WACC

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

WACC

taking sides

CONTACT WACC

Photo: CPMR

Front Cover: WACC scholar and media reform activist Supinya Klangnarong emerges from Bangkok Criminal Court this March after being acquitted of libel against media giant Shin Corp .

CONTENTS

1. GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

2005 was the third year of WACC's third Global Studies Programme (GSP), whose theme 'Taking Sides: Communication and Reconciliation' reflects WACC's commitment to ideas highlighted at its international Congress held in 2001.

The five sub-themes of the GSP are:

♦ Communication at and from the Margins
♦ Media Gender Justice
♦ Resisting Knowledge Monopolies
♦ Shifting Realities and the Ethics of Information Applications
♦ Communication, Religion and Ecumenism

1.1. Global Studies Programme Goals and Objectives

♦ To explore the impact of global communications on the communities of marginalised people, especially women, children, indigenous people, refugees, and the differently abled.
♦ To foster genuine dialogue, mutual understanding, respect for difference, and prophetic action in the search for reconciliation.
♦ To engage with and contribute towards the ideas and issues generated by the relationship between communication, culture, faith and science with a view to influencing the terms of the debate and its consequences.

WACC staff member Maria Teresa Aguirre engages a participant in discussion at the WACC exhibition stall during the World Council of Churches Assembly in Brazil.

Photo: Sean Hawkey

• To map the political economy of communication, in particular the struggles over the definition and ownership of intellectual property rights.

• WACC has adopted a range of approaches to meet these objectives including support for projects in various regions that respond to critical communication needs involving, inter alia, workshops, seminars equipment provision etc

• networking with members of WACC and other organisations and the creation of partnerships with ecumenical organisations, independent consultants, regional agencies and media centres

• sharing experience, information and knowledge through a conference programme on crucial issues

• training for empowerment
• publications aimed at different groups

The launch of the Global Studies Programme (GSP) in 2003 reinforced WACC's commitment to ideas and action. WACC remains the only international ecumenical organisation that intentionally explores critical issues in communication from the perspectives of social change and communication rights. The breadth of WACC's interventions has been substantial over the years – from its support for communication ethics, to its exploration of gender media justice, a variety of issues related to cultural and media diversity, media democratisation and media alternatives. These issues impact on the lives of ordinary people throughout the world.

Aymara women from Bolivia. WACC
believes in and supports communication
needs of indigenous groups and women.

The most vulnerable people today are
indigenous people, women, children,
refugees and people with disabilities. Their
empowerment is fundamental to human
liberation. WACC believes in communication
support for these sectors especially – thus
strengthening their rights to information
and communication and the communication
of their stories.

There is much to be gained by the
ecumenical community in pursuing issues
related to the ethics of communication
particularly the ethical uses of information
technologies. Today information spans the
globe and informatics has converged with
other technologies – for instance with
biotechnology and military technology. In
this context it is fundamentally important
for the ecumenical community to explore
the ethical and moral issues arising from
these applications and their social
consequences.

Access to knowledge is not a privilege but a
right. Current legislation around
intellectual property has created enclosures
around knowledge and this has led to the
impoverishment of the public domain and
the curtailment of people's access to useful
knowledge. It is often the case that people
are not aware of the many attempts being
made to enclose knowledge or of the
consequences of such enclosures. There is
therefore a need for alternatives to the
current IPR regime which privileges owners
over users.

It is in these contexts that further work in
the Global Studies Programme (GSP) was
carried out.

Activities

The GSP was involved in organising fewer
activities in 2005 than in any previous year.
This was chiefly due to a decrease in the
level of available funding. Within the
themes indicated, the following events took
place:

Communication at and from the Margins
No activities during 2005.

Media and Gender Justice
(See Section 1.5, The Women's Programme)

Shifting Realities and the Ethics of Information Applications
⬥ Seminar on 'Science, faith and convergent
technologies', Bossey, Switzerland, 17-23
September 2005.

Resisting Knowledge Monopolies
⬥ Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights
and the public domain in the Asia Pacific
region, School of Journalism and
Communication, University of Queensland,
Brisbane Australia
⬥ WACC/WCC consultation on 'Copyrights',
Faverges, France, 6-13 September 2005.
⬥ Workshop on 'IPR and the Media', São
Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, 28-30
November 2005.

Communication, Religion and Ecumenism
No activities during 2005.

Highlights:

a. Workshop on 'IPR, Communication and the Public Domain in the Asia-Pacific Region', Brisbane, Australia, 14-17 December 2004.

This conference, the fifth in the WACC-sponsored series on IPR and communications, brought together IPR and media academics, activists, representatives of the legal fraternity, and indigenous folk from Australia and the Asia-Pacific regions. A whole day was devoted to discussing indigenous issues and IPR. It was chaired by Margaret Valadian, who is routinely described as a walking-talking heritage of the aboriginal community.

The conference started off with a key-note presentation by Prof. Kamal Puri on the protection of 'Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture of Indigenous Peoples'. Next Binod Agrawal, a pioneer communicator from India, presented a paper on the ownership of 'deep' knowledge in Hindu culture. He made a case for the continuity of such knowledge and for the need to recognise the validity of knowledge that is not part of the public domain. Roberto Verzola's presented a clear analysis of the contemporary power of cyber lords and a piece on IPR and biological material.

Day 2 was devoted to dealing with IPR issues in China. For the most part the presentations dealt with creating a secure IPR and communications environment for business and government. Day 3 was devoted to issues related to IPR and indigenous communications. The digital world gives indigenous people opportunities (they can preserve their traditions and culture for posterity and for the benefit of future generations) and anxieties (ritual knowledge meant for the select few can become public and used out of context) and many of the papers dealt with this particular conundrum.

This conference was one of the first occasions where a broad range of IPR and communication issues were discussed in the Asia-Pacific region and people were sufficiently enthused to discuss follow-up plans, a rather unusual conclusion to an 'academic' conference. Apart from a book, a number of initiatives were put forward – from a China-India comparative study of IPR and communication, to an initiative linked to the protection of community development resources.

b. WACC/WCC Consultation on 'Copyrights', Faverges, France, 6-13 September 2005.

As a specific instance of the follow-up to global work on intellectual property rights (IPR), WACC joined with the World Council of Churches (WCC) to look at the ownership of worship resources and the unfair use of some resources originating in less developed regions of the world by editors and publishing houses in industrialised countries. A related question was how different views on copyright might be bridged within churches North and South, between artistic creators and users, between publishing houses and congregations, etc. Participants also looked at alternative models based on sharing rather than buying and selling.

The consultation counted on expert advice. Geidy Lung, Senior Legal Officer from the

IPR issues such as traditional knowledge, cultural and genetic ownership were highlighted in the WACC IPR workshop in the Asia-Pacific region.

WIPO's Copyright Law Division, gave an overview of the international IPR system and basic notions covering copyright and related rights. Cees Hamelink, Professor of Media, Religion and Culture at the Free University, Amsterdam, examined the issue from a human rights perspective - rather than as a trade issue - emphasising respect for the public domain, free speech, access to information and knowledge, and sharing of cultural resources.

Participants heard case studies of copyright issues in Canada, the USA, Africa, and Latin America, as well as issues affecting mission and publishing. There were also presentations on creative commons, enabling copyright holders to grant some of their rights to the public while retaining others, and IPR and bible translations.

Participants agreed to work on the long-term objective of building an alternative system for copyright and IPR among churches. The first step was an Open Source Religious Resources planning meeting (January 2006), organisation of 'cross-generation' workshops in the South to gain the support of young and new artists, organisation of a 'multi-stakeholder' meeting, and the establishment of a web-based Worship Resource Centre.

c. Seminar on 'Science, Faith and Convergent Technologies', Bossey, Switzerland, 17-23 September 2005.

In preparation for an 'Ecumenical Dialogue' on this theme at the World Council of Churches' Assembly (Porto Alegre, 2006), WACC worked with the WCC and the Bossey Ecumenical Institute to bring together

experts who would prepare a background text on 'Science, Faith and New Technologies'.

Both WACC and the WCC believe that it is important not only to notice, but to understand, the shift away from science and technology as instruments and tools for human development towards the much more sophisticated notion of its power and capacity to transform and to re-design the basic elements of matter – and thus the building blocks – of the community of life as we know it. Newly emerging technologies are paving the way for the commodification of life at a much more basic level. The debate on patent laws and corporate power shows this clearly. But the process has even deeper consequences for the understanding of the earth community and the broader web of life as well as the place and role of human beings for life in community and creation.

Working with members of the ETC Group (the Canada based Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration), participants devised a publication whose aim is to encourage ethical and theological reflections informed, in particular, by the experience and perspective of persons with disabilities. Called 'Science, Faith and New Technologies: Convergent Technologies', it complements a second volume on 'Genetics, Agriculture and Human Life' written by the WCC's Working Group on Genetic Engineering of the Justice, Peace and Creation Team.

WACC will build on this experience to work with other church bodies (the National Council of Churches USA and the Canadian Council of Churches in particular, who have

announced a major conference for late 2007) to create awareness of the information and communication issues that underpin recent advances in new technologies. There will also be an issue of Media Development devoted to the theme of 'Science, ethics and new technologies' published in the course of 2006.

d. Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the Media', São Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, 28-30 November 2005.

Convened by the UNESCO/METODISTA Communications Chair and WACC, Latin America, researchers and activists in social communication from all over Brazil gathered at the Methodist University of São Paulo to discuss and evaluate a Brazilian Charter of Media and Citizenship. Discussion revolved around media contexts and public policies of communication, in addition to gender issues. Four subjects considered essential for promoting citizenship were examined: local media, community media, digital media, and folk communication.

Considerations started out from the belief in the universal right to communication, which is internationally recognized but not fully secured due to political, economic, and social factors. Social exclusion, aggravated by poor education, further limits this privilege, making it difficult for various social groups to have access to the media, in particular to the production of their contents. In a mass mediated society, citizenship presumes both access to information and the capacity to understand it. It also assumes one's right to become an agent in the processes of communication.

Recent discussions at the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as UNESCO's Convention on Cultural Diversity, reasserted the importance of preserving difference of opinion and diversity in face of the growing power of the countries and groups that dominate the means to produce, store, disseminate, and use information.

After three days of presentations, debates, data analyses, and group discussions, participants signed the Letter of São Bernardo, with the intention of contributing to the strengthening of citizenship in Brazilian society. They demanded the implementation of strategies to: encourage the improvement of citizen communication within the domain of social movements; promote debates and create courses aimed at citizen communication and education; monitor local/regional media through discussions and analyses that will enable future denunciation of violations committed against ethics and human rights; denounce all forms of communication monopoly/oligopoly that might jeopardize the development and growth of local/regional media.

In particular, participants proposed that educational, university and school radio stations, as well as community TV channels, work together with social movements on the elaboration of projects for community media and the production of specific media contents; and that space be given for community radio stations within the digital radio system to be established in Brazil. Further outcomes included a book and CD-ROM of papers and discussions and the creation of a web-based discussion portal.

The second phase of the WSIS in Tunis. WACC took part with a coalition of representatives of civil society that issued the declaration 'Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs'.

e. World Summit on the Information Society – Tunis 2005

The second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) took place in Tunis, 16-18 November 2005. The Tunis Summit was expected to tackle some of the unresolved issues that emerged during the first phase of WSIS held in Geneva in 2003, in particular, the democratisation of Internet governance and the leveraging of funds for the development of information and communications technologies in the South.

WACC had previously joined with the Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) to be present at Phase I of the WSIS (Geneva 2003), which was an opportunity to be involved in media advocacy at a global level. WACC became part of a coalition of representatives of civil society that issued the declaration 'Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs', offered as one of the official outcomes of the 2003 Summit.

WACC continued working on this issue as it culminated in the second phase of the WSIS (Tunis 2005). In the end only one issue commanded substantive debate at WSIS Tunis: Internet governance. WSIS Tunis agreed that the question of political legitimacy be handed over to a new Internet Governance Forum, a partnership between governments, civil society organisations, business and inter-governmental organisations whose role remains vague.

The gap between what civil society organisations had aimed for in the second phase of the Summit and the real outcomes of the official negotiations is almost as wide as the so-called digital divide between North and South. However, some achievements were realised in the process. In particular, some progress can be identified in terms of civil society participation, in perspectives on the role of public and private investment in information and communication, in opening up the debate on Internet governance policies to multiple actors and, most importantly, in the shift of perspective from a market-oriented and technology-centred information society towards greater awareness on the role of information and communication infrastructures and capacities for human development.

