



United Nations
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Bangkok Office



LAUNCH OF THE STUDY

Inside the News – Challenges and Aspirations of Women Journalists in Asia and the Pacific

22 June 2015

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT), Bangkok

16.00 Registration

16.30 Opening

Gwang-Jo Kim, Director, UNESCO Asia-Pacific regional Bureau, Bangkok

Roberta Clarke, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok

Jane Worthington, Deputy Director of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Asia-Pacific, Sydney

16.45 Presentation: Key findings and recommendations from the study

Misako Ito, Adviser in Communication and Information, UNESCO Asia-Pacific regional Bureau, Bangkok

Jane Worthington, Deputy Director of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Asia-Pacific, Sydney

17.15 Debate: Fostering gender equality in the media – good practices from Asia and the Pacific and look into the future

Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Senior Associate Editor, the Sunday Observer, Colombo

Sujata Madhok, President, Delhi Union of Journalists, New Delhi

Anothai Udomsilp, Director of the Academic Institute of Public Media, Thai Public Broadcasting Service, Bangkok

Moderation: Laxmi Murthy, Consulting Editor, Himal Southasian, Kathmandu

18.45 Closure and reception

VENUE: FCCT, 518/5, Lumpini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330
access map www.fccthai.com/location.html

RSVP: By 18 June 2015 to c.mairesse@unesco.org



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BACKGROUND

In many countries across Asia and the Pacific, women have increased their number in the newsrooms. But the media are still very male dominated: on the global scale women make up only 24% of the people heard, read about or seen in the news and only few manage to reach decision-making position within media organizations.

The research study [Inside the News – Challenges and Aspirations of Women Journalists in Asia and the Pacific](#) released by UNESCO, UN Women and IFJ highlights how issues of gender impact the lives and work of journalists in the region with specific case studies drawn from the personal accounts of media professionals in Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu.

What are the working conditions and career development opportunities of women journalists in those countries? What challenges do they face and how do they address them? Can local good practices be emulated elsewhere? Which gender-sensitive policies are favoured by the journalists themselves?

This session will bring together authors of the report and media practitioners to assess the situation of women journalists in Asia and the Pacific 20 years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and discuss the strategies to foster gender equality in the media today.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- **Methodology:** focus groups with representatives from media outlets, survey questionnaire for journalists, interviews with media organizations and national professional associations.
- **72-question survey** posted online and distributed through union networks between 28 August and 23 September 2014, open to female, male and trans media workers.
- Participation of nearly **700 journalists from seven countries:** 62,1% women, 37% men and 0,9% self-identified as 'other'.
- **Country totals of respondents:** India 138, Pakistan 137, Malaysia 111, Cambodia 106, Nepal 103, Sri Lanka 80 and Vanuatu 22.
- **Main religious profile of the respondents:** Muslim (29%), Hindu (27,8%), Buddhist (22,4%), Christian (nearly 10%). The sample in every country included members of minority communities (both ethnic and religious).

KEY FINDINGS (*SELECTION*)

- **Jobs women in the media do:** Reporters (30%), Feature writers (16%), Editors (11%), Sub/Copy Editors (10%), Columnists (8%), News Anchor (8%), Producers (7%), Photographers (5%), Design/Layout (2%), Media support (2%), Camera/Sound (1%)
- **Gender pay gap in Asia-Pacific Media:** \$US 69 (Average monthly salary \$US 437 by women, \$US 506 by men).
- **How can we foster gender equality in media?** Women journalists say 'Having more women in decision making roles' (25%), 'Affirmative employment strategies' (20%). Male journalists say 'Having more women in the media at every level' (28%), 'More family friendly work conditions' (22%).
- **Women at work in the media:** **3 out of 10 news staff are women.** 23% of women are middle editorial decision makers; 20% are senior editorial decision makers; 18% are media executives.
- 18% of women journalists have experienced sexual harassment at work.
- **Do Women have enough visibility in unions?** 48% of the respondents say 'No', 23% say 'Yes', 25% 'don't know'.

The joint UNESCO-UN Women-IFJ study was published with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



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