

# Asia Pacific Journalism Centre



**Annual report 2012-13**



Journalists from Timor-Leste hone their radio skills at 3CR.

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## Who we are

At the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre (APJC) we work with news media and communities to advance public communication.

Our mission is to help journalists in countries in the Asia Pacific region, including Australia, build professional networks and exchange professional skills.

Hundreds of media professionals have taken part in our programs, which broadly fall into two categories:

- media development programs for journalists in developing countries
- cultural exchange and innovation programs for media professionals generally



Programs help journalists build their skills.

APJC's media development programs help build skills for effective and responsible media roles. Program topics include basic and specialist reporting skills (such as business and economic reporting), post-conflict reporting, socially inclusive reporting, and new media skills. These programs usually include a personal leadership component.

Media professionals from Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Marshall Islands have taken part in these initiatives.

Our exchange programs seek to broaden the horizons of news media professionals. Study tours have been to Southeast Asia and China. The programs provide journalists an opportunity to learn first-hand about other cultures and societies, and the issues that concern them, to better inform communities. The exchange and innovation programs have focused on Australian media professionals (majority) and colleagues from China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Laos, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

The APJC has also engaged in special initiatives, including post-disaster video conferences for editors, post-conflict consultancy, and programs on understanding international development needs and political transition.

## Our mission

In an ever-changing media environment, APJC works with news media and others in the community to advance ideals of good journalism.

The organisation's objectives are to strengthen the capacity of journalists and news organisations to produce high quality and informed journalism.

APJC works with counterpart organisations committed to similar objectives, recognising that effective journalism is tied closely to good governance, respect for human rights and international understanding. We believe a strong media provides an effective framework for communities to engage in issues of importance to them.

At the broadest level, APJC's international development programs aim to strengthen news media in developing countries so that they can better play their role in the development of their nation: by carrying out with vigour and independence the vital governance and public communication functions expected of media in a publicly accountable political system.

The bulk of APJC's work to date has focused on empowering news media professionals for more effective roles in their particular news organisation and in their professional community.

A major theme has been on raising awareness and skills to report on issues related to sustainable economic and social development in the region, with activities incorporating perspectives on human rights issues, including the rights of women and minority groups, and the right of marginalised people to participate in and be fairly represented in the media.



Journalists learn about other cultures on exchange.

## Board

### Jack Waterford, AM

Jack Waterford is editor-at-large with The Canberra Times. A distinguished journalist and commentator, Waterford is known for his investigative journalism using Freedom of Information legislation and his work and advocacy on indigenous health issues. He has served The Canberra Times as editor-in-chief and editor. Waterford was named the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year in 1985 and was a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center in the US in 1987.

### John Henningham

John Henningham is founder and director of the journalism college Jscool in Brisbane and former head of Queensland University's Journalism Department. Previously, Henningham worked as a journalist with the Daily Mirror, The Sun, The Australian and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. He has been a visiting fellow and researcher at the East-West Center, the Reuter Foundation at Green College, Oxford University, and the London College of Printing.

### John Wallace

John Wallace is an Australian journalism educator with 25 years' experience in international media development in the Asia Pacific region, including post-conflict work in East Timor and editorial development in Indonesia. As a journalist he worked with the ABC, The Age, Nation Review and Reuters.

## Message from APJC director

During the year, APJC managed a range of programs for news media in developing countries, introduced an innovative “e-tour” concept, and secured funding for a China Australia journalist exchange. Highlights on the international development front were two Australia Award leadership programs, funded by AusAID.



In the first, a group of 12 Mongolian journalists attended a six-week program on how to strengthen news coverage of the burgeoning mining sector in Mongolia, including its social and environmental impacts. The program was developed in partnership with the Press Institute of Mongolia and with assistance from broadcast journalism trainer Amelia Wong after her posting as a volunteer with the institute under the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development program.

In another Australia Awards program, 10 Timor-Leste community broadcasters took part in a leadership program which looked at building skills in journalism, radio production and management, with an emphasis on forging better links with communities.

Following the program, APJC undertook to help partner organisation, the Community Radio Association of Timor-Leste (ARKTL), prepare submissions for volunteer placements to carry out related follow-up work in Timor-Leste. APJC has since become the Australian partner organisation for three volunteers placed with ARKTL: one providing technical support for the radio stations, one providing support for ARKTL, and one carrying out community engagement training.

