



## **ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM IN ASIA-PACIFIC**

EDITED BY : ALASTAIR CARTHEW, PAUL LINNARZ

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Stiftung

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
Singapore

Media Programme Asia

# **Environmental Journalism in Asia-Pacific**

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Alastair Carthew, Paul Linnarz

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# FOREWORD

This study of environmental journalism in Asia-Pacific is particularly timely as the world moves forward from the COP 17 environmental summit in Durban, South Africa and as this region continues to grapple with a myriad of environmental concerns.

As the study reveals, there is an urgent need for more in-depth and knowledge-based reporting of such issues by all strands of media in Asia-Pacific. According to Conservation International, the Asia-Pacific region offers one of the world's best opportunities to control and maybe reverse the impact humans have on the environment. For example, the region harbors 13 of the world's biodiversity hotspots along with the second largest tropical forest on earth.

Encouragingly, some countries in the region, such as China and India are building vast environmentally-based networks of organizations aimed at mitigating climate change. Others, such as Australia and New Zealand are well advanced in integrating climate change into their legal and business frameworks. Yet others, such as Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Malaysia face less easily manageable issues, such as massive deforestation and shrinking water resources.

But in many cases the environmental focus has come late. It took a major flashpoint moment, such as Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" 2006 documentary on the potentially apocalyptic impact of climate change to trigger heightened interest in the impact of greenhouse gases on the earth. Fittingly, a media genre - the documentary - was the vehicle.

However, the truth is that environmental journalism has often been, and in many cases remains, a poor cousin in newsrooms of Asia-Pacific. Until recently it has often taken an unusual event or series of events - such as floods in Thailand and Bangladesh, drought in Australia, violent clashes over deforestation in the Philippines - to foment strong media interest in an environmental issue.

But, as this study identifies, there is an increasing awareness of the need for more sophisticated reporting of the environment; a recognition, particularly by organizations such as environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), of the need for more training, co-ordination amongst national and international environmental networks and a more holistic approach to developing perhaps a pan-Asia-Pacific network for environmental journalism.

The evidence from this study confirms that what is being undertaken is worthy and sincere, but that a more over-arching approach toward elevating environmental journalism beyond the back pages is required. This will not be easy. An environmental journalist of merit needs to be a journalist, a scientist, an environmentalist and, in some countries where such journalists are sometimes physically endangered, a brave individual.

Another issue facing a pan-Asia-Pacific network is that most environmental issues are locally based, within a specific area of a country or just the country itself, and not trans-regional. Climate change is, of course, universal, but the actual physical impact of climate change - a glacier melting too quickly, desertification, deforestation - usually occurs in one's own back yard.

Yet, social media offers a solution. Through the Internet and the associated telecommunication distribution outlets of telephones with their myriad of "apps", the resources exist to develop a pan-regional network dedicated to the development of Asia-Pacific environmental journalism.

Conferences, seminars, newspapers, radio and television are all still very relevant, but it is the Internet with its blogs, Facebook, Twitter and other applications that actively engage people, create networks and raise awareness for these crucial issues.

In a region as vast as Asia-Pacific with its environmental problems, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung believes the time is right for a new pan-Asia-Pacific initiative aimed at environmental journalism. The present study attempts to provide some detailed information about possible institutions, experts and actors in the field of environmental journalism as well as sources for quality data and analysis.

We should not have to wait for a second “An Inconvenient Truth”, to jolt the world out of its complacency.

Paul Linnarz  
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# INTRODUCTION

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." (Article 19: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948)

This statement applies to environmental journalism as much as any of the other 29 articles in the Declaration.

"Environment Journalism in Asia-Pacific" focuses on a relatively new form of journalism that can be traced back to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which sparked heightened interest in reporting of sustainable development and its triple bottom line agenda, economic, social and environmental values. However, despite alarm about climate change, over-population (the earth reached 7 billion in 2011); food and water shortages and other environmental issues, reporting of sustainable development in disproportionately populated regions like Asia, remains sporadic at best.

Why is that? Some simple answers: It is slow moving, not very attractive, complex to explain and steeped in scientific jargon. Information dissemination is difficult to manage (particularly in an age of citizen journalists, applications and instant "news") and it fails to capture public imagination unless there is a crisis. In Asia, journalism is complicated by language, journalistic institutions requiring paid membership, ethical concerns, threats and intimidation of journalists and minimal over-arching regional co-ordination (although some) between countries. There are other issues.

The relationship between environmental journalists and "sources" such as governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is generally one of mistrust. Environmental subjects, such as sustainable development, are broader issues with strong economic, social, cultural and scientific elements to them. These do not appear "sexy" to a news editor unless there is a strong "peg" to hang them on. This can lead to a vicious cycle of negative reinforcement: if it is not newsworthy, then it does not get wider coverage, and if it is not reported then it is not newsworthy.

Another issue is that most environmental journalism focuses on locally-based issues. Local authority officials are often less competent in dealing with complex environmental issues. Often, journalists regard them as the "enemy." Many stories will only be of interest to people in the local area.

But the imperative for comprehensive reporting of the environment in Asia-Pacific has become even more urgent, based on the information in Chapter 1 of this journal. As the following chapters also demonstrate, the region harbors a comprehensive network of environmental journalist organizations, awards, networks, academic institutions offering courses, funds, forums, cooperation and, in the new era, Internet sites, blogs and relationships with NGOs, universities, endowment funds and many others. They are definitely needed. Consider: Asia-Pacific's greenhouse emissions are increasing twice as fast as the global average (5.4% change per annum: 2.8%) with China as the single largest emitter worldwide; Asia-Pacific's agriculture-based economies produce 43% of global N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide) emissions; Asia-Pacific has the highest annual water withdrawal of all the world's regions; in the last 20 years, South-East Asia has lost 13% of its forests and the Asia-Pacific region is the most affected of all with natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, drought, storm surges and tsunamis. Climate change is impacting on Asia's coastal shorelines with places like Vietnam's Mekong Delta area being affected by rising waters, and Indonesia where 34,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land has been lost, affecting 3.1 million people. Many other examples can be found in Chapter 1.

Media coverage of sustainable development can be traced through a series of "waves" dating back to the early 1960s<sup>1</sup>, with milestones such as the formation of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Friends of

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1 Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development. Communicating Sustainable Development: Mass Media and Sustainability, Part 2. Appendix 1: Media Coverage: Ups and Downs: p.16

the Earth and the first United Nations conference on the human environment in 1972. It continued a roller coaster ride through the 1970s and 1980s with major events such as the Live Aid concert drawing attention to famine and poverty in Africa, the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, the Bhopal disaster in India, and the ozone layer emerging as a major issue. A second wave in the late 1980s and early 1990s provided more comprehensive reporting of major disasters like the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, a political awakening to the need to be “green” in places like Germany and Britain and the rise of a green consumerism movement boosted by publication of *The Green Consumer Guide*. The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio spiked interest in reporting during the 1990s, then waned despite the growth of major media forces such as CNN, the Greenpeace controversies over oil in Nigeria and French Moruroa atoll (South Pacific) nuclear tests, and the Kyoto Protocol (1997) on climate change.

However, the 1990s saw the rise of the most powerful individual media tool since television: the Internet. “Globalization” is traced to the “Battle of Seattle” in 1999 with global media coverage of clashes between activists and authorities, giving rise to the anti-globalization movement against establishment institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and multi-nationals such as McDonalds. September 11, 2001 somewhat diverted media coverage of environmental issues as weapons of mass destruction, the Iraq war and the collapse of the dot-com bubble, got priority. However, the inexorable rise of the Internet undoubtedly offset the reduced coverage.<sup>2</sup>

In Asia-Pacific, but particularly in Asia, environmental journalists face increased risks of intimidation, violence and, even in some cases, death, for reporting. In developing countries, especially those in Asia such as the Philippines, China, Pakistan and India, environmental journalists are on the front line of what some consider a “war.” In some cases it could be merely arriving at a sensitive location; in others, actual reports can lead to assaults, intimidation, legal action and self-censorship.<sup>3</sup>

Ethical issues are also heightened in Asia-Pacific environmental journalism. In 1998, a conference organized by the Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum, the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists and the International Federation of Environmental Journalists, agreed on eight principles that constituted the code of ethics for all environmental journalists in the region.<sup>4</sup> We will refer to these issues at a later stage.

Finally, as part of our research for this study, we sought feedback from a number of people “at the coalface” of environmental journalism and working organizations in the Asia-Pacific region, for their first hand views. Overwhelmingly, the view was that explaining issues such as emissions trading, energy efficiency and climate change, are enormously complex. Frankly, they are beyond the realm of most journalists covering the environment, unless they come from a scientific or economic background and as well, have expertise in the environmental field. The working journalists called for more capacity building and incentives, such as awards, diplomas and the like, to further develop journalistic expertise.

