



PANOS
SOUTH ASIA



WE COMMUNICATE, THEREFORE WE ARE

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Cover photograph: Children from 'Choti Choti Batein', Panos South Asia's Community Radio programme in Bihar, performing on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the programme in July 2010. Mime was used as a tool to communicate messages on health, governance and the environment.

PHOTOGRAPH: KAZIMUDDIN AHMED



Two studies by the Washington based Centre for International Media Assistance (CIMA) capture the precarious situation in which the media development sector is perched today.

A couple of years ago, CIMA came out with a study on funding for media development. The study concluded that “though most of the Western European donors have well-articulated justifications for supporting media development, the media support activities undertaken are often ad hoc, experimental, and encounter implementation difficulties. Often, there is no long-term strategy or commitment for media development and, as a result, more complex media reform programs (for instance legislation, reform of state broadcasters, or establishment of national training structures) are not tackled.”

Last year, CIMA released a new report looking closely at China's emergence as the fastest growing media development funder. It rightly concluded: “The People's Republic of China (PRC) is using various components of soft power to influence the media in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. China's primary purposes appear to be to present China as a reliable friend and partner, as well as to make sure that China's image in the developing world is positive. As part of its efforts to do this, the Chinese government seeks to fundamentally reshape much of the world's media in its own image, away from a watchdog stance toward the government to one where the government's interests are the paramount concern in deciding what to disseminate. The Chinese efforts often result in helping authoritarian governments expand control of their local media.”

At the beginning of the second decade of this millennium, the situation has taken a turn for worse. The traditional western donors—both bi-lateral donors as well as foundations—have been retreating from supporting media development activities. Though this is partly attributed to the economic downturn within the Western economies and the electoral gains of the right-wing parties, the real reason seems to be an inherent inability to grasp the idea that media matters fundamentally in pushing an equitable development agenda.

The strange aspect of this inability is that media gets mentioned quite prominently in all developmental literature and statements in their policy documents do aver that they are indeed obliged to support

media development as a key area. But when it comes to funding, governance becomes the prism and media development is first a mere adjunct which slowly fades into insignificance.

Thirty years ago, in 1981, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen made two influential contributions to modern famine research. His first contribution, The Entitlement Approach, is an analytical famine framework founded on the simple yet groundbreaking idea of focusing on the lack of access to food rather than a lack of availability of food. By showing how some of the worst famines of the 20th century took place with virtually no (or a miniscule) decline in food availability, Sen rejected the hitherto dominant causal famine theory, the Food Availability Decline (FAD) theory, emphasising the availability of food as the key determinant of famine. Instead, Sen proposed his entitlement approach highlighting the distributional impacts of famine. His second major contribution is the assertion that democratic institutions together with a free press provide effective protection from famine. Since then, he has been advocating the cause of free press, which every developmental agency agrees to in principle, but fails to implement.

Solemn promises were made during the two Global Forum for Media Development Congresses (Amman, 2005 and Athens, 2008) and at the World Congress on Communication for Development (WCCD), Rome, October 2006 to ensure proper funding for media development. It remains a puzzle as to why these promises are not being honoured. The decline in funding has a debilitating effect on the sector—some of the respected organisations have shut shop and many have shrunk in size, thus limiting their reach, outputs, outcomes, scope, and impact while adversely affecting the developmental trajectory.

Panos South Asia joins hands with every other actor who is committed to bringing media development back to the centre of the development debate.

A S PANNEERSELVAN
Executive Director

At the beginning of the second decade of this millennium, the situation has taken a turn for worse. The traditional western donors—both bi-lateral donors as well as foundations—have been retreating from supporting media development activities. Though this is partly attributed to the economic downturn within the Western economies and the electoral gains of the right-wing parties, the real reason seems to be an inherent inability to grasp the idea that media matters fundamentally in pushing an equitable development agenda

Vision and Mission

Panos South Asia's vision is to make societies inclusive, democratic and just. We seek to renegotiate power through media by enabling diverse opinions, ideas and theories to be included in the debate on governance and development.

PANOS SOUTH ASIA AIMS TO:

- work in partnership with both local and regional partners, to stimulate and inform public and policy debate and to provide information on key environment and development issues that is accessible to multiple target groups
- encourage and help develop traditional and innovative information, communication activities and techniques to enable marginalised groups and communities to play an increasingly greater role in development debates
- utilise issue-based training workshops to promote and build greater capacity in investigative reporting in the region
- engage in research that enables us to influence capacity building to deal with constantly evolving opportunities and threats arising from new communication technologies
- implement activities to increase the quality of, and capacity for, continuing regional analysis of information and communication issues
- work on conflict issues and create a conducive atmosphere for peace-building in the region, through sustained research and media partnerships.

► *A children's 'darbar' at Ummsawar, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India—part of PSA's audio exchange initiative to bridge the divide between rural and urban peoples in Meghalaya. During the course of their interaction with villagers, students made programmes on public health and sanitation. Armed with Information, the local governing body could approach the government to construct toilets in the village.*



Bringing media development back to the centre of the development debate

Mission statement

Panos South Asia's mission is to realise its vision through an innovative understanding of media dynamics and creating an enduring partnership with media to widen the public sphere. It has evolved a roadmap with five clear signposts to reach its ambitious destination.

1 FOCUS ON MEDIA

The media in South Asia is our primary area of focus. The media, of course, is not a monolith. There are various forms of media. There is mainstream and alternate media. PSA seeks to work with all these forms to facilitate democratic dialogue on issues critical to the region.

2 GENDER AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY ACTIVITY

While PSA acknowledges the relentless work done by women's groups and the significant changes it has brought in the mediascape leading to a greater presence and participation of women in the world of articulation, it is acutely aware of the huge gap between our dream of equal participation and the current level of limited participation of women in the decision-making process. Be it our governance structure, recruitment policy, our fellowships or training programmes, we strive for gender equality.

3 THREE LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

PSA seeks to create democratic spaces in media discourse through interventions at three levels.

The first is the entry level with young journalists, who are provided training both at the Media Centre and within their respective countries on honing professional skills, both content and technical.

The second level of intervention is with mid-career journalists who have spent considerable time in the profession but have very little time or opportunity to investigate critical issues of choice. PSA provides fellowships for such journalists to undertake their desired work and helps publicise their work beyond their own media outlets by bringing out books, monographs and publications that are distributed among peers, policy makers and other important actors in the subject they have researched.

The third important level of intervention is with media owners, proprietors and editors: the gatekeepers who decide media content. The criticality of intervention at this level is self-evident. PSA does this through organising exclusive Gatekeepers' Retreats with strategic domestic and international players; by calling them in for seminars/discussions on important policy debates and by one-on-one contact to keep them in the loop about activities and interests.

4 FOUR FORMS OF MEDIA AND FOUR STRATEGIC THRUST AREAS

The four forms of media that PSA seeks to work with are print, radio, television and internet. PSA's Media Centre remains the nucleus of this activity. Several events are centred around providing training on streaming TV and radio through the web besides online journalism. Given this scenario, PSA proposes:

- to work increasingly with local language media in all South Asian countries
- to support and promote radio and its development as the most democratic, cheap and easily accessible media for the region
- to promote public interest broadcasting in both television and radio across the region keeping public interest as the governing principle with regard to use of New Media and convergence technologies



"I believe Panos is doing extremely important work in communicating development stories from the ground. Panos' efforts to help people articulate their concerns are enabling policy actions and will also contribute towards development effectiveness. I would encourage Panos to share its case studies and success stories with International Financial Institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and other development agencies so that they can benefit from Panos' bottom-up development communication experiences."

—M. ISMAIL KHAN
Asian Development Bank
Pakistan



“The cluster of Panos institutes that have sprung up from Panos South Asia since 1997 are playing an invaluable role in mobilising resources and stimulating debate and a searching for creative and pragmatic solutions for South Asian media, providing a platform for South Asian media to introspect and locate our place in the world. Panos’s work on radio has been path-breaking. This is a model which needs to be studied for Pakistan and Afghanistan, and even India, given the problems of co-existence or even existence.”

— HAMEED HAROON
CEO & Publisher
Dawn Group of Newspapers
Pakistan

- to continue to work with the English language print media as we accept its influence and impact on decision-makers in the government and civil society.

5 FIVE THEMATIC AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES:

Panos South Asia works on five of the complex web of themes available in the region:

CONFLICT, because it has dogged recent histories of all South Asian nations stymieing development not only internally, but also within the region

PUBLIC HEALTH, given its criticality for progress and the lack of interest, focus and resource mobilisation by governments of the region in this area, where structural adjustment policies are taking away from the original minimum investment

ENVIRONMENT, because it has to do with issues of equity with regard to the immediate surroundings and resource use by the people

GLOBALISATION, because it currently touches on all aspects of people’s lives

MEDIA PLURALISM, because Panos South Asia’s *raison d’être* is to promote an inclusive, democratic and plural media. Working towards this aim, PSA seeks to work on media pluralism as an underlying schema as well as a separate programme area.

- ▶ *Participants of a ‘Positive Voices’ workshop during an informal interaction with the PSA facilitator in Patna, Bihar. This series of workshops aimed at empowering HIV positive women to record their stories and struggle and communicate it to a larger audience.*



Panos South Asia is part of a family of Panos Institutes worldwide that encourages and facilitates public discourse on a wide range of issues, particularly those that have direct impact on the least privileged and most marginalised sections of society.

PSA works through media to bring neglected subjects to the fore in developmental debate, so as to give a platform for voices and perspectives, often rendered voiceless in the public sphere.

