

This document is downloaded from DR-NTU, Nanyang Technological University Library, Singapore.

Title	Consultation on Press Systems in SAARC : Kathmandu, Nepal, 2-5 April 1991 : [closing address]
Author(s)	Rijal, K. P.
Citation	
Date	1991
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10220/2388
Rights	

Closing Address

By

K P Rijal

**Closing Address By
Mr K P Rijal
Acting Secretary, Ministry of Communication
H.M. Government of Nepal**

Fellow Participants

We have come to the end of the four day consultation on Press System in the SAARC countries, which I believe, have been quite rewarding to all of us. It is my earnest hope that the extensive exchange of views among top officials, academics and media professionals of Seven South Asian Countries will set in motion a process towards a meaningful cooperative, collaborative and understanding in the field of information at Regional level. I am confident that our present deliberations will help generate fresh initiatives to enable the press of SAARC countries to play a more effective role in the development of their respective countries and region as a whole.

The four day lively discussions have highlighted both the strength and the weakness of the Press System in the SAARC countries. The major challenge before us is how to make the press system relevant and meaningful to the needs of vast populace in the rural areas. Equally important is how to create an attitude of looking at things positively. Granted, press has a role of a watchdog and it is supposed to report misdoings, abuse of authority and things like that. But such report should, in no way, overshadow or overlook the development efforts and kill the inspiration, aspiration and enthusiasm to the extent of frustration and passion. We have to change the attitude and taste of seeking some thing unusual, abnormal and sensational in the pages of newspapers and establish a conception and perception that even normal, desirable and better things can make news and stories.

There has been an imbalance of news reporting both at national as well as Regional level. We find much more about other parts of the world than about our own country region and society in our own newspapers. Whatever we find about us is something understood or misunderstood by a person of completely different vision and upbringing. This situation has got to be corrected. Any contribution in this regard will prove to be of immense importance. There are different areas of common interest for the countries of SAARC region. Degrading ecological conditions can be one of our common concerns, I think it is high time for us to join hands and disseminate information in order to bring awareness among the governments and people of SAARC countries.

It is nothing new that authorities usually blame the press and constantly accuse the authority. In the process, however, country and people suffer the most. Both authorities and Press are responsible on their part for the misuse of press. We have to work collectively to develop an effective, responsible and strong Press System. For, weak Press System, is vulnerable to all kinds of internal as well as external vices. Our recommendations, suggestions and declarations, I believe, will significantly contribute in developing a Press System which will be more consistent and conducive to the needs, aspirations and realities of our respective countries and region.

Before concluding, I would like to thank AMIC for organising such an important and timely consultation and choosing Kathmandu as venue. I believe, this meeting will prove to be a milestone in the history of Press System of our region. Hope all of you have enjoyed your stay here and had a chance to look around inspite of our tight schedule at this meeting. I thank all fellow participants for their active participation and contributions and hope that we will have an occasion to meet and strengthen our contact in the future. With these words, I close this session.

Thank you.