Conclusion: While the Asia/Pacific region includes a multitude of organizations devoted to the environment, including many journalistic groups, the size of the environmental issues facing Asia-Pacific countries demands much more attention paid to raising the ability of journalists to meet this challenge. A more holistic approach, or initiative fusing together the diverse interests of the many groups, may be worth considering. However, this issue requires much more debate. We hope that the information in this study will serve as a good starting point.

Alastair Carthew, Phuket, Thailand for Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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2 Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development. *Communicating Sustainable Development: Mass Media and Sustainability*; Information needs seen among journalists. Joachim Borner, College for Management and Design of Sustainable Develop, Berlin-Santiago.

3 Reporters Without Borders. *The dangers for journalists who expose environmental issues*. September, 2009.

4 *Tiempo: Ethics for environmental journalists*. Jim Detjen, Professor at the Knight Centre for Environmental Journalism, Michigan, USA

# CHAPTER 1 OVERVIEW - ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA

Flooding in Thailand and Cambodia in autumn 2011, and an unusually hard monsoon season marked by typhoons in the Philippines in summer 2011, are just two examples that many experts link to the consequences of climate change. This chapter introduces the reader to scientific facts and background information on environmental factors threatening the Asia-Pacific region, and gives a small outlook on future developments in a region that constitutes 61% of the world's population.<sup>5</sup>

The chapter itself does not claim to be "scientific" since this study is not specifically geared towards experts on climate change or environmental issues, but rather towards interested journalists and media representatives. Although not in detail, it appeared necessary to provide at least a brief overview with some links to further expert information.

## 1.1 Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions

The emission of greenhouse gas has been growing since 1990, especially in East and North-East Asia.<sup>6</sup> The emissions in Asia-Pacific have been increasing twice as fast as the global average (5.4% change per annum as compared to 2.8%) with China being the single largest emitter worldwide in 2008, emitting 6.5 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Within the region, Brunei Darussalam is the highest emitter of greenhouse gases at 20 tons per capita of CO<sub>2</sub> followed by Australia. To tackle this trend, some of the large carbon emitting economies in the region want to implement policies and reforms to reduce overall emissions. China, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea and Singapore, have introduced voluntary targets to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or reduce the consumption of fossil fuels.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.2 Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions

N<sub>2</sub>O is produced by agriculture, motor vehicles and other combustive sources. Asia-Pacific contributes 43% of the global N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. SO<sub>2</sub> emissions have increased in Asia-Pacific over the last two decades, although worldwide emissions declined due to restrictions and pollution-control in many developed countries. SO<sub>2</sub> leads to acid rain and is produced from industrial processes like metal refining and paper production as well as the combustion of coal. China contributes 53% of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the region, being one of the biggest coal-burning developing countries. Since 2001, SO<sub>2</sub> emissions have started to rise again in the region and a recent survey from the Clean Air Initiative for the Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center stated that 24% of the surveyed cities exceeded the World Health Organization (WHO) 24-hour standard.<sup>8</sup>

## 1.3 Concentration of particulate matter

PM<sub>10</sub> refers to particulates less than 10 microns in diameter and can therefore embed in the lungs and throat when inhaled leading to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The concentration of particulate matter in Asian-Pacific cities is higher than the global average and thereby remains one of the most pressing issues. Though the concentration declined by 38% from 1990-2006, it was still 3 times higher than the recommended WHO standard in 230 cities between 1993 and 2008. In 2008, the concentration increased to 4.5 times the WHO standard in those cities.

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5 United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision

6 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011 • II – Environment, UN ESCAP. Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/II-Environment/Air-pollution-and-climate-change.pdf>

7 ESCAP, Preview Green Growth, Resources and Resilience, Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific, 2010. Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esd/environment/flagpubs/GGRAP/>

8 Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center (2010). Air Quality in Asia: Status and Trends, 2010 Edition. Pasig City, Philippines

## 1.4 Ozone

Due to global environmental agreements, ozone depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which break down the ozone layer in the stratosphere, have been radically reduced from a regional average of 70 grams per capita in 1995, to 7.8 in 2008. Ground-level ozone, by contrast, is a local pollutant leading to respiratory problems but it is unfortunately insufficiently monitored in many countries, and hence lacks data.

## 1.5 Trans-boundary air pollution

The so-called "haze" is a commonly observed phenomenon in Asia and the Pacific regions. It is often caused by slash-and-burn land clearing for agriculture, e.g. for palm-oil plantations. The haze of 1997 caused a US\$ 9 billion loss, damaging 9 million hectares of land and affected 70 million people.<sup>9</sup> Studies by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) investigate future impacts on the Asia-Pacific economy, as well as environmental effects from the mass of ash, acids, aerosols and other particles, which can affect the weather systems such as rainfall and wind patterns.

## 1.6 Water availability and use<sup>10</sup>

Due to its large population and geographical size, Asia-Pacific has the highest annual water withdrawal of all the world's regions, leading to a pressing issue of water security. Urbanization and increasing water usage in the industrial and domestic sector, and a concurrent decline in the agricultural sector, show a change in the demand pattern for water. But the relative and absolute increase in the population requires higher amounts of produced and/or imported food, which will likely lead to intensive farming practices, and therefore a more than urgent need for improvement in efficient water use.

Urbanization also affects the water quality: Waste water is being discharged untreated into natural water systems in many urbanized areas of Asia-Pacific, or being leached into ambient soil. This impact on water security will grow more and more important, since the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects 2009 predicts that more than half of the area's population will live in towns and cities by 2030.<sup>11</sup>

Climate change is another threat to water security with its influence on fresh water systems and hydrological patterns. Changes in precipitation patterns, like the start of the rainy season and snowmelt, as well as the increased occurrences and intensities of extreme events like rain, floods, droughts and cyclones, are the main causes of water problems worldwide and especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Another consequence of climate change is the rise of the sea level, which increases the salt level in river deltas, thus further decreasing the availability of fresh water.

Although all of these impacts on water can be clearly seen and watched, data related to the availability of water and its use, are scarce. There is an urgent need for more reliable statistics and more frequent, as well as greater, coverage of the topic to improve the water governance through Asia and the Pacific.

The annual average of renewable water resources represents the maximum theoretical amount of water expected in respect of natural conditions, excluding human influence and the effects of climate change. Those water resources are a combination of surface-water, groundwater and soil-moisture factors.

The water availability across Asia-Pacific varies greatly. South-East Asia has more than 150,000 cubic meters per square kilometer, whereas the Pacific sub-region has less than 30,000. However, the Pacific has a higher per capita availability with around 50,000 cubic meters of water annually available per person. The sub-regions of North, North-East, South and South-West Asia have less than 2,500 cubic meters per capita per annum, due to population density.

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9 Development Alternatives, 2003. Sustainable Development Priorities in Southeast Asia- Overview, 2003: page 2

10 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011 • II – Environment, UN ESCAP.  
Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/II-Environment/Water-availability-and-use.pdf>

11 United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects, The 2009 Revision.  
Available at: <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm>

But climate change is showing its first impacts on water availability already with the retreat of glaciers in the Himalayan region, where approximately 15,000 glaciers will likely shrink from an area as big as 500,000 km<sup>2</sup> today to 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> by 2035. These unique water reservoirs support rivers like the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra which are in return the lifeline for the people in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

As said before, the Asia-Pacific region has the highest annual water withdrawal worldwide. Between 60% and 90% of the water withdrawal is used for agriculture in all sub-regions in Asia-Pacific. The annual water withdrawal for agriculture accounts for 84%, industrial use for 10% and domestic purposes for 6% for the whole region.<sup>12</sup> Water use patterns differ extremely, reflecting the different stages of economic development and activity. A balance between the availability and the usage of water must be found in each river basin, to preserve water security. The lack of cooperation in shared river basins and subsequent unrest can threaten the harmony between states and other multilateral cooperation. Shared water management in the region is therefore essential in preventing conflicts, especially in the basins of the Aral Sea, Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna, Tarim and Mekong - each of which are shared by five to eight nations.

The Asian Development Bank has a specialized sector for water management, with the vision "Water for All", and a Water Financing Program to increase investments and support reforms in rural water, urban water and river basins.<sup>13</sup> Certain steps have been taken, but many more have to follow to secure the water in the region and minimize the water related natural disasters without harming the economy.

