<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Asian forum of environmental journalists (AFEJ).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Sri K. Nayagam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10220/1029">http://hdl.handle.net/10220/1029</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Asian Forum Of Environmental Journalists
(AFEJ)

By

Sri K Nayagam
ASIAN FORUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS (AFEJ) - A
PRESENTATION BY A. SRI K. NAYAGAM, SECRETARY, AFEJ AD-HOC
COMMITTEE, AT KLH-AMIC WORKSHOP ON "ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION" -
SINGAPORE, APRIL 1-3, 1985

An Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ) was constituted
following a resolution adopted at a Regional Mass Media Conference
on Environment and Development, organised by ESCAP/Government of
India, Ministry of Environment and Forests/Indian Environmental
Society and held in New Delhi from Feb 18-21, 1985.

An ad-hoc committee has been set up to undertake the groundwork
for the establishment of AFEJ on a firm footing. Heading the
ad-hoc committee is an eminent Indian journalist and editor of
FACETS, Mr Chanchal Sarkar with Mrs Jiang Xiao-Yu (Deputy Director,
China Environmental News) of China as Vice-Chairman and
Mr A Sri K Nayagam (Asst News Editor, New Straits Times) of
Malaysia as Secretary.

Other members of the ad-hoc committee are Mr Masud Ahmad (Indonesia),
Mr Krishna Sigdyal (Nepal), Mr Theodore Montelibano (Philippines),
Mrs Chitra Weerasinghe (Sri Lanka), Mr Banluchai Srisonghmuang
(Thailand), Mr Ahmed Nure Alam (Bangladesh) and Dr Nilima Harjal
(India).

The forum will meet at an appropriate date to work out and
finalise its objectives, terms of reference, membership etc.

There were several factors, which emerged in the course of
discussions during the conference, that motivated the establishment
of AFEJ.

Principally, the conference recognised that environmental reporting,
particularly in developing countries like those in Asia, was a
relatively new field and one which requires a measure of specialised
knowledge and skills in investigation and presentation.
A forum like AFEJ would be well-placed to, with the assistance of organisations like ESCAP, organise seminars, workshops and training courses in environmental journalism.

In this connection, AFEJ, though yet to be formally launched, has already been approached by the National Union of Journalists, Malaysia, to look into the possibility of organising a training session/workshop in co-operation with the Asean Journalists Federation on environmental reporting for journalists in the Asean region.

The matter is being looked into.

Among the objectives identified so far are:

1. To promote a greater awareness of environmental issues among journalists in the Asian region.

2. To organise dialogues with decision-makers in the media to exert greater influence on the importance that is being given to environmental issues.

3. To encourage greater exchange of ideas and information on environmental issues in the region among journalists.

The scope for the role to be played by a forum like AFEJ is indeed unlimited given the resources and AFEJ, in its infancy, will rely heavily on ESCAP to nurse it into adulthood.

The establishment of AFEJ is significant in the fact that there now exists a network of environment journalists, albeit small in number, almost throughout Asia.

Given the support given to and keen interest shown in AFEJ by ESCAP, and in particular, the chief of its Environmental Unit, Dr Kazi Jalal, the ad-hoc committee is confident that it will grow into an effective organisation for the promotion of environmental awareness in the region.