

OUTCOME DOCUMENT
ASEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REGIONAL FORUM ON MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASEAN

16-17 MAY 2016
HOTEL ISTANA, KUALA LUMPUR

The *'What do we do next? Forum Observations & Outcome Document'* sessions were held in two phases on the 16th and 17th of May.

The Representative of Malaysia to AICHR, Edmund Bon Tai Soon, chaired the sessions.

The following methodology was used:

- (1) The rapporteur's summary of the speakers' presentations and discussions with the participants for the day was presented.
- (2) The participants then provided their observations and recommendations for AICHR to consider adopting and implementing.

These were the observations and recommendations:-

I. Aspirational

- I. Note that the right to freedom of opinion, expression and information is an enabler of other rights which is crucial to the full attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

2. Reaffirm Article 23 of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration 2012 which is to be read with the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration 2012.
3. Note the various international human rights laws that elaborate on the right to freedom of opinion, expression and information.
4. Note that any 'limitations' under Article 8 of AHRD should be interpreted in accordance with international human rights norms.
5. Promote the concept of self-regulatory mechanisms and standards by the media, and which should take into consideration issues of professionalism and ethics in accordance with principles of international human rights law.
6. Encourage closer collaboration and greater alignment with the Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI) with regard to Article 23 matters.

II. Training, Education and Capacity-Building

7. Encourage the continued training and capacity-building of media practitioners, policy-makers, citizen journalists, and marginalised and vulnerable groups (a) to embrace human rights, (b) to strengthen the media's role in educating society on human rights through, among others, investigative journalism, (c) to equip the media to popularise and mainstream human rights by making it simple and accessible to the layperson, and (d) to promote self-protection mechanisms for media practitioners.
8. Encourage the continued training and capacity-building of government officials in media agencies with regard to the State's obligations to promote, respect and protect human rights.

9. Encourage the raising of awareness about Article 23 of the Declaration through international days such as World Press Freedom Day on 3 May and the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November.

III. Publication of guidance tools

10. Draft and publish guidelines of good practices on media reporting (with particular emphasis on marginalised and vulnerable groups) in accordance with the fundamental principles of the right to life and to live with dignity, of non-discrimination and of equality before the law.
11. Draft and publish an explanatory note or comment on Article 23 of the Declaration to elaborate on what it means and entails, and which includes issues such as enabling environments for media practitioners to work in, regulations, censorship, and the protection of media practitioners and sources.

IV. Research

12. Conduct discussions, research and/or studies into:
 - laws and policies in ASEAN that promote and/or restrict the right to freedom of opinion, expression and information with regard to the media;
 - case studies regarding possible human rights violations of the media and/or of marginalised and vulnerable groups by the media;
 - the possible creation of a mechanism to monitor and/or investigate harm caused to media practitioners in carrying out their work; and
 - the possible creation of media-friendly indicators regarding safe and enabling environments for media practitioners to work in.

13. Request SOMRI to collect, compare, contrast, synthesise and release baseline information or data of ASEAN Member States on human rights matters of interest (regarding, for example, unemployment, migration, persons with disabilities etc.) for the use of media practitioners, researchers and academics.

Made this 17th day of May 2016