A S PANNEERSELVAN, Executive Director

NEPAL

Kishor Pradhan, Country Representative-Nepal / Deputy Director, PSA

Kanta Shrestha Pradhan, Chief Financial Officer

Rati Sharma, Administration and Finance Co-ordinator

Dawa Gyalmo Lama, Office Co-ordinator

INDIA

Mitu Varma, Country Director-India / Director of Programmes, PSA

Rakesh Kalshian, Regional Programme Manager, Environment

Dr. Sanjay Barbora, Regional Programme Manager, Conflict

Lakshmi Nair, Regional Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation / Web editor

Arup Jyoti Das, Projects' Officer, Northeast

Tungshang Ningreichon, Projects Co-ordinator, New Delhi

Shams Imran, Project Co-ordinator, Kashmir Radio Project

Uddipan Dutta, Programme Associate, Northeast

Sandhya Singh, Finance Officer, New Delhi

George Joseph, Office Manager, New Delhi

Julee Bhuyan, Office Secretary, Northeast

Prem Prakash, Administrative Assistant, New Delhi

PAKISTAN

Sahar Ali, Country Representative

Shahzad Hooda, Administration and Finance Co-ordinator

BANGLADESH

Kamrun Nahar, Office Manager

BOARD MEMBERS

The PSA Board is drawn from across the five countries in which it currently operates.

URVASHI BUTALIA
Managing Trustee, Zubaan Books, India

KUNDA DIXIT
Chief Editor, *Nepali Times*, Nepal

NALAKA GUNAWARDENE
CEO, TVE-Asia Pacific, Sri Lanka

KHUSHI KABIR
Co-ordinator, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh
(Chair of the Board)

KHAWAR MUMTAZ
Advisor, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan

A S PANNEERSELVAN
Ex-Officio Member,
Executive Director, Panos South Asia

HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

Panos South Asia was established in 1997. Today, PSA has seven offices across Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

- Panos South Asia is registered as Stichting Panos South Asia in the Netherlands under foundation registration number 27355408.
- In Nepal, PSA has a General Agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal to operate as a regional INGO in South Asia.
- We are registered in India as a company limited by shares-not-for-profit under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- In Sri Lanka, Panos South Asia is registered as a Guarantee Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, No 7 of 2007.
- Panos Pakistan is a country office of Panos South Asia, incorporated under License from the Corporate Law Authority under Section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984.
- In Bangladesh, it is registered as Panos Institute Bangladesh under the Trust Act 1882.

DIRECTORS OF PANOS SOUTH ASIA

1997-2000:

KUNDA DIXIT (NEPAL)

2000-2001:

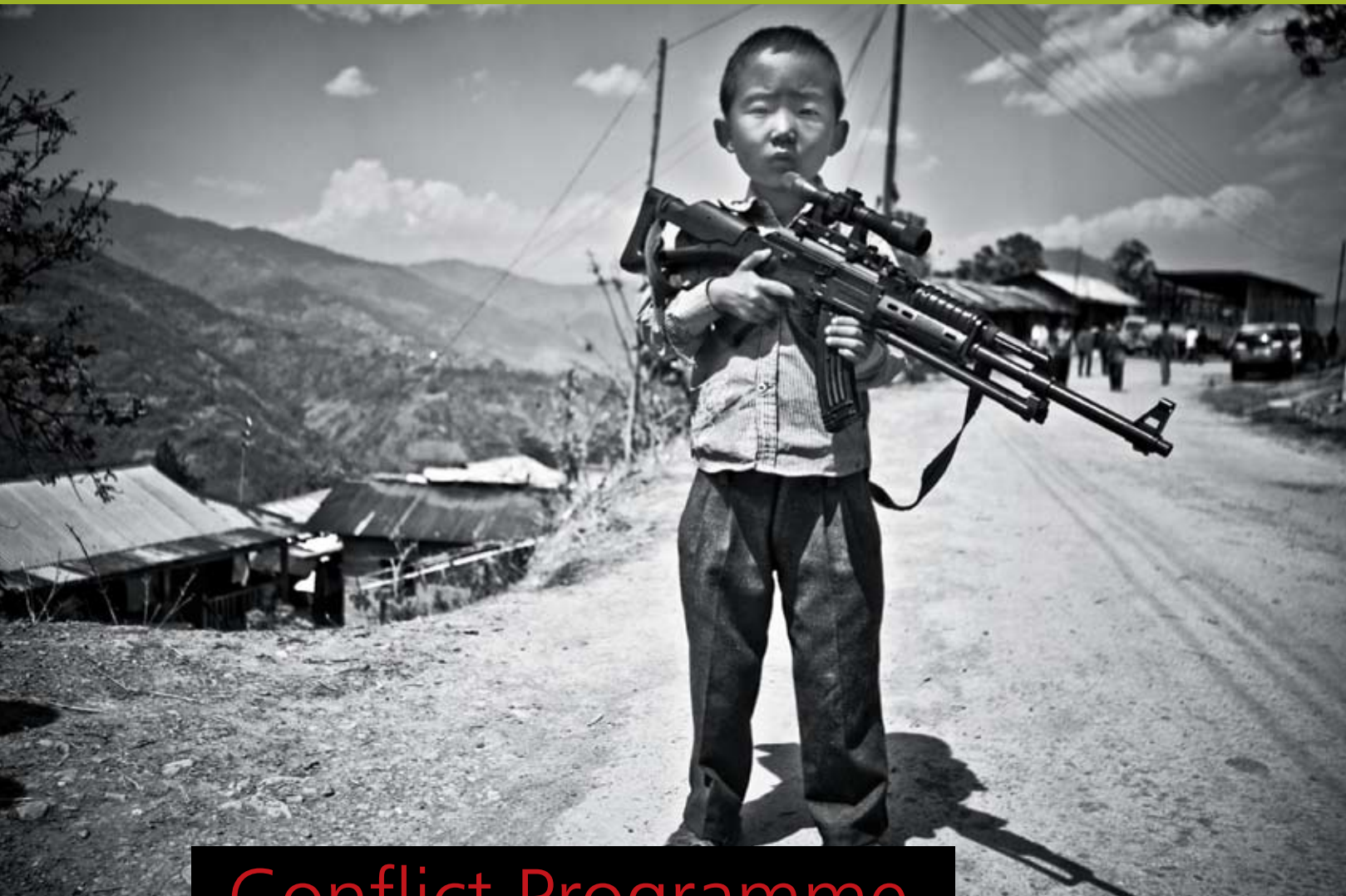
AFSAN CHOWDHURY (BANGLADESH)

2002-2004:

SANEEYA HUSSAIN (PAKISTAN)

2004-PRESENT:

A S PANNEERSELVAN (INDIA)



Conflict Programme

Panos South Asia's conflict and media theme is aimed at creating a more vibrant public sphere in conflict environments around South Asia by creating platforms of exchange and learning for media professionals, advocacy groups, knowledge producers and policy makers. The Conflict Programme includes annual retreats for senior editors and opinion makers from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan and a separate retreat for editors from the Eastern Himalayan region including Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Burma. It is also engaged in encouraging dialogue in various conflict contexts in Northeast India, by way of offering media fellowships, imparting innovative and appropriate training for young journalists, undertaking study tours and orientation workshops and encouraging exchanges. The programme is involved in creating opportunities for dialogue in all enclaves of Jammu and Kashmir. The Conflict Programme in South Asia has also been commissioning research-based features from different parts of the sub-continent and will continue to provide platforms of free expression that characterise the political realities and engagements for citizens of the region. 2010 saw PSA chart a new course by creating spaces for Kashmiri voices to be heard in the discourse for peace in the volatile region. This led to using the radio for creation of community based media where none existed.

(top pic): Child with a replica automatic weapon in Nagaland, India – impact of conflict and militarisation.

INDO-PAK MEDIA & PEACE-BUILDING PROGRAMME: GATEKEEPERS' RETREAT

Panos South Asia has for the past decade brought together top editors and gatekeepers from India and Pakistan, to evolve fresh ideas and thinking on bilateral relations over two-day retreats held annually in conducive surroundings. The idea has been to keep up the interaction and dialogue between the two countries in the interests of a safe and prosperous South Asia. Since 2009, the scope of the deliberations has been extended to include Afghanistan, today a crucial player in the geo-politics of the subcontinent. The programme aims to eventually develop a network that will deliberate regional issues and deliver key peace-building messages to establishments. It will also recommend ways in which the media can play a constructive role in developing networks for enduring peace by holding a mirror up to the existing framework of engagements.

PSA's 2010 Media Gatekeepers' Retreat, held on 2-3 October in Belgium, brought together editors from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who deliberated on the topic, 'Challenges and opportunities for lasting peace in India-Pakistan and Afghanistan'. The discussants were:

India—Bharat Bhushan (Editor, *Mail Today*), Anant Nath (Editor, *Caravan* magazine), Siddharth Varadarajan (Editor, Strategic Affairs, *The Hindu*), Surya Gangadharan Diplomatic Editor, CNN-IBN), Om Thanvi (Editor, *Jansatta*); **Afghanistan**—Shahir Zahine (CEO, Killid Group), Dr Hussain Yasa (Editor, *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*), Danish Karokhel (Editor, *Pajhwok News*); **Pakistan**—Azhar Abbas (Executive Editor, *GEO News*), Zahid Hussain (Columnist, *Newsline* and *Wall Street Journal*), and Khalid Hameed Farooqi (International Correspondent, *GEO News*). It was moderated by Kanak Mani Dixit (Editor, *Himal Southasian*).

The discussions had a two-pronged approach:

- one, the question of Afghanistan casting its shadow over Indo-Pak bilateral relations;
- two, the Indo-Pak relationship in its entirety with specific focus on Kashmir.

The implication for the region following the withdrawal of the US forces followed by ISAF was the first question before the panel of editors. There are two countdowns to the drawing down of forces from



“The Panos conferences/ retreats are extremely educative because the themes chosen are invariably ahead of the curve. Panos South Asia has consistently shown a remarkable ability to identify emerging issues of conflict as well as set an agenda for peace. These meetings make me think anew about various contentious issues in the subcontinent and more often than not, from perspectives other than mine.”

— BHARAT BHUSHAN
Editor, *Mail Today*, India



Participants of the 9th PSA Media Gatekeepers' Retreat held in Belgium, 2-3 October 2010.
(front row, left to right) A S Panneerselvan, Danish Karokhel, Surya Gangadharan, Azhar Abbas, Bharat Bhushan, Kanak Mani Dixit, Sahar Ali
(back row) Zahid Hussain, Siddharth Varadarajan, Hussain Yasa, Shahir Zahine, Anant Nath, Om Thanvi.