Results and Analysis

The events outlined above indicate the global nature of WACC's outreach, tackling themes and issues that impact directly on people at the grassroots. WACC is able to work with many sectors of civil society on key questions of communication rights as well as involving its own constituency and the larger one of the churches worldwide. In this way, the Global Studies Programme (GSP) supports the implementation of communication rights that include not only seeking, receiving and imparting information, but also listening and being heard, understanding, learning, creating and responding. Communication rights underlie WACC's work for human dignity, social justice, and solidarity.

The GSP is global in that it deals with issues that are relevant at the level of governments, international bodies and non-governmental

organisations. At the same time the GSP is local in the sense that it has its roots in specific rural and urban contexts.

Furthermore, the GSP relates the global to the local, in order to discover areas of common concern in information and communication issues and to increase the possibility of social change for good. This relationship is one of the strengths of a programme that requires time to consolidate its impact and to build on earlier learnings. The GSP can be seen as a long-term endeavour to translate ethical principles into practice and to achieve social change for the good of all.

1.2. Networking

WACC works in collaboration with four broad networks: its members, media practitioners worldwide, the academic community and non-media based NGOs. WACC's most important network is its eight regional associations and, increasingly, the many social movements with which its shares common concerns. WACC continues to encourage more people (particularly those from the secular world and of other faiths) to participate in WACC's programmes. Members in turn act as 'multipliers', many of whom are in positions of influence in the media and/or the churches.

Media practitioners and academics who share the ideals for which WACC stands, constitute a further network. In 2005 WACC continued to work closely with groups involved in the campaign for Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS), and has played both a formal and informal role in supporting initiatives linked to this network and its commitment to advocacy. In addition, WACC has continued co-operation with a great variety of women's networks including the Asian Network for Women in Communication (ANWIC), MediaWorks of South Africa, and MediaWatch of Jamaica.

The WACC women and media network remains one of the largest networks of its kind in the world, bringing together women activists, academics, producers and grassroots workers. WACC also collaborates with regional media associations in Africa and Asia, namely the African Council for Communication Education (ACCE) and the Asian Mass Communication Information and Research Centre (AMIC), which have connections with the majority of media studies centres and leading journalists in their respective continents.

The academic community, particularly those connected with the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), remains an important network. WACC is also closely involved in other regional and national academic networks such as the University of Botswana, the University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Chicago at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Natal and the University of Westminster. WACC continues to link with numerous seminaries and schools offering religion and media courses around the world, including the United Theological College, Bangalore and New College, Edinburgh.

WACC members in Argentina at a WACC
América Latina event.

1.3. Membership

WACC is a worldwide ecumenical association with members in 118 countries. Personal members can be found in 91 countries, and corporate members are found in those 91 countries plus an additional 27 countries. Membership is open to churches and church-related organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations, the private sector and individuals sympathetic to WACC aims and principles.

Collectively the corporate members represent millions of people around the world. Corporate members range from organisations that group together members of their own, such as the World Council of Churches, Switzerland, the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, or the Asociación de Jóvenes de Cuba, to small grassroots organisations, such as the independent television producer Banyan Limited in Trinidad & Tobago, and academic institutions such as REDRICA, Puerto Rico, or the Faculty of Social Communications Science, Italy. Personal members include both practitioners and theorists of communication. They work as communicators, researchers, and academics in both religious and secular contexts.

At the Central Committee meeting in July 2004 it was agreed to establish a third category of membership: that of the affiliate. This would be open to individuals who share the WACC mission and wish to participate in activities, but have no interest in the governance of the organisation. During the year, therefore, we reorganised our membership with the result that a number of individuals and organisations that were members are now affiliates although the overall number of supporters has increased significantly.

WACC members are grouped into 8 regions: Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, and the Pacific.

WACC Membership during 2005

Region	Personal Members	Corporate Members	Personal Affiliates	Corporate Affiliates
Pacific	3	21	5	5
North America	82	30	59	12
Middle East	3	17	6	4
Latin America	72	62	41	26
Europe	85	44	37	7
Caribbean	20	19	17	12
Asia	33	57	183	80
Africa	61	31	154	33
Total	359	281	502	179

A new executive committee is sworn in for the WACC Pacific Regional Association.

Photo: WACC Pacific

WACC members have a wide range of interests and concerns which span radio, television, satellite broadcasting, print and electronic publishing, grassroots/popular communication, drama/theatre, puppetry, music, dance, media education, press agencies, video, cinema, research, teaching, training, consultancy, and policy-making work.

1.4. Training

Goals and Objectives

The overall aim of WACC's training activity is to strengthen the movement to facilitate access to and participation in communication, particularly among those at the margins, and to advance their fundamental right to communicate.

The Communication Leadership Training Programme (CLT) has the following specific objectives:

• To enhance individual leadership capacity within and beyond WACC membership;
• To contribute to the sustainable development of communities through access to communication skills, knowledge, and know-how;
• To enable faith-based and grassroots organisations to understand and deal with the challenges posed by the world's new communication environment;
• To support the core and strategic objectives of WACC through the selection and support of candidates actively involved in one or more of the following four areas:

• Communication rights for all
• Media and gender justice
• Eliminating HIV/Aids stigma and discrimination
• Communication and theological education

Activities

WACC sees training as part of its strategy for the programme implementation. Training takes place on two levels: individual short-term and long-term scholarships through CLT and organised training events such as workshops. Applications for scholarships are considered from independent candidates and from individuals nominated by their organisations.

Ten scholarships were underway during 2005. The majority of the awardees were women. Five were from Africa, one from Asia, one from Europe, and three from Latin America. The majority attended educational institutions within their own country or region. Three were working on a BA, three on an MA and two on a PhD. During 2005 for the first time in recent years, only long-term training awards were given.

Rev Temjen A Jamir is one of the PhD scholars. He is a Baptist pastor on the faculty of Clark Theological College in Nagaland, northeast India. He was put forward as a nominated candidate by his college to pursue a PhD in Communication and Theology at the United Theological College in Bangalore (UTC). UTC is well

13

Global Media Monitoring Project 2005 was coordinated by the WACC Women's Programme.

known for its leading position in integrating communication into theological training in India under the guidance of Rev. John Joshua Raja who himself benefited from a WACC scholarship to earn a PhD in Communication and Theology some years ago. Rev Jamir is expected to return to Clark Theological College to teach communication courses at the Bachelor of Divinity and Master level, and to enhance communication research.

1.5. Women's Programme

Goals and Objectives

The Women's Programme, part of the WACC Global Studies Programme, aims to follow up the recommendations of the Bangkok Declaration and Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Women's Programme aims to:

• Support women's empowerment through training, gender and media awareness and advocacy.
• To strengthen women's participation in and access to media expression and decision-making.
• To broaden networking and collaborate with groups focusing on gender and media issues and communication policy.
• To empower women to monitor and lobby media in order to promote gender-sensitive reporting and programming and raise awareness of gender and development issues.

Activities

Achieving Gender Equality: Global Media Monitoring Project 2005

The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) is a grassroots media monitoring research and advocacy project which aims to promote the fair and balanced representation of women and men in news media worldwide.

After two years of planning, the international monitoring day of GMMP 2005 was held on 16th February 2005. The process of planning and designing GMMP was carried out in consultation with key groups in each region of the world beginning in May 2003 when WACC held a GMMP consultation meeting in South Africa attended by representatives from Guatemala, Japan, India, South Africa, Namibia, Cameroon, Israel, Canada, Belgium and the UK. Following the consultation meeting, a small GMMP planning committee was formed and the Women's Programme contracted Margaret Gallagher to act as consultant to the project and the Media Monitoring Project (MMP), South Africa as data analysts.

During 2004, the media monitoring methodology was extensively revised by the GMMP planning committee and then pilot tested in 12 different countries which led to a further revision of the methodology. During 2004, the process of recruiting regional and national co-ordinators for GMMP 2004 took place and by the end of the year 103 countries had committed to taking part in this global initiative.

On the third international monitoring day many of those taking part in the monitoring sent messages to the rest of the GMMP network to tell others about their monitoring day and sent greetings to all the other monitors around the world, making it once again a wonderful day of global solidarity. For some, 2005 was the first time that they had participated in GMMP. One national co-ordinator wrote to say how happy he was to be a member of "this growing family of gender and media activists". Another wrote to say that after doing the monitoring, "we believe that we will never watch, listen, or read the news with the same eyes".

By the end of April, WACC had received the raw monitoring data from 76 countries. By the end of July 2005, the data analysts – MMP – had processed all the data and preliminary results were available to the GMMP network. Monitors in the 76 countries coded almost 13,000 news stories on TV, radio and in print. Participants came from a wide range of organizations and included gender and media activists, grassroots communication groups, academics and students of communication, media professionals, journalists associations, alternative media networks and church groups. GMMP 2005 saw much greater participation from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet States than ever before, alongside those countries from North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific which have been involved in GMMP since its inception.

By the end of 2005, the global, regional and national results were published in a full-colour 143 page report entitled 'Who Makes the News?' written by the GMMP consultant Margaret Gallagher. The report is available in hard copy or on CD-Rom. WACC also produced a colour leaflet highlighting the top ten results from GMMP 2005 to be distributed to media professionals as part of advocacy efforts using the GMMP 2005 results. Almost half of the countries that participated in GMMP 2005 also produced national reports. These documents are all available to download from **www.whomakesthenews.org/research**

Since the planning for GMMP 2005 began two years ago, there has been a strong commitment from WACC to ensuring that the results of GMMP 2005 are used for advocacy and lobbying activities and to promote dialogue with the mainstream news media. Not only did this perspective inform the design and layout of the global GMMP 2005 report 'Who Makes the News?' and the production of the top ten highlights document, it also led to the development of an advocacy strategy for GMMP 2005.

Throughout 2005, the WACC Women's Programme Co-ordinator worked closely with the WACC Advocacy and Network Co-ordinator and the GMMP network to develop a strategy that would promote the GMMP 2005 results as a tool for change.

From June – September, WACC produced the first ever gender and media advocacy toolkit which provides information and the how-to of advocacy specifically concerned with promoting a gender-balanced and gender fair mass media. This toolkit will form the basis

www.whomakesthenews.org became the communication hub for activities around the Global Media Monitoring Project

for a series of eight regional gender and media advocacy training workshops that will take place during 2006-07. The toolkit can be downloaded from **www.whomakesthenews.org/get_involved/advocacy_toolkit**

In July 2005, in consultation with the GMMP network and wider WACC membership, WACC decided to co-ordinate the first ever global campaign on gender and the media: Who Makes the News? Three Weeks of Global Action on Gender and the Media from 16th February – 8th March 2006. Much of the later part of 2005 was also taken up with planning for this campaign and supporting and mobilizing the network to take part. This included the development of a take action campaign pack, the development and launch of the campaign website – **www.whomakesthenews.org** and the planning of the international launch of the global GMMP 2005 results in London. More information on the campaign and launch event are available from **www.whomakesthenews.org**

Publications

Two issues of Media and Gender Monitor, which serves as both a resource publication and newsletter, were published and distributed to over 4000 people, including recipients of WACC's electronic newsletter Media Action, and the Women's Programme network.

Issue 16 (March 2005) was dedicated to GMMP 2005 and contained a series of articles from national GMMP 2005 co-ordinators

around the world detailing their experience of taking part in the project and its importance for the gender and media work they are involved in at the national and regional level.

Issue 17 (October 2005) led with an article announcing Who Makes the News? Three Weeks of Global Action on Gender and the Media and also included an article on the impact of GMMP 2005 in Italy. Issue 17 also featured articles on a variety of WACC supported gender and media projects from Ghana to Argentina and a forum discussion on the then upcoming second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) from a gender perspective.

Networks and Projects

During 2005, the Women's Programme continued to support awareness raising, training and advocacy efforts by regional and national gender and communication groups and networks.

ASMITA is the only gender and media organisation working in Nepal and as such has a vital role to play in promoting gender equality in and through the media. Recent research carried out by Asmita has highlighted the lack of interaction between media and audience in Nepal particularly in terms of women's access to media. In 2005, Asmita worked to address this problem through a number of interconnected activities. The first step in the project was the development of a media literacy pack in easy to understand Nepalese which will include a media monitoring manual and booklets containing information on the significance of

the media, its types and functions, media as a tool for social transformation, ways of interacting with media, how to form and run women's media clubs, and how to establish and run women's local community media. With this resource developed, Asmita then ran a pilot project to establish women's media clubs in 10 different areas of the country. Women media volunteers in each area were trained in media awareness and media monitoring at a seven-day media literacy workshop and then began to monitor the media, preparing a report on the results of the monitoring every month. They also facilitated the establishment of women's media clubs in their local area where women are encouraged to monitor and respond to the media in their local context. The activities of these clubs are being reinforced by two interaction programmes providing women from the media clubs with the opportunity to meet with media producers to lobby for a change in media portrayal of gender.

