



**MARCH 2015**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Year 11, No. 2**



**Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction, AMARC 10, La Plata, Argentina, 2010**

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## AMARC 11 World Conference Announced

*The eleventh edition of the International Conference and General Assembly of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters – AMARC11 will be held from 10-14 August 2015 in Accra, Ghana. Maria Pia Matta, President of AMARC International made the announcement in a formal letter to members and supporters. Her letter is printed below:*

Dear Colleagues,

In accordance with the provisions of the statutes of AMARC, as President of AMARC, and on behalf of the International Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that the General Assembly of AMARC will be held in Accra, Ghana, on 10-14 August, 2015 in the frame of the 11th World Conference organized with the collaboration of Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN).



This Assembly will provide a unique opportunity for AMARC members to analyze and reflect about the challenges of our organization in the coming years, to establish an Action Plan for 2015/ 2019, as well as the possibility to vote for the women and men who will serve on the new International board of Directors. The International Board warmly invites you to join us and us with your voices and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Maria Pía Matta  
President, AMARC International

### Akwaaba! Ghana calling..

The Ghana Community Radio Network, GCRN (<http://www.ghanacommunityradio.org>) will host AMARC11. Ghana is home to one of the most committed Community Radio networks in Africa.

Accra, the capital of Ghana is well connected by international flights, maintains relaxed visa procedures, and has a good network of telecommunication. Community Radio stations within 1 to 2 hours' drive.

August is Ghana's coolest season (average 25 degrees Celsius/77 degrees Fahrenheit) and is a holiday time for academic institutions.

Ebola has not touched Ghana. Also, thanks to concerted international action, the epidemic is mainly under control.

Ghana is a peaceful and peace-loving country. All visitors are received warmly and sincerely no matter their race, religion, nationality or sex. Ghanaians are often referred to as 'Africa's Friendliest People'. This is because they are fun-loving and cheerful people, who are proud of their country, its languages, traditions and standing and are keen that the visitor should understand and appreciate what the country has to offer. It is a free and independent society where much emphasis is placed on courtesy and politeness. A handshake is the key to everything. The people will often receive you with a popular welcome greeting, Akwaaba! English is the official language, but there are 56 Ghanaian main languages and dialects. The principal languages and ethnic groups include the Akan (Twi and Fante-speaking), Ewe, Ga and Hausa.

## Community Radio Forum for UNCDRR 2015 in Sendai



A delegation of community radio broadcasters and advocates from Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines will be participating in the upcoming UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNCDRR) to be held from 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

The delegation, which will be led by Junichi Hibino, Co-Managing Director of Radio FMYY, Japan and Treasurer of the Board of AMARC Asia-Pacific will include among its members Imam Prakoso, Vice President for South East Asia in the Board of AMARC Asia-Pacific, Sinam Sutarno, President of Indonesian Community Radio Association (JRKI), Mario Anton Birowo Lecturer of Atma Jaya University Jogjakarta, Charlie Saceda, Project coordinator of The Peace & Conflict Journalism Network (PECOJON) and Technical Advisor of Radyo Abante of the Philippines, Asuka Hashizume, Project staff of AMARC Japan working group, Shizuyo Yoshitomi, Associate professor of Osaka University, Co-Managing Director of Radio FMYY and Kaori Okado, Program officer of Radio FMYY.

The delegation will be carrying a high level of experience in dealing with disaster and post disaster situations in Indonesia, Philippines and Japan. At the UNCDRR, the delegation will be speaking to Governments, International Agencies, NGOs and Mass Media about the vitally important role community radios can play in every phase of disaster management cycle.

The delegation will share information about experiences and knowledge of community radio in disaster management with participants of UNCDRR 2015. They will discuss how community radios in the Asia Pacific region and especially in South East Asia have engaged in different types activities to promote disaster risk reduction. The team will be looking at opportunities to expanding the network of community radios with other national and regional stakeholders during their stay in Sendai.

In addition to meeting with Government representatives of Japan and other South East Asia countries, as well as interacting with representatives of INGOs and NGOs specializing in disaster management, delegation members will be making specific presentations at the Ignite Stage in the main conference and presentation in two public forums and in the community radio forum.

Source: Junichi Hibino, email: [hibijun@gmail.com](mailto:hibijun@gmail.com)

### Call for contributions:

On the occasion of the World Women's Day 2015, Women's International Network (WIN Asia-Pacific) will publish a Women's special newsletter. We welcome contributions in any of the following forms:

1. News (maximum 150 words) and short feature stories (maximum 500 words) about women and community radios. Positive and inspiring stories will be given priority for publication;
2. Short stories based on experiences about implementing gender policy in community radios and the difference it has made in the lives of women broadcasters (max 500 words);
3. Links to websites or to sources of information including recent publications about women community broadcasters;
4. Short interviews (maximum 750 words) with women community radio broadcasters highlighting their challenges and opportunities;
5. Photos of women community broadcasters at work/events, etc.

Please email contributions to [suman\\_basnet@asiapacific.amarc.org](mailto:suman_basnet@asiapacific.amarc.org) by March 20, 2015, Friday.



## NEWS:

### Women's Rights and Human Rights Training for Community Radios Concluded: AMARC Asia-Pacific



Photo: AMARC Asia-Pacific

AMARC Asia-Pacific concluded a Women's Rights and Human Rights Training for Community Radios of mid-western and far-western regions of Nepal from 13-17 February 2015. Honorable Anup Raj Sharma, Chair Person of the Human Rights Commission of Nepal inaugurated the training.

