<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>AMIC Seminar on Training Needs in the Use of Media for Distance Education in Asia, Singapore, Jun 8-11, 1987: [welcome address]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Menon, Vijay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10220/5881">http://hdl.handle.net/10220/5881</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome Address

By

Vijay Menon

Chief Guest, H.E. Mr. Sean Brady, Mr. Kevin Smith, President, ICDE, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you, on behalf of AMIC, to this Seminar on Training Needs in the Use of Media for Distance Education in Asia.

The problems facing the developing countries of Asia are many and varied. Yet it will be readily acknowledged that one of the gravest problems relates to its huge and growing population and to the inadequacy of educational facilities.

The facts and figures are familiar. Yet they bear repetition. For the statistics are truly staggering. Three thousand million people, two-thirds of the world population, live in Asia. Nearly 700 million people were added to the Asian population in the last 15 years and it is estimated that 800 million more will have been added by the year 2000. The under-15 age group accounts for a third of the population, 1000 million. And almost three-fourths of the population is rural. Despite a doubling of enrolment between 1960 and 1982, an eightfold increase in public expenditure between 1970 and 1984, nearly 400 million in the age group 5-24 in Asia remained outside the educational system.

The dimensions of the problems are indeed daunting. And it is not surprising that distance education is finding increasing favour in Asia. But while this offers a possible solution it is not without its own problems. The chief of these has to do with training - the need for trained personnel.

As Dr. Ram Reddy of the Indira Gandhi National Open University of India has pointed out, "A large number and variety of functionaries are engaged in different aspects of distance education...These different categories of people require different types of skills... (while) different countries have either evolved or are evolving strategies to meet the training needs...the training structures are not strong and effective except in Thailand".

- contd. -
This is the principal focus of this seminar: to identify regional training needs in the use of media for distance education and the possibility of setting up additional regional facilities. We are grateful to the many distinguished distance educators, led by Mr. Kevin Smith, President of the International Council for Distance Education, who are with us today. They have come from 14 countries as distant as Canada, the United Kingdom, Jordan, Korea, Japan, Australia and the countries of Asean and South Asia. We are confident that this eminent group will not only discuss the issues involved but also pinpoint specific areas for follow-up activity.

We are doubly grateful to you, Your Excellency, for the generous Canadian grant which made this seminar possible and for so graciously accepting our invitation to inaugurate the seminar. To Mr. Michael Leir we owe special thanks for his cheerful reassurances while he followed up on our application. We also thank the World Association for Christian Communication, London, for its contribution to facilitate South Asian participation.

Kevin Smith, President, ICDE, Sandy Eddington of the British Council, Shannon Timmers, G. Dhanarajan and Janet Jenkins, are deserving of special citations for their very special services.

Above all, we are grateful to all of you for the encouragement and support of your presence here this morning.