

AMIC-OANA Workshop on Economic Perspectives
of ASEAN : Singapore, Nov 30-Dec 2, 1983 :
[speech]

1983

<https://hdl.handle.net/10356/100096>

Speech
By
Yusof Bador

Economic

3

Speech by Mr. Yusof Bador, OANA Secretary-General at the Economic Workshop held at AMIC Conference Centre, Singapore on November 30, 1983.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies(OANA), let me first of all extend a very warm welcome to all of you. OANA, as our organisation is popularly known among our 24 member news agencies, is happy to be associated with AMIC in organising this workshop. As a result of our collaboration we have been able to bring together both newspaper and news agency journalists from around the ASEAN region for what we hope will be some serious discussion on the economic perspectives of ASEAN. Most of the participants are financial journalists and you will find the workshop both stimulating and useful. We have also assembled here a very distinguished panel of speakers from the region, each of whom is an expert in his field. We are also privileged to have Dilip Mukerjee as workshop coordinator. Dilip is not only a fine writer and editor, but he has also wide experience in conducting courses on economic and financial journalism.

For us, in OANA, this workshop is of special significance. We have worked tirelessly to establish the first continental exchange of news among third world

...2/-

- 2 -

countries. Two years ago we set up what is called the Asia-Pacific News Network (ANN) which today links most of our news agencies and provides the communication links for the exchange of news. Although we have made commendable progress, we are far from satisfied. Our copy has to compete with those of the Western agencies and therefore has to be of a high standard. At a recent editorial workshop in Jakarta we decided that there was an urgent need to improve writing standards. What better way than through courses and workshops. We also felt that greater attention should be focussed on the exchange of economic stories.

We have therefore planned a number of courses for our editorial staff. This one in Singapore is one of two courses we have planned on economic writing. While this workshop brings together journalists in ASEAN, the second one will cater for journalists in South Asia.

Financial journalism is gaining in importance and popularity in the region. Specialists in the field are in great demand. I am happy to see so many financial newspapers of a very high standard in our part of the world. Even many of our leading newspapers have good sections on business and economic news.