Afghanistan: The Obama deadline of July 2011 for the US forces to withdraw and the 2014 deadline for ISAF. Editors began by discussing the July 2011 deadline and the implications of the drawing down of US troops for Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Some questions which were raised are: How real would the withdrawal be? An answer to this would depend on other developments. What is the US aim in Afghanistan? Can the US afford a situation where there can be a consolidation of forces in the Afghanistan-Pakistan area which, in some manner or form, can repeat the events of 9/11?

If the answer is negative, then the Americans would need to create a structure to govern Afghanistan which gives them comfort on the key concerns. Regional peace and the future of Pakistan would hinge on what kind of Afghanistan the Americans leave behind.

Linked to the withdrawal was the question of Indo-Pak relationship and its effect on Kashmir. PSA Executive Director **A S Panneerselvan** posited

that the perception in the external affairs ministries of both India and Pakistan was that India is good at conflict management but not conflict resolution: they don't see value in resolution. This intransigence means there is no progress beyond the Lakshman Rekha.

In response, **Siddharth Varadarajan** argued for a separation in internal and external conflicts. When dealing with internal conflicts, the State's reaction is to crush it with brute force. On Indo-Pak, however, the degree to which the Indian establishment—even the BJP—came round to supporting Manmohan Singh's approach was remarkable. But in his second tenure, Manmohan Singh lost the focus on Kashmir. The Hurriyat wanted talks but the government wasn't willing. Omar Abdullah was inaccessible to the people and the party. When Kashmiris started pelting stones, there was a show of sympathy. The delegation was a good move, but why didn't they talk to the Hurriyat earlier?

Zahid Hussain clarified that Pakistan had not

pulled back from back-channel talks; they were postponed because of Pakistan's political situation. In the first press conference, Asif Ali Zardari announced there would be good news on India-Pakistan but Pakistanis felt that India was waiting and watching, and postponing. Then the Mumbai attack took place, and everything got derailed.

In the last two years, with no communication between the two countries, the hardliners have gained ground; positions in Pakistan have hardened. There is a feeling in Pakistan that India is not willing to talk on Kashmir.

Azhar Abbas felt that this had led to moving back ten steps. He added that the mindset of the Indian establishment and the reasons as to why Musharraf's offers were not realised should be looked into seriously. He was also of the opinion that internally they understand the Indian position on Mumbai attacks, but it is also a fact that life doesn't end with Mumbai. He called for action to push forward and move beyond Mumbai.

Bharat Bhushan asked why, in July, when India wanted to "move forward in incremental ways", did Pak adopt an all-or-nothing approach? Why did Shah Mehmood Qureshi again talk of the plebiscite? Azhar Abbas responded that Pakistan was not insisting on resuming Composite Dialogue immediately. They asked to put things on a timeline, to at least commit to discussing these things eventually, even if India wanted to discuss terrorism first. When Bharat Bhushan said nothing was achieved through the back channel, Zahid Hussain opined this was because Pakistan felt that India was not willing to resume from where things had been left off. Siddharth Varadarajan agreed partially, arguing that New Delhi didn't know who was in charge in Pakistan given all the back-tracking by President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani.

Azhar Abbas felt the onus was on India to

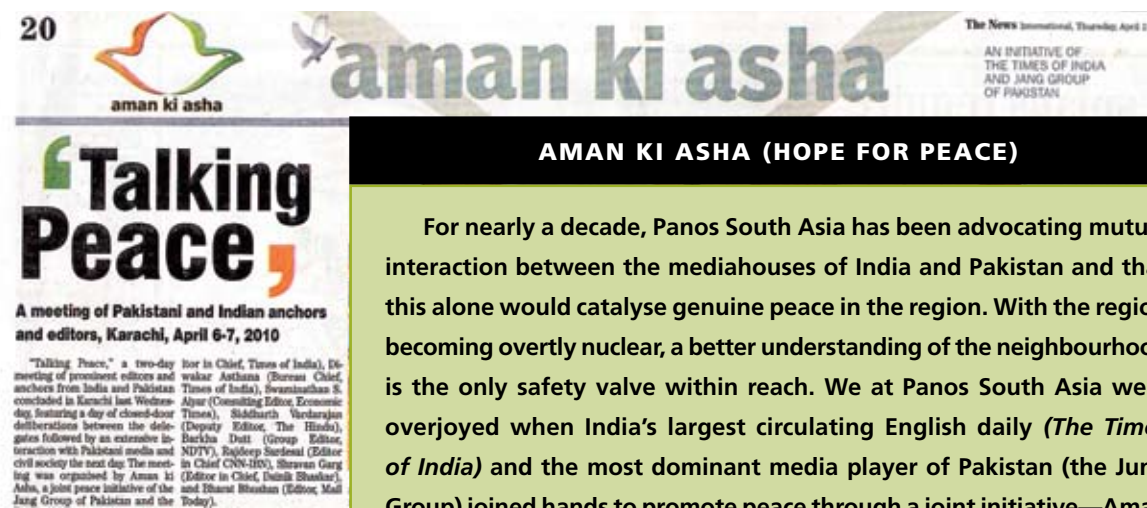
make the extra effort. Without Musharraf, and with a weak civilian government in Pakistan, the overtures must come from India, he added.

Afghanistan's **Dr Hussain Yasa** intervened to share an Afghan proverb: if something becomes too difficult, Afghans say "it has become a Kashmir problem" i.e. unsolvable. He said the situation between Pakistan and India had moved away too far from resolution. Afghans were being affected by the Indo-Pak conflict. The games and counter-games were being played out not just in India and Pakistan, but by India and Pakistan in Afghanistan as well.

A S Panneerselvan brought up the issue of Baglihar and how international arbitration provided a judgment that put hardliners on both sides in a very difficult position. The solution proposed during bilateral discussions was a much better one, so India and Pakistan must realise that things have to be resolved bilaterally. International arbitration is not helpful to either side.

Both the Indian and Pakistani editors agreed that the only way forward is to restore the spirit of 2004-7, the openness of the first term of United Progressive Alliance government in India and not to dismiss President Musharraf's initiatives as a "solo flight" but as an alternative emerging from a sovereign country; and not to miss including the legitimate aspirations and expectations of Kashmiris in working out a solution.

Afghan editors joined the Indians and the Pakistanis in saying that the proxy-war over Afghan should not spill over either to Kashmir or to Baluchistan as these proxy wars always tend to become a Frankenstein monster which cannot be controlled by the security establishments once it acquires its own momentum. History has borne sad witness to the debilitating effects "strategic assets"—meant to bleed the other—has on one's own society.



AMAN KI ASHA (HOPE FOR PEACE)

For nearly a decade, Panos South Asia has been advocating mutual interaction between the mediahouses of India and Pakistan and that this alone would catalyse genuine peace in the region. With the region becoming overtly nuclear, a better understanding of the neighbourhood is the only safety valve within reach. We at Panos South Asia were overjoyed when India's largest circulating English daily (*The Times of India*) and the most dominant media player of Pakistan (the Jung Group) joined hands to promote peace through a joint initiative—Aman Ki Asha. What was most gratifying was their generous invitation to Panos South Asia to present our decade-old learning from conducting similar initiatives to an august audience of editors in Karachi in April 2010. We present below excerpts from PSA Executive Director's address to the editors as reproduced in *The News*.

Re-imagining India-Pakistan relations

The relationship between India and Pakistan is at the cusp of being re-imagined. Since 1947, the two neighbours were governed by mutual antagonism, and the Cold War drove further wedges into a relationship that was drifting into narrow nationalistic jingoism. The end of the Cold War did not help matters, and the geopolitical equations of the early 1990s created a new flux. The Kargil incursions, the nuclear tests at Pokhran and the Chagai mountains, the attack on the Indian Parliament and Operation Parakaram all overshadowed the Lahore initiative and the Agra Summit. While policymakers were not swift enough to change gears and see things in terms of the new reality, the people of the two countries embarked on a journey to redefine the

relationship. And the media leaders helped us to constantly map and document the new imagination. Panos South Asia and the Kathmandu based magazine *Himal Southasian* realised that the most significant factor to contribute to any mutual trust deficit is a lack of information. As such, in 2002 we invited some prominent editors and owners of media houses from both countries for an open, informal and informed sharing of experiences and information. This was to be a site for mutual learning of new realities and unlearning of past prejudices, a wellspring to cleanse the scourge of stereotyping the other. We were conscious that the media in these two countries are vast and multi-layered, and we knew that this undertaking would not be an easy task.

The principle was continuity with discreet change. Year after year over the last nine years, we pursued this goal relentlessly...

One of the key departures that the Panos-Himal annual retreats managed to achieve was to bring in the question of Kashmir, not as divisive issue but rather as a humanitarian crisis that the two countries need to address by keeping in mind the aspirations and political will of the people of Kashmir. This is vindicated by one of the most considered voices from Srinagar, Khursheed Wani, when he declared at Barcelona in 2008: "At the moment, in Kashmir Valley, since the militants started in a different context and also because people are by and large are fed up with violence, the role of militants is not there. The protests were peaceful. People poured into the streets with one clear idea: that India and Pakistan should come closer and settle the issue of Kashmir according to the aspirations of the Kashmiris."

By bringing such voices together and initiating an internal critique of both countries' media and governments, our roundtables have managed to energise and also be a part of a very important shift in perceptions among 'gatekeeper' practitioners



"Over the years, we experienced increasing openness in the media 'gatekeeper' roundtables, willingness to set aside exclusive nationalist positions, and to question one's own state establishments."

in India and Pakistan. Instead of projecting the practitioners from the other country as part of the enemy camp, editors began looking at them as peers, besieged by the same set of problems. Over the years, we experienced increasing openness in the roundtables, and a willingness to set aside exclusive nationalist positions, and to question one's own state establishment.

Most of the editors and the media of the two countries have come to a new equation: an increased contribution of Indian writers in Pakistani media, and Pakistanis in Indian media. I consider this as a brave act of subverting the illiberal visa regime of the two countries.

