



S.N. Sinha,
President
Indian Journalists' Union,
Delhi

June 16, 2012

Dear Mr Sinha,

RE: Meeting of South Asia Media Solidarity Network, August 2012

I am writing on behalf of the South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSN) to advise that the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) together with the Friederich Ebert Stiftung (FES) will hold the regional meeting of SAMSN in **Kathmandu, Nepal** from **August 3 to August 5, 2012**.

On behalf of SAMSN members, the IFJ invites your organisation to a representative to participate in this meeting.

This year's meeting will mark ten years of SAMSN and will be an important occasion for stocktaking. We will be seeking to firm up the process decided last year and have concrete discussions on the follow-up actions that each participant could undertake in-country, to keep the momentum of SAMSN activities going between successive annual meetings. We will be discussing a wide range of issues at this year's meeting.

Please advise the IFJ of your representative by **Monday June 25, 2012**.

1. Program

The 2012 meeting will review the situation for media workers and press freedom across the region and share information about the challenges and successful campaigns we have managed.

A background paper will be circulated in advance of the meeting. All contributions from you and from all other participant organisations in SAMSN will be gratefully received, provided they are sent sufficiently in advance.

The agenda will be provided shortly, but the primary focus areas will be to plan for common challenges and campaigns around the following issues:

- Physical security
- Wages and working conditions
- Legal threats and harassment
- Economic downturn and impact on media profitability
- Media ownership issues: growing corporate ownership and concentration
- The challenges of media regulation
- Public service journalism



2. Participants

By **Monday June 25, 2012**, please advise Ms Kristen Smith at kristen.smith@ifj-asia.org of the name of the nominee who will represent your organisation at the meeting.

Your nominee would need to complete and submit by **June 28, 2012**, the following registration details:

Full name	
Nominee's position in your organisation	
Nominee's position in journalistic work	
Nominee's contact address	
Nominee's email address	
Nominee's telephone number	
Nominee's fax number	

SAMSN encourages organisations to nominate leaders or other senior representatives with experience in union building, local and regional campaigning on press freedom issues or monitoring media rights violations, and who can share ideas and information about how journalists' unions and organisations can best support journalists.

It is important that your nominee can speak on behalf of your organisation's executive and ensure appropriate follow-up within the organisation in the short and long term.

We further strongly encourage the nomination of female representatives.

The meeting and workshop will be conducted in English, so all participants need to be able to communicate well in English.

3. Travel

The FES office in Delhi will organise your nominee's travel. The IFJ will provide details of the nominees to the Delhi FES office, so you can contact them directly.

Participants should arrive in Kathmandu by lunch time of Friday August 3, 2012 to begin registration at 3.30. The meeting will commence at **4pm on August 3** and will be followed by a welcome dinner that evening at **7pm**. A full day programme will commence **9am on August 4** and participants will depart Kathmandu after the conclusion of the meeting at 3pm on Sunday August 5, 2012.

Participants are expected to attend all sessions of the SAMSN meeting.

The following costs will be borne by FES: Meals, travel outside India, and accommodation (on a shared-room basis).

The following costs will **not** be covered: Salary during unpaid leave and personal expenses.



International
Federation
of Journalists

ASIA-PACIFIC

JACQUELINE PARK
IFJ Asia-Pacific Director
ELISABETH COSTA
General Secretary

4. Country Reports

Participants are requested to prepare a brief paper, with recommendations. In your report, please highlight the major issues confronting journalists in your country and the actions taken by your organisation to address them, in regard to at least one of the major themes of the meeting:

- Physical security
- Wages and working conditions
- Legal threats and harassment
- Economic downturn and impact on media profitability.
- Media ownership issues: growing corporate ownership and concentration.
- The challenges of media regulation.
- Public service journalism

We will be especially interested to learn of solutions and successes achieved by your organisation in promoting journalists' rights, and your recommendations and suggestions for actions.

Please send this report to Ms Kristen Smith at kristen.smith@ifj-asia.org of the no later than **Monday July 23, 2012**.

During the meeting, participants will be expected to coordinate with other participants from your country to present just one joint country report during the report-back session.

Please take this as a formal invitation. Further details will follow once we hear from you.

I am looking forward to your participation in this important meeting.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jacqueline Park', is positioned below the 'Regards,' text. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqueline Park
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International Federation of Journalists
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