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AMICEEPSEA WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMICS FOR JOURNALISTS, SINGAPORE, NOV 1-17, 1999
This workshop contributed to the long-term objective to promote knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and to ensure more frequent and improved environmental reporting about Asia.
REPORT

of the

Environment and Economics Workshop for Journalists

RELC International Hotel

and

School of Communication Studies, Nanyang Technological University

Singapore, 16-17 November 1999

organized by

Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC)

With support from

Environment and Economics Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA)

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Singapore

January 6, 2000
REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON
ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMICS FOR JOURNALISTS,
SINGAPORE, 16-17 NOVEMBER, 1999

Introduction:

The Workshop on Environment and Economics for Journalists was held in Singapore from 16th to 17th November 1999. It was organized by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) in collaboration with the School of Communication Studies, Nanyang Technological University (SCS-NTU), Singapore and supported by the Environment and Economics Programme for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Singapore.

Workshop Preparations:

The workshop preparations began in late June, when Dr. David Glover, Director of EEPSEA, informed AMIC that the proposal for the workshop had been approved. Subsequently, a list of participating countries and a tentative programme were submitted. Letters to identify participants were sent out to print media agencies in Asia in August. Confirmations were received from participants in September and the list of participants was drawn up in early November. Workshop venues (RELC International Hotel and Multimedia Lab, SCS-NTU) were confirmed in October.

Resource Persons:

The following were the resource persons:

1. Dr. Joseph A. Sommerville, Asst. Prof, SCS-NTU (Lecturer for the management module).
2. Dr. Brian Massey, Lecturer, SCS-NTU (Lecturer for the editing/skills development module).
3. Mr. Rufus Bellamy, Bellamy Consultants. (Lecturer for the editing/skills development module).

Programme:

The workshop programme was designed to encompass two modules, as follows:

- A concept module dealing with the overview and background of economics and environment problems in the region: This was covered during the first day, 16th November by resource persons identified by EEPSEA.
- A skills development module whereby participants acquired advanced writing and editing skills; and wrote their stories. This was accomplished on the second day, 17th November.

(Please see Appendix One – Workshop Timetable)
Opening Ceremony:

The opening ceremony was held on the morning of 16th November at RELC Hotel, which was the workshop venue for the first day. Welcome addresses were delivered by Mr. Vijay Menon, Secretary-General, AMIC and Dr. David Glover, Director, EEPSEA. (See Appendix Two – Welcome Address)

Participants

Twenty-one participants from 11 Asian countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) attended the workshop.

(See Appendix Three – List of Participants)

Participants’ Evaluation:

All 21 participants, submitted the completed evaluation forms. The Singapore participant did not evaluate “hotel accommodation” as it was not applicable to her (See Appendix Four – Evaluation Summary).

Overall, participants gave high ratings for the various criteria, with “Meeting preparation and organization” receiving the highest rating (4.62 out of 5.00). Other criteria which received high ratings were “relevance of workshop to your work” (4.38), “overall value of the workshop to you” (4.48) and “overall quality of programme” (4.33).

Participants suggested that workshops of a similar nature should be regularly held. Some of them felt that the workshops should be of longer duration, as this would give them greater opportunities for interaction and networking.

Workshop Output:

1. Background papers on the environment and economics problems in the region. (See Appendix Five – Background papers).
2. Participants were assisted in improving writing skills for environmental stories.
3. Information was provided on available database and to access relevant information.
4. The Website ECANET was created. (See Appendix Six – Printout of ECANET Website)
5. Participants have started applying skills learnt at the workshop. (See Appendix Seven – News Articles)
Summary and Conclusion:

The workshop achieved its primary objectives, viz.

(a) To provide mid-level journalists with a comprehensive overview of the environment and economics in Asia;
(b) To upgrade skills in reporting, formulation and writing of environmental stories;
(c) To provide journalists with skills in data-gathering and networking arising from the development of the information superhighway, especially the Internet; and
(d) The Website, ECANET was updated.

The workshop has contributed to the long-term objective to promote knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and to ensure more frequent and improved environmental reporting about Asia.

Prepared by AMIC, Singapore,
January 6, 2000