

AMARC Asia-Pacific Newsletter



AMARC Asia-Pacific Regional Event Management Training for Improving Sustainability of Community Radio

AMARC Asia-Pacific organized a 'Community Radio Management Training' from 13-17 May 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Twenty-nine community radio managers and network leaders from Bangladesh (six), Indonesia (seven), India (five), Nepal (nine), and Timor-Leste (two) participated.

The training was organized as part of a multi-year project aimed at 'Supporting Marginalized Communities in the Fight Against Poverty in the Asia-Pacific Region through Community Radios.' The project is implemented in partnership with CAMECO and financially supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany.

The training focused on improving management skills of community radio managers for promoting sustainable growth of their radio stations.

Earlier, a baseline survey was conducted to determine the learning needs of the participants. The survey also gathered information relating to the mission and vision of the radio stations, coverage area, listeners' participation, overall media environment, and community diversity.

The training was supported by interpreters for Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Nepali, and Hindi.

Topics covered in the training ranged from 'fundamental principles of CR' to 'community mapping,' from 'managing a community radio with low resources' to 'managing CR as a safe space for women and minorities,' from 'online broadcasting for sustainability' and 'effective use of social media for sustainability,' to 'planning for fundraising and income generation.'

Cont. on page 2

Contents

Community
Radio
Management
Training

Training of
Trainers (ToT)

News from
AMARC Network

Upcoming
AMARC Asia-
Pacific
Publications



Participants from Indonesia



Participants from Timor-Leste

Dr. Raghu Mainali, community radio expert, Arti Jaiman, representative of the Women's International Network (AMARC-WIN), Subas Khatiwada, VP-South Asia, AMARC Asia-Pacific, Robert M. Bichler, communication scientist, Rajesh Khadka, lifestyle skill coach, Sofie Jannusch, CAMECO, and Suman Basnet, AMARC Asia-Pacific facilitated the sessions.

Earlier, speaking at the inauguration of the training, Dr. Stephan Russek, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Nepal, commended the initiative and reiterated his government's support for grassroots initiatives.



Participants from Bangladesh

What did the training offer?

The Community radio management training offered a strategic approach to empower station managers of community radio stations, enhancing their administration, programming, and leadership skills.

By providing tailored guidance on governance, content creation, fundraising, and audience engagement, the training has cultivated leadership within local broadcasting, fostering media that reflects and serves its community effectively.

Through interactive sessions, case studies, and hands-on activities, participants gained practical insights into optimizing station operations and navigating regulatory frameworks.



Learn together, dance together!

What did the participants say about the training?

The management training garnered resoundingly positive feedback from participants, affirming its positive impact and relevance across diverse regions.

The participants passionately advocated for the continuation of such programs, emphasizing their enduring value and reaffirming their unwavering commitment to continued engagement.

The participants highly rated the training's usefulness, presentation quality, and logistical arrangements. These assessments affirm the program's efficacy in fostering knowledge transfer, skill development, and regional collaboration.



Nepal A Training of Trainers for Community Radio Development

AMARC Asia-Pacific, with support from the Civil Peace Program of Bread for the World (BfdW), Germany, successfully conducted a trainers training from 22-25 July 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The training program aimed at developing confident and competent trainers capable of designing and implementing training programs for community radio workers in their respective local communities.

Community radio trainers including Dr. Raghu Mainali, community radio expert, Subas Khatiwada, VP-South Asia, AMARC Asia-Pacific, Robert M. Bichler, communication scientist, Suman Shakya, facilitation skills expert, RK Manandhar, Photographer, and Suman Basnet, AMARC Asia-Pacific facilitated the sessions.

The trainer's training specifically focused on planning training sessions for enhancing skills of community radio journalists in conflict resolution and peace-building.

The participants engaged in advanced peer education techniques, reflective group exercises, and explored effective learning paradigms.

The training aimed at developing proficient trainers, capable of designing and delivering impactful programs for local peace efforts. This initiative highlighted the essential role of community radio in promoting dialogue and fostering harmony in conflict-prone situations.

Some of the main sessions of the training included peer education by Raghu Mainali, planning a training program by Suman Basnet, training delivery skills by Suman Shakya, basic presentation skills by Robert M. Bichler, and monitoring and evaluation of a training program by Subas Khatiwada.

Nineteen participants, representing as many community radios from six provinces of Nepal participated in the training.



An interactive session in progress!



Hon. Lily Thapa, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal, at the inauguration

Philippines

UN expert calls for justice for community broadcasters in the Philippines

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Opinion Irene Khan expressed grave concern about threats to journalists and civil society actors in the Philippines, citing the case of two community radio broadcasters she said deserve justice.