### **1.7 Impacts of various rises in sea-level**

Due to global warming, the pole caps and glaciers are melting, causing extremes in the monsoon or rainy seasons and affecting the Asia-Pacific region tremendously. Different national and regional studies have worked on impact scenarios on the region and its nations.<sup>14</sup>

There is, however, no certainty to the extent of future sea level rise. Predictions range from a minimum rise of 38 cm (1.25 feet) by 2099<sup>15</sup> to 1 – 3 meters (3 - 10 feet). According to the most pessimistic scenarios, greenhouse gas emissions and ice shelf melting will cause a rise of up to five meters (15 feet) by the end of the century.

According to the World Bank, a sea level rise of one meter would force about 60 million people in developing countries to abandon their homes. In Vietnam, nearly 11 percent of the population would be affected, mainly in the Mekong and Red River Deltas, because a rising sea level would increase the salt content of the river water, and threaten the livelihoods of millions of local farmers and fishermen.

Nearly half of Vietnam's rice production is harvested in the Mekong Delta region. Rising sea levels would therefore not only cause mass migration within the country but also affect the food supply in Vietnam and beyond.

The small island states of the Pacific region are likely to be among the most affected by climate change. The costs of responding and adapting to coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion and other impacts, are not calculable but predicted to exceed 10% of the GDP of lowland countries within 50 years.

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12 Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), Final Report on the "Paradigm Shift towards Sustainability for Asia and the Pacific", Available at: [http://www.apfed.net/pub/apfed1/final\\_report/pdf/final\\_report.pdf](http://www.apfed.net/pub/apfed1/final_report/pdf/final_report.pdf)

13 <http://www.adb.org/sectors/water/main>

14 Among others: Preston, B.J., R. Suppiah, I. Macadam, and J. Bathols, 2006. Climate Change in the Asia/Pacific Region. CSIRO, Aspendale, VIC

15 Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, 2001. IPCC Third Assessment Report: Climate Change 2001. Available at: [http://www.grida.no/publications/other/ipcc\\_tar/](http://www.grida.no/publications/other/ipcc_tar/)

## 1.8 Protected areas and forest<sup>16</sup>

Environmental consciousness grew last year as evidenced through the declaration of the International Year of the Forests 2011 and the Decade of Biodiversity 2011-2020 by the United Nations. Forests impact not just on economic activities, but play a major role in reversing climate change. Without deforestation and forest degradation, greenhouse gas emissions could be decreased by 20%. The carbon stored in the world's forests exceeds the amount of carbon currently in the atmosphere. Another reason to conserve the forests is that they provide habitats for 2/3 of all species on earth and nearly 80% of all terrestrial biodiversity.

The forest areas in Asia-Pacific cover approximately the same land area as the Russian Federation (15.9 million square kilometers). In Asia-Pacific, around 31% percent of the total land area is covered by forests, just the same as the global proportion.

Over the last 20 years, South-East Asia has lost 13% of its forests contributing to the global deforestation rate of 3.0% as a main factor. The net loss of forests in South-East Asia is roughly the size of Vietnam (332,000 square kilometers) with Indonesia as the first rank contributor with a net loss of 241,000 square kilometers. The ongoing deforestation can be explained by the growing need for timber for increased livelihood and land for agricultural and industrial use.<sup>17</sup>

Although the forest has declined in South-East Asia, the overall average for Asia and the Pacific has stayed the same, primarily due to afforestation programs in China. Since 1990, the forested area in China has increased by 5.4% which equals a land area the size of Thailand.

The key indicator for a healthy ecosystem is the proportion of primary forests within the whole forest region. A primary forest is rich in biodiversity and provides many specific benefits for local and rural communities. In Asia and the Pacific, total forest cover is increasing but the proportion of primary forest area is declining. The world average of primary forests is 34%, whereas in Asia-Pacific it is 25%. The largest stocks are in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, China and Thailand. Though the total forest area may not be declining or expanding, the loss of primary forest poses a threat to the local ecosystem. In 2010, Cambodia's and Vietnam's primary coverage fell under 4%, and 1% of total forest area. Papua New Guinea and Mongolia have experienced losses of more than 10% in the last two decades.

Other protected areas include forests, swamps, plains and desert areas. The share of protected areas in Asia and the Pacific is one of the lowest in the world with around 10% - i.e. identical to the percentage for Africa and two percentage points below the worldwide average. The protection of marine areas increased rapidly between 1990 and 2009, from 2.0% to 5.0%, and remains correlated to the level of income of the respective country; richer countries generally achieve a higher proportion. With an increase in the protected terrestrial areas to 17% and coastal marine areas to 10%, the targets set by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2010, are much higher than that achieved in recent years.

## 1.9 Biodiversity

Nearly one-third of all threatened species in the world come from the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>18</sup> From 2008 to 2010, two-thirds of countries in the region experienced an increase in the number of threatened species, with India at the top having 99 species added to the threatened species list.

South-East Asia is a primary terrestrial and marine biodiversity "hotspot". While only covering 6.0% of the earth's surface, South-East Asia embraces 18% of all species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and one-third of the world's coral reefs. The decrease of biodiversity

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16 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011.II – Environment, UN ESCAP. Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/II-Environment/Biodiversity-protected-area-and-forests.pdf>

17 For more information: Food And Agricultural Organization Of The United Nations, State of the World Forests 2011. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2000e/i2000e00.htm>

18 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, annexed to Decision X/2 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, issued 29 October 2010. Available at: <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

has reached an alarming rate affecting ecosystems such as forests, agro-ecosystems, peat-lands, freshwater systems, mangroves, coral reefs and sea-grass.<sup>19</sup>

The Asia-Pacific region has a very high marine biodiversity since it contains almost half of the world's coral reefs. On the other hand, the region produces more than 40% of the world's total fish catch. Degradation due to pollution, over-fishing, destructive fishing, sediment discharge and unsustainable tourism, not only affects the environment but has economic effects. The coral reefs of South-East Asia alone, are estimated to generate goods and services of US\$112.5 billion annually.

Global warming and climate change also threaten marine biodiversity. Warming waters have an impact on the survival rates of low thermal-tolerant species such as corals, triggering declining survival rates in the ecosystem.<sup>20</sup>

### 1.10 Coastal ecosystems

Coastal ecosystems occupy only 5% of the global land area but are among the most productive regions in the world. Economically, nations benefit from coastal locations, e.g. many of the largest cities on earth (like New York, Hong Kong or Mumbai) are located at coastal sites or river deltas. The tourism industry benefits from coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, too. Despite their value to people, coastal ecosystems are disappearing at a rate of 1.2% to 9% a year globally, i.e. four to ten times faster than the degradation of tropical rainforests. Causes are, among others, unsustainable city planning and development, and increased discharges of waste directly into water systems.

It is especially important to save the Asia-Pacific region's coastal ecosystems, such as beaches, mudflats, marshes, mangrove forests, sea grass beds and coral reefs because of their biodiversity and habitat functions. An estimated 47% of the world's coral reefs, 37% of mangrove areas, 72% of sea grass areas, more than half of the global fishery production and 80% of the global aquaculture production, can be found in the region. But these ecosystems are being threatened by unsustainable development and insufficient law enforcement of nature preservation laws.

In South-East Asia, 40% of the 91,700 km<sup>2</sup> of coral reef areas are effectively lost, 20% are at a critical stage, 25% are at a threatened stage and only 15% are at a low threat level. The global mangrove area has lost 20% (equal to 36,000 km<sup>2</sup>) since 1980, with the greatest losses of between 14% in Thailand and over 70% in Singapore.

### 1.11 Natural disasters<sup>21</sup>

The Asia-Pacific region is vulnerable to many kinds of disasters, like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, drought, storm surges and tsunamis. Global warming and its associated changes in climate and sea level will have more and more negative impacts on the region. Higher evaporation rates, for example, lead to more extreme weather events, which can be followed by disasters.

According to the statistics of the International Disaster Database, natural disasters have always affected the Asia-Pacific region the hardest.<sup>22</sup> During the last decade only, on average, more than 200 million people were affected annually and more than 70,000 people killed by natural disasters. That is 90% and 65% respectively, of the world totals. The economic damages were proportionately smaller at 38% of the world total, though it exceeds the world average. In 2008 alone, more than half of the 220 major natural disasters took place in Asia-Pacific, affecting more than 55 million people, resulting in 7,000 deaths and US\$15 billion in damages.<sup>23</sup>

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19 UNEP, Statistics Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Available at: <http://www.unep.org/DEC/PDF/regional%20brief%20for%20Asia%20and%20Pacific.pdf>

20 State of the Environment Report for East Asian Seas 2009 – UNEP Regional Seas. Available at: <http://www.unep.org/pdf/StateMarineEnvEastAsia2009.pdf>

21 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011 • II – Environment, UN ESCAP. Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/II-Environment/Natural-disasters.pdf>

22 For more information: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database – <http://www.emdat.be/>, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

23 UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific, <http://www.unep.org/roap/Activities/DisastersandConflicts/tabid/6056/Default.aspx>

Due to increasing urbanization, migration patterns and population growth, people occupy high-risk areas in greater numbers than ever, increasing the vulnerability to disaster impacts all over Asia and the Pacific. Though disasters do not distinguish between income levels, they mainly affect the low-income countries in Asia-Pacific. One person in every 1,000 was affected by natural disasters and one in one million died from 2001-2010, in high-income countries, whereas in low-income countries nearly 30 in 1,000 were affected and 52 in one million were killed. 94 percent of all those affected by natural disasters from 2001 to 2010 in Asia-Pacific, come from East and North-East Asia, and South and South-West Asia.

