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AMIC IDRC Training Workshop for Documentation  
Network Members : Singapore, Aug 26-29, 1991 :  
[welcome address]

Menon, Vijay

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**Welcome Address**

**By**

**Vijay Menon**

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR VIJAY MENON, SECRETARY-GENERAL, ASIAN MASS COMMUNICATION RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTRE (AMIC) AT THE IDRC-AMIC WORKSHOP ON "DOCUMENTATION NETWORK MEMBERS", SINGAPORE, AUGUST 26 - 29, 1991

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you, on behalf of AMIC, to this Workshop for "Documentation Network Members".

At the time of AMIC's founding in 1971, Documentation was identified as a major activity area. During these twenty years and more, we have established linkages with many institutions with similar interests in the region. We have long cherished the hope that we would be able to strengthen these links with other documentation centres to form an active network for the benefit of the region. Today's meeting represents a major step towards the fulfilment of that hope.

'Network Partners' is how we have described your institutions. And that is indeed how we see this meeting -- as a group of inter-connected and cooperating partners who contribute to and avail of the fruits of this relationship -- sharing, in other words, both the responsibilities and the benefits.

AMIC has long been a member of Unesco's COMNET, a global network of information and documentation centres in the field of media and communication research, policy and practice. At their meeting in Nairobi in December 1990, COMNET members resolved to consolidate the network and to expand its range and representation, not only at the international but also at the regional and national levels. AMIC, as the Asian member, has the responsibility for promoting membership and activities in this region, jointly with other members from Asia.

It is our hope that during this meeting, some time and thought can be devoted to establishing and activating a COMNET-ASIA network which will help the development of COMNET manual, consider formats for data exchange, within COMNET, procedures for system consolidation and maintenance and schemes for training of personnel.

At the start of the Eighties, it was customary to talk of the dawning of the 'information age' and of the emergence of the 'information society'. Today, the talk is of the second wave of the information age, of broadband technology and universal connectivity. We recognise that the levels of advancement and affluence in the countries of Asia are not uniform. But we strongly believe that we can collectively devise solutions to any problems we may encounter.

This meeting has been made possible by the support provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. Supplementary assistance has been provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. We needed a resource person for this meeting. The CFTC not only lent us a sympathetic ear but also invaluable support -- in the person of Maureen Henninger, Coordinator of Continuing Education, School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales, Australia. We are also grateful to your individual institutions for agreeing to your participation. FES and the Government of Singapore, our principal benefactors, also deserve our thanks.

An oft-quoted, but apparently anonymous, philosopher has said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one small step. This meeting, hopefully, is one such small step.

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