APJC continued as an Australian partner organisation for a fourth volunteer with the Press Institute of Mongolia and also supported a volunteer with the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation. As well helping partner organisations, the volunteers provide APJC with useful feedback on in-country conditions and needs, and sometimes help APJC develop other projects after the posting.

For Australian journalists, the APJC used Skype to conduct a virtual tour to Iraq to investigate the extensive health and other development challenges facing the country 10 years after the start of the US-led invasion. Run in collaboration with Deakin University, the one-day “e-tour” gave 11 early career journalists the opportunity to interview panels of development experts and Iraqi community members in Baghdad and Australia.

Following two years of collaboration with the All China Journalists Association (ACJA) on one-off study tours and other journalist visits between China and Australia, the APJC secured support from the ANZ Banking Group as a major funder of an annual China Australia Journalist Exchange. Other major funding comes from the ACJA, and seed funding from the Australia China Council. The aim of the exchange is to give journalists from both countries timely insights into the burgeoning economic relationship and a deeper understanding more generally of the other society.

Throughout the year, APJC worked on document preparation for accreditation with the Australian Council for International Development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wallace".

-- John Wallace

## Year in review

### Mongolian journalists commit to mining transparency

June - August 2012

Twelve journalists returned to Mongolia from this APJC program with a resolve to make the mining sector in their country more transparent to public scrutiny.

The journalists, who came from broadcast and print media mostly in Ulaanbaatar, attended a six-week program on how to strengthen news coverage of the burgeoning mining sector in Mongolia, including its social and environmental impacts.



Mongolian journalists visit Northparkes gold and copper mine in New South Wales.

The underlying theme of the program, *Media, Mining and Communities*, was to explore how Australian practice in mining and journalism can help Mongolian news media analyse and report more effectively the mining sector in their society, promoting development that is more shared and sustainable.

Supported by AusAID under its Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Fellowships scheme, the program was run in partnership with the Press Institute of Mongolia, with which the APJC has a four-year association.

At the APJC in Melbourne, the journalists attended a leadership program followed by a workshop on reporting mining and economic issues that included briefings from award-winning journalists on investigative journalism, the use of freedom of information laws, and the development and application of professional codes of conduct for journalists.

They also attended a three-day seminar at the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSR/M) at the University of Queensland, covering policy development and regulation, water management, community health, indigenous and gender concerns, and remote work practices in the mining sector.

At Parkes in New South Wales, the fellows visited an underground gold and copper mine operated by Rio Tinto, which has investment in the largest mining operation in Mongolia.

In a program of professional visits in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, the journalists met a range of people with an interest in mining issues, including political actors, academics, miners, indigenous leaders and representatives from trade unions, think tanks, NGOs and the news media.

They also spent several days working with and observing the operations of newspaper, radio and television organisations in Melbourne.

## Timor-Leste broadcasters focus on community development

September - October 2012

Ten Timor-Leste community broadcasters produced strategies for making their stations play a stronger role in their communities during this AusAID-supported program.

The program, *Community Radio for Development in Timor-Leste*, focused on skills in journalism, radio production and management, with an emphasis on building links with communities.

It was officially opened by Timor-Leste's Ambassador to Australia, Abel Guterres, who spoke of community radio's importance in national development and its capacity to give a voice to underrepresented groups.

Staff of commercial, public and community radio stations in Victoria took part in the program, speaking at workshops and hosting visits to stations by the group. With help from community radio station 3CR, the group produced a program of interviews with Timorese in Australia for broadcast in Timor-Leste.

The aim of the interview exercise was to hone the broadcasters' interview and radio production skills, and to get practise in current affairs programming. The interviews explored the development challenges that Timor-Leste faces in health, gender equality, education and employment.

The group travelled to regional Victoria to see how regional community radio stations plan local news coverage and present community information. They also made contact with Timor-Leste friendships groups in Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and discussed strategies for using community radio to help local development projects in Timor-Leste.

## Journalists produce manuals on reporting business and economics

October - November 2012

Eight journalists from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands each produced a manual for reporting business and economics in their home country.