In South-East Asia many more people died as a result of natural disasters than during the previous decade because of two main events: the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004 and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008. The number of those affected by natural disasters was highest in East and North-East Asia with 86 out of 1,000.

The number and severity of disasters varies from year to year. Annual data reveals that 500,000 people were affected by natural disasters in 2010 while in 2009 there were only 9,000; the average for 2001-2010 was 200,000 per year.

The most recent disaster in the Asia-Pacific region was the 2011 earthquake in Japan that was followed by a tsunami. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake was the strongest ever to have hit Japan and the fourth strongest recorded in the world. Costs after the earthquake and tsunami were estimated to range between US\$198 and US\$309 billion.<sup>24</sup> The combined death toll and number of missing exceeded 25,000 in June 2011.

The year 2010 was also extremely bad. Floods in Pakistan claimed 2,100 lives and affected over 18 million people. The floods contributed to economic damage and losses of US\$7.4 billion. Earthquakes, storms, floods, landslides and other disasters in China killed over 7,000 in total and affected 145 million people.

In 2009, Australian wildfires swept through parts of the country and an earthquake of magnitude 8.1 hit Samoa, followed by a tsunami that severely affected the Pacific sub-region.

## 1.12 Food supply

On average around 21% of the Asia-Pacific region's population goes hungry. After the sudden rise of food prices in 2007, the number of people affected rose from 542 million to 582 million. The hardest hit region has been South and South-West Asia where 21% of the population is undernourished. The most acute problems are in Afghanistan where one-third of the population is undernourished, but the level is also very high in other countries that have between 20 and 34 percent affected: Tajikistan, North Korea, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Armenia, Sri Lanka, India and the Solomon Islands, listed in descending order. Many children are affected and again the most acute problems are to be found in South and South-West Asia. Bangladesh is leading with 47% of its children undernourished followed by India with 46%. This leads to, on average, 1.9 million deaths of children under the age of five throughout Asia and the Pacific, due to malnutrition, poor hygiene and lack of access to safe water.<sup>25</sup>

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24 Government of Japan. Economic Impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Current Status of Recovery. Available at: [http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/incident/pdf/20110811\\_Economic\\_Impact.pdf](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/incident/pdf/20110811_Economic_Impact.pdf)

25 For more information: Sustainable agriculture and food security in Asia and the Pacific, UN ESCAP. Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/65/documents/Theme-Study/st-escap-2535.pdf>

## CHAPTER 2 RELEVANT MEDIA NGOS AND JOURNALISM INSTITUTIONS

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17), to try and reach global consensus and to build a structure to combat climate change, was held in Durban, South Africa in late November-early December, 2011. Around 40,000 delegates attended. The number of media from around the world was not known, but it would have counted into the thousands. The question is: How many specialist environmental journalists from Asia-Pacific would have been sent to COP 17 by their organizations? If the evidence from this study is any indication, it would have been very few.

Yet Asia, in particular, is facing increasing environmental issues resulting from rapid economic and population growth. The results of this growth lead to six major environmental problems facing the region: urban excess, deforestation/densification (witness the devastating floods in Thailand, caused partly by rampant deforestation), over-fishing, global warming, air pollution and increased pressure on water supplies.

All of these pressing problems demand more coverage. The trouble is, there are hundreds of stories waiting to be told, but not enough reporters with the skills, the motivation from their employers and, in some cases, the courage, to take on the task.

However, as this chapter outlines, there is a platform from which a greater degree of environmental journalism can be developed. There are numerous journalist organizations and institutions covering the environment, NGOs which work with journalists in a sometimes uneasy relationship, many awards, scholarships, fellowships and other opportunities for higher education and advancement.

But most of the journalist organizations are voluntary and often require a member fee, something lowly paid journalists in many countries cannot afford. Moreover, journalists from some countries, such as Bangladesh, the Philippines and Nepal, for example, report that the journalist organizations are not very active in organizing seminars, workshops and the like to further advance journalists' abilities to report on environmental matters.

Furthermore, many of the awards, fellowships and scholarships are not based in Asia-Pacific. Most are offered by American academic and educational institutions, thus making applications (with language, distance, cultural and economic barriers) by Asian environmental journalists difficult.

Despite Asian countries' easy and early adoption of social media, we discovered very few blogs and Internet sites devoted to environmental journalism. Those that do, tend to focus on the difficulties that journalists face in Asia from threats and intimidation by authorities or businessmen afraid of reports about issues such as illegal logging. These difficulties remain rife in some countries where intimidation of journalists is a reality.

So while Asia-Pacific has its fair share of organizations focusing on environmental journalism, as this chapter confirms, the region faces enormous problems. With the lack of money amongst many new organizations, the slow adoption of the Internet as a means of conveying environmental messages and a general lack of co-ordination amongst environmental institutions, an urgent need remains for more over-arching pan-Asia-Pacific platforms to ensure that the environmental issues referred to in the previous chapter do not overwhelm us all.

This chapter introduces different journalistic and other institutions, including NGOs, which work alongside the media on a national, regional and international level, in supporting environmental journalism in various forms. The section includes useful information on the institutions, networks and clubs available in the region devoted to environmental journalism.

## 2.1 on a national level

The **Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB)** was founded on August 10, 1983. The initiative came from journalists who attended a training course organized by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) on "Environmental Reporting".

The FEJB organizes workshops and seminars to improve the quality of environmental journalism in Bangladesh. The objectives of the Forum are to monitor environmental changes and trends as well as to inform the public about national environmental issues.<sup>26</sup> Since the official homepage of the FEJB is offline<sup>27</sup> the only possible Internet-based information is via other homepages. The re-occurring problem is that those entries are mostly around 10 years old and the question arises whether the FEJB either no longer exists or the website is just not being updated.

The **Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists (SIEJ)** is a local network co-operating with Internews and Earth Journalism Network. The society has existed since 2006, after being launched by the Earth Journalism Network in association with Earth Day 2006. The information is only presented in the Indonesian language.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Jalan Palbatu V No 4 Menteng Dalam,  
Tebet, Jakarta Selatan  
Phone : +6221-7037496  
Email : sekretariat@siej.or.id  
Website : <http://www.siej.or.id/>

The **Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)** was founded on June 1, 1986 and has developed continuously ever since. By May 2011, the NGO had 118 members working as journalists for reputed national newspapers. Additionally, NEFEJ has "associated members" working as natural and social scientists or bureaucrats, who are willing to contribute to raising environmental awareness in Nepal.

The Nepalese Forum is divided into four major departments: Radio Sagarmatha, Community Radio Support Center (CRSC), Media Training Center (MTC), and Audio-Visual Department, with Radio Sagarmatha being the first independent community radio in South Asia. The MTC provides training in areas like the print media, television, FM radio and photography as well as online training in different fields.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists,  
P.O.Box: 5143, Thapathali, Kathmandu  
Phone : +977-1-4261991  
Email : [nefej@mos.com.np](mailto:nefej@mos.com.np)  
Website : <http://www.nefej.org/>

The **Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF)** is an online membership-based organization for environmental journalists. Its aim is to educate journalists more thoroughly on environmental issues, and thereby upgrade the public understanding of these issues. By doing so, SLEJF wants to ensure sustainable human development; therefore they offer to organize workshops and training for environmental journalists and try to encourage other journalists to take an interest in green journalism. The SLEJF plays a big part in the environmental sector in Sri Lanka and supports other NGOs with its Web Directory of Environmental NGOs.

