IFJ Asia-Pacific

15 October 2010

The following Projects are being run through the IFJ Asia-Pacific Office during 2010

- Journalists' Unions for Democracy

- Media for Democracy in the Pacific

- Philippines Massacre Follow-up

- Press Freedom In China

- Reporting for Peace in Nepal

- Media for Democracy in Afghanistan

- Media for Democracy in Pakistan

- Pakistan Safety Program

- Sri Lanka Human Rights Prize

- Freedom in Solidarity: Media Working for Peace in South Asia

1. Title: Journalists' Unions for Democracy

Location: Asia-Pacific Region   **Project Period:** February 1, 2010 – February 1, 2012

Objectives:
This project funded by LO-TCO (the Swedish trade union movement) supports union leadership training. The IFJ and its affiliates in Asia-Pacific will implement a 3-year trade union project in the region to build on prior work to improve journalists' economic and professional rights through developing trade union capacity. The activities address issues related to organisational development and management, globalisation, trade union and human rights, discrimination and equality, and health and safety. The promotion of increased membership and participation of women in journalists' unions will continue to be a significant focus. Attention will also sharpen on devising ways to address the negative impacts of globalisation, in terms of assisting unions to deal with global financial crisis.

Background:
IFJ Asia-Pacific's work to promote the development and consolidation of strong journalists' trade unions in the region has included a series of regional meetings in recent years. These opportunities for information-sharing involve conducting needs assessments for each country and sub-region represented, the setting of country plans and objectives, and developing strategies to achieve these objectives. The 2010-12 activities are intended to build on the work of previous meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Colombo, Taipei and Hong Kong, and expand links with other GUFs. The Hong Kong meeting in early 2009 addressed "Organising in the Financial Crisis". Follow-up work in the region in 2010 will address needs identified in country analyses conducted at the 2008 leadership meeting and during other project work in 2008-2009.

Project Activities:
The main activities include:
- Two regional meetings. The first will include a needs assessment and analysis of target organisations and their memberships.
- Upgrading and developing training materials to create new modules (basic, advanced and training design).
- Train the trainer (TTT) workshops in up to 10 countries. Over the period, there will be basic training workshops in 4 target countries; and advanced training and training design workshops in 3-5 countries.
- At least 20 local trade union training/professional development workshops to be conducted by newly-trained trainers in target countries.

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Monthly e-bulletins (IFJ, SAMSN and China Network) sent to affiliates and partners in Asia-Pacific
- Global Days of Action
- Stop the War on Journalists in Sri Lanka campaign
- Campaign to End Impunity in the Philippines (including Philippines Action Plan)
- Press Freedom in China campaigning

Partners: Region-based affiliates

Expected Results:
1. Leadership and organisational capacity: Union leaders have received training in leadership, management and organising, and use these skills to strengthen their unions.
2. Sustained training and organisational capacity: Union leaders and members have participated in TTT programs and received training modules, and apply these to conduct local trainings; to integrate training programs into union planning.
3. Negotiation skills: Union leaders and members have received training in leadership, organising and collective bargaining, and apply these skills to bargaining, advocacy and campaigning.
4. Union membership: Union leaders and members have received training in leadership and organising, and apply these skills to recruitment and raising awareness of the benefits of union membership among colleagues.
5. Advocacy and campaigning: Union leaders and members have received training in leadership and organising, and apply these skills to develop and implement advocacy and campaigns on a range of issues. Union leaders have also participated in regional meetings which develop region-based actions.

6. Gender equity: Union leaders and members have participated in training programs and regional meetings in which a high percentage of women participate; gender equity is a significant cross-cutting issue in local programs.

7. Regional networking: Union leaders have participated in regional meetings which enhance cross-border solidarity and networking, including with members of other GUFs; training programs have promoted regional interactions; the IFJ Asia-Pacific office, bulletins and website connect groups across Asia-Pacific.