The journalists, from print and online publications attended workshop sessions at the APJC and learned from senior journalists about the methods and tools needed for effective reporting on business and economics.



Fellows improve their reporting skills in Melbourne.



Journalists produce resources for better reporting.

Other presentations covered global economic development, poverty, and the impact of climate change on the Asia Pacific region. The group also took part in workshops on leadership and digital media. During professional visits in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, the group met editors, business leaders, academics, and representatives of development agencies and not-for-profit organisations.

Fellows had professional attachments with news media organisations where they learned how Australian media is adapting to multimedia platforms. The program was supported by AusAID.

### **Baghdad Video-Conference: 10 years on** March 2013

This one-day video-conference, or “e-tour”, in collaboration with Deakin University’s Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, looked at the impacts and consequences of the 10-year war in Iraq and the role of the Australian media in reporting it.

The event gave Australian journalists and journalism students the opportunity to discuss these issues with reporters and community and humanitarian groups in Iraq (by Skype video-conference), as well as academic experts and Iraqi community leaders in Australia.

Australian filmmaker David Bradbury provided footage from his documentary on the situation in Iraq.

Development worker Salah Mohammed reported from Baghdad that people displaced by the war and earlier conflicts were not receiving proper sanitation, health or education services due largely to difficulties in tracking the movements of internally displaced people.



Journalists discuss the consequences of war.



## Financials

### Governance

The APJC is a public company limited by guarantee (which makes it a not-for-profit) and is registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). The organisation has a three-member board.

In 2012-13, the major source of funding for the APJC's international development programs was the Australian government development agency, AusAID.

Past funding has come from International Media Support (Denmark) and the Reuter Foundation. Funding for exchange programs has come from the Myer Foundation, from private donors, including Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, and individual news organisations. Other funding has been provided by the European Commission.

See APJC's 2012-13 [financial statements here](#).

## Supporters

We rely on the in-kind support and the support of a range of organisations and individuals to help us deliver our programs. We'd like to thank the following for their help:

### In-country counterpart organisations

- Asosiasaun Rádio Komunitade Timor Leste (ARKTL)
- Fiji Times
- Jornal Nacional Diario, Timor-Leste
- Media Association of Vanuatu (MAV)
- Mongolian Press Institute
- NBC, PNG
- The National, PNG
- Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS)
- Pantau Foundation, Indonesia
- Post Courier, PNG
- SIBC, Solomon Islands
- Solomon Star, Solomon Islands

### Australian program partners

- ABC
- Fairfax Media
- Australian Financial Review
- Bendigo Advertiser
- Business Spectator
- Centre for Citizenship and Globalization, Deakin University
- Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland
- Choice Magazine
- Community Media Training Organisation
- The Pulse, Geelong
- Timor friendship groups

- 3CR Radio
- 3ZZZ community radio
- 3PBS community radio
- Rio Tinto

### Guest presenters

A range of speakers contributed to APJC programs, they include:

- Paul Chadwick, non-executive director, The Guardian Australia
- Abel Guterres, Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia
- Adam Morton, society editor, The Age
- Alex Wake, journalism trainer, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)
- Andrew Dodd, convenor of journalism, Swinburne University
- Anna Reynolds, international adviser to Greens leader Senator Christine Milne
- Coffey International
- Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
- David Bradbury, film-maker
- Donna Mulhearn, journalist
- Greg Muller, journalist, Bush Telegraph program, ABC
- Greg Segal, community radio technician
- Iraq Journalists Syndicate
- Iraq War Inquiry Group
- James Scambary, research fellow, Swinburne University
- Jillian Hocking, integrated journalism course coordinator, Swinburne University
- Malcolm Kennedy, economic historian, Monash University
- Melbourne East Timorese Activity Centre (METAC)
- Mia Lindgren, senior lecturer in journalism, Monash University
- Oxfam Australia
- Richard Baker, investigative journalist, *The Age* newspaper
- Rowan Callick, economic editor *The Australian* newspaper
- Sam Watson, Indigenous community leader
- Sian Prior, journalist
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Tom Hyland, journalist
- Tracee Hutchison, journalist and presenter, ABC
- Transparency International Australia
- United Nations Development Program
- 3AW radio
- 3 Kool N Deadly radio



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