A NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
Web Radio

9th-11th February 2015

A National Workshop on Web Radio

was held from the 9th - 11th of February 2015at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, Peradeniya.

The objective of this workshop was to educate the participants on how to set up a Web Radio of their own.

Participants

20 selected participants came from The Trincomalee Campus, Sri Palee Campus, - University of Colombo, Engineering faculty - University of Ruhuna, University of Kelaniya and The Eastern University of Sri Lanka. They also came from government departments, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority. Seventeen (85%) participants were from Universities around the island, while three(15%) were journalists. Two (10%) participants were female, while the other 18 (90%) were male.

Inauguration

Before the workshop began, there was an inauguration session, where Mr. Ankuran Dutta, Program Officer from the Commonwealth Education of Media Center for Asia, gave his welcome address to the participants and spoke about community and web radio around the world, and how Sri Lanka should revive their practices of community radio. Prof. W. A. D. P. Wanigasundera, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Development Journalists' Forum and Director, Board of Study, Department of Agric. Extension, University of Peradeniya, then welcomed the representative from CEMCA, Mr. Ankuran, and the trainer, Mr. Kapil, who had come down from India to conduct the workshop. He spoke to the participants about the importance of community radio in Sri Lanka and reaching out to the community, and wished the participants luck on the upcoming workshop.

Mr. S. Samita, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, gave the inaugural address. He spoke of the importance of such workshops at the PGIA with regards to the amount of knowledge gained during a period of few days. He looked forward to seeing the outcomes of this workshop and was happy to host it. Mr. Kapil Dadheech, Expert from Gramvaani, India, gave the participants an overview of the workshop and what they would be learning for the following three days.

M. C. Rasmin, Director/CEO of Sri Lanka Development Journalists' Forum, gave the vote of thanks.

Day One

The workshop began afterwards at 11.15am, with a single theory session, where Mr. Ankuran Dutta (CEMCA) discussed the limitations of community radio, and Mr Kapil Dadeech (GramVaani) gave an introduction and demonstration of a Web Radio. After lunch, the participants started their technical sessions in the labs. Mr. Madhawa Perera from the National Science Foundation, Colombo, and Mr. Malinda Kumarasinghe, Open University of Colombo, resource persons for the workshop, conducted the the first session, which was followed by sessions by Mr. Kapil Dadeech. The participants, at the end of the first day, had learned how to install Ubuntu, and open access operating system software, from the scratch. The workshop for the day ended at 5.30pm.

Day TwoThe second day of the workshop, 10th February 2015, began with the participants arriving on the venue at 9.00am, and recalling the previous day's activities, before starting the workshop at 10.00am, where they continued with their technical sessions, on getting familiar with Ubuntu. The participants then went on to learning how to install GRINS, also an open access software, which they would use to set up a web radio. The sessions on this day ended at 5.00pm.

Day ThreeOn the third day of the workshop, 11th February 2015, the participants started their day at 9.00am, taking part in an icebreaker session, which made them loosen up before they began the technical sessions for the day at 10.00am. On the final day, they learned how to

operate GRINS and set up a dummy radio before going through a recap of the training, having a Q&A session, and wrapping up the sessions with their feedback.

Testimonials

All the participants agreed that the workshop had benefited them greatly - some of them, to operate their existing community radio, and others, to start up their own web radio. This was what some participants had to say about the program:

"These types of workshops are very helpful to obtain new practices to develop our cultural communication programs. There are many different parties represented in this workshop, so it gives us an opportunity to exchange ideas and obtain new ideas about community and web radio from other parties. We welcome the students in this workshop to join our web radio program as well. We would like to thank everyone involved in organizing for giving us this opportunity to learn about this."

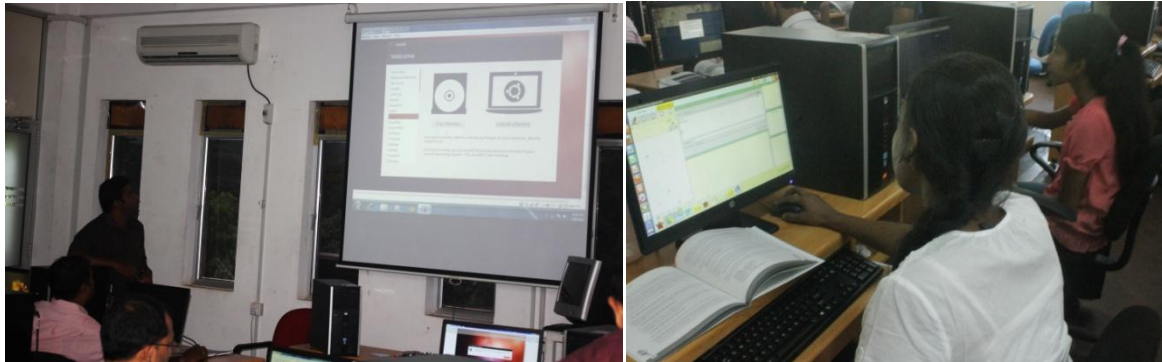**- Mr. Ajith Gunasekara, Department of Agriculture, PGIA.**

....the telecommunications field, and these are the people I will be working with in the future. I think this was a great opportunity for me, and I really enjoyed these three days of the workshop. I would like to thank everyone involved. It has really been a pleasure."

- Dimuthu Wijewickrama, Student, University of Ruhuna.