Funders: LO-TCO

2. Title: Media for Democracy in the Pacific

Location: Pacific Islands   **Project Period:** July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012

Objectives:
The objective is to strengthen the role of media workers, press freedom advocates and civil society actors in defending and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Pacific. This includes achieving an enduring coalition of actors able to jointly promote and defend rights related to freedom of the media, freedom of expression, access to information and the right to free association in Pacific Island States. To achieve this, IFJ Asia-Pacific will develop and run a series of activities to bring individuals and organisations together and provide and develop skills in monitoring of media rights and promoting a culture of public service journalism. The action will reinforce the central role of an independent media in promoting democratic discourse and human rights for all.

Background:
The security of human rights and fundamental freedoms across the Pacific Islands is a matter of grave concern after increasingly severe repressive actions by Fiji's military regime built up to emergency rule and the enforcement of strict censorship in April 2009. Concerns are also growing about the potential for a domino effect on other Island States in the Pacific. The impetus for this project was IFJ involvement in facilitating training activities in the Pacific in 2009 with Pacific Freedom Forum, which identified a clear need for stronger regional networking.

Project Activities:
The main activities include:

1. Training modules on media rights monitoring and public service journalism.
2. TTTs x 2 attached to regional roundtable meeting and regional summit
3. Local workshops (media rights monitoring and PSJ)
4. Annual press freedom reports x 2
5. Advocacy materials
6. Pacific Regional Roundtable Meeting
7. Pacific Summit on Press Freedom and Public Service Journalism
8. Handbook for Public Service Journalism and Human Rights Reporting in the Pacific

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Media alerts form base campaign, attached to all of the above, leading up to Pacific Summit

Associates: Pacific Freedom Forum (PFF) is lead associate. Contributions from Pacific Media Centre (PMC); Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance; Engineering, Print and Manufacturing Union (New Zealand); Journalists' Association of Western Samoa; Secretariat of the Pacific Community; and possibly Pacific Islands News Association.

Expected Results:
The project aims to build a coalition for unified action to conduct and promote media rights monitoring; campaigning for media freedom and human rights; improved reporting on human rights, democratic participation and processes, and a strengthened independent media sector. Results or outcomes will be:
- Training/information packages x 2 (monitoring and public service journalism).
- Up to 24 media workers, civil society representatives trained in reporting and monitoring media rights, and/or trained as trainers on public service journalism.

- Up to 240 media workers and civil society representatives gain skills for monitoring and reporting media rights, and/or reporting according to public service values, including in human rights reporting.
- Monitoring network issues regular statements based on monitoring alerts from various countries.
- Two annual Press Freedom in the Pacific reports.
- Handbook on public service journalism and human rights reporting for the Pacific.
- Pacific Charter for media rights and ethics arising from the Pacific Summit.

Funders: EC and UNESCO-IPDC

3. Title: Philippines Massacre Follow-Up

Location: the Philippines   **Project Period**: March 2010 – March 2011

Objectives:
This project follows on from IFJ Asia-Pacific's emergency response with the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines to the Maguindanao massacre in the southern Philippines on November 23, 2009. The project is developed on the basis of recommendations by the local affiliate and an international mission to the Philippines in December 2009, organised by IFJ Asia-Pacific.

Background:
The massacre of 32 journalists and media workers among 58 people in Maguindanao occurred in a context where at least 72 journalists had been killed previously in the eight-year tenure of the Arroyo administration. The IFJ Asia-Pacific office had already worked for many years with the Australian and Norwegian journalists' unions to improve safety and working conditions for journalists in the Philippines, establishing an NUJP safety office in Manila, with little support from international funders. Meanwhile, LO-TCO union-building programs assisted to consolidate the NUJP and allow it to expand its branch structure, including in Mindanao. Pre-massacre advice from the NUJP to the IFJ had stressed the need for strengthened safety support ahead of national elections in 2010, but the extra funding could not be secured in mid-2009.

