

## **The Jakarta Declaration of AMARC -Asia-Pacific**

We, the participants in the Regional Conference of the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC)-Asia-Pacific, representing community radio stations, production groups and community media advocates from 19 countries in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Africa and North America assembled in Jakarta, Indonesia from 24 – 26 November 2005,

Reaffirm the right to freedom of opinion and expression that is guaranteed in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Declare, based on the above the following:

The need to uphold human rights and freedom of expression and to promote, by all available means, an understanding of these rights among community radio practitioners and the communities they serve;

The need to challenge States and other institutions that attempt to hinder the promotion and realisation of human rights;

The need to provide community radio practitioners with mechanisms which enable them to act in solidarity to resist the imposition by States or other institutions of laws or practices which inhibit the development and implementation of international human rights standards;

The need to forge alliances with other organisations that promote international human rights and to work with them to educate citizens of those rights and to join in solidarity with them to resist practices which inhibit the development and implementation of international human rights standards.

Furthermore, we condemn all forms of violence and legislation that restrict citizens rights, spread an atmosphere of fear and serve sectarian interests or extremist views.

We note, with grave concern, the continuing violation of the right to freedom of expression in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

In particular,

We urge the Government of Cambodia, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka to promulgate broadcasting legislation which allows access to broadcast frequencies and which promotes communication rights and offers protection to broadcast journalists.

We demand the government of Pakistan to amend the existing legislation allowing the communities, NGOs and civil society organizations to promote and establish community radio stations.

We demand the military regime in Burma to promote diversity and independence in the media, and prevent military intervention in the media's role in promoting an open, free and democratic society.

We urge the Government of Malaysia to promote and respect communication rights by allowing community access to the airwaves by amending repressive legislation including the Communication and Multimedia Act, the Sedition Act and the Official Secrets Act.

We demand on the Government of the Philippines to take immediate and concrete action to end the killing of journalists and to uphold the principles of media freedom and independence.

We demand the Nepali government to restore freedom of expression and ensure full democratic space for community radio and all independent media in Nepal.

We urge the government of Australia to uphold the principles of freedom of the media, the right of broadcasters and journalists to protect their sources and the right to report without fear of persecution. Furthermore, we urge the government of Australia to ensure that all laws relating to sedition and national security do not excessively interfere with media freedom.

We call on Pacific island Governments to ensure the inclusion of community broadcasting in the digital strategy of the Pacific Plan.

Noting with concern the increasing corporatisation of public service broadcasting in the Pacific region we call on Pacific region governments to ensure legislative provisions for community broadcasting with license fees conducive to non-profit broadcasters.

We demand the global leaders to reaffirm their commitment of providing resources of 0.7% of GNP to the developing nations, particularly allocating resources for community media including community radio.

We reaffirm our commitment to the realization of peoples' communication rights in their broadest and most inclusive sense, including continuing to advocate for the fulfillment of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and those rights that have been ratified since its adoption.

Noting that the Millennium Development Goals are the United Nations' blue print for a global social development agenda

We call on all Asia-Pacific governments and multilateral and bilateral institutions to recognize community radio as a powerful medium that plays a key role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We urge governments, multilateral and bilateral institutions to recognize community radio's role in facilitating people's involvement in translating MDGs into achievable actions and to make the MDGs more people-centered.

We call on governments, multilateral and bilateral institutions to put in place mechanisms and allocate resources to enable community radio to play these roles.

Noting that AMARC has a mandate to ensure women's active participation in community radio and to promote women's empowerment and gender equality overall,

Noting that the Bangkok Communiqué, the output document of the high-level Asia-Pacific meeting to review the Beijing Platform for Action, recognized community media's role in combating violence against women and that such media should be fully supported by governments,

We urge governments, multilateral and bilateral institutions to support and allocate resources to ensure women's participation in community radio including the holding of broadcast campaigns on International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women.

Noting that globalization and the liberalization of economies including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade facilitate the entry of foreign media networks in the Global South and encourage the domination of huge multimedia conglomerates over small, independent media initiatives.

Noting that this global economic order is hostile to local media, particularly low-power community radio

We demand governments to ensure spectrum space for community radio and create an enabling environment for such media to flourish.

Noting that community radio has played a key role in disaster preparedness and management as well as relief and rehabilitation during major disasters such as the Kobe and Chetsuo earthquakes in Japan; the tsunami in Southeast and South Asia in 2004, and the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005,

Noting the role of community radio in enabling women and other marginalised groups to participate in decision making processes on peace and security issues and take an active role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building,

We call on all governments to put in place a conducive legislative environment and regulatory mechanisms to enable community radio to flourish in all parts of the Asia-Pacific region and to continue to actively contribute to the overall social and human development.

