

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### **Building Community – Shaping Change The Role of Community, Citizen and Alternative Media in Regional Transformation**

A pre-conference by the Community Communication Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and the UNESCO Chair for Community Media at University of Hyderabad

In collaboration with UNESCO, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), Ideosync Media Combine and the Ford Foundation

**Hyderabad, INDIA  
July 13-14, 2014**

The current socio-political environment across the globe is characterized by significant transformations. Geopolitical change has seen the breaking down of some the world's walls and the erecting of others, changes to traditional loci of power and to social structures in the context of mobility and migration. Regions have emerged as new geopolitical forces as well as social reference points – both inside nation-states and as clusters of several countries.

Community, citizen and alternative media are becoming more relevant in this context as they connect the local with the national and global, and relate to realities of migration, mobility, and new community formations. From local community radio, to trans-border diaspora media, to regional networks and online communities, these diverse media forms create new social and mediated spaces. From participatory theatre to mobile phones, from community newspapers to video activism, they explore diverse media platforms to build community and shape change.

How do they respond to regional transformations? What new communities do they create? How do they affect current political developments in India – from the popular movements in the North to gay rights issues – and worldwide? How do they support the empowerment of women in diverse socioeconomic contexts? What are the challenges of mobilizing communities for participating in media? What pathways and frameworks exist for evaluating and self-evaluating their activities?

Changing political and policy contexts also affect the practical and legal conditions for the existence and emergence of community and citizen media. How do they deal with their increasingly prominent role, as demonstrated by their legal recognition as 3<sup>rd</sup> media sector in many countries and by the new focus on participation in both media and political processes? But also, how are they affected by persistent media control and censorship as well as increasing surveillance and filtering on the internet? How does the political and social context of the South Asian region shape policymaking in different countries such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives?

What kind of regional and sub-regional alliances and collaborations are being forged to advocate for enabling policy frameworks, build capacities of communities, and ensure long-term sustainability? As the policy environment and the technical/financial conditions for the emergence of community media (and particularly, community television and video) vary strongly across the globe, what are possible and plausible visions for the development of a more diversified and pluralistic community media landscape?

This conference will develop answers to these and other questions by bringing together scholars and practitioners, academics and activists, researchers and advocates. It addresses international, regional and local media scholars who participate in the IAMCR conference in Hyderabad (15-19 July) and community, citizen and alternative media practitioners from India and beyond, for conversations, collaborations, and co-production. The conference will be practice-oriented and include project presentations, strategy meetings and skill-sharing workshops.

### Call for Proposals

This conference will be composed of your contributions and depends on your ideas! We call for a variety of proposals:

1. Project presentations, project evaluations, and critical reflections of innovative projects
2. Workshops, roundtables and panel discussions
3. Video screenings, music, theatrical performances, public/street art
4. Academic paper presentations (we encourage practice-oriented academic work that directly connects with practitioner experiences and needs)

We are particularly interested in innovative forms of sessions that allow for constructive collective debate among all participants.

If you would like to submit a proposal, please submit a brief summary (300-500 words), in which you state the type of proposal, explain its content and goal, and include (if appropriate) a list of panel/workshop participants.

**Deadline for submissions: 15 April 2014**

**Submit proposals to the following email address: [BuildingCommunity@iamcr.org](mailto:BuildingCommunity@iamcr.org)**

The Organising Committee will review all proposals and make a selection by 15 May 2014.

This 2-day event will be held as a pre-conference to the annual IAMCR conference. The themes and debates from this event will be presented (and discussed further) at the Community Communication Section of the IAMCR.

### Information on IAMCR

**IAMCR:** <http://www.iamcr.org>

**IAMCR 2014 Conference:** <http://iamcr2014.org/>

**IAMCR Community Communication:** <http://www.iamcr.org/section-home-seccomm-201>