Project Activities:

- Establish NUJP Satellite Safety Office in Mindanao
- Administrative support for the NUJP Manila Safety Office
- NUJP safety manual upgrade, training across country through local chapters
- Trauma counselling and humanitarian support to families and colleagues of victims
- Contingency fund for emergencies and legal support

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- International Mission Report - *Massacre in the Philippines: International Solidarity Mission Rapid Assessment*
- Philippines Action Plan – see http://asiapacific.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-action-plan-for-president-aquino-to-end-impunity-in-the-philippines
- November 23, 2010 Global Day of Action

Partners: National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)

Expected Results:
- Satellite safety office, Mindanao, to serve a media community of more than 3000
- Staff (coordinator and monitor) for Mindanao office, including assistance on monitoring and safety training
- Staff (full-time administrator) for NUJP Manila office, including IT support for upgrading NUJP website
- NUJP safety training manual upgraded, TTT, expanded pool of local trainers, roll-out of local trainings led by local trainers
- Peer support network for dealing with trauma arising from media-related work
- Increase in successful industrial advocacy and campaigning
- Improved networking and pre-emptive actions for journalists' safety and protection

Funders: OSI and IMS

Title: Promoting Media Freedom in Hong Kong and China

4. Location: China, Hong Kong, Taiwan   **Project Period:** Feb 1 2010- 31 Jan 2011

Objectives:
- To improve coverage of media rights violations and labour conditions in China
- To increase the capacity of journalists to act as watchdogs on media rights and media labour conditions
- To build global support for independent media in Hong Kong and China
- To strengthen the ability of the media in Hong Kong and China to promote independent, free and fair reporting of political processes and human rights issues
- To promote the role of journalism as a public service, including in regard to upholding human rights and democratic participation for all citizens

Background:

This project builds on the successes and lessons learnt during the first two years to establish this program, which began ahead of the Beijing Olympics (*Open and Free – Towards a Democratic Media Culture in China*, February 2008 to January 2009) and continued with *Promoting Media Freedom in Hong Kong and China* (February 2009 to January 2010). This year's annual report, *China Clings to Control: Press Freedom in 2009,* highlighted the battle by local censors to control media commentary on a range of topics. It provided details on 62 official government orders to restrict media reporting, believed to be the first time such a list has been published and made publicly available at an international level. Since the report's publication, China's leaders have noted the valuable role of journalists in a number of public statements and speeches, but journalists continue to face censorship and acts of sometimes violent harassment and intimidation. Central and provincial propaganda departments continue to issue numerous orders that restrict journalists in conducting their work in the public interest.

Project Activities:
- Maintain IFJ Asia-Pacific project coordinator based in Hong Kong
- Maintain a China press freedom network
- Conduct training workshop
- Publish a monthly bulletin and annual Press Freedom Report

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Monthly China e-bulletin
- Letter-writing, including joint regional statements
- Regular press releases about media rights violations in China and territories
- Annual published report

Partners: Hong Kong Journalists' Association (HKJA) and Association of Taiwan Journalists (ATJ)

Expected Results:
- Increase in reporting of violations and activity across the network
- Wide dissemination of published reports and commentary through network
- Increased lobbying by members of the network and by its audience
- Regular operation of the press freedom network
- Increased capacity for journalists and their organisations to act as watchdogs and monitor press freedom
- Improved awareness of media workers' rights in China and its territories

Funders: NED, Alliance Safety and Solidarity Appeal

5. Title: Reporting for Peace in Nepal

Location: Nepal   **Project Period:** October 2009 – December 2010

Objectives:
The overall objective is to support Nepal's transition to peace and to reduce conflict and division by promoting the adoption of principles of tolerance and conflict-sensitivity among journalists and media. The specific goals are:
- To build awareness across Nepal's media community about the key elements of responsible journalism and the ways in which it serves the wider public good.
- To develop skills of journalists and in-house mechanisms for responsible and inclusive journalism and media output that is alert to the needs and rights of all groups, and promotes peaceful resolution of conflict.
- To encourage dialogue on the role of Nepal's media in reducing conflict and promoting peace, and to establish dialogue, mechanisms and institutions that assist to achieve the principal aim over the long term.