Valediction

The workshop ended with a valedictory session where a panel **with Dr. Ankuran Dutta, Mr. S. Samita, Prof. W. A. D. P. Wanigasundera, Mr. M.C. Rasmin and Mr. Kapil Dadeech gave their**

closing remarks and comments on the workshops. Mr. S. Samita, Director of PGIA, said that he was very pleased with the workshops conducted and welcomed CEMCA to host other workshops in PGIA as well.

Certificates of participation were handed out by the panel.

Ms. Samanmalee Swarnalatha, from the Saru Community Radio, mentioned that they had a lot of difficulty reaching out due to licensing restraints. She now hopes to start up a radio for Saru on the web, as there would be no such constraints on web radio. She said that this workshop had greatly benefitted her to help set it up.

Other participants who were in the process of either setting up a web radio or hoped to set up a web radio in the near future also said that this workshop had made it easier for them to do so. This was the first collaboration between CEMCA and SDJF, which concluded successfully.

National Workshop on Web Radio Participants

1. Kavindya C. Thomas, Freelance journalist
2. Thirukumar Premakumar, Freelance journalist
3. Pushpika Kumari Ganegoda, Trincomalee Campus of Eastern University
4. Sakthivel Sriram, Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University
5. K.G.L.A.Nisansala Subhasini Jayawardhana, Trincomalee Campus of Eastern University
6. Saman Kariyawasam, Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo
7. W. S. V. M. Dimithu Wijewickrama, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna
8. H.M.Dhammikka Bandara Herath, Department of Mass Communication, University of Kelaniya.
9. Mangala Keerthi Peskuwal, University of Kelaniya
10. Asitha Prabath, University of Kelaniya
11. Mohammed Rifkhan, Vidivelli, Express Newspapers Ltd, Colombo 14
12. N. Pratheesh, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
13. Dr.S.Raguram, Eastern University, Sri Lanka
14. Kamal Priyantha, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
15. Ajith Gunasekara, Department of Agriculture Ext.
16. Tharanga Neel Dharmasena, Department of Agriculture Ext.
17. Nisansala Weerasooriya, Department of Agriculture Ext.
18. Sandaruwan Pradeep Kumra, Department of Agriculture Ext.
19. Hasika Keerthirane, Department of Agriculture Ext.
20. Samanmalee Swarnalatha, PGIA

WEB RADIO WORKSHOP

Organized by

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi

In Collaboration with

Sri Lanka Development Journalists' Forum, Sri Lanka & Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA)

Venue: PGIA

Date: February 9-11, 2015

9.00 - 10.00   Registration

10.00-10.10   Welcome Address by Dr. Ankuran Dutta, Programme Officer, CEMCA

10.10-10.20   Exploring objective by Prof. W.A.D.P Wanigasundera, Chairperson, SDJF and Chairman, Board of Study in Agricultural Extension, PIGA

10.20-10.30   Inaugural Address by Prof. S. Samitha, Director, PGIA

10.30-10.40   Overview on the Workshop by. Mr. Kapil Dadheech, Expert from Gram Vaani

10.40-10.50   Vote of Thanks by Mr. M C Rasmin, Director/CEO, SDJF

10.50-11.15 Health Break

11.15 Onwards Technical session

Training Delivery Plan

Time	Session	Format	Facilitator/Presenter
Day - 01			
11:15-12:00	Discussion on limitations of Community Radio	Presentation and Discussion	Dr. Ankuran Dutta Programme Officer, CEMCA

12:00- 13:15	Introduction to Web Radio & Demo of Web Radio	Presentation and discussions	Mr. Kapil Dadheech Gram Vaani expert
13:15- 14:00	Lunch		
14:00- 16:00	Hands on: Web Radio using GRINS	Group Activity	Mr. Madhawa Perera, National Science Foundation, Colombo & Mr. Malinda Kumarasinha, Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo
16:00-16:20			
16:20- 17:30	Hands on: Web Radio using GRINS : Continued	Group Activity	Mr. Kapil Dadheech Gram Vaani expert
Day-2			
10:00-11:45	Hands on: Installing Ubuntu for a dummy Web Radio	Group Activity	Mr. Madhawa Perera, National Science Foundation, Colombo & Mr. Malinda Kumarasinha, Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo
11:45-12:00	Health Break		
12:00-13:15	Hands on: Installing GRINS	Presentation and discussions	Mr. Kapil Dadheech Gram Vaani expert
13:15-14:00	Lunch		
14:00- 15:30	Hands on: Web Radio using GRINS	Group Activity	Mr. Kapil Dadheech Gram Vaani expert
15:30- 16:00	Health Break		
16:00-17:00	Hands on: Web Radio using GRINS: Continued	Group Activity	Mr. Madhawa Perera, National Science Foundation, Colombo & Mr. Malinda Kumarasinha, Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo
Day-3			

10:00-11:45	Hands on: Operating GRINS	Group Activity	Mr. Kapil Dadheech Gram Vaani expert
11:45-12:00	Health Break		
12:00-13:15	Hands on: Operating GRINS – Continued	Group Activity	Mr. Kapil Dadheech , Gram Vaani expert, Mr. Madhawa Perera, National Science Foundation, Colombo & Mr. Malinda Kumarasinha, Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo
13:15-14:00	Lunch		
14:00- 15:30	Recap of Training, Q&A, Feedback on workshop	Presentation and discussions	Dr. Ankuran Dutta Programme Officer, CEMCA
15:30- 16:00	Health Break		
16:00-17:00	Valedictory Session Certificate distribution	Plenary session	