Two years after its establishment in 2001, ARCO made a commitment to promote the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by producing radio programmes for civic education. In order to ensure that the gender dimensions of this commitment are addressed, in 2005 ARCO conducted a training workshop for 25 grassroots women journalists in the east of the country. The workshop covered a range of both topics including discussion sessions on gender and media awareness, non-violent communication, the process of transition in the DRC and practical training in research techniques, writing, reporting, conducting interviews and radio production. The

workshop aimed to increase the numbers of women participating in community radio and the quality of their participation and led to the production of radio programmes addressing gender, peace and reconciliation issues. In the long term, this project will contribute to building an informed and active citizenry in the DRC and lasting peace.

The media in Palestine, as elsewhere, are affected by and perpetuate gender stereotypes. The organization TAM – Women, Media and Development – believe that the most effective method of breaking down such stereotypes is to transmit new ideas through the media that will challenge gender stereotypes and influence the general public. TAM's Women in Media project in 2005 sought to change the image of women in the Palestinian media through a three day training workshop on gender and in media for sixteen media professionals working in Palestinian local television stations from the West Bank. These media professionals then produced seven talk shows and seven short documentaries which will be broadcast on local TV networks. The project is also concerned with the capacity building of gender units in local television stations by working with the trained media professionals to ensure that a gender perspective is present in all programming processes.

Results and Analysis

The Global Media Monitoring Project is the most extensive global research of gender in news media ever undertaken. When the first GMMP was conducted in 1995, few of those involved could have imagined that it would

GMMP monitoring underway in Ireland.

develop in the way it has gone on to do. Ten years later, with the third such project now complete, the enormous significance of this international initiative is clear.

The methodology and results of GMMP have been used in a myriad of ways around the world. GMMP has provided a research instrument that has been easily applied in subsequent monitoring at both the local and international level. GMMP has also been used extensively for media literacy work and many monitoring groups have reported that taking part in GMMP has been a process of awareness raising.

The promotion of media literacy and gender awareness through media monitoring has always been an important aim of the GMMP. However, its over-riding goal is to change media output. With that in mind, groups in many different countries have also used the GMMP results to launch dialogue with media practitioners and policy makers. The data have proven invaluable in opening up creative discussion about the accepted routines and practices in media production that result in specific patterns of gender imbalance, and about how alternative choices and approaches could lead to a fairer, more balanced gender portrayal. As a tool for change, the strength of GMMP lies in the fact that it provides hard facts and figures which reach media professionals with an immediacy never achieved by theory or abstract argument. It is for this reason that GMMP 2005 is putting such a strong focus on using the results for advocacy and lobbying activities and to promote dialogue with the media.

1.6. Advocacy

Background

Advocacy has been a central part of WACC's work since its beginning, through the various projects it has supported and the work undertaken by the Global Studies Programme and the Women's Programme. However, there has been little self awareness of advocacy history and of current advocacy activities within WACC. This can be explained by the fact that advocacy within WACC had been generally undertaken in an ad-hoc manner; there had not been any real structured and systematic approach to advocacy within the organisation and consequently poor communication of its role as an advocacy broker.

To address this situation and capitalise on its advocacy capacity, WACC decided in early 2004 to ask the CRIS Coordinator to progressively take on WACC Advocacy concerns. Various consultative meetings were organised with staff and WACC regional directors and go ahead was given during Centcom 2004 to implement a more focused advocacy strategy for WACC during 2005 and beyond.

Goals and Objectives

The overall aim of the advocacy activities is to ensure that WACC is able to fulfil its mandate of "Taking sides". The objectives of our work in advocacy are therefore:

⬩ To promote WACC's role as a major for agent for change on communication policies

WACC has taken a lead role in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) related campaign by hosting the secretariat for the Communication Rights in the Information Society, CRIS.

• To raise awareness around key issues of communication and information
• To raise WACC's profile

Activities

WACC's strength is grounded in its long-term commitment to communication rights and the role of communication in development, its global experience of working with grassroots communities and its capacity for research and analysis on communication policies, practices and processes. WACC's advocacy strategy focuses on longer term efforts to shift existing social and political paradigms in the communication realm by mainstreaming advocacy in WACC's current and future work and developing a more intentional approach to bringing an advocacy angle into our current activities.

The Communication Rights in the Information Society Campaign (CRIS)

WACC has taken a lead role in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) related campaign by hosting the campaign's secretariat and supporting various initiatives linked to the network. These have included

The Global Governance Project

The aim of the "The CRIS Global Governance Project", which was sponsored by the Ford Foundation, was to support the emergence at national level of the concept of "communication rights", relating to local needs and dynamics influenced by global processes, and advocacy on governance issues. The first research report was published in October 2005 and officially launched at the World Summit in the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005. The report was undertaken with partners in Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia and Europe.

The UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity

In 2003, 180 countries began consultations and negotiations on a Convention on Cultural Diversity (CCD) for submission and approval at the UNESCO general conference in October 2005. Between 2003 and 2005 various civil society groups came together to ensure that cultural activities would not be reduced to mere commodities and that cultural identities and industries would be kept out of existing trade agreements regulated by multilateral organisations such as WTO and WIPO. During that process, CRIS collaborated with Free Press and the International Network on Cultural Diversity to set up www.mediatrademonitor.org, to monitor the process. One hundred and forty eight countries approved the convention, two -- the United States and Israel -- voted against it, and four abstained. The new rules will come into force three months after its ratification by 30 states. In a press release distributed shortly afterwards, CRIS welcomed the Convention stating that: "The Convention is a clear demonstration that governments recognise that culture cannot be reduced to a mere commodity. By endorsing the Convention, governments have shown that they are prepared to take positive steps to support cultural diversity in the age of global cultural industries." CRIS and

Zapatistas documenting activities in Chiapas Mexico. This photograph showing the use of alternative media for indigenous rights campaigning won a prize in the WACC photographic competition this year.

partners also played a key role in ensuring that the language of the Convention could not in any way be construed as supporting or strengthening the current copyright regime.

Events and Lobbying

In 2005, during the British Presidency of the European Union, the WACC/CRIS Advocacy and Network Coordinator was contracted by the British Council to contribute to and advise on the UK input to the WSIS process. This involved participation in a series of consultative meetings, a report on key areas of concerns for Civil Society entitled "Communication rights in information societies: Implications for political and social policies" and ministerial briefings. Further details are available on www.crisinfo.org/content/view/full/881

CRIS also was present at the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis and took an active part in programmes supporting local freedom of expression activists as well as organising CRIS specific events, including a final session devoted to an analysis of the future of the Communication Rights movement.

Evaluation

CRIS entered its final phase as the WSIS drew to an end in November 2005. CRIS undertook an evaluation exercise during the summer months of 2005, led by Jason Nardi. The evaluation was undertaken in the format of an online questionnaire that CRIS members were asked to fill in and more in-depth phone interviews for key actors in the campaign. The results were presented during two meetings, one in London hosted by WACC for the CRIS board of directors and another wider meeting for CRIS members hosted in Geneva in September 2005. The results of the evaluation formed the basis for strategic planning for the CRIS campaign to carry on beyond December 2005. Plans for the campaign are to be finalised in early 2006.

Defending Communication Rights in practice: the case of Supinya Klangnarong

On 16 July 2003, the Thai Post newspaper published an article in which Ms Supinya Klangnarong, an ex-WACC scholar and Secretary General of the Campaign for Press and Media Reform (CPMR), observed that the profits of Shin Corp had increased enormously since its founder, Mr Thaksin Shinawatra, had become Prime Minister of Thailand. In the article, Ms Supinya pointed out that since Mr Thaksin founded his Thai Rak Thai political party in the late 90s, his company's profits had increased four fold, a trend that was projected to continue. She also noted that Shin Corp's business interests were all in the communication sector - mobile phones, satellite transmission and television - and therefore matters of public concern should be open to public debate. She also pointed out that the profits from Shin Corp were being channelled back into the Thai Rak Thai company, effectively integrating Mr Thaksin's political and commercial interests into a single highly powerful enterprise.

Bosnia and Herzegovina GMMP monitoring.

Photo: GMMP

After the article was published, Shin Corp filed a criminal libel suit. This was followed by a civil suit for compensation of US$ 9.2 million (400 M Baht) for the 'adverse publicity' that had allegedly harmed Shin Corp's business interests. The libel trial started on 19th July 2005 and in March 2006, after a long and arduous process, Supinya was found innocent. This was a huge victory for the media activists on the ground and to a wider extent for democracy in Thailand. Supinya now will find out whether the civil suit will go ahead. However with the outcome of the criminal case and the political changes in the country (with the resignation of Prime Minister Thaksin in March 2006), the future looks bright for Supinya.

From the outset, WACC has been at the forefront of a campaign for Supinya. It has publicized her case globally and through its network has lobbied both SHIN Corp and the office of the Prime Minister. In summer 2005, as the libel case went to court, WACC set up a petition calling on SHIN to withdraw its suit. The petition was the first on-line petition ever to appear in Thailand and was a hub of excitement for many activists in Thailand. The petition gathered over 1,000 signatures in two weeks including the support of international human rights activists such as Naom Chomsky, Ariel Dorfman, Armand Mattelard, and Antonio Pasquali.

Mainstreaming Advocacy in WACC activities: The Global Media Monitoring Project:

As part of its commitment to advocacy and the mainstreaming of advocacy in WACC activities, the WACC Advocacy and Network Coordinator

and the WACC Women's Programme Coordinator came together to work on an advocacy strategy around the Global Media Monitoring Project's report to be published in early 2006. Details of the Global Media Monitoring project are given in section 1.5

Activities for incorporating advocacy in the project included the production of a full campaigning plan for 2006, fundraising activities, coalition building with leading London based organisations (such as Amnesty International, Article 19, the International Federation of Journalists and the Television Trust for the environment), and a full marketing and communication plan.

Results and Analysis

Following a more intentional advocacy path has been a steep learning curve for WACC, but has been an effort which has already reaped rewards for communication professionals and grassroots organisations that are seeking to have their voices heard and their rights implemented.

The support of WACC was a critical factor in the success of the CRIS campaign in the lead up to the WSIS in November 2005. This success was manifest in the growing CRIS membership as well as the increasing number of calls for participation in government consultations. By the end of 2005, 560 organisations worldwide had signed the CRIS Charter (www.crisinfo.org).

Supinya's battles in the Thai courts lasted longer than expected, but WACC's steadfast commitment to her case and its leadership

Communications. The revamped WACC website is used by people all over the world, for activism and academic research.

of her support network were key factors in building international pressure that led to Supinya's eventual acquittal. WACC intends to carry on providing similar support for specific cases in line with its programmatic priorities.

WACC raised its advocacy commitment to communication rights by undertaking and supporting advocacy and campaign activities worldwide around the forthcoming Women's Programme Global Media Monitoring Project in 2005 and 2006. The advocacy activities that will surround the launch of the GMMP report will lead to the first ever global campaign on media accountability, focusing specifically on the gender issue. WACC, with its strong women's programme and active partnership is in a unique position to promote the rights of all to fair representation and equal participation in the media.

1.7. Communications

Goals and Objectives

• To make information about WACC's activities, approach and vision of communication available as widely as possible, especially among organisations and groups working for social and cultural change.
• To establish and maintain working relationships with international, governmental, non-governmental and ecumenical bodies with a view to influencing their communications policies.
• To facilitate the exchange of experiences and dialogue within the WACC network.

• To advocate communication rights in situations of oppression and censorship.
• To network with organisations representing marginalised and disabled people to explore the possibility of developing communication projects and activities that will meet their communication needs.

### Activities

Media Development

In 2005 WACC published four issues of its international quarterly journal Media Development on the following themes: 'Celebrating cinema'; 'Christian fundamentalism and the media'; 'Women reclaim media'; and 'Communicating communication'. At the beginning of the year the journal along with other WACC publications were redesigned under a common brand and, in response to an earlier readership survey, shorter articles were interspersed with longer ones.

Media & Gender Monitor

Two issues of Media & Gender Monitor appeared, covering WACC's Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) 2005 and containing information and updates on WACC-related projects concerned with gender and communication.

Other Publications

Two books were published in the course of the year: The first, A New World Is Possible, is a translation of Um novo mundo é possível, by Marcelo Rezende Guimarães, and co-
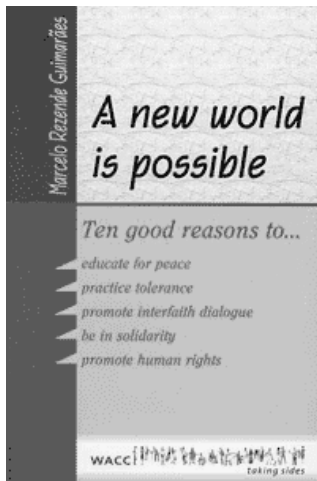
A New World is Possible, Ten Good Reasons to... Educate for Peace, Practice Tolerance, Promote Interfaith Dialogue, Be in Solidarity, Promote Human Rights. By Marcelo Rezende Guimaraes. Published by Sinodal.

published with Editora Sinodal, Porto Alegre, Brazil. The book explores reasons to educate for peace with the aim of creating a political, social and cultural environment in which values such as justice, dignity, equality, and compassion are paramount and actually put into practice.