Background:
After 10 years of civil conflict, the peace agreed with the Maoist insurgency movement and the institution in 2008 of a Constituent Assembly to oversee Nepal's political transition present an opportunity for Nepal's media to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the country's multi-layered conflicts. Nepal's journalists and their organisations played a central role in long-running advocacy and actions to seek an end to abuses of human rights associated with the civil conflict, and the more recent peace-time implementation of measures to secure rights to freedom of the press, of expression and of association. It is critical that the momentum for positive change be maintained, not just in terms of supporting Nepal's journalists and their organisations to continue to defend a free and independent media, but also in assisting them to develop and entrench a media culture that serves peace, reconciliation and the public good.

Project Activities:
- Conduct research on media's roles and responsibilities
- Develop a module on "Reporting for Peace"
- Conduct workshops on "Reporting for Peace"
- Prepare "Reporting for Peace in Nepal" publication
- Conduct national roundtable

Partner: Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ)

Expected Results:
- Assessment of factors that influence how journalists approach their work and make decisions on content.
- "Reporting for Peace in Nepal" module.
- "Reporting for Peace in Nepal" workshops in Kathmandu, Nepalganj and Biratnagar, each training 15 journalists.
- "Reporting for Peace" handbook widely distributed.

Funders: UNESCO

6. Title: Media for Democracy in Afghanistan

Location: Afghanistan   **Project Period:** Dec 2008-Dec 2011

Objectives:
The overall objective is to promote democratic processes and discourse among a wide range of stakeholders. The specific objective is to strengthen the professionalism of journalists and the media as independent watchdogs of governance and facilitators of peaceful democratic discourse, specifically in reporting on political issues and the 2009 elections and their aftermath. A complementary objective is to increase the capacity of journalists to campaign for press freedom and media independence.

Background:

Although the 2004 elections marked a significant change in Afghanistan, the transition to full democracy remains slow, civil society is not fully engaged in the process, and journalists and media professionals continue to suffer intimidation, violence and repressive legal actions. Elections in August 2009 will be a critical phase in the country's democratic process, and it is in the public's best interest that the elections are reported nationally in a safe working environment. Journalists face challenges in accessing information and reporting freely and transparently without fear of retaliation. They must contend with violence and intimidation emanating from a wide range of groups, as well as the dangers of reporting from conflict zones. The project will impart skills to Afghan journalists so that they can conduct free, fair and authoritative reporting on political issues and democratic transition.

Project Activities:
- Project Office, Staff
- AIJA National Assembly
- National Media for Democracy Summit
- Pre-election Survey: to highlight areas where media should focus attention.
- *Media for Democracy in Afghanistan* handbook, revised
- Training Module
- Train the Trainer
- Election/Political Reporting Training x 10
- Media Rights Monitoring Network
- Campaigning (focus on Afghan Media Law and the Constitutional contradictions).

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Regular press releases
- Media law advocacy

Partners: Afghan Independent Journalists' Association (AIJA)

Expected Results:
- Improved civil society dialogue on political issues and free media's role in facilitating democratic processes
- Journalists understand media's role in electoral processes, democratic participation, accountable governance
- Journalists have greater understanding and capacity to report on issues related to transitional justice
- Improved media reporting and coverage of political issues, elections and policy implementation
- Journalists have improved skills to report freely and fairly, and to promote press freedom
- Journalists' organisations improve capacity to monitor media rights violations
- Journalists' organisations have greater capacity to deliver training to their peers

Funders: European Commission

7. Title: Media for Democracy in Pakistan

Location: Pakistan   **Project Period:** June 2008 – Oct 2011

Objectives:

The overall goal is to assist local journalists and institutions in Pakistan to defend a free and independent media that serves to strengthen good governance and democratic processes in Pakistan. Key objectives are to support the PFUJ with infrastructure that will help its leaders and membership to strengthen and sustain their campaigning, and prevent violations of the rights of journalists and media workers, institutions and freedom of expression. Longer-term objectives are to strengthen the PFUJ's membership base in more remote regions; promote skills development by training local journalists to deliver training; promote greater representation of women in unions as well as media institutions; and expand the corps of journalists who have union leadership, campaigning and advocacy skills.