After these years of constant interaction and opening up each other's media for voices of sense and moderation from either side, within the directional geopolitics, most of the editors and hence the dominant media of the two countries have come to a new equation: the problems for Pakistan have been shifted from its eastern border to its northwestern borders; and for India, the shift is from its western borders towards its eastern borders. Though this has given space for better synergistic interaction, these notions are still fragile, and some of the old ghosts are still active. Only by remaining ever vigilant can we keep those past ghosts from haunting us.

Kanak Mani Dixit, Editor of 'Himal Southasian' speaking at the 'Aman Ki Asha' meet of media persons from India and Pakistan in Karachi, 2010.



Members of the 'Pesh Kadam' team on their way to do stories for the radio programme produced by students of the Islamic University of Science and Technology and the youth of Awantipora town.

ACTIVITIES

KASHMIR MEDIA AND PEACE BUILDING PROGRAMME

Kashmir Radio Project

The Kashmir Radio initiative, which has been ongoing since 2009, aims to empower Kashmiri media and create spaces for local voices to be heard in the discourse for peace in Kashmir. In partnership with Islamic University of Science and Technology in Awantipora, the project trained the local population to run a Community Radio station, which has been airing half-hour capsules titled *Pesh Kadam* bi-weekly. More than 60 episodes have been aired till end-February. The dedicated team kept the airings on, despite the turbulent, trying times in the state.

The second half of 2010 was an extremely challenging one for the *Pesh Kadam* team with

the situation in Kashmir turning turbulent in June following the death of an 11-year old boy, succumbing to tear-gas shell injuries in Srinagar. Street protests became daily affairs and the months that followed saw more than a hundred people, mostly youth, killed in the violence. The Valley ground to a halt with a cycle of shutdowns, stone-pelting protests and curfews. Shops, banks and educational institutions stopped functioning; there were less than ten normal working days in the four months that followed.

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora where the PSA radio studio is located also remained closed due to security fears. Despite the oppressive tension, except on two occasions when the curfew stretched for more than a week, fresh episodes of *Pesh Kadam* were broadcast from the Commercial Broadcasting Service (CBS), Srinagar every week.

The situation, however, did demand a rethink of content and production. Earlier capsules had pulled together varied sound bytes related to the content; but the capsules produced during the crisis focussed more on social and community stories which involved minimum travel and risk for the reporters. The crisis could not be ignored; it was used as background and often referred to in subtle ways without risking the programme.

Local radio club members were given more responsibility as journalism students of IUST who anchored the programme found it near impossible to come in to the studio on some days. When they did manage to come in, they did so with the help of curfew passes. They stayed overnight at the houses of the local radio club members and got the capsules ready for airing. All this would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the whole team, especially the driver Bilal Ahmad, who ensured that radio club members from difficult locations reached the studio to complete their assignments and also delivered episode CDs to Radio Kashmir on time for broadcast. Some radio club members who stayed far away but had access to the internet produced short capsules and emailed it to the studio.

With the situation returning to near-normal in late October, the *Pesh Kadam* team started work on mitigating the losses to the programme in terms of content diversity and community contact. This included trying to bolster the participation of girls that had dwindled during the crisis. Airings have resumed with renewed vigour. Work is currently on to re-establish contact with opinion-makers and the youth in the local community.

Journalists' training workshop in Jammu

Panos South Asia kick-started a two-year project in partnership with Kashmir University to enable media to address issues of urban poverty and diversity in Jammu & Kashmir.

A five-day workshop, the first in a series was held in Jammu in November with participation from all three regions of the state. Three trainers trained 20 journalists on the finer nuances of new media, city-based reporting and training techniques. Six trainees were nominated by the Kashmir University. The mediapersons who participated included six people from Srinagar and six from Jammu: Afsana Bhat (*Dainik Bhaskar*), Bashaarat Masood (*Indian Express*), Fayaz Bukhari (NDTV), Humayun Qaisar (Radio Kashmir), Maqsood Ahmed (Radio Kashmir), Talha Jehangir (Radio Kashmir), Javaid Mehrab (Take One), Nitish Arora (Radio Jammu), Pawan Bali (CNN IBN), Saroj Razdan (Freelancer), Suchismita (*Kashmir Times*) and Zaffar Iqbal (NDTV). Each of these journalists will in turn train students of Journalism and Mass Communication to build capacity at the University of Kashmir in collaboration with the main lead trainers.





PLURAL MEDIA AND PEACE-BUILDING IN THE NORTHEAST

Study Tour for women writers to Northeast India

Panos South Asia conducted a two-week study tour for women writers to Northeast India in September 2010. Four women writers from different parts of India were taken on a fortnight's tour of the region, where they interacted with several civil society organisations, cultural activists, political leaders and other persons who contribute to creating a multi-layered public sphere in the region. The writers were Gauri Lankesh, Sumana Roy, Taran Nishat Khan and Deepika Arwind.

Gauri Lankesh, who is the Editor of *Lankesh Kannada Weekly*, travelled to Manipur and Nagaland. After "finding her feet" upon landing in Imphal, she immediately traversed through the contentious political landscape of the state. Her impressions on the state of affairs in Imphal were aptly summarised after her visit to the World War II cemetery on the fringe of the city: "The manicured beauty of the place of the dead, stood in marked

contrast with the chaotic, run down and rubbish-laden lot that the living had to put up with," she said. Saying that she was surprised to see the predominance of Korean cultural influence in the mass media, Lankesh also added that she had had a very different view of the region, one that had undergone a sea change following the tour.

Her interactions with filmmakers and media persons helped her understand the complexities of identity and militarisation in Manipur. She also travelled to the Naga areas of the state, in order to understand how younger Nagas negotiate contemporary political realities. She met with key persons involved with the reconciliation process, where members of civil society have successfully managed to restrain members of Naga armed opposition groups from indulging in fratricidal killings.

Sumana Roy, a writer and academic based in Siliguri, said that she had to overcome her instinctive response to say "no" to Panos South Asia's offer to do the tour, largely due to the route that was prescribed to her. The Lower Assam- Garo Hills stretch of the tour complemented her own interests in the identity and language politics of

North Bengal. Being a comparative analyst, she could not help but draw on the differences between exponents of the Kamatapuri movement in North Bengal and their counterparts in Lower Assam. She spoke eloquently about the manner in which her Panos guides and interviewees accommodated her presence by offering her a choice of languages to communicate with them. While tracing the routes and trajectories of the politics of language and dialects, Roy moved through ethnically diverse Lower Assam to a more homogenous area in the adjoining Garo Hills. There, she interacted with researchers and activists who spoke about the pressures of geographical isolation, especially in a place that once formed a contiguous border with Bangladesh.

Taran Nishat Khan and Deepika Arwind had both taken the same route that began at the Indo-Burma border and wound its way through Upper Assam and the Assam – Arunachal Pradesh border. Both writers expressed their interest in the peculiarities of the settlers that they encountered. From the unexpected display of national pride

in village houses in Arunachal Pradesh, where iconic images of national leaders vie for space with pictures of Gautama Buddha, to the creative excess of a small-town student, they felt that their trip had been a study in contradictions. In the course of their travels they met several anti-dam activists and visited villages that were likely to be affected by the construction of a multi-purpose dam in the lower Subansiri region.

Throughout the course of their travels, they sensed an undertone of resentment against immigrants—supposedly from Bangladesh—whether they were talking to townspersons in Dhemaji, or interacting with their driver. They wondered how it was possible to square the hospitality of people they met on the road, with such stark hostility against the politically and socially constructed "outsider".

Writers, Deepika Arwind and Taran Nishat Khan interview the headman of one of the clans of the Adi tribe that lives adjacent to the hydroelectric dam being built on the Subansiri river on the Assam-Arunachal border.





Participants at the Women Writers' Workshop in Umiam, Meghalaya, September, 2010.

The study tour culminated with the women writers' workshop, in Umiam. This initiative was Panos South Asia's first attempt at engaging with women writers, as a conscious decision to address the multi-layered complexities of societies that are undergoing change with a gender perspective.

The contradictions have much to do with the peculiarities of nation-building and ideas about citizenship in Northeast India; it was explained to the writers by a panel of women academics and authors from the Northeast, in the course of the workshop. The panel comprised noted authors and academics from North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Prof. Temsula Ao and Prof. Esther Syiem, popular writer and filmmaker, Janice Pariat and a PhD researcher from Stanford University, Dolly Kikon. Together, the four panellists represented an interesting cross section of women from the Northeast, which has shaped cultural and political discourse on the region in the public domain. In their interactions with the women writers who participated in the study tour, they discussed several aspects of writing from and on the region.

Roundtable on "State of Media and Human Rights in South Asia"

Panos South Asia, in collaboration with International Council on Human Rights Policy, Geneva and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai organised a roundtable in Kathmandu, Nepal, that looked at forms of political conflict within states and societies in South Asia and the manner in which they—including their human rights dimensions—are represented in the public sphere through the media.

Over the last few decades, issues of power, territory and distribution of resources have transformed into serious conflicts in South Asia. Added to this are efforts by states to formulate and implement policies that often aggravate these conflicts. South Asian states have undergone a transformation, especially following the liberalisation of economies in Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh. According to one of the participants, post-colonial Sri Lanka has taken a radical turn to the right. Others opined that this observation could apply in part to other countries as well. Despite

increasing inequalities amongst citizens of different countries in South Asia, most governments have actually increased their defence budgets, at the expense of social welfare. Moreover, debates on federalism and devolution of power in erstwhile centralising states like Nepal have not been adequately grounded on realities of resource-sharing and demands for social justice.

Even though the media has expanded in contemporary South Asia, it has paradoxically been responsible for the localisation of the public sphere within the region. For instance, there are larger, financially better-off media houses in different parts of the region, but this does not necessarily imply that they employ a wider network of journalists and reporters. Instead, they rely on agencies for news from outside, while relying on localised events and news for content. On a related note, media ownership is now moving away from family-owned enterprises and allowing for a convergence of interests between political elite and the corporate world. The convergence of corporate and political interest has also led to cross-holdings within the media, thereby increasing the risks of creation of powerful oligarchies within the region. In real terms, this has meant that the nexus between media owners and those invested in corporate power, can actually influence, manipulate and distort matters relating to the State and public interest.