In her exit statement at the end of her official visit to the Philippines last February 4, Khan reported on her visit to Frenchie Mae Cumpio—the youngest journalist in jail in the world, also calling for her immediate release and dropping trumped-up charges against her.

Khan's mandate also received reports on the abduction of Radyo Sugbuanon's Elena Tijamo in 2020, who mysteriously turned up dead a year later in a hospital in Metro Manila.

Both Radyo Tacloban and Radyo Sugbuanon were established as women-led disaster preparedness and recovery community radio stations after Super typhoon Haiyan devastated much of the central Philippines in November 2013. Cumpio and Tejamo were radio station managers in training at the time of their arrest and abduction, respectively.

In her official visit to the country, Khan met with Filipino journalists, including Raymund Villanueva of Kodao Productions, who represented AMARC-AP in a meeting last January 25. Villanueva is currently an AMARC-AP regional board member and its treasurer.

Aside from Cumpio and Tijamo's cases, Villanueva told Khan of community radios attacked and forced to close down by authorities such as the farmers-owned Radyo Cagayano in northern Luzon and national minority community-led Radyo Lumad in Mindanao Island.

"The Philippine government is not only stifling the community radio movement in the Philippines, but it is also directly responsible for various forms of attacks, including arson, abduction, and killings," Villanueva told Khan.

In her exit statement, Khan also deplored the "cumbersome" procedures in securing permits and licenses to establish broadcast media outlets in the Philippines.

Khan is expected to deliver her final report on her official visit to the Philippines in June 2025 in a regular session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.



Upcoming AMARC Asia-Pacific Event Community Radios Against Poverty: Training of trainers for Asia-Pacific region

A trainers' training will be organized from 26-30 September 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal for community radio participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Nepal, and Timor Leste. Altogether 12 participants from as many community radios from the region. A detailed report will be covered in the next edition of the AMARC Asia-Pacific newsletter. Updates will also be posted on our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X).

Philippines

The Gandingan Awards presented to Radyo Sagada, Philippines

Radyo Sagada 104.7 FM, the pioneering Indigenous People's (IP) community radio station in the Philippines, was honored with the Ka Louie Tabing Memorial Achievement Award in Community Broadcasting at the 18th Gandingan Awards 2024. Hosted by the UP-Community Broadcasters' Society (ComBroadSoc) at the Charles Fuller Baker Memorial Hall on May 4, 2024, the event carried the theme "Agrikultura: Kwento ng Hamon at Pag-asa" (Agriculture: A story of challenge and hope).

Established in 2010, Radyo Sagada serves as a vital platform for the IP communities of the Mountain Province, focusing on participatory approaches to drive positive social change. The station, affiliated with the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters – Asia Pacific (AMARC-AP), broadcasts a range of programs including public affairs, school-on-the-air sessions, and entertainment, addressing agricultural and developmental issues crucial to the region.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Gwen Gaongen, the station manager, highlighted the significant hurdles faced by community radio stations, both political and administrative. She expressed hope that the recognition would inspire a renewed commitment to free and independent community broadcasting across the country. This award reaffirms Radyo Sagada's role in fostering dialogue, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting sustainable development through the airwaves.

The Gandingan Awards, organized annually by UP ComBroadSoc, celebrates excellence in community broadcasting, emphasizing the role of media in addressing societal challenges and aspirations. Radyo Sagada's dedication to serving its community and advocating for Indigenous rights exemplifies the spirit of the award, marking a significant milestone in its continued journey in the Philippines.



Upcoming AMARC Asia-Pacific Publications

[all publications will be available for free download from <https://amarc-ap.org>]

Peace stories from community radio stations

AMARC Asia-Pacific will be releasing later this year a publication of success stories of community radios resolving conflicts and promoting peace in the local communities.

Handbook of Community Mapping

A community mapping handbook will be released by the end of October 2024. The handbook will cover experiences of community mapping by NGO partners and community radios, personal insights, and lessons learned based on the experiences of the five countries that participated in the initiative namely, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste.

Pocketbook of community mapping

A community mapping pocketbook for community radio reporters will be released at the end of October 2024.

AMARC Asia-Pacific CR Directory 2024

The Directory will contain basic information about community radio stations in the AMARC Asia-Pacific region.

This newsletter is produced by the AMARC Asia-Pacific Regional Office, 548/141 Shantabhawan Marga, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur-2 44600.

Editorial associates: Simran Khanal & Robert M. Bichler

Editor: Suman Basnet

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