The second book, Cinema and Popular Culture, by Peter Malone, and the second in a series that looks at how people perceive spiritual values in popular culture was co-published with St Pauls Publishing, London. As well as another step forward in ecumenical collaboration, the book initiates a conversation with cinema goers everywhere. It asks, what are the values we respond to in a film? How is a film an alternative pulpit? How are so many of today's films moral compasses?

Media Action

The electronic publication Media Action has proven to be successful in replacing the print publication of Action. Subscriptions are continuing to rise, as is evident from the graph and contributions and feedback are increasingly frequent. The publication has engaged the readership with relevant and interesting stories about media and communication as well as WACC-related news.

The move to digital-only distribution has freed-up resources and allowed WACC to offer a faster and more frequent news delivery.

Website

The trend in traffic to the WACC website is one of visible growth and increased usage. The chart above shows usage of the website over the last 12 months, demonstrating the trend of growth in unique visitors, number of visits, pages viewed, hits and bandwidth used.

WACC stats:
visitors, visits, pages viewed, hits and bandwidth
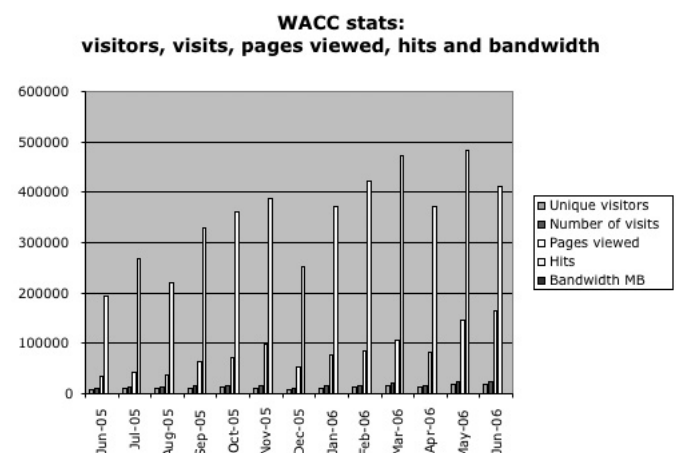
The WACC website is designed to enable people all over the world to easily and quickly access WACC's articles, news and information from any internet browser. During the last year, thousands of people have used the site to request information, send news, update their details for our records, or have applied to join WACC.

In February 2005 after extensive development, the WACC website switched from using PHP-Nuke to eZ Publish an open-source dynamic, database-driven, multi-lingual content management system with a

much more adaptable front end. The new system overcomes many of the limitations of the previous system by allowing browsing of publications by issue, giving an advanced search facility and locating institutional information much more logically. A further update of the eZ Publish system will increase the speed of the system, make the back end editing much easier, automate contact management for newsletters, introduce RSS syndication feeds for news aggregators and improve the visibility of much of the content previously hidden behind slightly awkward navigation.

The site has continued to take online payment for membership and subscription dues. This is the first year that the system has really worked effectively.

E-mail lists

WACC's e-mail lists now have nearly 7000 contacts and are held in 3 sets, for English, Spanish and German mailings. The new site makes it easy to subscribe and unsubscribe. The graph shows the steady growth in subscriptions to the e-mail lists over the last three years, and a big jump where the subscription database was merged with the main database. The mailings are now handled from the main database.

Subscriptions to WACC electronic newsletters
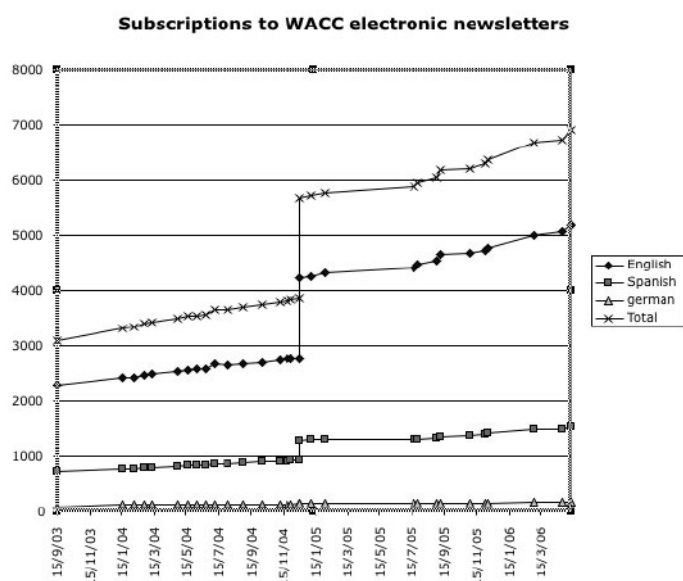
Results and Analysis

WACC is working with a large and growing group of readers and supporters engaged through its online publications and electronic newsletters. From readership many pass to debate, to taking sides and taking action, this was particularly visible in the campaign to support Supinya Klangnarong. This means that, as well as helping form values-based opinion, WACC is developing the means, with technology, to influence issues through advocacy.

An increasing proportion of WACC's communication activities are happening online, and the online readership has far outgrown WACC's ability to service it in print. Moving forward with technology, WACC is taking a proactive and energetic approach to technological progress and is now supporting its communication activities with RSS syndication and news aggregation, a major area of growth in electronic communication, as well as running an interactive multi-lingual website and electronic newsletters.

In addition to showing the viability of alternative communications through its programmes and projects to a growing online audience, WACC is using technology to fulfill a vital role as a catalyst and organiser of action on justice issues related to media and communication.

Increasingly WACC's public profile is one of advocating global issues in communications and of making information and knowledge more widely available. WACC has also been concerned to place global communications issues on the agenda of international church bodies such as the World Council of Churches, and to get involved in the work of regional church-related bodies concerned with questions of communication.

WACC is strengthening its support for issues such as communication rights, gender justice, and cultural diversity rather than merely maintaining its historical role as a

funder of grassroots projects. While local communication initiatives and activities will continue to be the bedrock of communication experiences, there is clearly a need for building awareness and influencing policy decisions in many organisations at the global, national and local levels, which WACC's partners are eminently qualified and able to carry out.

Search

WACC

taking sides

About WACC | Regional Associations | Publications | Programmes | Join | Contact us | Subscribe! | Sitemap

Home

Recent Publications

Media Development

Communication for development and social justice

Media & Gender Monitor

'Who Makes the News?' Three Weeks of Global Action on Gender and the Media

media action

Hostilities in Lebanon

Yet again one country is suffering the full military onslaught of another unimaginably more powerful. Israel justifies its action in the name of self-defence and territorial integrity. People die on both sides, but the consequences for Lebanon are disproportionate, including the total destruction of its infrastructure and future stability.

Vigil for Lebanon. Photo: Patricio Valenzuela

Full statement | Middle East News section

Recent News

Applauding While Lebanon Burns

Syndicated columnist Richard Cohen declared in the Washington Post on July 25 that an-eye-for-an-eye would be a hopelessly wimpy policy for the Israeli government. "Anyone who knows anything a...
26 July 2006

Media self-censorship hides truth

They were gruesome lunchtime images, and totally unexpected. Yesterday, on CNN's Your World Today, correspondent Becky Anderson in Beirut introduced a report by Karl Penhaul who told of a Tyr...
26 July 2006

SIGNIS Calls for Support for Immediate Ceasefire in Lebanon

SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication, today supported the call by UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon. Expressing solidarity with its m...
24 July 2006

On the death of Midori Suzuki:

WACC is saddened to have received word on the death of Midori Suzuki: feminist, advocate, mentor and communicator. Midori was a personal member of WACC and had been involved in the Asia Region of...
24 July 2006

Subscribe

free WACC newsletters

Links

WHO MAKES THE NEWS

RSS

What is RSS?

RSS   wacc news

WACC's website is welcoming 20,000 visits a month.

2. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The global priorities of WACC are reflected in regional activities which it supports through its regional associations and local partner projects.

Regional Associations

WACC's membership is organised in regional associations. WACC recognises eight regions: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America and Pacific. Each region has its own constitution governing how the region operates within the global structure of WACC. It is to be noted, however, that membership in WACC is in the global body itself as the regional associations are not registered agencies in their own right. Each regional association holds regional seminars or workshops on communication topics of importance in the region. Every three or four years, the members in any given region gather in an assembly to discuss plans and priorities and to elect an executive committee for the region. The regional executive committees generally include a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a number of other members that vary from one region to the next. The executive committees of each region meet once a year, and are active throughout the year in guiding the regional affairs of WACC.

Middle East: Animation workshops in Gaza supported by WACC and run by Theatre Day Productions.

Photo: Ahmad Qadadah

Four regional assemblies took place during 2005. WACC's Asia Regional Association assembled in Seoul, South Korea in April with a seminar on the theme of communication for life and peace. Communicators from 10 Asian countries gained a deeper understanding of the link between peace-building and media democratisation in Asia. They articulated guidelines for work on communication and social and political issues in Asia in the next three years.

The Caribbean Regional Assembly took place in September in Paramaribo, Suriname with a seminar on the subject of 'A Caribbean agenda for the democratization of

communication.' This was the first time a regional assembly was held in the Dutch-speaking Caribbean.

In March 2005 WACC's Europe Region held its members' assembly in Strasbourg along with a seminar on "Communicating identities and valuing differences in a changing Europe" where participants explored contemporary issues of Europe in transition, and how communication could address those issues.

The triennial assembly of the Pacific membership of WACC took place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in September. Church and NGO communicators from 10

countries gained a deeper understanding of the principles and values of communication as promoted by WACC and explored how communication can contribute to building community and reinforcing human values.

Projects in the Regions

WACC provides support to local partners to carry out local, national or regional communication projects. In a departure from the previous practice of inviting project proposals once a year, WACC invited project proposals three times during 2005. The applications were screened first by some of WACC's members in the region where the project proposal originated. They were then screened at the Global Office by staff before final approval by the Finance Committee. The Regional Development Sector offers project support under three main categories:

Regular Projects

These activities are located mostly in developing countries. Funding comes from a range of partner agencies who support WACC's core budget or give funding to WACC for particular projects.

Development Initiative Programme (DIP) Projects

This programme, co-funded by WACC and EED in Germany, provides support for innovative development-related communication projects in developing countries that can be completed within one year.

Critical Situations Fund (CSF) Projects
This programme provides project support for activities promoting communication for reconciliation between communities in countries where significant conflicts have taken place. These projects assist the quest for peace in broken communities. In 2005 the Critical Situation Fund was directed towards projects in Colombia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As an exception during 2005, funding was also directed towards communities in India suffering from the effects of the devastating tsunami.

Goals and objectives

The goals and objectives of WACC's regional activities reflect WACC global programme themes in more local and focused ways:

• empowering the marginalised, such as ethnic minorities, women, children and people with disabilities, to dismantle socio-economic, religious and cultural barriers holding them back;
• broadening people's access to mass media and communication technology by helping them to produce their own programmes or gain their own communication tools;
• facilitating the participation of grassroots groups through the use of oral and traditional communication forms;
• challenging media workers and organisations to join the search for a shared ethical foundation built upon key issues of human rights, socio-economic justice, peace and the democratisation of communication;
• training communicators, both church-related and secular, to make them more effective in their mission.

In addition WACC's regions have highlighted concerns of particular significance within the region:

Africa

Supporting communication efforts related to stemming the tide of HIV/Aids, reconciliation in areas of conflict, training and capacity building, and women's human rights continue to be the main areas of concern.

Asia

The projects in the region continue to focus on marginalised groups living in poverty, training, and supporting reconciliation and peace.

Caribbean

Communication rights and democratisation of communication were important project themes for the year along with capacity building for women community radio producers.

Latin America

Communication rights and the democratisation of communication continue to be of high importance, along with communication and marginalised communities, and women and media.

Middle East

Promoting reconciliation, unity and peaceful co-existence, particularly between different faith groups, and the advancement of the rights of women and children and other marginalised groups were again the main themes of projects during 2005.

Pacific

Projects in 2005 focused on strengthening communication capacity, community-building, and promoting awareness about women's human rights as well as promoting harmony between different faith groups.