Such institutional conditions have led to the perception that the media is a force vying for power outside the political process.

The recent disclosures about mediapersons being approached to influence post-electoral political process, by corporate lobbyists in India lend credence to such perceptions. In fact, in most South Asian countries, the media has positioned itself as the adjudicator of public opinion. However, this role is also a selective one, as in countries like Pakistan, traditional media has shied from taking on the powerful military establishment, while in Sri Lanka it played an important role in creating a militaristic environment during the final stages of the civil war. While this failure to challenge dominant ideas and prejudices, is true of the media in most parts of the world, its impact in South Asia can prove to be even more detrimental. This is perhaps the reason why there is an urgent need to look beyond the current market/state driven dispositions in order to find alternatives that reflect the garrulous, layered and complex public spheres in the region.

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RELAY PROGRAMME: COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

The RELAY programme emerged out of a need to communicate research and place information in the public domain. RELAY is now moving from strength to strength in Panos South Asia, while continuing to explore new ways of linking the media with academic research communities. Programmes in South Asia are dominated by the discourse on conflict, land alienation, identity and displacement; the focus remains on building the capacity of journalists to put forth research related stories in an accessible yet stimulating manner.

Rural Journalism and New Media workshops in Northeast India

Promoting rural journalists has been a focus area for Panos South Asia. In January 2010, PSA organised a three-day workshop for rural reporters in Nagaon district of Assam. In addition to this, PSA also conducted intensive two-day workshops on citizen journalism and new media technology with local partners in Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya throughout the month of July.

Dialogue on Humanism and Emancipation

Continuing our constant endeavour to interface with academic and research institutes to have a more nuanced reading of contemporary conflicts in the region, PSA initiated a Dialogue on Humanism and emancipation partnering the Darwin School of Business in Assam.

Regional Workshop on Forced Migration

In February 2010, PSA in partnership with Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and the Calcutta Research Group, conducted a regional workshop on "The state of research on forced

migration in Northeast India", in Guwahati. PSA also continued its partnership in designing and supporting the media segment of the annual winter course on forced migration, which is organised in December in Kolkata by the Calcutta Research Group, and supported by the Government of Finland and the Brookings Institute.

Seminar on Shared History, Contested Spaces: Rethinking Territoriality in India

In partnership with the Department of History, Dibrugarh University, Panos South Asia organised a seminar in November on conflicts over resources and territory in South Asia. The participants deliberated crucial issues including Shared histories and contested territories, the politics of dispossession, borders in the age of globalisation and sovereignty and space.

Studies of territoriality and space have long focused on the links between territorial disputes and inter-state conflicts. However, there is less attention paid to territoriality at the internal level. This seminar analysed the outcomes of territoriality in India, focusing mainly in areas where notions of space have been violently contested in contemporary times. Recent upsurges in tensions

and violence in ongoing conflicts over borders in the Northeast, attempts by the Indian State to gain control of territory by settling villages in camps in parts of Chhattisgarh and other states of Central India, and the pursuit of autonomy in Telangana and Gorkhaland demonstrate the multiple ways territoriality is politicised in contemporary India. Fresh insights into the ways history is contested and reconstructed and claims over space are made by state and non-state actors alike were discussed at length. Furthermore, cases from India demonstrate the ways territoriality is viewed in two scales, the regional and the local, and these are involved in an ongoing interplay through which territories are reconfigured and notions of legitimate and illegitimate peoples are continually redefined.

Somorendro Arambam Lecture 2010

PSA's Regional Manager for Conflict, Dr. Sanjay Barbora was invited to deliver the prestigious Annual Somorendro Arambam Lecture at Imphal on June 10th, 2010 as part of the 10th death anniversary commemoration of the noted Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Manipuri playwright.

AWARDS**Sarojini Naidu Prize for Best Reporting on Women and Panchayati Raj**

PSA media fellow **Bornali Boruah** won the 10th annual Sarojini Naidu Prize for best reporting on Women and Panchayati Raj, instituted by the New York-based non-profit organisation, The Hunger Project. Bornali Boruah hails from Charing, Assam, and has reported for *The Dainik Janambhumi* and *Ajir Dainik Batori*.

Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity

Pon Dhanasekharan, our Northeast media fellow, has won the Laadli Media Award 2010 for gender sensitivity instituted by Population First. This is in recognition of his efforts to analyse displacement in Northeast India from a gender perspective. He gets the award in the Print media/Tamil/Human interest stories category. Pon currently works as a senior journalist with the Tamil publication, *Puthiya Thalamurai*.

Best Film Award: EIGHT Film Festival/ Ensuring Environment Sustainability Category

PSA fellow **Gautam Syiem's** short film, *All Not Lost* has won the Best Film award in the Ensuring Environmental sustainability category at the EIGHT Film Festival held in New Delhi. Cited for best portrayal of the seventh goal in the eight Millennium Development Goals, it was screened at the Nehru Auditorium, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi in mid-September. *All Not Lost* is an 11-minute film situated in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. Based on the idea of environmental sustainability in the face of climate change, the short film is about Shangpung village and its decision to turn their lives around as rampant mining activities begin in the district.



Public Health Programme

Panos South Asia's Public Health Programme views health as a fundamental human right for all and asserts that it is inextricably linked to the basics of nutrition, water, shelter, security, clothing, sanitation and necessary human amenities. It is a function of development, which itself is determined by and determines the social, political, cultural and economic rubric wherein people live and function.

For PSA then, the primary focus of its Public Health Programme is on the sections of the population that are most affected by development policies and programmes and have least access to even primary health care. These are the socially and economically marginalised peoples of South Asia and overwhelmingly women.

PSA seeks to bring the voices of these sections into national agendas and mainstream discourses through the media, while providing key information and tools of access to them to make themselves heard. This could be through training socially and economically disadvantaged youth to produce radio programmes around sexuality, reproductive health and issues critical to their growth and development, through providing fellowships to mid-career journalists to research on the health and rights of Dalit women in India, to reach the unreached in Pakistan's urban slums and rural backwaters with critical information on HIV or commissioning cutting edge research on key health sector developments that impact health care for most vulnerable populations in the region.

ACTIVITIES

REACHING THE UNREACHED PROGRAMME

With Social Sector Support Service and Uks Research and Resource Centre, Pakistan

The youth are among the most vulnerable to HIV infections. Panos South Asia's Reaching the Unreached Programme looks at improving the sexual and reproductive health of young people most at risk to HIV/AIDS, especially out-of-school children.

The project aims to train out-of-school children most at risk to produce innovative media outputs themselves to reflect their problems and issues. Panos along with Social Sector Support Services took an in-depth look at young women's access to radio and listening patterns in the economically backward region of Lyari in Pakistan. We also studied how media could bring about attitudinal change by producing issue-based programmes.

We employed two novel tools which proved



eminently successful: **Visual Voice** which taught the girls to use pictures and collages to create collages of their perception of the world around them and ways to change it; and **Participatory Radio** where girls were trained as radio producers to put together radio capsules of their own. We are collaborating with a local FM channel for broadcast to begin soon.

Noted image and photography consultant Pieter de Vos conducted the Visual Voice Training Workshops. Currently, an exhibition of their work is planned for the community followed by discussions with community members.



Pieter de Vos conducting the Visual Voice Training Workshops



PSA's Tungshang Ningreichon explaining the oral testimony methodology to participants in Patna, Bihar, during the filming of the documentary 'The Test' by Yirmiyan Arthur, recipient of a PSA fellowship.

POSITIVE VOICES

This collaborative Oral Testimony Project between Panos South Asia and **Panos London** continued with vigour from the past years and is now winding down. More than 70 Oral testimonies have been collated, transcribed and translated into English. A collation of testimonies from Bihar, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu is currently being edited and will be released shortly. Testimonies and articles from Bihar are also being published in Hindi.

Television fellowship on HIV/AIDS

Panos fellow, Yirmiyan Arthur's short film, '*The Test*' is ready and awaiting airing. The filmmaker travelled widely in the Northeast, Bihar and Tamil

Nadu to capture the voices of Positive women. The camera pans across Ukhrul, Tuensang, Patna, Lakhisarai, Chennai, Coimbatore and Kanyakumari documenting lives and challenges of women living with HIV/AIDS. The film captures pivotal issues related to HIV/AIDS and highlights the problem of poverty and discrimination. Yirmiyan interviewed women who were a part of the Panos Oral Testimonies Collection Project, as well as others working in the field of HIV/AIDS. She is currently working on a few short films on HIV/AIDS to be aired on regional channels.

Anti-Retroviral Therapy Literacy Booklets

The second edition of the English and Hindi booklets have been printed and disseminated. The



first edition was improved upon in consultation with the **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)**. The booklet was also published in Tangkhul, a regional language spoken widely in the district of Ukhrul in Manipur. This was published in collaboration with the **Ukhrul Network of Positive People (UNP+)**. The Tangkhul booklet is aimed at nearly 260 villages in the same district that 'lacks basic information on HIV/AIDS, especially on treatment and care'.

Print fellowship for writing on HIV/AIDS

This year's HIV/AIDS fellowships were awarded to three journalists: Chitra Ahanthem from Manipur, Chhadosree Thakur from Jharkhand and Gokul Chandrasekhar from Tamil Nadu. The articles have been submitted to Panos and are currently being edited.

Panos South Asia in mainstream television / radio

In Pakistan, Aaj TV featured an interview with Rubina, one of the narrators from the Pakistan collection of Oral Testimonies, on its morning show *Aaj Subah* (This Morning). Rubina is an outreach worker and spokesperson of **Pakistan**

Society, a PLHIV support organisation. Panos Pakistan's Country Representative, Sahar Ali was also interviewed on the same show about the Positive Voices project, about stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS in Pakistan. Special focus was on the vulnerability of women living with HIV. Later, Sahar Ali was also interviewed on *Apna Karachi FM 107*, talking about HIV and the need for society not to alienate people living with the disease.