Participants of the training were provided information about different types of human rights violations and learnt skills for transforming such information

into effective radio content. A number of human rights experts representing the Dalit community, people with different sexual identity and gender orientation, single women, and children conducted sessions about rights violations in their specific sectors. Experienced content producers discussed creative writing and production for radio. Training agenda and photos are available in the AMARC Asia-Pacific Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AMARC-Asia-Pacific/579244995449551>.

### Mongolian Community Radio Broadcasters Visit Radios in Nepal: AMARC Asia-Pacific

Regional office facilitated a community radio tour of Nepal by members of the Community Radio Association of Mongolia (CRAMO). CRAMO is the apex organization of ten community radio stations set up between 2011-12, in minority populated areas of Mongolia - Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Huvsgul, Khovd - established within the framework of a UNESCO implemented project under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. Most of these radio stations broadcast in minority languages. Governing boards of these radios are elected from among the local communities. Mostly volunteers supported by a station manager and a few paid staff run the stations. The Mongolian delegation visited several community radios stations in Kathmandu as well as in other districts and interacted with station officials as well as national level leaders of community broadcasting in Nepal.

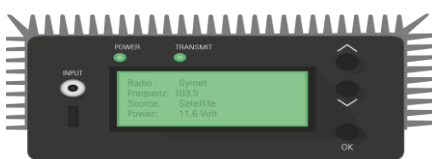


Photo: D. Munkhburen



UNESCO along with UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad launched the South Asian Network of Community Media (SANCOM) on World Radio Day with the launch of the website. <http://www.sancomonline.net/>. This website is a work in progress.

### Pocket FM for Emergencies



Pocket FM is a portable FM radio transmitter that enables people in crisis regions or developing countries to communicate without Internet, mobile phones, television or when electricity is unavailable. <http://www.pocket-fm.com>

## NEWS:

Community radios and national associations celebrated the Fourth World Radio Day 2015 across the Asia-Pacific region. Following are a few photos and news about the various events held on the occasion of WRD 2015:

### Pacific:



Photo: femLINKKpacific Facebook page

FemTALK 89FM, the community radio run by femLINKKpacific (<http://www.femlinkpacific.org.fj>) celebrated WRD 2015 with a weekend marathon focusing on women's human rights issues, peace and women's human security, gender, economics and ecological justice. Expansion of the CR coverage is now over 25 miles out of the station with further plans to connect via the World Wide Web.

FemLINKKpacific will also be taking its media and community radio coverage to the UN this CSW59 in New York. The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW; <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. femLINKKpacific is a women and feminist organization and is partnering with other civil society organizations (CSO) and states in the Pacific including Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and others to highlight the issues of gender, climate change, sustainable development, and Violence Against women (VAW) at the meeting. Live broadcasts from the site will be done via skype for Fiji listeners.

### Nepal:

Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Sushil Koirala inaugurated World Radio Day 2015 program in Nepal, organized by Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) Nepal and UNESCO Nepal. The Prime Minister Koirala, in his address, highlighted the role of radio in promoting peace and democracy. For details:

<http://acorab.org.np/index.php?pagename=recentDetail&aid=82>



Photo: ACORAB

### Selamat Hari Radio Sedunia

#WorldRadioDay



**Radio :**  
**Media masa lalu,**  
**Masa kini**  
**Masa depan**

**JRKI** Udara  
Milik  
Kita

### Indonesia:

The following links provide updates of community radio. Information provided is mostly in Indonesian language.

<https://www.facebook.com/JRKIndonesia>

<http://jrki.or.id>

## POLICY ALERTS:

**This section of the newsletter will highlight policy movements affecting the community radio sector in the Asia-Pacific region.**

### **Indonesia:**

The Community Radio Association of Indonesia (JRKI) has renewed its effort to establish community radio friendly legislation in Indonesia.

Indonesian Broadcasting Laws no. 31, year 2020 govern community broadcasting in Indonesia. JRKI has identified the following provisions in this law that restrain the growth of the sector:

1. Licensing process for Community radio is too long and a predetermined time-table is not followed;
2. Limited allocation of frequency channels for community broadcasting;
3. Community radios are not allowed to broadcast commercial advertising;
4. Imposition transmitter certification equated with private broadcasting.

The Indonesian parliament has proposed to revise the existing law. The proposal for revision is aimed at bringing under the fold of the law commercial television companies, which have been reluctant to follow the rules that exist in relation to the issuing of regional autonomy and responding to the advancement of information technology related to the use of digital spectrum frequency

In addition to the proposal from the parliament, the Indonesian government has made the following additional recommendations:

1. Allow government direct control over the management of spectrum frequency;
2. Reduce role of the independent regulatory body by limiting its mandate to monitor broadcasting content only;
3. Allow private sector to organize and manage multiplexing system (digitalization). This will have a direct and negative impact over spectrum frequency allocation for community broadcasting.

JRKI and its civil society partners have approached the parliament and the concerned minister of the government with the following proposals:

1. To ensure a fair distribution of spectrum frequency among private, public and community broadcasters;
2. Management of frequency to be handled by the by state and not the private sector;
3. To restore the role of the independent regulatory body to its full authority; and
4. To allocate local state budget for community broadcasting or provide an opportunity for community radio stations to broadcast commercial advertising.

*Source: Imam Prakoso, email: imenk2004@yahoo.com*

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