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<th>AMIC-CAF-GMDC Workshop on Management of Small Newspapers : Kathmandu, Mar 1-6, 1987 : [welcome address]</th>
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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Menon, Vijay</td>
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Welcome Address

By

Vijay Menon

Honorable Minister of Communication, distinguished guests, members of the Press and dear participants,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of AMIC, the Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre based in Singapore, to the inauguration of this Workshop on Management of Small Newspapers, which is being held in collaboration with the Nepal Press Institute, NPI. To the Honorable Minister, I would like to express our collective appreciation of his gracious gesture in accepting the invitation to inaugurate this Workshop.

This Workshop is AMIC's second training programme in Nepal. The first programme, a week-long Workshop on Development Journalism, was held in December 1985 in collaboration with the Worldview International Foundation (WIF) during the tenure of Mr Bharat Koirala as the Regional Director. Happily, he has joined hands with AMIC in this Workshop in his new position as the Director of the Nepal Press Institute.
AMIC’s involvement in Nepal has made significant headway in recent years. Close on the heels of our first programme in Kathmandu, we conducted a study on TV introduction to Nepal at the request of Mr Neer Bikram Shah, Chairman and General Manager of Nepal TV. Last year, we had received a request from the Executive Chairman of Gorkhapatra Sansthan, Mr Nagendra Sharma, for assistance in the preparation of an editor’s manual for use by its editorial staff. More recently, the Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus of Tribhuvan University sought our assistance for drafting a curriculum in journalism studies.

The contacts and traffic between the communication world of Nepal and AMIC have been two way. We were visited by Mr Gokul Pokhrel, Member-Secretary of the Nepal Press Institute, and his colleagues in the Science Popularisation Project of the Communication Division of the Royal Nepal Academy of Sciences and Technology.

I am happy to inform you that in three of our most recent programmes — Seminar on Women and Media in Asia, Consultation on Beyond Development Communication and Workshop on Rural Press Development in Asia — Nepal was represented by a participant each, two of whom presented papers and one a case study on Nepal.
To strike a personal note, besides having conducted the AMIC-WIF December 1985 programme and being responsible for this one, I was fortunate to have assisted the CDG of West Germany in its Workshop on Mass Media and the Protection of the Environment held here in Kathmandu in September last year, as a Resource Person leading the print group, which produced two model newspapers, Harmony in English and Vatavaran in Nepali. Before my present assignment with AMIC in Singapore, I had the privilege in 1984-85 of representing the Hindustan Times of New Delhi as its Foreign Correspondent in Nepal.

On hopes that both on institutional and personal levels, the links with Nepal will strengthen further.

To come to the present Workshop, I would like to mention that it is a repeat of a similar activity that we did in association with the Press Institute of Bangladesh and the Chittagong Press Club. One of the principal resource persons from that Workshop — Mr Ashoke Dutta from Calcutta — is among the faculty members for the present Workshop. The teaching materials, tuned to small newspapers for small countries like Bangladesh and Nepal, have already been tried and tested and we hope will serve the needs of the present Workshop participants. In all, there are twenty participants, selected by the Nepal Press Institute, some of whom come from other towns in the country.
For the six-day Workshop, there is a five-member international faculty, besides our colleagues from the Nepal Press Institute. Besides Mr Ashoke Dutta, the second faculty member from India is Mr Ernest Fernandes from Bombay, who will join us on Wednesday.

For the Workshop, AMIC has received the assistance of the Communication Assistance Foundation (CAF) and the Graphic Media Development Centre (GMDC) of the Netherlands. Mr Van der Kolk, the GMDC expert, will arrive in Kathmandu tomorrow morning. The last two faculty members are our Secretary-General, Mr Vijay Menon, who arrives on Tuesday, and myself.

For some of you who may not be familiar with AMIC, let me say a few words about ourselves. The Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre was founded in 1971 with the joint support of the Government of Singapore and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, an independent foundation in the Republic of Germany. AMIC started as a regional documentation centre which, with the encouragement of Unesco, sought to disseminate information pertaining to mass communication. Today, AMIC acts as an independent foundation, charged with the responsibility of raising the standards of teaching, training, research and the practice of mass communication in Asia. It meets this responsibility through a publication and research programme, by offering consultancy services, by organising
refresher courses and by convening Workshops, conferences and seminars. All this, I might add, with the cooperation and goodwill of friends like yourselves who have consistently extended to us support and cooperation that have made it possible for us to expand the range and volume of our activities.

We are most grateful to the Honorable Minister for agreeing to inaugurate this Workshop and to all of you, our distinguished guests, for giving us the pleasure and the encouragement of your presence.

Thank you.