Investigative Journalism workshop on Family Planning and Abortion- Related Issues

Panos Pakistan in association with the **National Committee for Maternal and Neonatal Health (NCMNH)**, the **Population Reference Bureau** and the **Gutmacher Institute** organised a workshop for journalists from the print and electronic media. Fourteen journalists, representing Urdu and provincial languages from Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir attended. They represented a variety of media organisations including Dawn, Pakistan Press International, Daily Aaj Kal, Daily Ibrat, Samaa, Voice of Kashmir FM 105 and Weekly Siachin among others.

Family planning and abortion-related issues are largely under-reported and misreported in Pakistan. The purpose of the workshop was to inform and educate journalists so that reproductive health issues are given adequate and accurate coverage. Through a series of sessions by reproductive health and legal experts and senior journalists, participants were presented with information about the reproductive health of women in Pakistan including statistics, regional comparisons and related policy realities. Other sessions presented by Panos included capacity building of journalism and investigative reporting skills.



Environment Programme

The desire for an enduring marriage between ecology and economic development becomes a Sisyphean ordeal in the South Asian sub-continent. How does one govern a region which is not only the most populous but also the poorest in the world? To that end, Panos South Asia would like to imagine its environment theme as a vexed, volatile and violent battleground of ideas, discourses and practices that seek to find the elusive golden mean between economic expedience and ecological prudence.

The year 2010 was particularly significant with respect to climate change. First, the fiasco at the Copenhagen Climate Summit triggered sobering reflections on whether the developed world was at all serious about mitigating climate change. Amidst all the effectiveness of global climate negotiations, a large part of the world was engulfed in the fury of floods and cyclones. South Asia was one of the worst affected regions. 2010 also saw a concerted engagement with forest-related issues that culminated in the summit, Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. In tune with the year's zeitgeist, a large part of Panos South Asia's work centred around climate change and related processes.

ACTIVITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Panos South Asia at the United Nations Climate Summit in Cancun, Mexico

In December, the Climate Change Media Partnership (CCMP), of which Panos South Asia is a partner, took four journalists from South Asia to the 16th Climate Summit in Cancun. As part of CCMP, PSA has been involved in selecting and mentoring South Asian journalists for the last four climate summits.



Biblio issue on Ecology and Climate Change

Panos South Asia collaborated with *Biblio*, a Delhi-based book review journal in February 2010, on a special section on the repercussions of what happened at the Copenhagen Climate Summit in 2009. People desperately wanted to hear a triumphant bang at the end of the Summit but all they heard was a disappointing whimper. All the hope and cheer built up in the run-up to the Summit gradually gave way to a mood of gloom and cynicism. In the special section, we tried to extract some meaning from the ensuing confusion

around the emerging geopolitics of expedient deals replacing the more democratic decision-making by consensus and what it might mean for world as a whole.

Panos – Caravan Special Assignment Fellowship on Environment Writing

The twin motives behind this project were the growing dissatisfaction with the way media covers the increasingly complex relationship between environment and ecology. Even as our societies become more complex as a consequence of this byzantine play between economy and ecology, the media has failed to capture and portray the bewildering and fascinating nature of this transformation. The second motive was to popularise the craft of longform journalism, or the journalistic essay, which we believe captures the nuances of the first motive most elegantly and satisfactorily.

Thus was born the Panos-Caravan Special Assignment Fellowships, in collaboration with the Delhi-based magazine, *Caravan*. Out of nearly 60 applications received from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, two were awarded the fellowships. The essays will be published in *Caravan*.

Panos South Asia to collaborate with Oxford University

Panos South Asia has been invited to be part of an ambitious ten-year research project which is to be implemented in East Africa, West Africa, and India, under the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security programme of Oxford University. Our regional programme manager on environment attended a meeting in Nairobi where the scope and potential of the partnership were discussed. Actual work is slated to commence soon.



Crossing the river Kosi at Saharsa, Bihar, a photograph taken by Meena Menon, one of the reporters who went on the PSA study tour to the Kosi basin.

Kosi study tour

Panos South Asia in association with **Barh Mukti Abhiyan**, a loose coalition of groups working to create awareness about flood management in Bihar supported a media tour of Bihar's Kosi river basin to study and write about the politics of flood control. Bihar is one of the most flood-prone and most embanked states in the country. The Kosi's rage had yet again inundated the state in 2009. Barh Mukti Abhiyan (Freedom from Floods campaign) does not treat floods as disaster but as a way of life. It believes that floods have been converted to disasters due to the faulty policies of the state to tame rivers with embankments. BMA is campaigning against the stubborn fallacy that jacketing the rivers can control floods. The embankment of the Kosi river was followed by all major rivers of Bihar being embanked without any debate.

This project was novel in its approach as the flood narrative until then had been predominantly

a male dominated narrative. The problem had never been looked at from a women's perspective. The rivers from an Indian perspective were all female, revered as Mother Goddess. Thus was born the idea of taking women journalists on a trip of the Kosi basin.

Fourteen reporters, seven of them women from Mumbai, Delhi, Pune and Bangalore embarked on a five-day trip of the Kosi basin. We found that women tend to choose stories that were closer to lived experiences of the people. Besides, they tended to stay with and explore the dimensions of a story for far longer. According to Dinesh Mishra, the convener of BMA, "the best thing that has happened is that they have kept up with us, something that had not happened in the past."

Poonam Pandey wrote in the *Navbharat Times* immediately after the study tour. **Bula Devi** has written several articles on the Bihar situation covering floods and water pollution.



The worst flood in Pakistan's history displaced over 20 million people.

Deepika Arwind has written extensively on the issue in Nepali papers which is of great importance given the Nepal-Bihar engagement on water-related issues.

Meena Menon's articles in the national daily *The Hindu* garnered a lot of attention and brought forth several queries. **Reshma Jathar** wrote in Marathi dailies leading to discussions in other states. Other than regular articles on the issue, **Surekha Sule** wrote a tour diary in *Indiatogether*. She also contacted the Central Water Power Research Station at Pune and initiated a dialogue with the engineers. Several articles also appeared in the *Down to Earth* magazine, which is widely read by researchers, academics and journalists.

Documentary Film on floods in Pakistan

Panos South Asia commissioned a documentary film on the most devastating flood in Pakistan's history that displaced over 20 million people. The film tries to unravel the many factors that led to this massive disaster. It also attempts a critique of the technocratic imagination, which on hindsight appears to have done more harm than good. The film is expected to be completed by March-end.

Symposium on COP10 of the Convention of Biological Diversity

Panos South Asia organised a symposium to discuss the implications of the tenth conference of Parties (COP10) of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) that was held in October in Nagoya, Japan. There 193 countries adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). Its 30 articles comprise what is called the International Regime (IR) on ABS. The workshop was an attempt to further a collective understanding, both amid researchers as well as journalists, of the ten-day old text and its implications. The key question that informed most of the discussions was to what extent are the global negotiations and texts connected with the reality on the ground.



Participants at the South Asia Biodiversity workshop held at Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi.



Media Pluralism Programme

Avibrant and plural media is the *raison d'être* for Panos South Asia's Media Pluralism programme. It seeks to promote diversity and plurality of voices, media, languages and views, especially those of the least privileged and most marginalised. It also aims to create inclusion in communication processes, media structures, ownership and content production in diverse South Asian settings. It rests on the twin pillars of enhancing skills and producing content for all kinds of media, both mainstream and alternate. It embraces both traditional and new media technologies in the endeavour to reach the maximum number of people, particularly those with little or no access. It encompasses Panos South Asia's four thematic areas of Public Health, Conflict, Globalisation and Environment, in line with PSA's mission of fostering informed public debate, pluralism and democracy.

Strategically, PSA's Media Pluralism programme works with all forms of media, namely print, radio, television and online broadcasting. It also works increasingly with the regional language and alternate media in South Asian countries. Additionally, Panos South Asia continues to work with the English language media, because of its influence on policy and decision-making in government and civil society in the region.

(top pic): 13-year-old Khushboo, one of the child journalists of the Community Radio programme 'Choti Choti Batein', reporting from rural Bihar.

ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY RADIO

Orientation workshop and Study Tour to Kalimpong

PSA conducted an orientation course for regional journalists on aspects of community radio in India at Kalimpong. Our local partners, the **Indigenous Lepcha Tribal Association** and the **Himalayan Farmers' Front** helped in imparting training on aspects of community radio. The Lepchas are indigenous to the area but over the last few decades, demographic and political changes have led to their marginalisation. The community radio station is an attempt by local activists, including the small but significant Lepcha diaspora, to infuse a new lease of life to preserve a language and culture that is under threat of disappearing.

National Consultation Workshop on Community Radio in India

Panos South Asia being a founding member of the Community Radio Forum in India was closely involved in the National Consultation workshop held in New Delhi in December 2010. The high profile workshop deliberated several crucial issues including the Community Radio Policy in India, social and financial sustainability of community radio ventures and the role of government as well as international agencies in fostering Community radio growth in the country. Panos Executive Director A.S. Panneerselvan also presented a paper on Community Radio and other development concerns.

AMARC Asia-Pacific Conference, Bangalore, India

Panos South Asia partnered with **ACORAB**

(Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal) to facilitate the 2nd AMARC Asia Pacific Conference held in Bangalore in February 2010. The event brought together more than 300 community broadcasters, activists, NGO representatives, academics as well as governmental and multilateral institutions from 20 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The conference issued a strong call to place people's communication rights at the centre of development. PSA also organised a South Asian workshop on '**Reinforcing Country Level Community Radio Networks – Challenges and Opportunities**' on the sidelines of the conference.

10th Computer Association of Nepal ICT Conference

Panos South Asia participated and presented a paper '**Role of Information and Communication Technology in Climate Change: Enabling Low Carbon Economy in the Information Age**' in the Next IT Economy: A Future Talk, at the Tenth CAN ICT Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal in January 2010.

Regional Project Review and Knowledge Sharing Workshop

The SDC project's final activity, a project review and knowledge sharing workshop, was organised in early March 2010. The objective of this workshop was to review the project, as much as possible with the participation of the people who were engaged in the project's activities. 35 participants attended. The final consolidated conclusion of the project was positive: it helped in networking; helped individuals to connect with each other; enhanced individual and institutional capacity on ICT; and enabled a regional platform for creating and sharing regional content.



