the Centre for Cultural Research (UWS) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney.

OM6 will be aimed at building strategies and collaborations among researchers, non-governmental organizations, practitioners, artists and advocates for the promotion of communication rights, effective access to ICT, community and citizen participation in the media and community engagements that foster social change and cultural revitalisation.

For further information, please log on to: <http://www.ourmedia07.net/>

About OURMedia:

OURMedia is an international network and forum founded in 2001 by a group of academics interested in advancing the democratic potential of community, or ‘citizens’ media. Recognising that the intellectual and policy frameworks for citizens’ media are often out of

touch with the on-the-ground reality, the purpose of OURMedia is to connect scholars, practitioners and policy-makers towards defined outcomes. OURMedia is now a network of over 500 people from 50 countries and has generated an extensive body of practical and theoretical knowledge, primarily in English and Spanish. The OM6 Conference will bring together international and national experts, researchers, policy makers, and community development practitioners to discuss ways to ensure a sustainable future for community and citizen's media. An OURMedia conference in Australia will attract global attention to community and citizen's media in the Asia/Pacific and generate specific measures for communications development and reform in these regions.

Australia is a world-leader in community media practice and policy. The Australian community radio sector is over 30 years old with more than 400 community broadcasting licensees in regional and metropolitan areas. Hosting an OURMedia conference in Australia will allow people from developing countries to learn practical steps towards democratic and sustainable media outcomes. Furthermore, it will assist Australians working in the field to better understand the challenges facing community-based media enterprises at the global level. These challenges include assessing the benefits and barriers in moving to digital media platforms (including digital radio and television), and developing local media and new content and distribution formats that serve the needs of other civil society organisations.

Upcoming event:

RADIO MANAGEMENT COURSE TO TAKE PLACE IN SWEDEN, FROM SEPTEMBER 12 TO OCTOBER 5, 2007

Radio managers from small to medium-sized radio stations in selected African and Asian countries can apply to attend a public service broadcasting course in Sweden. The deadline for applications is May 18.

Sponsored by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and implemented by Swedish Radio (SR), the course is scheduled for September 12 to October 5. The course will take place at the SR offices in Stockholm and at a local radio station in the south of Sweden.

The main goal of the program is for participants to create an individual action plan for their department or radio station. The course will also cover a variety of theoretical and practical topics including: management and leadership, media ethics and practical radio production.

Sida will cover the cost of international travel, tuition, accommodation and meals for all 24 participants. Visa costs and personal expenses must be paid for by the participant.

For more information or to apply, contact k.g@telia.com, or visit <http://www.srmdo.nu/>.

Posted by: "George Lessard" media@web.net, <http://www.ijnet.org/Director.aspx?P=Article&ID=306031&LID=1>

For the latest from the community radio sector of Asia Pacific, please join the AMARC email list by following the link <http://lists.amarc.org/mailman/listinfo/asiapacific-general> Or just email to amarcap@wlink.com.np to have you subscribed to the list.

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