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26 [http://www.bdix.net/sdnbd\\_org/world\\_env\\_day/2001/sdnweb/sia/partners\\_profile/fajb/index.htm](http://www.bdix.net/sdnbd_org/world_env_day/2001/sdnweb/sia/partners_profile/fajb/index.htm)

27 <http://www.fejb.org/>

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum,  
PO Box 26, 434/3, Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka  
Phone : +94-11- 5648151  
Fax : +94-11- 5648151  
Email : [ejournalists@gmail.com](mailto:ejournalists@gmail.com)  
Website : <http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/>

The **Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists (PNEJ)** addresses the problem of range of coverage by local media and therefore wants to improve not only the reach, but the quality of local media. PNEJ is being supported by the Earth Journalism Network and was launched on June 5, 2010.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 11-B Jungletown Road, Baguio City, 2600 Philippines  
Phone : +63 -90- 53556977  
Email : [pnej@mail.com](mailto:pnej@mail.com)  
Website : <http://pnej.org/>

The **Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists (VFEJ)** was founded in 1998 and calls itself a socio-professional organization for everyone who works and is interested in environmental journalism and the conservation of the environment. The VFEJ specializes in five branches: the environment, climate crisis, biodiversity, science-technology and health. Unlike other forums for journalists, VFEJ does not offer journalist programs but serves as a platform for environmental news. The uploaded news items are published by local Vietnamese newspapers, as well as international news agencies such as the BBC.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 22/A2, Lane 49, Linh Lang Street, Ba Dinh District,  
Hanoi-Vietnam  
Phone : +84-4-37628933  
Website : <http://www.vfej.vn/>

The **China Forum of Environmental Journalists (CFEJ)** is an NGO consisting of news media institutions such as newspapers and periodicals, TV and broadcast stations, news agencies as well as environmental journalists. It is subordinated to the State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA) and was founded in 1986. The mission of CFEJ is to unite environmental journalists nationwide, to raise awareness for environmental issues, and to promote the implementation of sustainable development policies. Further, it aims to foster the cooperation with other NGOs and environmental journalists in the region, particularly in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. The forum is a member of the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 8K Guoying Apartment, No. 38 Houguangpinghutong,  
Xicheng District, 100035 Beijing, China  
Phone : + 86-6650-3621/3622  
Website : <http://www.cfej.net/> (only in Chinese)

The **Japanese Forum of Environmental Journalists (JFEJ)** was founded in 1991. Its mission is to provide facilities for journalists with interest in environmental issues to conduct research and exchange information, and also to offer a point of contact between journalists and environmentalists, both Japanese and foreign.

One of the main activities of the JFEJ is to hold a seminar once a month with a guest speaker to approach environmental issues from various aspects.

The JFEJ joined the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (see below) in 1994.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Global Environmental Forum, Narita Bldg., 3rd floor,  
3-43-16 Hongo, Bukyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033 JAPAN  
Phone : +81-3-3592-9735  
Fax : +81-3-3592-9737  
Website : <http://www.jfej.org/> (only in Japanese)

## 2.2 on a regional level

The **Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ)** was founded in 1988 with the aim of promoting education, understanding and awareness of environmental issues through to accurate reporting on local, regional and international environmental topics. APFEJ is the head of the national environmental journalists' forums and other media-related organizations in 42 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

With over 12,000 members, including journalists from every media branch, NGOs, environmental groups, government agencies, scientific authors and freelancers in 150 countries, APFEJ is not just the oldest, but the largest organization of professional environmental journalists.

Supporting journalism in the Asia-Pacific region to build strong, committed and independent coverage of environmental issues, with networking and training, is the main goal of the forum. To reach their goal, APFEJ wants to motivate and assist national forums, as well as related bodies, to form a strong network that properly promotes pressing environmental issues.

In order to raise public awareness, APFEJ provides journalists with information and resources to encourage them to write about environmental issues in the first place. Through a proper education on environmental reporting, their professionalism, as well as their credibility, should be enhanced hence bringing those issues into the mainstream media.

By publishing a handbook for environmental journalists and offering specialized regional training workshops on environmental reporting, as well as the publication of newsletters and organizing exchange programs for journalists, APFEJ wants to improve today's reporting. Annual awards like the Best Environmental Journalist Award and the Eco-Tourism Award, as well as study tours, help make the work of APFEJ public.

APFEJ's work is supported by: associations with media groups like the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA), the World Press Photo Foundation and the Commonwealth Press Union; cooperations with environmental groups like Greenpeace, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Friends of the Earth; United Nations agencies such as UNEP, ESCAP and UNESCO. Currently, the APFEJ does not have any website or contact details.

## 2.3 on the international level

The **Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA)** is a non-profit educational organization founded in 1981 by a few Asian-American and Pacific Islander journalists, who felt the need for more support and encouragement for journalists with Asian-American and Pacific backgrounds, in the United States media landscape. Apart from the large American membership base, AAJA has a growing number of members throughout Asia, e.g. in Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangladesh. Around one-third of the members are students, attesting to the organization's focus on the education of young people and preparation for the news business.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : AAJA National Office, 5 Third Street, Suite 1108,  
San Francisco, California 94103  
Phone : +1-415-346-2051  
Fax : +1-415-346-6343  
Email : national@aja.org  
Website : <http://www.aja.org/>

Developed by Internews and Internews Europe, the **Earth Journalism Network (EJN)** aims to empower and enable environmental journalists from developing countries to address environmental issues more effectively, as well as build networks in countries where they did not exist before. Internews also supports already established organizations by offering workshops and information material, and helping with publication and distribution. It also disperses small grants.

In the years from 2006 to 2010, EJN trained over 1,500 journalists either working in print media, radio, TV or online. A few of them won national and international awards for their environmental media coverage, including journalists from China, Vietnam, India and Pakistan. To reward environmental journalism further, EJN launched its own Earth Journalism Award Program.

By partnering with other non-profit organizations, the EJN supports third-world journalists in participating in crucial events, e.g. big conferences or summits on climate change, biodiversity and water. The journalists benefit from capacity building activities and are given report opportunities.

Strategic partners are the Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists (SIEJ), the Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists (VFEJ), the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

In an alliance with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and IUCN, the Environmental Journalism Network launched the Biodiversity Media Association (BMA) in 2010. This platform provides resources to help journalists reporting on topics related to biodiversity and was established to build a bridge between experts and journalists.<sup>28</sup>

Another important partnership, especially for the Asian region, is between China Dialogue and EJN. The Third Pole Partnership (3PP) was created to improve media coverage of the melting glaciers in the Himalayas due to climate change and the potential consequences for Asia.<sup>29</sup>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact is only possible via the Internet platform:  
<http://earthjournalism.net/contact>

The **International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ)** was founded in 1993 by French and German environmental journalists. It started with journalists from 28 countries. Today, members, correspondents and/or member associations are listed in more than 117 countries around the world, building a network of 7,500 journalists. The overall goal of IFEJ is to improve the public understanding of environmental issues and a sustainable way of life. Therefore, environmental journalists are being supported through networking, training and the promotion of free access to information. Existing national environmental journalism groups and local journalists focusing on this topic, are contacted and involved in activities of the IFEJ.

Journalists living in countries without specific organizations or programs receive support and assistance for establishing those, and in cases of censorship, harassment and imprisonment, the IFEJ offers aid.

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28 <http://biodiversitymedia.ning.com/>

29 <http://www.chinadialogue.net/debate/show/9-the-third-pole>

By partnering with other institutions and organizations, the IFEJ broadens its offers for workshops, training seminars and publication aid to fulfill its overall mission. Together with Conservation International and the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), the IFEJ has started an annual environmental journalism award, the Biodiversity Reporting Award (BDRA).

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Center for Environmental Communication School of Mass Communication,  
Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-6195, USA  
Phone : +1-504-865-2333  
Email : rathomas@loyno.edu (Dr. Robert A. Thomas)  
Website : <http://www.ifej.org/>

**Internews** is a media development organization based in California, United States. Its mission is to empower local media which can thereby benefit from evolving freedom of the press, freedom of speech and human rights in general. Internews' activities are based on four main values: the power of information, journalistic integrity, innovation and persistence. The power of information branch stands for the belief in local and independent news and its impact on lives and communities.

Journalistic integrity means that Internews advocates the importance of quality, local, independent media and the right to access information, but does not take a position on other policy issues and rejects funding which would compromise its independence. Innovation stands for the application of new technologies due to different and difficult environments world-wide, and persistence recognizes that social progress and development involves long-term commitment, flexibility and permanent encouragement of partners and programs.

To achieve the improvement of reach, quality and sustainability of local media, Internews uses four different tools. The first tool is training. Internews trains between 8,000-10,000 people per year in areas such as journalism, production and management. For advanced media professions, courses in computer graphics, media law and investigative journalism are offered. The second tool is production and is used to support local media professionals to produce high-quality programming. The third tool is media infrastructure, where Internews provides infrastructure, support including production equipment, creating production studios and building radio stations. The fourth and last tool is media law and policy which aims for the implementation of fair media laws and policies, as well as open and accessible Internet and telecommunication policies.