***Choti Choti Batein* is now present in nine districts of Bihar: Gaya, Munger, Araria, Nalanda, Samastipur, Patna, Lakhisarai, Vaishali and Muzzafarpur.**

The programme's footprint covers a whopping 10 million people.

The programme's impact is evident from the 50-70 letters that each episode brings forth even from far-flung areas.

The Choti Choti Batein team with Nicola Harford, IMedia Associates, UK, the external evaluator of the programme

CHOTI CHOTI BATEIN

Panos South Asia's hugely successful adolescent radio programme in Bihar, *Choti Choti Batein* is at an interesting curve. The 50 odd children from socially and economically marginalised communities are today empowered to produce, script, voice and edit their own programmes. What gives us great pride is the fact that an overwhelming majority of the children are girls. Nearly 30 listener groups function with an average of 15 children each, providing regular feedback on the programmes. The programme's impact is evident from the 50-70 letters that each episode brings forth even from far-flung areas. The programme footprint covers a whopping 10 million people. The participating children have become changemakers and are received with a great deal of respect in their communities. *Choti Choti Batein* is now present in nine districts of Bihar: Gaya, Munger, Araria, Nalanda, Samastipur, Patna, Lakhisarai, Vaishali and Muzzafarpur. The number of episodes aired bi-weekly through the state-run All India Radio, Patna's primary channel today stands at 80.

Since Panos technically exits from the programme on March 31, 2011, efforts are on to make it sustainable. Negotiations are in progress with 'Gyan Vani' an educational channel affiliated to the Indira Gandhi Open University, that would air the programme free of charge for the children. The children have also been put in touch with the Bihar Disaster Management Programme and are negotiating independently with them to take their objectives forward. PSA is also in talks with a few organisations that would like to work with the children in furthering their communication objectives.



DFID-PPA EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF CHOTI CHOTI BATEIN

Excerpts from the evaluation report by Nicola Harford, IMedia Associates, UK



The community based radio programme '*Choti Choti Batein*', meaning 'Small Small Things' made by children in Bihar in India demonstrates results and impacts on people's lives in a number of ways. Firstly, involvement in the project has had some far-reaching social and economic benefits for the 40 participating children, way beyond building their capacity to make investigative radio programmes. For example, two boys have been offered jobs by commercial radio stations

because their skills now make them marketable, and girls who would never formerly be allowed out of the village, can now attend regular workshops and recording sessions in Patna. A Dalit boy (Govindar, aged 17) went to interview the local official about allegations that public distribution system of rations was corrupt and people were not receiving what they were entitled to: he was offered a chair to sit on – a highly significant departure from the strict hierarchical norms of the caste system. In all cases these are remarkable gains given the socio-economic context in which they occur. This project has also generated examples of how the process of making programmes has impacted on the lives of people in communities by highlighting injustice and uncovering corruption at a local level. In some cases the knowledge that the story would be heard on the radio was enough to prompt action by the authorities and stop them from taking bribes or, for example, receiving school funds for ghost students.

Members of listening groups established as part of the project have reported impacts: one woman learned about her rights and was able to obtain her 'Below Poverty Line' card which entitles the bearer to subsidised food, whilst another's guava crop has increased as a result of the information she learned about using simple soil analysis techniques to help determine what crops to plant.

The project is attempting to document examples such as these above. A next step could be some sort of audience survey to assess the impact on listeners of the programme, in terms of whether they understand their rights, if they have debated the issues raised, and if they have been inspired to emulate the examples in the programmes by taking action to participate in decision-making and demand accountability in the distribution of state benefits. All India Radio in Bihar has a reach of 10 million people but does not conduct audience research, and the project funds are limited.

ACORAB Joint Review, May 2010

Panos South Asia has been encouraging strategic partnerships with various Community Radio forums across the region. PSA is in the governing body of Community Radio Forum of India. In Nepal, we have a strategic partnership with the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB). During the annual joint review of ACORAB in May, PSA not only participated in the process but also joined the field visits studying various radio stations. The review evaluated the performances against well-established benchmarks. It was a rewarding learning experience that brought out clearly the need for mutual sharing of both the challenges as well as the opportunities. With the country in the process of drawing up a new post-conflict Constitution, the review also came up with a recommendation of creating a Community Information Network and production and dissemination of news bulletins and coverage of the Constituent Assembly.

Internet Broadcasting Training for Community Radios in South Asia

To address the need for the community radios to build their capacity to raise their voice beyond the community level, Panos South Asia organized a five-day workshop exclusively for community radios in South Asia titled 'Internet Broadcasting for Community Radios in South Asia' at its Media Centre in Kathmandu, Nepal in September 2010. The five-day workshop oriented the community radios on the concept and applications of Internet broadcasting, and hands-on actually creating Internet radio or broadcasting. It was also an opportunity for community radio practitioners in South Asia to network and share knowledge.

Global Information Society Watch Report

PSA contributed a report on Nepal on 'ICT and Environmental Sustainability' to the Global Information Society Watch (GISW) 2010 Report, published by Association for Progressive Communications. The report can be accessed online at: <http://www.giswatch.org/country-report/2010-icts-and-environmental-sustainability/nepal>

Citizen journalists' workshop at Dimapur

Panos South Asia, *The Foundation for People Empowerment* and *The Morung Express* with support from *Mahiti*, Bangalore organised a one-day workshop on 'Citizen Journalism and New Media' at Dimapur. Manned by a team of experts, the workshop aimed at actively involving the people to report, to present and to launch campaigns on issues confronting them.



The PSA regional Media Centre in Kathmandu, the only one in the region to offer state-of-the-art training for all forms of media – print, television, radio and web.



Globalisation Programme

The post-Cold War transformation of the global economy and politics has been centred on three utopias: democracy, liberalisation and globalisation. PSA strives to bring to the fore, its concern for the unsaid—the pain of transition and the inherent contradictions in the transformation. The market meltdown following the US sub-prime crisis and its huge impact on South Asian livelihoods raises many questions about received wisdom and has forced people and media to examine every claim; and locate social security within the paradigm of individual rights which nation-states cannot ignore. This phase of globalisation is also facilitated by the phenomenal advances in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that has enabled not only changes in production within firms, but has enabled firms to be plugged into global networks of production and distribution. The process has diverse and controversial impacts on production, work and employment especially in low-income regions that need mapping and comprehension.

Globalisation has the potential to leave its imprint on all the themes of PSA: it impacts our health; it undermines our environment, it exacerbates our conflicts, and it alters our media scene in a drastic manner. Panos South Asia's strategy is three pronged: one, looking at the central agent of economic globalisation WTO in its entirety; two, looking at the impact of globalisation on livelihoods—in terms of employment, labour and migration; and three, working with other thematic areas of PSA, namely, Environment, Public Health, Conflict and Media Pluralism.

(top pic): Youth at the Kathmandu airport enroute to the Gulf countries to work as construction labour.

While labour regulations in Bangladesh are quite extensive, their implementation seems to be weak. However, because of globalisation, significant improvements seem to have taken place with respect to workers' rights in the apparel sector of Bangladesh. In the face of global competition, consumers in the developed countries are now more sensitive to the issue of workers' rights and are unwilling to accept goods produced without adequate protection of worker's rights

GLOBALISATION, EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

Beginning with the early 1980s there has been a surge in across-the-border movement of capital, commodities, services and even people; this seems to be the process of the present phase of globalisation. Driven by the 'Washington Consensus' on liberalisation of trade and structural adjustment, this phase is marked by an emphasis on coordination of economic activity by the market and hence, a reduced role for the State in investment and regulation.

Panos South Asia's programme combines research on the specific issues that impinge on the livelihoods of people due to globalisation and its dissemination to the media, trade unions, civil society organisations, academics and policy makers. Research is currently being carried out in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The outcomes will be brought out as toolkits and reports to enable the media to better represent the existing and new trade policies from the perspective of the welfare of the people.

The research in India, led by Prof. D Narasimha Reddy and Prof. J Jeyaranjan, and for Pakistan led by Haris Gazdar are complete and waiting for inputs from peer reviews. In Bangladesh and Nepal, Dr. Zaid Bakht and Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti respectively led the research teams, that have been peer reviewed. We would like to share some of the key findings.

Impact of globalisation on workers' rights in Bangladesh's apparel sector

Workers' rights include rights of persons both as human beings and as workers. In addition to fundamental human rights, workers' rights include rights that are necessary to ensure a safe, secure and dignified work life. Globalisation impacts workers' rights in two opposing ways:

On the one hand, the pressure of global competition often forces producers to cut product price, which ultimately means lower real wages for the workers thereby affecting their welfare and often infringing on their rights.

On the other hand, in the face of global competition consumers in the developed countries are now more sensitive to the issue of workers' rights and are unwilling to accept goods produced without adequate protection of worker's rights. This compels the entrepreneurs to take measures towards protecting workers' rights, which sometimes translates into higher cost of production.

As in the case of other manufacturing industry, workers' rights in the apparel sector of Bangladesh are based on various national and

international legislations. Bangladesh ratified 33 ILO conventions till 2005. In addition, Bangladesh has various labour legislations to protect the rights of workers, Labour Law 2006 being the most important. While the labour regulations are quite extensive and encompass gender dimension, their implementation seems weak. However, because of globalisation, significant improvements seem to have taken place with respect to workers' rights. The following are some of the current features:

- There is virtually no child labour in the apparel sector of Bangladesh.
- There is no wage discrepancy among male and female workers with similar qualifications.
- Labour law 2006 has included the provision of providing the workers with appointment letters (previously the workers use to receive only an identity card).
- Workers are more aware of their rights, as the buyers are putting pressure for labour compliance. However, requirements of conflicting codes of conduct by different buyers sometimes make it difficult for the enterprises to comply.
- Though globalisation has improved compliance in apparel sector, freedom of association is still weak. Less than 5% of total apparel workers are unionised. However, the situation is improving. Some form of platform of collective bargaining prevails in every enterprise and all workers are covered by those platforms (for example, welfare association at enterprise level).
- Delay in wage payment is still a problem for many apparel enterprises.
- Compliance in enterprises of export processing zones are better than enterprises outside zones.
- Long working hours is still a problem in many apparel enterprises, though Labour Law 2006 has prohibited night work for female workers.

