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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Aggarwal, Narendra</td>
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Opening Remarks

By

Narendra Aggarwal
Opening remarks by AMIC Senior Programme Specialist
Narendra Aggarwal at the UNESCO-CWDS-AMIC Consultation on Women,
Media and Prostitution at New Delhi, February 24-26, 1986

Friends,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Singapore-based Asian
Mass Communication Research and Information Centre, AMIC, to
welcome you to this Consultation on Women, Media and Prostitution,
which is being held in collaboration with the New Delhi-based
Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), on behalf of
UNESCO.

We at AMIC work in close collaboration with UNESCO and
have many areas of ongoing joint activity. We have been
contracted to organise this consultation. At this meeting,
I have the pleasant duty of shouldering responsibility for both
AMIC and UNESCO. Dr Breda Pavalic, from UNESCO headquarters, who
has been the moving spirit behind the study coordinated by the
Centre for Women's Development Studies, has been unable to attend
this consultation, though she very much wanted to come.

Before I touch upon the subject of this Consultation, it
would be useful to say a few words about ourselves. AMIC, set
up in 1971, is a regional mass communication research and
documentation centre charged with the responsibility of raising
the standards of teaching, training, research and practice of
mass communication.

We meet this responsibility by convening conferences and
seminars, by organising refresher courses, by offering consul­
tancy services and through a publication programme.

It was in the light of this charter that UNESCO asked us
to convene this Consultation. Our interest normally would have
been limited to a study of Women and Media, but in view of the
profound social implications of the topic, we accepted the
invitation to be involved with this Consultation.
As some of you may be aware, UNESCO through its "Images of Women In the Media" 1984-1985 Action commissioned the Centre for Women's Development Studies to coordinate a study covering three Asian countries: India, Malaysia and the Philippines.

While I expect Dr Kumud Sharma of the Centre for Women's Development Studies, to tell you about the study itself, I thought it would be useful to set out clearly what we expect as an outcome from this Consultation before we get down to business.

The UNESCO Secretariat expects the following from the Consultation:

(1) The consultation should elucidate the methodology (methodologies) used in the three case-studies, possible problems in accomplishing the studies, indication of useful sources of information, etc. - all of which could help similar studies to be undertaken on other parts of the world.

(2) The consultation should identify the results obtained through the three studies, possible areas for future action and, if necessary, further research.

(3) The consultation should identify possible recommendations, which could be addressed to various institutions and organizations, from local to international.

During the next three days, I hope we will address ourselves to these objectives.

I would like to express our gratitude to all of you for joining this Consultation. Our special thanks are due to Ms Rohana Ariffin from Malaysia and Sr Sol from Philippines, who conducted the studies in their respective countries, for
coming all the way to give us the benefit of their wisdom. Similarly, our thanks are due to Dr Hema Goonatilake from Colombo and Dr Pasuk Phongpaichit from Bangkok for joining the Consultation. I would also like to welcome our Indian participants from Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi. And finally, on behalf of AMIC and UNESCO, I would like to thank the Centre for Women's Development Studies for making such excellent arrangements for the conference.

Thank you all, once again.