Projects Supported in 2005

During 2005, WACC supported 66 projects in 34 countries as detailed below.   Twelve other approved projects did not receive support. In one case this was due to developments in the organisation proposing the project. WACC was not able to secure funds for eleven projects it would have liked to support.

Region	Regular	DIP	CSF	Total
Africa	3	7	1	11
Asia	2	10	1	13
Caribbean	1	2	0	3
Europe	1	0	0	1
Latin America	1	21	2	24
Middle East	1	8	1	10
Pacific	0	4	0	4
Total	9	52	5	66

CAPROF, the Circle of Social Animation for Promotion of Women in DRC (North-Kivu Province) ran WACC-supported training for women journalists from 18 community radio stations.

Africa

11 approved / 11 funded in 8 countries
Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo (3), Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa (2 including 1 regional), Tanzania, Zimbabwe

Asia

18 approved / 13 funded in 7 countries
China (Hong Kong), India (6), Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, South Korea (regional), Thailand (2)

Europe

1 regional project funded
France

Caribbean

3 approved / 3 funded in 3 countries
Cuba, Haiti, Suriname (regional)

Latin America

26 approved / 24 funded in 10 countries
Argentina (3), Bolivia, Brazil (2), Chile (4), Colombia (4), Ecuador, Guatemala (2 including 1 regional), Mexico (3), Nicaragua, Peru (3)

Middle East

14 approved / 10 funded in 4 countries
Egypt (5), Israel, Lebanon (2 including 1 regional), Palestinian Authority area (2).

Pacific

5 approved / 4 funded in 1 country
Fiji (4 including 1 regional project)

A more detailed account of regional activities follows. It mentions some projects not counted above that were approved for funding last year whose implementation was delayed to 2005.

Activities and Results

2.1. Africa

Activities

A total of 12 projects were recommended for funding. The WACC-Africa Region continued to implement its HIV and Aids programme on the role of communication for behaviour change and, following visits to Ghana and Rwanda, the WACC HIV/Aids initiative on stigma and discrimination was further developed. In addition, support was given to three country based projects addressing HIV and Aids related issues. Apart from HIV and Aids, the remaining projects focused on reconciliation and conflict resolution, women, training and equipment. Five were new initiatives

Highlights

a. HIV and Aids

In 2005, the WACC-Africa Region project on behaviour change targeted two countries: South Africa and the Ivory Coast. Unfortunately due to the outbreak of conflict, the Ivory Coast seminar for journalists was cancelled. It has now been rescheduled for Ghana in 2006. The Cape Town event brought together around 30 people, clergy, laity, both women and men, and professionals from public, private and church media. As a result

of the workshop closer it was agreed to work closely with the South African Media and Gender Institute (SAMGI) on their Aids programme and support Radio Zibonele, a community radio station in the Kyahelitsha region of Cape Town which broadcasts in Xhosa and already carries weekly health programmes that focus on HIV and Aids. The Grassroots Female Communicators Association (GRAFCA) in Tanzania organised sensitisation workshops for rural women on HIV and Aids stigma and discrimination. The workshops involved participatory theatre/drama, storytelling and testimonials which were recorded for use in other sessions

In Cape Town the Transformative Human Rights Unit (THRU) developed and used a cartoon character called HIVA to educate university students, a high risk group, on HIV and Aids with the objective of fighting stigma and discrimination faced by students and their families living with the virus.

The Ecumenical Documentation and Information Centre in Southern Africa (EDICISA) based in Zimbabwe organised a training seminar on HIV and Aids reporting for communicators working with churches and councils of churches. The objective of the training, the first of its kind, was to equip the communicators with the skills to present issues around HIV and Aids in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. EDICISA has followed this up with other training seminars and there is evidence to suggest that the coverage of HIV and Aids in Southern Africa has improved.

b. Gender

The Audio-Visual Service in Benin organised an eight week training workshop for 15 young women already working in the media. The workshop covered a range of skills - from programming and script writing to production - and in the medium to long term will lead to greater visibility and increased opportunities for women in the media.

A similar programme was organised by The Cercle d'Animation Sociale pour la Promotion de la Femme (CAPROF) – The Circle of Social Animation for Women Promotion) in DRC (North-Kivu Province) for women journalists from 18 community radio stations. As a result of the training programme it is anticipated that there will be better and greater coverage of women and community issues by the radio stations. To strengthen their ability to effect these changes, a network (a collective) of all the participating radio stations was formed under the name of CORACON.

In Senegal, Association for the Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA) carried out a training workshop for young media professionals. The training focused on the role of ICTs in reducing the gender digital divide. The participants produced an audio-visual educational and advocacy document together with individual action plans.

c. Marginalised Groups

With WACC support, the Neno la Uzima (Word of Life) Studio in Bukavu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) purchased and installed new equipment to refurbish its video studio. With this new equipment the Studio has been able to

produce a range of new programmes addressing issues around HIV and Aids, peace and reconciliation, young people and women.

d. Communication Training

The Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) in Lagos, Nigeria initiated a series of meetings with media professionals to discuss the reporting the violations of social and economic rights in Lagos State. Through these meetings SERAC was also able to review and assess the training needs of media professionals. Using these results, SERAC designed and convened a number of training programmes involving testimonies from those whose social and economic rights had been violated, the provision of information on social and economic rights treaties, and the development of advocacy strategies suitable for media reporting of these rights. In 2004, the All African Council of Churches was compelled to cancel a planned workshop for Christian publishing houses and booksellers due to political and social instability in Togo. The workshop was then transferred to Ghana where it was held in 2005. Participants came from across both Francophone and Anglophone Africa to share experiences, build networks and work towards a renewal of their businesses.

e. Reconciliation, Conflict Resolution and Peace-building

The Eglise du Christ au Congo (ECC) which functions as a church council in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) initiated a campaign on reconciliation through the media across all provinces of the country. Targeting journalists and religious leaders the campaign began with a pilot workshop in Kinshasa. With the lessons learned from this workshop, over the next year or so the campaign will be taken to other parts of DRC.

During the genocide, the radio studio of the Protestant Council of Churches of Rwanda (CPR) was looted and what equipment remained was largely obsolete. As part of an effort to strengthen and support its work on reconciliation and peace building, new radio equipment was purchased and installed. The studio has thus been able to increase its production capacity over a range of areas including trauma healing, counselling and reconciliation and HIV and Aids. The programmes around HIV and Aids have been effective in encouraging people to go for testing, assisting churches in meeting the emotional, psychological and physical needs of those living with or affected by HIV and Aids and counselling and care programmes for orphans of both the genocide and HIV and Aids. The radio programmes have also addressed issues such as sexual and gender-based violence, family planning and drugs abuse.

Results and analysis

As the projects above show, HIV & Aids, communication training and gender are themes common to most projects. This is not unexpected as they are all inter-related. Equipment provision has enabled organisations to improve and expand their programming and production output. Neno la Uzima in DCR, for example, produced nine video programmes on different aspects of HIV

India - a participatory photography project in a marginal urban area of Ahmedabad. This photograph was shortlisted in the WACC photo competition this year.

and Aids and a video presentation encouraging Congolese to vote and participate in the democratic process. At the same time, the Protestant Council of Churches in Rwanda is now able to broadcast quality programmes on key social issues and has started negotiations for a licence to set up a community radio instead of continuing to pay airtime to the government. Training of women broadcasters will, over time, lead to greater and more thoughtful coverage of gender issues. These efforts of course will be strengthened by the networks of communicators and community radio stations that have been established as a result of the various workshops.

2.2. Asia

Activities

For the Asia Region, 2005 was a year of recuperation and reconciliation. The tsunami that hit India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia on 26 December 2004, cast a shadow over rich and poor alike and the recovery continues to be a long and painful process.   Apart from natural disasters, political crises have threatened media freedom in a number of Asian countries, most particularly Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. The economic and political divide between North and South Korea continue to generate uncertainty. Communication rights remains an issue in much of the region particularly in China. It is against this background that the region continues to focus on marginalised groups and issues of poverty, pursuing training in communication as a means of effecting social change and seeking reconciliation and peace with justice.

Highlights

a. Marginalised Communities

The Association for Rural Poor (ARP), an NGO based in Chennai, India, organised street theatre training for young people from fishing communities affected by the tsunami. In five villages along a 15 kilometre stretch of coastline destroyed by the tsunami, fifteen young people used their new found skills to highlight and address issues affecting those who had lost friends and family in the disaster.

A video and newsletter writing were at the heart of two projects concerned with the plight of women. WAYANG, an NGO from Thailand produced and marketed a video "Silk and Iron" which examined the impact of political and social crises on women workers in Asia. The video, which was produced in a number of Asian languages and had been shown to wide acclaim at the World Social Forum in India in 2004, was distributed to more than twenty NGOs in the labour movement network of thirteen countries in Asia.

In Hong Kong the Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge organised a writing workshop for women migrant workers to relate their own experiences. Expressed in stories, songs, poems, images, and photos, these experiences were brought together as a book and published in different regional languages. The intention of the publication was to promote public awareness of the plight of the 230,000 Asian women migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong.
Minority rights were the focus of the Village

MADHYAM in Bangalore, India, ran a successfull WACC-supported project to use media to campaign for greater enrollment in schools.

Photo: MADHYAM

Reconstruction and Development Project (VRDP) `India which led a campaign to address the rights of the Adivasi tribal people, particularly with respect to land ownership, through the introduction of the 2005 Tribal Bill.

b. Peace and Reconciliation

In April 2005, the Asia Regional Association of WACC (AR-WACC) met in Seoul, South Korea, for a two-day seminar around the theme "Communication for Life and Peace". Fifty media practitioners, NGO leaders, academics and theologians from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and South Korea attended the seminar. The seminar concluded with the adoption of the Seoul Declaration, which recommended, amongst other things, building closer ties with Christian communicators in North Korea as a step towards building bridges with that country.

c. Communications Training

Media education training was the route through which peace and justice issues were addressed by one NGO in Indonesia, the PUSKAT Audio Visual Studio in Yogyakarta launched a five-day workshop for seven Muslim and seven Christian teachers from junior high schools on the critical understanding of the media. The teachers learned how to analyze TV programmes and audio-visual language - particularly with respect to the coverage and representation of race and religion - and were shown how television could be used to promote peace and understanding.

In Chiangmai, Thailand, the Voice of Peace Communication Centre (VOP) held a three-day workshop on video production, filming and editing for minority groups in Thailand, including some from Myanmar. Apart from providing participants with basic communication skills, the workshop also aimed to strengthen the voices of minority communities represented in the workshop by encouraging cooperation and networking.

d. Communication and Religion

Effective communication through the printed word is at the heart of building community, spreading ideas, supporting education development and strengthening cultural identity. The Presbyterian Church in Myanmar (PCM) in Tahan-Kalaymyo replaced its outdated printing facilities with an offset printer and computerised desktop publishing equipment which has increased its capacity to produce materials for Christian communities throughout Myanmar. In a similar vein, the purchase of new printing facilities by the ecumenical Tribal Media Group (TMG) in the remote north-eastern town of Tedim, Myanmar has enabled the organisation to increase its capacity to publish materials in the local Zomi language thus giving fresh life to both the language and culture of the Zomi people in an environment in which the voice of minority peoples are regularly suppressed.

Results and Analysis

Most projects in the Asia region focused on the empowerment of marginalised communities such as child labourers in India, destitute families from the tsunami or

Rural peasants in the mountains of the Sierra Maestra in Cuba listen intently to a radio on the table. This image won a prize in the WACC photographic competition this year.

Saontal from Bangladesh by giving them a voice in the public media through communication A follow up to the media literacy training provided by PUSKAT to a group of junior school teachers from the Christian and Muslim communities, revealed a greater emphasis on interfaith understanding and peace in both their teaching and their schools.

The AR-WACC seminar in Seoul, South Korea, which was attended by peace and media specialists and activists from across the region, produced a declaration outlining priority social and political issues to be addressed by the Association over the next three years. Of particular concern was the need to develop a Christian response to these issues against the continuing instability of the Korean Peninsula. The live webcast of the seminar, the first to be used by a WACC regional association, has inspired others, particularly the World Council of Churches, to follow.

WACC has had a longstanding relationship with the Association for the Rural Poor (ARP) an acknowledged leader in this use of popular theatre to address social and cultural issues. In the immediate post tsunami period the ARP responded in an innovative and timely manner to the suffering of young survivors from coastal fishing communities in south India. The results of using theatre to address post disaster trauma among the young, have not been systematically evaluated, but anecdotal evidence suggests that it has had a positive impact.

