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Deutsche Welle - AMIC
Seminar on

RADIO PROGRAMMING
IN A MULTIMEDIA AGE

COUNTRY PAPER – MALAYSIA

jointly organised by

DW
Deutsche Welle Radio Training Centre
Köln, Germany

and

AMIC
Asian Media Information
and Communication Centre (AMIC)

River View Hotel, Singapore
Radio in Malaysia

At present there is a media "surplus" in Malaysia in comparison to a few years ago. In terms of radio stations, there are now 8 national networks and 21 regional networks. All these are under Radio Malaysia banner, meaning public broadcasters. In addition there are another 4 private radio stations and this exclude 5 free to air channels over ASTRO (Asia Satellite Television and radio Organisation).

In terms of TV, there 2 RTM (radio-television malaysia) channels, 3 private TV stations, 1 cable TV and 20 channels over ASTRO.

The 8 national networks:

a. Radio Malaysia Channel 1 (formerly known as Radio 1)
   i. broadcast; 24 hrs daily in bahasa malaysia (malay)
   ii. coverage: nationwide

b. Radio Malaysia Music Channel
   i. broadcast; 24 hrs daily (12 hrs in Malay and 12 hrs in English)
   ii. coverage: nationwide

c. Radio Malaysia Channel 4
   i. broadcast; 24 hrs daily in English
   ii. coverage: nationwide

d. Radio Malaysia Channel 5
   i. broadcast; 24 hrs daily in Chinese
   ii. coverage: nationwide

e. Radio Malaysia Channel 6
   i. broadcast; 24 hrs daily in tamil
   ii. coverage: nationwide.
   • the only radio station broadcasting in Tamil and enjoys a complete monopoly as there is no other radio station (public or private) broadcasting in tamil.

f. Radio Malaysia - RIMA Channel
   i. broadcast; 6 hrs daily in malay
   ii. coverage: nationwide
   • the station broadcast traditional malay songs and music
g. Radio Malaysia Channel 7  
i. broadcast: 3 hrs daily  
ii. coverage: nationwide with heavy concentration in Perak and Pahang  
• this station caters for the indigenous population of Malaysia.

h. Information radio (Radio 8)  
i. broadcast: 6 hrs daily in Malay  
ii. coverage: nationwide.  
* this station is managed by the information department.

i. Regional stations:  
Are based in the state capitals, while in the states of Sabah and Sarawak, stations are also found in major towns.

j. Private stations:  
Some of their coverage are nationwide, while majority are concentrated in the Klang valley with the language of broadcasting being English and Malay.

Technology:

Most of RTM stations are on analogy, with transition to digital. A few of RTM's stations like Langkawi, Labuan and Johore baharu are already on digital.

In IBC - international broadcasting centre, RTM, there are 4 radio counties that are digital. The private radio stations are all on digital technology (hard disc system).

Obstacles:

None so far, except maybe finance. The staff are all being exposed to the new technology.