Background:

The project follows three IFJ-led international missions to Pakistan in 2007 and 2008. The third mission, in March 2008, issued an action plan which was unanimously adopted at meeting of journalists and editors and forms a basis for the activities that follow, including a National Summit and the establishment of a PFUJ secretariat and IFJ project

office. The third mission concluded that the PFUJ needed support to take advantage of opportunities arising through the instalment of a new government whose leaders have publicly committed to support media freedom.

Project Activities:
- Set up PFUJ Secretariat / IFJ office
- Appoint staff
- Hold National Summit (August 2008)
- Provincial leadership meetings
- Monitoring media rights violations
- Newsletters
- Campaigns
- Provide support for training programs
- Assist in preparation of South Asia Press Freedom Report

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- National media summit (much media coverage)
- Meetings with federal and provincial members of government
- National protests – working conditions and safety

Partners: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ)

Expected Results:

- Functioning PFUJ secretariat
- PFUJ improves capacity to represent and defend the rights of journalists
- Mechanisms to protect and assist journalists in immediate danger
- Improved advocacy to defend the rights of journalists and institutions to report independently and critically
- Journalists have enhanced skills to improve the quality of their work
- Defence of public's right to access independent, critical and reliable information
- National and international attention to problems confronting the media and free expression

Funders: Open Society Institute

8. Title: Safety and Protection for Journalists in Pakistan

Location: Pakistan   **Project Period:** June 2008 – December 2010

Objectives:
The objectives are aligned with the Media for Democracy project.

Background:
The project work complements the Media for Democracy project, and is intended to seek to address serious rights abuses committed against media personnel in Pakistan.

Project Activities:
- Safety training courses x 3
- Emergency fund
- Local safety workshop and materials

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Media coverage for safety training, including prime time talk shows
- Meetings with federal and provincial members of government
- Follow-up media calls to Asia-Pacific office
- Swat investigation regarding murder of Musa Khan Khel
- National protests – safety and protection

Partners: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ)

Expected Results:
- Strengthened PFUJ capacity to advocate for safety and protection of media personnel
- Improved skills among media workers for protecting themselves and colleagues
- Enhanced public understanding of need to address risks for media personnel reporting in the public interest
- Government members acknowledge role in safeguarding and protecting media personnel
- National and international attention to problems confronting the media and free expression

Funders: Open Society Institute

9. Title: IFJ Human Rights Journalism Prize – Promoting excellence in reporting the rights of vulnerable groups in Sri Lanka - Revised

Location: Sri Lanka   **Project Period**: November 2007 – November 2010

Objectives:
The overall objective is improved respect for human rights in Sri Lanka, especially for the most vulnerable groups. The specific objective was revised with EC approval in 2009 to focus on resolving conflict and promoting reconciliation by strengthening journalists' organisations and their capacity to monitor and report on rights violations. The project originally was framed to organise an annual competition among provincial media (which was achieved in 2008). The aim for the revised activities is still to promote understanding of human rights, as well as to support improved media reporting of human rights and to promote the rights of vulnerable groups. This aim is now expected to be addressed in the context of a post-conflict environment.