2.3. The Caribbean

The regional priorities were reaffirmed at the Regional Assembly held in Suriname in September 2005. These were to

⬦ support forms of communication that preserve, reinforce and give prominence to the region's cultural realities and traditions and encourage local production.
⬦ support communication programmes and projects that seek to address some of the socio political issues affecting the region: violence, lack of information from non USA-dominated sources, unemployment, etc.
⬦ facilitate and sustain programmes which promote people's right to communicate, to engage in the communication processes and have access to, and use of, the various traditional and modern information and communication technologies.
⬦ create greater access to all information and communication technologies.
⬦ develop a culture of communication and networking among its members.
⬦ share and disseminate information across the linguistic divide by making use of all information and communication technologies.
⬦ promote and share a Caribbean world view and Caribbean culture.

During 2005 conflict and violence in Haiti continued to be one of the main points of concerns throughout the region. Relations between the island and other countries of the Caribbean Economic Community CARICOM continued to be strained following the overthrow of President Aristide in the first quarter of 2004. The Haitian media landscape became even more polarised and a 'discourse of death' was openly disseminated

Cuba. A person with learning disability singing with all his heart at the closure of a social psychiatry congress in Cuba, a dramatic instant that describes the power of media to value human dignity, to enable participation, and to be fun. This image won a prize in the WACC photographic competition this year.

by certain media with journalists not been able to access parts of the country due to prevailing violence. At the same time, and despite persistent threats, the search for balanced, equitable and alternative communication continued to be pursued by community media.

Venezuela was the leading force behind the creation of 'Telesur' a pan-Latin American TV channel that includes Cuba, Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela. Broadcasting through satellite, TV and digital radio it aims to provide a medium modelled on the large global TV networks for the Caribbean and Latin America.

Natural disasters dominated 2005 . The islands were battered by more than12 tropical storms and over seven hurricanes five of which were of major intensity causing significant loss of life and much physical damage.

Activities

Two new projects were approved for implementation during 2005: 'Popular Literature for Young People' from the YMCA in Cuba and 'Breaking the Silence' in the Caribbean island of St Lucia, a project for young women involving audiovisual skills training and video production for HIV prevention run by the St Lucia Red Cross. During 2005 a further project was approved – the seminar 'A Caribbean Agenda for the Democratization of Communication'. This took place in Surinam and brought together 46 communicators from all linguistic areas of the Caribbean.

In 2005 a training project, deferred from the previous year, for media professionals in Jamaica and organised by the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica was successfully completed. Due to the Political upheaval in Haiti continued to affect the implementation of activities deferred from 2004.

Highlights

a. Communication Rights

The Caribbean Region of WACC (WACC-Caribe) organised a seminar on the theme of 'A Caribbean Agenda for the Democratization of Communication in the Information Society'. This was the regional association's first activity in Surinam and was a follow up to two previous seminars on new information and communication technologies and the right to communicate. All seminars aimed to identify ways of integrating the Caribbean region into the international campaign for communication rights in the context of the Information Society.

b. Training

The training programme organised by the Jamaica Broadcasting Commission on the application of Content Standards Codes brought together some 200 participants four different seminars and workshops. As well as including the media professionals directly responsible for successful implementation of the Code – broadcasters, news and current affairs personnel, cable licensees - other participants taking part were teachers, educators, NGOs, parents associations, social welfare groups (such as the Coalition for the Rights of the Child and Fathers Incorporated)

Sweden. A Swedish participant in the GMMP research.

and advertising and marketing representatives. The seminars were specifically addressed to entertainers, the group representing those directly in touch with street culture, and who influence and contribute to young peoples' aspirations and notions of 'cool'. The Broadcasting Commission felt that it was extremely important to incorporate this influential group into the training programme and for the Commission to engage with the entertainment sector on the Children's Code.

c. HIV and Aids

On St Lucia, Ignorance about HIV and Aids particularly among girls of 15 -19 years of age contributes significantly to the spreading of the virus and is a major concern. The St Lucia Red Cross in collaboration with the 911 Media Arts Centre in Seattle, USA, has been actively engaged in the production of audio visual and other materials to address issues associated with HIV and Aids. The project 'Breaking the Silence' enabled young women, having been trained in video production, to produce a documentary in their own words about the silence, stigma and discrimination that surrounds HIV and Aids which has been widely shown throughout the island.

Results and Analysis

Concern to improve compliance of all licence media in Jamaica with the Broadcasting Commission's Children's Code for Programming galvanised support from a number of organisation including the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union. The purpose of the Code

is to ensure the appropriate handling of violent content, sexual portrayals and adult language, but since its introduction three years ago, licencees have had difficulty in meeting its standards. The seminars and workshops concluded with a range of recommendations many of which have been adopted by the Commission.

In St Lucia, participants on the project "Breaking the Silence" were actively involved in the island's World Aids Day activities and were invited by the Governor General to join the lantern competition, one of the biggest events on St Lucia's National Day. The documentary produced by the group of young women has been widely distributed in DVD format for use by educators and peer leaders. One of the young women trained by the 'Breaking the Silence' experience reports that she now works with the Aids Action Foundation in St Lucia.

The Cuban project dealing with the production of popular literature for young people in Cuba was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances but is now in the process of implementation.

2.4. Europe

Activities

The Europe region aims to assist people and organisations working in communication to improve their professional skills, work for the improvement of standards and practices in communication, study and evaluate critically the social and ethical impact of communication towards the development of a just, equitable and peaceful society,

cooperate with other European ecumenical organisations in the field of communication and provide the means for consultation and cooperation among peoples of different faiths and between Christian and secular groups. Activities in 2005 largely focused on cultural diversity and communication rights.

Highlights

a. Cultural diversity

In the course of 2005, ERA-WACC focused on its Seminar on 'Communicating identities and valuing differences in a changing Europe', 13-15 March 2005. Held in Strasbourg as part of WACC-Europe's Assembly, the seminar took place against the background of a European Union enlarged to 25 countries, with many different cultures, political and social backgrounds. The flow of migration is continuing throughout Europe, giving greater urgency to the need for cultural and religious dialogue. In an increasingly uncertain world, communication plays a crucial role in influencing human behaviour. Europe needs a communication and cultural policy capable both of welcoming different traditions and of developing common rules for all. Democracy can only work in a communication system where communication rights are guaranteed for all.

Christian communicators in Europe feel challenged to tackle all these issues. What role, as Christian communicators, can they play in Europe? What contribution can they make? How to communicate religious identities and at the same time value differences? The seminar was organised around a keynote presentation and two round-tables. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko, ordained minister of the Church of Sweden, and currently Program Secretary in the Office on Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue of the World Council of Churches, Geneva. He argued that it is possible to form a new covenant a reciprocal agreement of mutual recognition between presently dominant and subordinate groups, so that all people everywhere may legitimately feel that they are equal participants in the emergence of a new Europe:

'A social and moral covenant will require a lot. It is engaging each other in a long and patient dialogue towards an agreement between members of the majority culture and those of minority cultures to treat each other as equals, and to take seriously the constitutive nature of the other's culture. We must ask each other, what is negotiable, what is non-negotiable, how far can we go for the common good, where do we have to find a compromise? Each must be prepared to give up claims to privilege. Majority members must not use their power to enforce their will. Members of the minority community must be prepared to see where compromise is possible, where adaptation is viable, even if this means abandoning some of that which is cherished.'

Results and Analysis

WACC's European Region Association (ERA-WACC) has an important role to play in contributing to the creation of an information and communication society that is open and tolerant. Resolving political and socio-cultural questions in the 'new Europe' can only be made easier by increased religious

Chile. Raising the aerial at WACC-supported indigenous Radio We Keche shortly before beginning to broadcast.

understanding and constructive dialogue. ERA-WACC will continue in its efforts to promote communication rights and dialogue through its religious TV festival, radio training workshops and other initiatives and to encourage greater diversity and spirituality and to strengthen its work with ecumenical bodies like the Council of European Churches (CEC), SIGNIS, and sister organizations like the Communication Committee of Lutheran Minority Churches in Europe (KALME), and the European Christian Internet Conference (ECIC).

2.5. Latin America

Activities

The Latin America Regional Association's goals and objectives reflect the contrasts and contradictions of a continent in which, for example, the gap between rich and poor is greater than anywhere else. Despite the demise of dictatorial regimes and long-entrenched ruling parties and widespread relief from repression and extreme abuses of human rights, all of which tended to characterise the politics of Latin America, many countries in the region have failed to dismantle a deeply entrenched culture of violence especially against women.

Despite the changing democratic climate in Latin America, in 2005 the democratisation of communication remained a primary concern for the regional association. But the move to

greater democracy also highlighted the role of communication in protecting and strengthening democracy, ensuring that the democratic process is both accountable and transparent, and as an instrument of social change.

A total of 24 projects were supported in ten Latin American countries. The vast majority of these activities were new initiatives by grass roots organisations focusing on communication rights, gender and the concerns of marginalised communities.

Highlights

a. Communication Rights

Communication rights and the democratisation of communications in the region continue to be of high importance to groups in the region and were the primary concerns of projects in Argentina, Chile and Peru. In Argentina communication rights was seen as an essential component of the work of organised community development groups. By way of contrast, in Chile the emphasis lay in generating an awareness of this basic right in order to empowering and raise the self esteem of young people from poorer communities. The expansion and development of a network of small independent local radio stations dedicated to social development was the focus of the project in Peru. In keeping with its commitment to communication training, the

Voices of the Past, a project supported by WACC and run by Grupo de Apoyo al Movimiento de Mujeres del Azuay, GAMMA, Cuencua, Ecuador. The project broadcast stories about human rights and gender equity.

WACC Latin America Office joined forces with the Methodist University of Sao Paulo (UMESP) in the organisation of an on-line course on "Communication Rights – Basic Concepts" in the region. Forty one participants from nine different countries enrolled on the course. Though the number of participants was slightly lower than in the previous year, the course provided valuable insights into the differing communication needs and supported WACC's long held view that the issues of communication goes beyond that of freedom of expression.

b. Marginalised Communities

Many of the projects dealing with communication rights focused on the needs of marginalised communities. Such was the case of a Brazilian project which aimed at a better and fairer representation of disabled people in the media through the provision of training in the development and use of audiovisuals. Another project implemented in four different countries identified strategies for implementing communication rights among marginalised groups.

Communication for marginalised communities was also central to two Colombian projects which endeavoured to create an environment in which peace and reconciliation are the norm rather than the exception. In Mexico groups of indigenous communicators from Oaxaca and Chiapas received communication training as part of an effort to strengthen regional communication centres. A similar programme of communication training and awareness-building took place among the Mayan communities living in the Yucatan peninsula

c. Gender

Gender issues and ensuring that all projects contained a gender perspective remained priorities for the region. Two projects focussed on communication and gender. The one in Brazil concentrated on the use of ICTs by women leaders and educators and the other, in Chile, sought to provide women church leaders from grassroots communities with some basic technical skills along with an understanding of how the media operate.

Results and Analysis

The continued success of the online course in basic communication rights and the partnership with the Methodist University of Sao Paulo has encouraged the association to explore the possibility of developing new on line courses with the Methodist University as well as with other institutions in the region. Under consideration are online courses ethical communication practice and the relationship between communication and culture.

During 2005 the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) reached its final phase. Latin American communicators felt that the Campaign for Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS), which arose out of the preparations for WSIS, needed to be re-imagined. They thus launched a continent wide coalition for communication rights, DECAL. Partners involved in the coalition include some of Latin America's largest communication networks such as APC (Association for Progressive Communications), AMARC- ALC (World Association for Community Radio – Latin

America and Caribbean), ALER (Latin American Association for Radio Education), ALAI (Latin American Association of Information), WACC-LA, etc.

A seminar on 'Advocacy from the Periphery: Communication, Migration and Displacement' organised in Colombia by WACC-LA coincided with a meeting of participative and educational broadcasters which brought together some 600 popular communicators and students of communication. In El Salvador communicators participate in a seminar on Communication Rights: Strategies for Impacting Policy from the Periphery. Members of the WACC Latin America Regional Association also contributed to the development of a curriculum for the 'Communication and Development' course for indigenous communicators co-sponsored by UNESCO at the School of Communication Sciences of the University of San Carlos. WACC-LA members in Guatemala similarly contributed to the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation and the Guatemalan Federation of Radio Schools.

In the southern cone, WACC members organised a seminar to discuss 'Communication Rights: Integrating Migrants, Indigenous Peoples and New Technologies' The seminar was scheduled to coincide with the III Pan-American Communications Congress held at the University of Buenos Aires. WACC-LA was a co-sponsor of the Congress and hosted a panel on the marketing of symbolic goods in the religious media, the first time such an issue had been raised in an academic congress.

From these and other communication events it is clear that the technological and information gap continues to widen. Against this background, however, Latin American civil society, and many marginalised groups, continue to demonstrate their capacity to use technology to create networks, to promote progressive social change and to advocate democratic political processes.