To ensure that important branches are being included in local reporting, Internews established special global programs in health journalism, environmental journalism, humanitarian media, information and communications technology, as well as governance and transparency.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION IN ASIA

Address : INTERNEWS AFGHANISTAN - Kabul, Afghanistan  
Email : [info@internews.af](mailto:info@internews.af)  
Website : <http://www.internews.org/where-we-work/asia/afghanistan>

Address : INTERNEWS NETWORK CHINA - Beijing, China 100007  
Phone : +86 10 8599 9808  
Fax : +86 10 8599 9671  
Mobile : +86-131-2284-3857  
Email : [infochina@internews.org](mailto:infochina@internews.org)  
Website : <http://www.internews.org/where-we-work/asia/china>

Address : INTERNEWS NETWORK INDIA - Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 034 India  
Phone : +91 44 64548484  
Mobile : +6454 6464

Address : PJTV (TV TRAINING CENTRE)- Raya, Depok, West Java, 16424 Indonesia  
Phone : +62 21-920-5551  
FAX : +62 21-923-0899

Address : INDONESIA MEDIA LAW AND POLICY CENTRE - Jakarta 10310, Indonesia  
Phone : +62 21 3983-8743  
Fax : +62 21 3983-8744

Address : INTERNEWS PAKISTAN - Islamabad-44000, Pakistan  
Phone : +92-51-2611633  
Fax : +92-51-2611635  
Website : <http://www.internews.org/where-we-work/asia/pakistan>

Address : INTERNEWS SRI LANKA - Nawala, Sri Lanka  
Phone : +94-11-4943680, +94-11-4883583  
Fax : +94-11-2805781

Address : INTERNEWS THAILAND - Bangkok 10330, Thailand  
Phone : +66 2 652 0642, +66 2 250 4575, +66 2 250 4576  
Fax : +66 2 652 0643

Address : INTERNEWS TIMOR LESTE (EAST TIMOR)- Colmera, Dili, Timor Leste P.O. Box 155  
Phone : +670 3 324 475  
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Email : [Francisco@Internews.tl](mailto:Francisco@Internews.tl)

Address : INTERNEWS VIETNAM (GIPI) - Hanoi 10000, Vietnam  
Phone : +84 (4) 756-4907  
Fax : +84 (4) 756-1888

The **Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA)** unites environmental journalists from the British Commonwealth, offering a chance to share information, problems and solutions. There are now 19 member countries representing over 100 individual members, as well as media and environmental organizations.

Aims and objectives are determined in CEJA's constitution. These include organizing dialogues with decision-makers in the media to emphasize the importance of environmental journalism, encouraging the exchange of ideas and information between members and creating a network for journalists in the commonwealth.

Seminars and workshops at local, regional and international level, as well as study tours, are offered. To reinforce their mission, CEJA is co-operating with government organizations, NGOs and United Nations agencies, hence providing the public and journalists with valid information and resources.

CEJA does not have its own website, but is introduced by the Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Only information on CEJA can be found on this website:  
[http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/about\\_ceja\\_.html](http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/about_ceja_.html)

The **Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ)** is a North-American membership association of professional journalists. Today, the SEJ includes more than 1,500 journalists and academics working in every type of media in the United States, Canada, Mexico and 27 other countries. Strengthening the quality, reach and viability of environmental journalism across all media is SEJ's main mission. Therefore the SEJ offers educational programs and services for working journalists, educators and students including different conferences, mentoring programs and website-based resources.

Making sure that the value of environmental news reporting is recognized, SEJ acts to raise awareness among key decision-makers in the media. The objectives of all of SEJ's programs are, firstly, building a close network for environmental journalists and editors; secondly stimulating a broader and more detailed coverage of important environmental issues; thirdly, encouraging the expansion of environmental reporting positions within broadcast, print media and the internet; fourthly, increasing the information resources as well as the number of educational events, and fifthly, fostering the creation of important new information resources and training opportunities.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : P.O. Box 2492 Jenkintown, PA 19046, USA  
Phone : +1-215-884-8174  
Fax : +1-215-884-8175  
Email : [sej@sej.org](mailto:sej@sej.org)  
Website : <http://www.sej.org/>

**Chinadialogue.net** is an independent, non-profit organization based in London, Beijing and San Francisco. It was founded in 2006 and is funded by a range of institutional supporters, including several major charitable foundations. It focuses on the environment, especially in China, although it has an interest in environment and sustainability issues around the world.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Website : <http://www.chinadialogue.net/>  
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##### **London office:**

Address : chinadialogue, Suite 306 Grayston Centre,  
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Phone : +44-20-7324-4767

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Room 3-717, Core Plaza, 1 Shanyuan Street,  
Haidian District, Beijing, China, 100080  
Phone : +86-10-6241-6774

##### **San Francisco office:**

Address : USF Center for the Pacific Rim, 2130 Fulton St,  
LM 280, San Francisco, CA 94117-1080  
Phone : +1-415-422-2754  
Email : [usoffice@chinadialogue.net](mailto:usoffice@chinadialogue.net)

## CHAPTER 3 RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOURCES

This chapter introduces various organizations concerned with the environment, climate change, food, energy, water and commodities, which are not, or at least not directly, related to journalism and media.

### 3.1 on a national level

#### 3.1.1 Bangladesh

Apart from the FEJB, there are other local groups in Bangladesh working towards a better understanding of the environment. The **Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA)** emerged out of a local grouping in Dhaka in 2000, following the International Conference on Bangladesh Environment (ICBEN). The formation of a unified platform for pro-environmental groups was suggested and therefore the BAPA was formed as an organization of volunteers.

The BAPA mainly deals with local problems all over Bangladesh, e.g. "Stop killing people by chemical flames and destroying wealth. Remove all the shops and warehouses housing chemicals from residential areas". In co-ordination with other local groups, it organizes exchange meetings on national topics such as the "Importance of Rail and Water Transport and Action Plans for Betterment." Further, BAPA's aim is to build a nationwide civic movement for the environment to stop further environmental degradation and to reverse the damage that has been done already if possible.

To reach these goals, committees focus on different environmental issues, offer seminars, organize conferences and work on publications. By connecting local, national, regional and international groups and organizations, different topics can be tackled for a better environment in Bangladesh and worldwide.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 9/12, Block-D, Lalmatia Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh  
Phone : +880-2-8128024, +880-2-8113469  
Email : bapa2000@gmail.com, info@bapa.org.bd  
Website : <http://www.bapa.org.bd/>

#### 3.1.2 Bhutan

The **Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)** is the only green NGO in Bhutan. RSPN works on environmental education, conservation and research-based five year strategic plans. By organizing waste cleanups and management campaigns and networking with relevant national, regional and international agencies or other NGOs, RSPN wants to increase public involvement in environmental issues.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : P.O. Box: 325, Lhado Lam, Thimphu 11001, Bhutan  
Phone : 00975 2 322 056 / 2 326 130  
Fax : 00975 2 323 189  
Email : [rspn@rspnbhutan.org](mailto:rspn@rspnbhutan.org)  
Website : <http://www.rspnbhutan.org/>

#### 3.1.3 Cambodia

The **Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)** is a local Cambodian NGO with the aim of conserving the environmental and cultural heritage of the north-eastern part of the country. Starting work in 1995, CEPA first specialized in training young activists in nature resource management, but now includes several other sectors such as advocacy on environmental rights and community-based forest management and research. CEPA especially focuses on young students interested in the preservation of the culture of indigenous people and the protection of the local environment.

The three main activities of CEPA are, firstly, the improvement of livelihoods, thereby promoting equal rights for men and women; secondly, proper natural resource management for everybody, and, thirdly, to foster communication between members to improve social, economic and environmental understanding.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address 1 : Phnom Penh Office, N° 51F Street 210 Sangkat Toek Laok 3, Khan Toul Kork, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (P.O Box: 1486, CCC Box: 357)

Phone : +855-23881-613

Email : [cepa@cepa-cambodia.org](mailto:cepa@cepa-cambodia.org)

Website : <http://www.cepa-cambodia.org/>

Address 2 : Stung Treng Office, Phum Kandal, Stung Treng District, Stung Treng Province

Phone : +855-74973-858, +855-12841-708

Email : [cepa@cepa-cambodia.org](mailto:cepa@cepa-cambodia.org)

Address 3 : Ratanak Kiri Office, Phum 7, La Ban Seak Commune, Ban Lung District, Ratanak Kiri Province

Phone : +855-12793-489, +855-92262-767

Email : [cepa@cepa-cambodia.org](mailto:cepa@cepa-cambodia.org)

The **Farmer Livelihood Development (FLD)** aims to provide food security in the rural areas of Cambodia. The NGO was established to alleviate poverty in rural areas, where 80% of the population depends on agricultural production. Improving the productivity in communities and thereby promoting and creating jobs as well as improving Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) are FLD's main areas of responsibility. These sectors will improve food security, create better livelihoods and improve health throughout Cambodian communities.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : #1B, Street 323, Sangkat Boeung Kok II, Khan Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh (P.O. Box: 1439, C/- CCC Box: 474)

Phone : +855-23998-442

Email : [adminfld@ezecom.com.kh](mailto:adminfld@ezecom.com.kh)

Website : <http://www.fldcambodia.org/>

The **Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)** is a coalition of local and international NGOs focusing on environmental issues around the Tonle Sap Lake, particularly monitoring the fisheries sector. Working in Cambodia's upper and lower Mekong regions and the coastal provinces, FACT supports communities to build local organizations and networks so that they can advocate for themselves on issues that affect them. Presently, FACT is implementing four programs concerning human rights, sustainable livelihoods, education and awareness raising.