Background:
Repressions and violence against Sri Lankan media and journalists from early to mid-2008 was almost wholly directed by state-linked actors. With the murder of editor Lasantha Wickrematunge in January 2009, the media community was gripped by fear. The build-up of pressures on journalists, their unions and media freedom organisations - by way of public vilification, threats and assaults - had the effect of diminishing the capacity of local organisations to provide advocacy and independent support to the media community, at least in the short term. The anti-media campaign led by government members and officials was at least partly intended to sever the local media freedom advocacy network and its links with international organisations, making it difficult for local advocates to safely conduct monitoring and reporting. As a result, local reporting of media rights violations fractured at a critical juncture. As well, the heightened level of threats and retribution against independent journalist advocates required an upgraded safety response strategy and expanded support for the large number of media personnel who fled abroad.

Project Activities:
- Safety Fund and Rapid Response
- Monitoring and Reporting Media Rights Violations
- Research Mission/s
- Publication of Mission Report
- Exile Attendance at Regional Meeting
- National Meeting

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Regular alerts and statements, mission report
- Continuing Stop the War on Journalists and Release Tissa Campaigns
- Submission to EC human rights assessments and UN Human Rights Council

Partners: n/a

Expected Results:
- Strengthened capacity for continued reporting of media rights
- Improved support for conducting advocacy, campaigning in defence of media rights and broader human rights

- Improved measures for providing safety support
- Renewed networking and collaboration among local journalists' organisations, including provincial groups
- Renewed strength of journalists and organisations to promote human rights, democratic principles, media freedom
- Journalists and media positioned to contribute to post-conflict reconciliation
- Sri Lankan experience provides basis for strategies to be used in other countries with similar experience
- Contribution toward creating and strengthening conditions for independent and diverse journalism, rights-based media reporting and a democratic media culture

Funders: European Commission

10. Title: Freedom in Solidarity: Media Working for Peace in South Asia

Location: Afghanistan   **Project Period**: May 2009 –December 2010

Objectives:
The broad aim is to seek constructive engagement by the media in all target countries in South Asia, with the imperative of building peace and an understanding by media professionals of the manner in which their reporting has bearing on realities of social conflict and harmony, and to realise the potential of South Asia's various media to be a constructive and creative problem-solving agency in societies beset by conflicts at multiple levels. Specific goals are to prepare a tool to be used by journalists' organisations and the broader media community for developing and implementing effective strategies for the defence of media freedom in conflict-prone societies. The program will use networks of journalists' organisations in South Asia to assess the experience within and between countries of organised actions mounted by journalists' organisations and the media community in challenging and dealing with situations of conflict at various levels, and to derive a set of lessons learned, good practice and effective strategies that can be widely shared.

Background:
The targeted countries – Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – can all be described as transitional societies. Although these countries differ in the specifics, they show sufficient elements of commonality to allow for a common regional strategy on media freedom as a vital element in the apparatus of conflict resolution. The research project, which will investigate actions undertaken by journalists' organisations when dealing with situations of crisis and conflict, will consolidate the outcomes of IFJ Asia-Pacific's work in South Asia over the past decade, especially since the South Asia Media Solidarity Network was established in 2004. SAMSN has sought to establish basic norms of cross-border solidarity on media freedom issues with a significant degree of success. These results will be consolidated in the project and decisive norms of cross-border media solidarity established to challenge the bases of the localised conflicts in and between the countries covered.

Project Activities:
- Research on interventions and activities conducted by affiliates and SAMSN members in situations of crisis and conflict since 2002
- Focus group discussions
- Regional roundtable discussion
- Publication of report

Communications and Campaigns / Lobbying Events:
- Launch and dissemination of report

Partners: Affiliates, partners, SAMSN

Expected Results:
- Report outlining strategies employed by journalists and media organisations in situations of conflict, noting conflict mitigation tactics and benefits/outcomes for wider society
- Nucleus of journalists committed to peace, based on professional norms accepted across borders
- Strengthened understanding of the role of journalists' organisations and media in conflict mitigation and peace-building

- Strengthened solidarity and lines of communication among journalists' bodies across borders, building a regional platform for advocacy for media for peace and journalists' defence of press freedom.

Funders: USIP