2.6. Middle East

Activities
Fourteen projects were implemented in 2005 most of which focused on the Lebanon, Egypt, Israel and Palestine.

Conflict continues to be a dominant feature of life in the Middle East: from the unending tensions between Israel and Palestine, the Iraq occupation and its consequences, the civil war in Sudan particularly in Darfur, and sporadic outbursts of violence in Egypt. In such circumstances it is not surprising that most of WACC supported activities addressed issues of conflict resolution, peace, and reconciliation and interfaith dialogue especially in relation to the plight of refugees and other marginalised groups.

Highlights

a. Marginalised communities

Care for Girls (CFG) in Egypt is a long standing WACC supported organisation which addresses critical issues affecting women and girls, especially the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). CFG uses communication tools to sensitize parents, social workers and the community as a whole to the harmful

Animation workshop supported by WACC in the Gaza Strip and run by Theatre Day Productions.

Photo: TDP

physical and psychological effects of FGM. Téléciné International (TCI) based in Cairo, Egypt in collaboration with a leading drug rehabilitation centre, El Horeya, held a media training workshop for former drug addicts in which they acquired the necessary skills to record programmes about their experiences. Of the 23 participants, ten were recovering drug addicts and thirteen were those working with them. The group included five women. The event was so successful that TCI was invited by a similar rehabilitation centre in Upper Egypt to run a second media training workshop. The training in both workshops involved production techniques, editing, using the camera, directing, and script writing. At the end of the workshops participants produced either a 'broadcast' quality dramatic song or a video clip recalling their experiences as a drug addict and the process of rehabilitation.

Video 48, the alternative video group concerned with the rights of Palestinians inside Israel an arm of the Hanitzotz Publishing House in Israel received a grant for post production work on a documentary entitled "Breaking Walls". The film, which deals with the question of art as a means of social change targeted three main groups: Arab workers, artists and left-wing Israelis, and the international community. The post-production of the film included on-line editing, sound-mixing, and making copies on DVD video tape. The documentary was screened by Arab workers' groups and youth in different villages through Israel and Palestine and was shown at many international film festivals and won an award at the Granada Film Festival. More than 200 people attended its premiere in Tel Aviv and

the screening in Jerusalem attracted critical acclaim from international organisations and NGOs. The director of "Breaking Walls" was invited to present the film at the Mediterranean Social Forum in Barcelona. Arab Children Friends Association (ACFA) based in Haifa Israel, continued its project on 'Building Education Bridges for Palestinian Children and Youths' in the West Bank and Gaza. Within the project, children and youth festivals, exhibitions, youth exchanges, summer camps and workshops were organised. Using its mobile library, books and magazines for children and youth were made available to schools and hospitals.

b. Peace and Reconciliation

Dar El Thaqafa Publishing House (DET) of the Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Service (CEOSS) based in Cairo, Egypt embarked on a series of documentary films based on topics covered by its publications including human rights and religious freedom in the Arab world, relations between Islam and the West in the post 9/11 period, Arab women etc. The first of these films, entitled 'Suicide or Martyrdom: The Arabic Stance towards Violence', will be distributed internationally and, as with future documentaries, is intended to contribute to greater mutual understanding and respect between the Arab world and the West.

The seminar on 'The Voice of Refugees in the Media' was organised by the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) in Cairo, Egypt and brought together 30 young media practitioners from six Middle Eastern countries. The seminar examined social, cultural, economic and political issues

Telecine production supported by WACC in Egypt.

affecting refugees and internally displaced people and heard first hand testimonies from refugees. After discussing the issues faced by journalists covering refugee issues, participants produced an action plan for future activity. This included the creation of an informal network of journalists to share stories and experiences; training spokespersons from among refugee or displaced groups to articulate their concerns to the media and training journalists in the reporting of refugee issues and linking them to broader problems and political issues.

Media House in Cairo, Egypt organised a three day conference for 75 Egyptians engaged in Christian TV productions in order, to stimulate better networking, improve cooperation, instil the essence of WACC's Christian Principles of Communication to their daily work. Most of WACC's partners and members in the Middle East Region attended the conference. Although the organising committee had a gender balance, only 30% of participants were women. This was a major disappointment, but reflected the fact that programming and production in the media are male dominated, something that future conferences will continue to address, At the conference, an annual award – the Cactus of Cairo - for the best programme produced in Egypt was announced.

The World Student Christian Fellowship of the Middle East (WSCF-ME) based in Beirut, Lebanon developed a WSCF-ME website to provide information for its members and a link between them. The website now plays a key role in encouraging greater participation in WSCF's ecumenical activities and

establishing a solid youth base for the WSCF ministry in both church and Arab society. The website is in both Arabic and English (to represent the overlapping identities of Christian youth in the Middle East), and features a forum page and online newsletter and allows users to post comments and interact with the content.

In Palestine Theatre Day Productions (TDP) undertook 27 animation workshops - 17 in the Gaza Strip and 10 in Hebron - for over 1700 boys and girls between the ages of 10-14. Using cut out characters the children were encouraged to tell stories on themes as varied as family ties, environmental issues, peer pressure, fighting, early marriage, etc. In this process, children learned how to deal with real life issues whilst at the same time became more aware of their own cultural identity.

The focus on young people was also at the centre of a project organised by the International Centre of Bethlehem (ICB), Palestine in which training was provided for a 15 person technical team involved in producing public debates on the Palestinian dialogue. The project was divided into three phases. Six debates were produced and their impact is currently being assessed. The outcome of this evaluation will determine the number, format and frequency of future debates.

Results and Analysis

Capacity building for the marginalised and advocating for their rights were at the heart of most of the projects undertaken in 2005. The intention is to empower individuals and
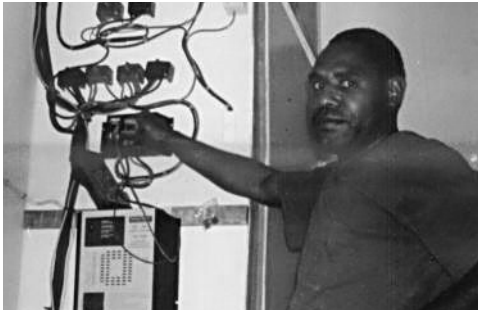
Papua New Guinea. A solar-powered communication centre supported by WACC is turned on.

communities and generate greater awareness and understanding of the plight of the marginalised both within the region and beyond. Much of the activity will only bear fruit in the medium to long term though it is hoped that through the projects an environment of reconciliation and peace will begin to emerge.

2.7. North America

Activities

2005 saw renewed enthusiasm and increasing levels of activity in the North America Regional Association (NARA) of WACC. The Region undertook direct sponsorship of more seminars and was actively involved in fundraising and planning in cooperation with WACC Global and others for some exciting conferences in 2006.

Results and Analysis

During the year, NARA sent several members to participate in a WACC/WCC 'copyright in the church' seminar held in France. WACC North America had raised funds for this global event as well. When the copyright seminar participants reported to the WACC North America executive committee on their experience and insights gained on the issue from a global perspective, the executive members agreed to offer several follow-up seminars in North America. The first was offered to the annual meeting of the Canadian Church Press as one of the workshops at their meeting to be held in Winnipeg, Canada in May 2006.

2.8. Pacific

Activities

During 2005 Niue and the Cook Islands suffered extensive damage from typhoons, internal conflict hampered economic development in Fiji and high levels of crime bedevilled Papua New Guinea and whilst tourism, largely from Australia and New Zealand the economic engines of the region, though generating both wealth and jobs, brought with it increased levels of environmental pollution. Reconciliation between the various ethnic groups, particularly in the Solomon Islands and Fiji, remains a key issue and was a common element in many of the projects.

Highlights

a. Peace and Reconciliation

With the purchase of computer software, the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy, (ECREA), Fiji was able to digitise its collection of materials on issues of religious, racial, political and reconciliation thus making it more widely available to NGOs and others at the forefront of reconciliation efforts in Fiji.

In September WACC's Pacific Regional Association (WACC-PAC) held its triennial assembly and a two-day seminar under the theme "The Church and Communication in the Pacific" in Takanoa Theological College, Church and NGO communicators, journalists, church leaders and seminarians from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French

Polynesia (Tahiti), Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tonga came together to explore ways in which the church should and could embrace new information and communication technology. For many of the participants, particularly those from countries suffering from ethnic and communal tensions, the role of communication in building community was especially relevant

b. Marginalised Groups

In response to the burgeoning demand for access to communication among the isolated rural communities of Papua New Guinea, INFORMED-PNG Inc, established the prototype of a solar-powered rural communication centre in Geyambos. With the availability of a source of renewable energy, the needs of these very poor and marginalised communities can now be served through a range of digital services.

c. Gender

The NGO, Women's Action for Change (WAC), used playback participatory theatre to highlight the physical and mental abuses suffered by many women in Fiji and to promote public awareness of the need for their participation in decision making processes both in the home and the community. WAC activists visited eight urban and rural communities on Viti Levu Island and performed before large audiences.

Results and analysis

The WACC-PAC seminar served to re-emphasise the role of communication in building community and it importance in a society that has been riven with communal conflict. The seminar also provided the regional association with its mandate for the next three years which will largely focus on the use new information and communication technology (ICT) to promote both human values and community. ICT, however, requires a source of energy and in isolated communities in the Pacific renewable energy is often the only realistic option. This was certainly the case with the project in Papua New Guinea where through solar power whole villages now have access to the outside world through radio, television and computer technology. The success of this project has encouraged the authorities to replicate it elsewhere. Whilst access to communication technology is important, access to reliable content is equally is critical. Thus through digitization, ECREA is able to make available its extensive resources to the Fiji NGO network thereby strengthening their activities particularly with respect to research and advocacy. The immediate impact of some activity, however, is difficult to assess. Such is the case of WAC's play-back theatre. What cannot be denied, however, is the opportunity it provides for women to make clear their concerns and for men to learn from this process.

3. EVALUATION

Evaluation is an important subject within WACC. The Central Committee meeting in October discussed organisational evaluation and helped to clarify how WACC's Directors see the role of evaluation. WACC experimented during the year with a more robust internal system to collect information more consistently about the outcomes and results its project support work.

WACC encourages and expects all its project partners to include some form of evaluation in their project plans. All potential project partners are required to explain their evaluation plans as part of the project proposal. In most cases, the ongoing or end of project evaluation for projects lasting one year is carried out by the project partners themselves, often using a participatory approach.

Evaluation at its best looks forward as well as backward, and should help to improve the way that a programme, project or organisation works. In this way it becomes a learning tool enabling people to improve their way so working based on lessons from their experience and others' experience. To be useful in this way, evaluation is best undertaken not as an event tacked on to the end of a project, but as something incorporated into planning and management from the outset.

During 2005 WACC's Regional Development Sector completed a comprehensive review and revision of its project application, screening and reporting procedures. New project application procedures adopted during the year are designed to encourage project applicants to articulate more clearly the intended outcomes of their project to facilitate their own ongoing and endpoint evaluation. The increased emphasis on asking project applicants to articulate outcomes more clearly to better support their own evaluation plans applies also to project partners in the Global Studies Programme.

4. FINANCE

WACC is most grateful to all its donors for their continuing support in 2005. The activities that are reported in the other sections of this report take place within the context of the budget which is approved annually by WACC's Central Committee. The management accounts for the year ended 31.2.05, approved by the Finance Committee at its meeting in June 2006, disclose a consolidated net deficit for the year of €2,944. This compares with a surplus of €63,093 - after adjusting for an internal movement within WACC's accumulated funds - in 2004, a deficit of €162,515 in 2003 and a deficit of €24,401 in 2002.

The audited accounts in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) format approved by the Finance Committee and circulated for approval by members at the Annual General Meeting, use the same underlying accounting information. It is presented, however, in a different way, but which complies with UK charity legislation, in order to show the result for the year in terms of a net increase or decrease in funds.

In anticipation of new reporting requirements by the UK Charity Commission under its Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice (SORP 2005), a number of changes have been made to the way expenditure for the year is disclosed in the note on total resources expended.

The total funds under WACC management are divided into two main categories
• Unrestricted Funds - funds which WACC can expend for any purpose e.g. Block Grants and
•Restricted Funds - funds which may only be expended for a designated purpose e.g. a grant to a project specified by a donor from the WACC project list.

At 31.12.05 overall funds under management in the audited accounts reflect an increase of €53,416 compared to the previous year.

(In Euros)	2005	2004	Variation
Unrestricted funds	2,358,685	2,304,086	+ 54,599
Restricted funds	1,009,421	1,010,604	- 1,183
Total	3,368,106	3,314,690	+ 53,416

The auditors have reported a "true & fair view" on the accounts.