Migration Studies in Nepal

In Nepal, rural to urban migration is quite common as urban areas provide more opportunities (pull factor). The ten years of armed conflict and subsequent violence in Terai compelled people to emigrate (push factor). People from rural areas migrated to city centres and urban areas because of both push and pull factors.

The statistics of Department of Labour and Employment Promotion state that 232,628 Nepalese obtained official government permission for foreign employment in 2007 as compared to 178,072 in the year 2008 and 55,025 in 2000. NIDS (2008) sharply argues that the major reason behind the attraction of the youth in seeking foreign employment was first and foremost the political fallout. The hope for economic revival was dashed even after the signing in of the Comprehensive Peace Accord in 2006; the political instability continued further. The construction boom in East Asia and the Persian Gulf region offered more opportunities for employment. Further, the expansion of telecommunications networks, internet, and mobile phones increased the flow of information regarding foreign employment.

The reports of human right groups were continuously criticising the unfavourable conditions for foreign employees in the oil rich region. In spite of it, the Gulf countries hosted 166,776 Nepali migrant workers in 2007 as compared to the East Asian countries which together hosted merely 65,076 Nepali migrant workers (NIDS, 2008). In the Gulf region, the largest concentration of Nepali workers was in Qatar with 83,699 Nepali workers in 2007 (NIDS, 2008). And so far, this is the country from where Nepal receives the highest percentage of remittance, i.e. 21.3% (CBS, 2009). Various analysts argue the reasons behind this were the labour agreements as well as the

In spite of reports of human right groups criticising the unfavourable conditions for foreign employees in the oil rich region, the Gulf countries hosted 166,776 Nepali migrant workers in 2007, as compared to a mere 65,076 Nepali migrant workers in East Asian countries. Qatar is the country from where Nepal receives the highest percentage of remittance, i.e. 21.3%, due to labour agreements, the construction boom and rising oil prices

construction boom and rising oil prices in Qatar (NIDS, 2008; Gupte, 2008 and BBC, 2006).

While talking about globalisation and migration, here, three major categories of migrants are observed. They are those insiders residing outside the country, outsiders residing inside the country, and the insiders suffering inside the country, namely, NRNs, refugees, and IDPs. Here, we deal with these issues in relation to the globalisation and conflict in Nepal.

- **Internally Displaced People:** The dynamics in domestic demography brought about by the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is also a part of the impact of conflict on the employment sector. So far, there is no unanimous data on how many IDPs there are in Nepal. The Government of Nepal in January 2008 had estimated the figure of 25,000 based only on compensation applications. The estimation of the IDP Protection Group disclosed by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in July 2007 had revealed an estimation of 50,000-70,000 IDPs. Likewise, CARITAS-Nepal had estimated 212,985-272,600 in August 2006 covering only the IDPs living in district headquarters. Even though it was estimated that there were some 2 million people in India during the time of armed conflict, they were not refugees in the strict international definition. It is also because of the 1950's Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty which allows citizens of either country to reside and do business in either country.

Recently, the increasing violence and insecurity due to the activities of 109 armed groups in Nepal has created hurdles in the mobility of the workers too. One representative case was that of the displacement of Village Development Committee secretaries from the Terai plains. The secretaries were displaced only because they were of hill origin and some Terai extremist groups were ostracising people from the hills in the southern plains.

- **Refugees:** The problems of refugees in the Nepali labour market as well as in politics are the long-run ones. There were 108,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and half of them were resettled in the US with the help of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) according to the third country resettlement process. Likewise, the US has also resettled thousands of Tibetan refugees on humanitarian grounds. Apart from them, Nepal is now housing other refugees from African countries like Somalia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

- **Non-Resident Nepalis:** The contribution of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) is also important in relation to labour and employment in Nepal. It is an association of Nepalese residing in the foreign countries. It has invested in different big and small sized projects in Nepal generating



A war sequence enacted during the Mahabharata festival from the film 'Kelai Draupada'.

economic progress and helping create employment opportunities. Basically, it is now investing in education, youth, sports as well as culture and tourism promotion. Active in the countries like Austria, Australia, North America, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Korea, Lebanon, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, Thailand, the UK, Ukraine, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Macau, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, the UAE, Belgium, France, Germany, and Japan etc. (NIDS, 2008), it has assisted in bringing globally earned income of Nepalese people into the domestic economy.

Films on migration, war and memory

Panos South Asia joined hands with the well-known independent filmmaker A Sashikanth to produce two films on migration, globalization and a celebration of 'peoples' will to live. The films, *Ninaivin Nagaram* (City of memories) and *Kelai Draupada* (Listen! Draupadi) were part of the festival organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi. The films attempt to make sense of the chaotic present by looking at

the past invoking memory as the most powerful tool of resistance.

Ninaivin Nagaram (City of Memories)

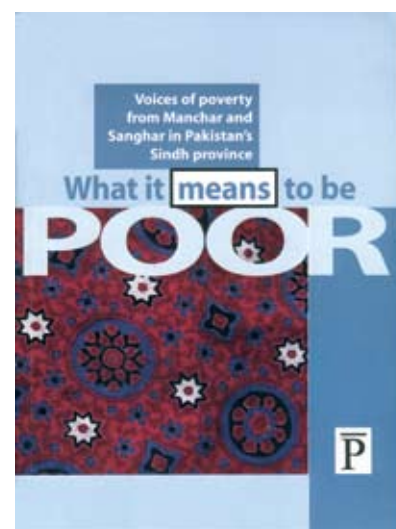
This documentary deals with the history of the region around Senji which gave rise to a unique Mahabharata festival, which is celebrated in over 200 villages in Tamil Nadu. The film is a meditation on memory, mythology and history.

The resonance of the concept of exile of people from their own land can be seen in this festival, which the filmmaker likes to call 'a festival of exile with hopes of a return'.

Kelai Draupada (Listen! Draupadi)

This documentary talks about how in over 200 villages in Tamil Nadu, the *Mahabharata* is performed as a festival. In this, for 20 days and 20 hours a day, the *Mahabharata* is narrated as a story, performed as a village ritual and enacted as ritual theatre. The *Mahabharata* is seen as an anti-war text, and while listening to the *Mahabharata* one is meant to introspect on what causes conflict and strive for '*samarasam*' or peace and harmony. The central position of this festival is that 'rigid'

identities like caste, gender, power lead necessarily to conflict and the question the festival poses is whether one would like to have rigid identities and war or fluid identities and peace. The festival becomes a space where you affirm your individual identities and 'transcend' them. All castes in the village have a role to play in the festival and in some villages the Muslim community also participates as one of the deities of this festival is Mutthala Ravuttan, a Tamil Rowther Muslim. The festival has been performed for over 1300 years and is an important document of the social structure of pre-colonial Tamil Nadu.



Oral Testimonies of Poverty in Sindh

Voices of poverty from Manchar and Sanghar in Pakistan's Sindh province were gathered, translated, annotated, edited and presented as interviews in a publication, *What it means to be Poor*. Employing our time-tested Oral Testimony tool, these stories have a fresh feel, being spoken accounts that come straight from the heart. PSA has also ensured that women's voices are recorded, as they are the ultimate victims in the cycle of poverty.

Covering Deprivation: Workshop, Field Visit and Fellowship for Journalism Students

A three-day long training workshop was conducted by Panos Pakistan and the **Collective for Social Science Research**, on issues of degradation of livelihoods, health and the environment. The workshop trained a group of 12 journalism students from the University of Karachi's Department of Mass Communication.

The workshop introduced the students to basic knowledge about issues of poverty in Pakistan, discussed how deprivation is covered in the media with respect to specific themes, topics and stories, and provided an opportunity to produce a field-based investigative body of work on aspects of deprivation in Kharo Chhan, a village in the Indus Delta region of Pakistan. It also involved sessions on social science research methodologies and principles of responsible and well-rounded journalism.

The workshop was followed by a field visit to Kharo Chhan where students spent time interviewing residents, the local medical dispenser and others to identify issues faced by the community and a better sense of life and challenges there.

Students returned to Karachi and began working on articles about issues of poverty at Kharo Chhan. Eleven students wrote articles in Urdu and English and one student produced a documentary using video interviews and clips collected during the field visit.

Language barriers (Sindhi and not Urdu is spoken in Kharo Chhan) and barriers accessing women in the village were some of the challenges students faced, but overall their experience was rewarding and rendered a remarkable collection of reporting on poverty and deprivation.

Balance Sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

	As at 31 December 2009 IN (US\$)	As at 31 December 2010 IN (US\$)
PROPERTY & ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & bank Balance	1,058,453	1,073,482
Account Receivable	86,062	44,734
	1,144,515	1,118,216
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Account Payable	49,757	41,106
NET ASSETS	1,094,758	1,077,110
REPRESENTED BY:		
FUND ACCOUNT		
Balance as at 1 January	938,494	1,094,758
Add: Surplus(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	156,264	(17,648)
	1,094,758	1,077,110
Restricted fund	561,320	451,849
Unrestricted fund	533,438	625,261
	1,094,758	1,077,110
Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts forms an integral part of the Balance Sheet		As per our report of even date

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Executive Director
Panos South Asia

Kanta Shrestha Pradhan
Chief Finance Officer
Panos South Asia

Shashi Satyal
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February 7, 2011
Kathmandu, Nepal

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HAROON RASHID: PAGE 19

PRADIP SAHA: PAGE 30

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“We would like to congratulate Panos South Asia on a well implemented and successful project. It is evident that the Panos South Asia’s Media and Peace Building in India and Pakistan Project has indeed positively contributed to the dialogue process between India and Pakistan and thereby provided opportunities for a peace momentum. The strategic role of the media in the dialogue has been capitalized upon in a creative and most productive way. Further, the results-based and flexible management of the project is impressive ... We are proud to have been associated with the project.”

— DAVID HOLMERTZ

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)



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