Apart from this, FACT also gathers information on fisheries issues, analyses and redistributes them to government agencies, donors and other NGOs and acts as a mediator in fishery issues and conflicts. Currently, FACT is in coalition with 12 NGOs as core members working in the Tonle Sap area and a network of 36 NGOs in Battambang, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and in coastal regions.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : #215, Street 150. Sangkat Toek Loak II Khan Kork, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Phone : +855-23992-044

Website : <http://www.fact.org.kh/>

Email : [savath@fact.org.kh](mailto:savath@fact.org.kh)

### 3.1.4 China

According to an article by the Council on Foreign Affairs, a United States-based independent, non-partisan membership organization, there were approximately 2000 environmental NGOs registered in China in 2005. The two main pioneering environmental NGOs in China are Friends of Nature and Global Village Beijing.<sup>30</sup>

Generally, the Chinese Government has adopted a positive attitude towards green NGOs as they have supported government efforts to effectively protect the environment. **China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA)**<sup>31</sup> has emerged as a major supporter of the bigger NGOs and works with them in public and behind the scenes. Smaller NGOs, however, have more problems as Chinese authorities are more wary<sup>32</sup> of them.

The oldest environmental NGO in China is **Friends of Nature (FON)** founded in 1993. FON particularly focuses on the protection of endangered species and education through field trips, and works on awareness-raising through photographic exhibitions and publications. Co-operating with scientists, environmental activists and teachers, FON publishes a newsletter bi-monthly in Chinese and translates the most important articles into English, quarterly. Close connections to environmental journalists throughout China help to expand public awareness by the media and to realize FON's aim to educate and teach.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 4th Floor, Building 5, Qingnianhu Xili, Dongcheng District, 100011, Beijing  
Phone : +86-65232-040 / +86-65120-929 / +86-6512-0827  
Email : office@fonchina.org  
Website : <http://www.fon.org.cn/>

Founded in 1996 as one of the first NGOs in China, **Global Village of Beijing (GVB)** is a non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education and civil society strengthening. GVB's environmental campaigns focus on the promotion of sustainable development and a green lifestyle. Amongst others, its main projects include the production of television programs about environmental issues, organizing media workshops and journalist forums, developing green communities and hosting public activities on sustainable development and consumption.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Only information on GVB can be found on this website:  
<http://www.gvbchina.org/>

Another local NGO in China is the **Green Camel Bell (GCB)**, working in Gansu Province to protect and restore the ecological environment in west China. GCB carries out public education on environmental issues as well as programs in the Gansu area, such as the current projects protecting water resources, grass land protection and green travel. Support by Pacific Environment and the World Bank helps the GCB to realize their goals to protect the west China environment.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Room 102, Unit 4, 17th Building, MingRen HuaYuan, Qilihe District, Lanzhou, Gansu Prov, China (Post Code: 730050)  
Phone : +86-931-2650202  
Email : greencamelbell@gmail.com  
Website : <http://www.gcbcn.org>

30 <http://china.org.cn/english/2002/Jul/36833.htm>

31 <http://www.sepa.gov.cn/>

32 <http://www.cfr.org/china/chinas-environmental-movement/p7770>

The **National Climate Centre (NCC)** was founded in 1995 and is directly affiliated with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). It is also called the **Beijing Climate Centre**. After its reconstruction in 2004, the NCC's responsibilities were further specified and it is now composed of four functional divisions: the Administrative Office, the Division of Science and Technology and Operations, the Division of Human Resources and Education and the Office of the Chinese Communist Party Committee.

The first task of the NCC is to publish monthly, seasonal, annual and even long-term climate analysis, diagnosis and predictions. With the accumulated data, NCC works on evaluations and impact assessments delivering services to decision-makers, the State Council and other government agencies. Its second task is to establish operational systems for monthly, seasonal and inter-annual climate predictions as well as developing and improving climate models to enhance climate predictability. NCC's third task is to monitor and forecast ecological and environmental assessment, exploitation, utilization and the protection of climate resources. The fourth task is to research on interaction between climate and other earth systems and deliver basic meteorological products for decision-making. Overall research on climate change, as well as responding to strategies and providing technical support to participate in IUCC and UNFCCC activities are included in the fifth task. The sixth task is to control and verify climate data as well as different analysis, applications, environmental data and other related information. The last task is to provide technical support and guidance throughout the nation on short-term operations, climate services and research and the upgrading of operational systems, their development and the wider application of new technologies.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Beijing Climate Center, China Meteorological Administration,  
No.46 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian, Beijing 100081, China  
Phone : +8610-68400096  
Fax : +8610-62176804  
Email : bcc@cma.gov.cn  
Website : <http://bcc.cma.gov.cn/en/>

### 3.1.5 Fiji

**Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti** is Fiji's sole local conservation organization. It is the working arm of the Fiji Nature Conservation Trust and is aimed at enhancing biodiversity on the islands as well as raising awareness about endangered species and sustainable resource use. Before Nature Fiji came into existence, only international environmental NGOs worked on the Fiji Islands. As a result, some local problems could not be properly targeted. So this local NGO has stepped in to preserve the mainly endemic wildlife by building protection areas and education, e.g. with eco-tourism which is seen as a chance to raise appreciation of the local environment.<sup>33</sup>

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 14 Hamilton-Beattie Street, Suva, Fiji Islands  
Phone : +679-310-0598  
Email : [support@naturefiji.org](mailto:support@naturefiji.org)  
Website : <http://www.naturefiji.org/>

The **National Trust of Fiji (NTF)** is a statutory body funded by the Fiji Government, independent donors and multilateral projects. NTF was established in 1970 to protect the local natural, cultural and national heritage. Since over 50% of local plants and birds, and over 90% of some insect groups are endemic to the Fiji Islands, NTF sees its first responsibility as protecting the natural heritage and wanting to conserve the environment through education and awareness raising.

The National Trust stresses the importance of Fiji's forests which cover roughly half of the 3.6 million acre land mass. Most of those forests are strictly managed for their watershed protection, but some

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33 <http://www.naturefiji.org/newsstory.php?id=6>

have commercial purposes. The NTF's projects involve a wide range of different approaches like heritage conservation, biodiversity conservation, people-focused and cultural sensitive surveys and strategic partnerships with other organizations and communities.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : National Trust of Fiji Islands, 3 Ma'afu Street, P.O. Box 2089, Suva, Fiji Islands  
Phone : +679-3314593 / 3301807  
Fax : +679-3305092  
Email : info@nationaltrust.org.fj  
Website : <http://www.nationaltrust.org.fj/>

### 3.1.6 Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, a local charitable organization called **Friends of the Earth (FOE)** aims to protect the environment locally and regionally by engaging government agencies, businesses and society. Campaigns focus on environmental problems such as waste minimization, recycling, pollution prevention and sustainable consumption. By publishing annual reports, trends can be identified and improvements can be made public.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Unit 1301-1302, 13/F, Block A, Sea View Estate, No.2 Watson Road, Hong Kong  
Phone : +852-2528-5588  
Fax : +852-2529-2777  
Email : foehk@foe.org.hk  
Website : <http://www.foe.org.hk/>

Promoting environmental journalism is the tool of another charitable institution in Hong Kong. Green Power focuses on local ecological conservation and global environmental issues. **Green Power** offers special tours to teach about local wildlife, especially butterflies and their habitats in the woods of Hong Kong. This institution addresses the thematic of global warming and identifies the immediate need to decrease carbon emissions per capita drastically, as a major priority.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Rm. 2314, 23/F., Park-In Commercial Centre, 56 Dundas Street, Mongkok, Kln, Hong Kong  
Phone : +852-3961-0200  
Fax : +852-2314-2661  
Email : info@greenpower.org.hk  
Website : <http://www.greenpower.org.hk/html/eng/index.shtml>

An NGO just dedicated to air pollution, which is a pressing problem in Hong Kong, is **Clear the Air (CTA)**. The organization is divided into different committees to handle local problems more effectively; energy and power plants, town planning, idling engines, indoor air quality, diesel-zero-emission vehicles, ships, air pollution, tobacco and legal. These committees help to fulfill the CTA's mission: building a strong community that can take action based on the platform provided by the NGO.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact via the homepage directly to specific employees.  
Phone : +852-2579-9398  
Fax : +852-2565-9537  
Email : chair@cleartheair.org.hk  
Website : <http://www.cleartheair.org.hk>

The **Environmental Protection Department (EPD)** was established in 1986 to co-ordinate pollution prevention and control activities. It is the main governmental body for tackling pollution. It worked as an executive department to enforce environmental laws and implement environmental policies,

until 2005. Since then, the EPD has determined and implemented environmental policy. The EPD is separated into three different operational divisions: four policy divisions, a cross-boundary division and a corporate affairs division.