To enable WACC to track its income and expenditure during the year, its activities are split between core and co-funding segments of the annual budget. Core activities are financed from block grant, investment and other income and some restricted fund grant income. Activities within the co-funding segment of the annual budget are financed entirely from restricted grant income. A summary of the management account information for both the core and co-funding sectors is given below

The deficit on co-funding activity for 2005 is attributable to the operations of the DIP programme. More expenditure was incurred on grants to new projects in 2005 than income was accounted from projects reporting in 2005 under the programme. The full amount of the deficit will be recovered when the projects financed in 2005 come to report in 2006 and subsequent years.

Management Account Information

(In Euros)	2005	2004
Core surplus (deficit)	75,038	55,334
Co-funding surplus	(77,982)	7,759
Deficit/Surplus for year	(2,944)	63,093

Core Budget Summary

Within core budget the major variations from budget are as follows:

(Figures € '000)	Actual	Budget	Variation
Income			
Block grants	1469	1446	+ 23
Restricted grants	69	60	+ 9
Restricted grant adjustments			
Other income	54	49	+5
Membership income in regions			
Total	1606	1573	+5
Expenditure			
Membership income in regions		18	+ 18
Regional development (RDS)	646	594	- 52
Global studies programme (GSP)	335	356	+ 21
Service Sector	726	761	+ 35
Total	1107	1729	+ 22
Operating Deficit	(101)	(156)	+ 55
Foreign exchange gain	1		+ 1
Property disposal gain	113	105	+ 8
Grants accrued w/back	61	33	+ 28
Restricted grants review		18	+ 18
Core Surplus for Year	74	0	+ 74
Deduct:			
Co-funding result	77		- 77
Deficit for the year	(3)		- 3

4.2. Income

Block grant income received in 2005 modestly exceeded budget with grants received from an anonymous source and from CMA Equamedia. Restricted grant income was also modestly above budget. Net grant income adjustments (the difference between current year restricted grant income carried forward and restricted income received in prior years but used in 2005) was positive €14,338 within the core segment of WACC's activities.

Total grant income received for 2005 across all budget sectors before restricted grant adjustments was €2,221,553. The net grant income was €1,794,641 after adjusting for new DIP funds received in 2005 amounting to €198,778 and income from DIP projects reporting in 2005 amounting to €228,134. The equivalent net figures in the past four years were as follows:

(Euros)	Total Grant Income	Net Income After Restricted Grant Adjustments
2004	2,459,855	1,838,556
2003	2,546,024	2,086,182
2002	2,528,135	2,104.656
2001	2,662,371	2,239,809

As disclosed above WACC may be operating within budget but its grant income outside the DIP programme is still following a downward trend.

2005/04 - 2%
2004/03 - 12%
2003/02 - 1%
2002/01 - 6%

4.3. Expenditure

Sterling expenditure in the 2005 revised budget approved by Central Committee in 2005 was converted into euros at an average exchange 1.50. This compares with the average actual rates for the year of 1.472 and represents a potential saving of 1.8% against budget due to favourable exchange rate movements.

Combined payroll and travel costs across all sectors were under spent by 4.4% and central office and meeting costs were under spent by 5.4%

Expenditure within Regional Development (RDS) and Global Studies Programme (GSP) Sectors includes both programme and some sterling costs (salaries and travel). From the core budget summary above it is clear that in two out of the three sectors (GSP and Services) the budgets were substantially under spent (5.9% and 4.6% respectively). Within GSP, the programme area of the budget was fully spent. The main cause of the RDS overspend was the DIP programme which exceeded its core budget allocation (representing WACC's 25% contribution to the grants paid under the programme) by €56,165.

A restatement of the figures for expenditure, to present the results for the year in the new SOFA Format and adapted to meet the reporting requirements of SORP 2005, which includes both core and co-funding activity, is as follows:

Total Resources Expended

(Euros)	2005 Actual	%	2004 Actual	%
Cost of generating funds:				
Fundraising costs	179,621	8.5	185,133	7.0
Charitable Expenditure:				
Costs of activities in furtherance of charity's objects				
Direct grants paid	721,846	34.2	1,018,523	38.7
Programme activities	414,182	19.6	461,071	17.5
Advocacy and education	218,410	10.4	298,554	11.4
Total cost of activities in furtherance of charity's objectives	1,354,438	64.2	1,778,148	67.6
Support costs	339,848	16.1	385,711	14.7
Management and administration costs of charity	235,661	11.2	282,531	10.7
Total Resources Expended	2,109,568	100%	2,631,523	100%

5. ORGANISATION

WACC's global reach, activities and membership are matched by the multinational nature of its staff. Drawn from Canada, Belgium, Rwanda, Spain, Tanzania, France, Chile and the United Kingdom, the staff based at the global headquarters in London represents an impressive breadth and depth of experience, understanding and knowledge of the international communications and development environment.

WACC attracted a number of highly skilled and experienced volunteers from Zimbabwe, Italy and India all of whom contributed significantly to the Women's Programme.

In February 2005, Dr Pradip Thomas, the Director of the Global Studies Programme, left WACC to take up the post of Assistant Professor in the Department of Communications of the University of Brisbane, Australia. Pradip had been with WACC for more than 15 years and for many years had been the intellectual force behind the Global Studies Programme. He was instrumental in placing WACC at the forefront of thinking and analysis on issues around communication and communication rights.

At the Centcom meeting in October 2005, a number of significant decisions were taken which will affect the operational; structure of the organisation. In the first place it was agreed to move from a central committee to a smaller Board of Directors, that the Board would meet every three years and that the governance of the organisation would be in the hand of a small Executive committee which would meet every year. It was also anticipated that there would be changes in the structure of the office and with the move to Canada posts would be redefined.

Participation of Women

Mainstreaming gender throughout the organisation as a core objective continued. Among the 16 staff at the London headquarters 7 were women three of whom were members of the Management Group. All three volunteers were women. At the 2005 meeting of the Central Committee, there were 31 participants of whom 15 were women. Moreover the President and Secretary of WACC are both women. All projects were required to demonstrate a gender perspective, many focused on the needs of women and in seminars and training programmes women participants were often in the majority.

6. CONCLUDING NOTES

At the meeting of its governing Central Committee in October 2005 a number of major decisions on WACC's governance, structure and location were taken which will affect the direction of the organisation for many years to come. Although finance was one of the drivers behind these changes, the earlier strategic planning process highlighted in last year's annual report, set out a broad strategic framework for WACC's operation up to 2008. In particular, it identified a number of areas in which WACC would need to change in order to enhance its effectiveness and respond to the changing funding and operational environment.

For many years WACC has been structured around two operation streams: 'thinking' (the Global Studies Programme) and 'doing' (the Regional Development Services). This arrangement has served us well, but with the development of clearer core objectives and more closely defined areas of activity, it was felt that integrating WACC's operations would increase our effectiveness in delivering on our core objectives, ensure greater focus in our work, and strengthen our global network of partners and members. The new structure thus envisages one operational unit embracing both 'doing' and 'thinking'.

The second element in the restructuring of WACC was the recommendation to streamline institutional governance to ensure more informed engagement by the trustees in policy development and improved oversight of the charity but at the same time acknowledging the crucial importance of a strong voice from the eight regions that form the heart of WACC. With the large number of members participating in the annual CentCom meeting this has proved increasingly difficult. It was therefore agreed to establish a smaller Executive Committee built around the existing Finance Committee that would meet annually and that the full board of directors, with slightly reduced representation from each region would meet every three years.

The final part of the package was the decision to relocate the main WACC operations to Toronto, Canada. A modest presence in the UK will be maintained and we shall continue to be registered as a UK based charity. The move will release capital from the sale of our substantial premises in London, allow for a complete restructuring of the office and enable us to operate in an environment that is considerably cheaper than London.

Amidst all these developments, WACC has continued to increase its membership and with the introduction of affiliate membership now seems well on its way to meeting the target of 10,000 members by 2008. The number of hits on the website trebled in 2005 and the move to an electronic version of Action - Media Action - has resulted in over 7,000 new subscribers. Both are strong indicators of how the Web will play an increasingly important part in WACC's work.

Despite the various changes, the commitment of WACC to advancing communication rights and using communication for social change remains a fundamental constant and guides everything we do. Improvements in project and programme management implemented the previous year have begun to have an impact and reporting and evaluation is now better than ever. The highlight of the year was quite clearly the Gender Media Monitoring Project which attracted unprecedented global interest, brought together thousands of participants from more than 100 grassroots organisations around the world and will, in the longer term, undoubtedly have an impact on the representation of women in the media. The decision to capitalise on the effort and enthusiasm of so many activists with training in advocacy and the development of an advocacy tool kit has been well received. The first workshop in

Croatia was extremely successful and will be followed by others throughout 2006.
This has been an unsettling year for staff and I am grateful to them for the manner in which they have embraced the proposed changes. Some will be transferring to Canada, but others will be leaving the organisation to seek new challenges. I wish them all well in their endeavours. I am also grateful for the continued support of our donors, members and partners. Their continued endorsement of WACC's work has enabled us to fulfil our mission of 'taking sides' by addressing the communication needs of the marginalised, dispossessed and the poor.

The move to Canada presents a great opportunity for WACC and I am confident that with changes proposed, we can look forward to an exciting, challenging and successful future.

Randy Naylor
General Secretary

7. DONOR PARTNERS

We would like to thank our donor partners for their continuing support of our work.

Bröt Für Alle, Switzerland
Canadian International Development Agency
(CIDA), Canada
Chinese Christian Literature Council, Hong Kong
Church World Service, USA
Community Media Association, UK
Council for World Mission, UK
EED, Germany
EquaMedia, UK
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, USA
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Finland
EZE, Germany
Feed the Minds/SPCK, UK
FinnChurchAid, Finland
Ford Foundation, USA
HEKS, Switzerland
ICCO, The Netherlands
Kerkinactie, The Netherlands
Norwegian Church Aid, Norway
Stichting Rotterdam, The Netherlands
United Church of Canada, Canada
United Church of Christ, USA
United Methodist Church, USA
United Methodist Church Overseas Division, UK
WACC, North America Region
Women's World Day of Prayer, Germany

8. GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

WACC Staff

Randy L. Naylor	General Secretary	rn@wacc.org.uk
Tim Meadley	Manager Administration	tm@wacc.org.uk
Yasmin Patricio Burtin	Data Base Administrator	ypb@wacc.org.uk
Seán Hawkey	Editor of Action and Website Manager	sh@wacc.org.uk
David Blagbrough	Resource Development Coordinator	db@wacc.org.uk
Gisèle Langendries	Assistant to Resource Development Coordinator	gl@wacc.org.uk
Anna Turley	Coordinator, Women's Programme	at@wacc.org.uk
Lindi Sola	Intern	
Stefania Milan	Intern	
Abhilasha Mahan	Intern	
Richard Cridlan	Finance Controller	rjc@wacc.org.uk
Philip Lee	Assistant to Director, Global Studies Programme and Regional Coordinator, Europe	pl@wacc.org.uk
Lavinia Mohr	Director, Regional Development Sector and WACC Evaluation	lm@wacc.org.uk
María Teresa Aguirre	Regional Coordinator, Caribbean and Latin America	mta@wacc.org.uk
Gregory Bonet	Project Assistant, Caribbean, Latin America and Asia	gb@wacc.org.uk
Julienne Munyaneza	Regional Coordinator, Africa and the Middle East	jm@wacc.org.uk
Kenneth Mpopo	Project Assistant, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific	krm@wacc.org.uk
David Lin	Regional Coordinator, Asia and the Pacific	dl@wacc.org.uk
Myriam Horngren	Advocacy and Network Coordinator (CRIS Campaign)	mh@wacc.org.uk

WACC Officers

President
Dr Musimbi Kanyoro
World YWCA
16 Ancienne Route
1218 Grand Saconnex
Switzerland
musimbi.kanyoro@worldywca.org

Vice-President
Mr Piet Halma
P.O. Box 10009
1201 da Hilversum
The Netherlands
piet.halma@ikon.nl

Secretary
Amany Latif Ebied
CEOSS
PO Box 162
11811 El-Panorama
Cairo
Egypt
thaqafa_prod_mgr@ceoss.org.eg

Treasurer
Rev Young-Cheol Cheon
Advanced Institute for the Study of Life
Women's Mission Center #702
Yonji-dong 1-1, Chongno-gu,
Seoul 110-738
South Korea
cheon_young_cheol@yahoo.com

CONTACT WACC

World Association for Christian Communication
(Secretariat - Canada)
308 Main Street
Toronto
Ontario
M4C 4X7
Canada
Tel: +1 416-691-1999
Fax: +1 416-691-1997

E-mail: info@waccglobal.org
Website: www.waccglobal.org