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Deutsche Welle - AMIC
Seminar on
RADIO PROGRAMMING
IN A MULTIMEDIA AGE

COUNTRY PAPER – MALAYSIA

jointly organised by

Deutsche Welle Radio Training Centre
Köln, Germany

and

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.