The Environmental Infrastructure Division is responsible for planning and managing waste disposal facilities, programs to reduce waste, and regional/local sewage planning. The Environmental Assessment Division is responsible for policy formulation, strategic planning and program development in the area of environmental impact assessment and noise management and reviews the environmental implications of policies and strategies. The Environmental Compliance Division enforces pollution laws and facilitates businesses not only to meet pollution standards, but goes further. The Air Policy Division formulates policies and is responsible for strategic planning as well as program development in the field of air quality management. The Water Policy Division and the Waste Management Policy Division have the same structural tasks in their specific fields. The Nature Conservation and Infrastructure Planning Division formulates policies on nature conservation, the development of integrated waste management facilities and pilot projects regarding the development of biodegradable waste treatment plants and organic waste treatment facilities. The implementation of nature conservation policies rests with the relevant department. The Cross-Boundary and International Division is responsible for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants<sup>34</sup> and is the liaison with mainland China authorities. The Corporate Affairs Division is responsible for administrative support, accounting, resource management, human resources management, information technology and knowledge management.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : (Headquarters) 15/F & 16/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Website : <http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/eindex.html>

Phone : +852-2824-3773

Email : The different programs and committees can be contacted via email:

- EPD General Enquiry: [enquiry@epd.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@epd.gov.hk)
- Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Other Projects; and Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects: [ecfc@epd.gov.hk](mailto:ecfc@epd.gov.hk)
- Environmental Education and Community Action Projects: [eeca@epd.gov.hk](mailto:eeca@epd.gov.hk)
- Community Waste Recovery Projects: [wrp@epd.gov.hk](mailto:wrp@epd.gov.hk)
- Energy-Cum-Carbon Audit Projects and Energy Efficiency Projects: [beefs@emsd.gov.hk](mailto:beefs@emsd.gov.hk)
- Partnership with Property Management: [pmpp@epd.gov.hk](mailto:pmpp@epd.gov.hk)
- Partnership with Construction Industry: [gcpp@epd.gov.hk](mailto:gcpp@epd.gov.hk)
- Partnership with Food & Restaurant Trade: [info@greenrestaurant-hk.org](mailto:info@greenrestaurant-hk.org)
- Partnership with Transport Industry: [info@greengarage.com.hk](mailto:info@greengarage.com.hk)
- IAQ Information Center: [enquiry@iaq.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@iaq.gov.hk)
- Waste Recycling Help-line: [recycling\\_helpline@epd.gov.hk](mailto:recycling_helpline@epd.gov.hk)
- EIAO Comment: [eiaocomment@epd.gov.hk](mailto:eiaocomment@epd.gov.hk)
- Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste: [maw@epd.gov.hk](mailto:maw@epd.gov.hk)
- Environmental Campaign Committee Secretariat: [ecc@epd.gov.hk](mailto:ecc@epd.gov.hk)
- Recruitment and Appointment: [recruit@epd.gov.hk](mailto:recruit@epd.gov.hk)

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<sup>34</sup> The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants of 2004 aims to protect human health and the environment by banning certain highly toxic chemicals. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) do not break down readily in the environment, can accumulate in human and animal tissue and are bio-magnified in food-chains and so pose a high risk to human health and the environment. Since 2004, 12 organochlorine (chlorine-containing) chemicals have been listed under the Convention and nine more were added in 2009.

### 3.1.7 India

The **Centre for Environmental Education (CEE)** was created to address India's overall environment and development strategy. The CEE, supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), has inherited a rich resource base as well as expert knowledge from its parent organization, the **Nehru Foundation for Development**, which has been promoting educational efforts since 1966.

The national institution is engaged in developing programs and distributes, as well as offers materials, for awareness raising throughout the country. Since the CEE was launched, it has produced over 450 educational resources for different target groups, and translated them into over 20 languages. The publications range from information and activity manuals and reference material for educators and teachers, to reports for national and international agencies. The Information Service Centre (ISC) of the CEE was established to select, collect, organize, preserve, retrieve and disseminate information on environmental education, education for sustainable development and related areas. One CEE service is to support the promotion of environmental education and it even has an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : (Headquarters) Nehru Foundation for Development Thaltej Tekra,  
Ahmedabad - 380 054, Gujarat, India

Phone : 79-26858002

Fax : 79-26858010

Email : [cee@ceeindia.org](mailto:cee@ceeindia.org)

Website : <http://www.ceeindia.org/>

Address : ISC: Library and Information Services Officer Centre for Environment Education,  
Nehru Foundation for Development, Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad 380 054, Gujarat, India

Phone : 91-79-26858002 to 09

Fax : 91-79-26858010

Email : [library@ceeindia.org](mailto:library@ceeindia.org)

The **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** is a public interest research and advocacy organization from New Delhi. The CSE's aim is to raise concern about the need for sustainable industrialization that supports the economy, and benefits urban areas, without harming the environment that many people still depend on in India.

The Centre's efforts are separated into five programs. The first program is communication for awareness, where CSE offers publications and informational products. This includes periodicals, publications, films/short spots, briefing papers, exhibitions, posters, and other products. To reach people all over India and the world the Centre has launched an E-news bulletin, apart from its website. The research and advocacy program was designed to create different sustainable solutions to local and national problems.

The education and training program is a reaction to the steadily growing demand by professionals, public administrators, NGO professionals and students for informative and educative material covering the environmental sector. The knowledge portal aims to be an excellent resource center for sustainable development issues. CSE's last program type is pollution monitoring. The Pollution Monitoring Laboratory is an independent, analytical laboratory measuring and monitoring toxic contamination to advocate for stricter regulations in the use of toxins in India.

On the official homepage of the CSE, factsheets for different topics can be retrieved as well as reports and information about cooperations with other local organizations involved in these working areas.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062, India

Phone : (91) (11) 29955124, 29956110, 29956394, 29956399

Email : [cse@cseindia.org](mailto:cse@cseindia.org)

The CSE directors can be reached via email or phone:

<http://cseindia.org/content/cse-directors>

Website : <http://cseindia.org/>

The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** is the largest NPO in India dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Indian heritage. This includes nature, culture, tangible and intangible heritage. INTACH aims to protect this heritage by various means, including documenting unprotected sights of archaeological, architectural, historical and aesthetic significance or providing expertise in the field of conservation, restoration and preservation. Since nature and biodiversity belong to a country's heritage, INTACH has also had a specific environmental division since 1984. The division advocates sustainable use of natural resources and is engaging in politics to influence environmental state policy, by hosting expert forums. Actions by the environmental division range from urban water harvesting to eco-tourism and environmental management. INTACH publishes books, booklets and newsletters on its homepage to make its collected and analyzed data available for interested people.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : 71, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003, India  
Phone : +91-24631818, -24641304, -24632267, -24632269, -24692774, -24645482  
Email : [intach@vsnl.net](mailto:intach@vsnl.net)  
Website : <http://www.intach.org/>

The **Green World** is an NGO not only focusing on the environment, but on educational projects especially for youth and women. The environmental branch of the organization conducts capacity development in West Tamilnadu which lies on the eastern side of the Indian sub-continent. One of the biggest problems in Indian cities is waste management. Green World is working together with the government to improve recycling alternatives.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : (Registered Office) 538, S.K.C. Road, Erode – 638001 Tamil Nadu, India  
Phone : + 91 424 4030831/832  
Email : [info@greenworldindia.org](mailto:info@greenworldindia.org)  
Website : <http://greenworld.org/where-we-work/india>

**Green Destiny (GD)** is another Indian environmental NGO, focusing on the improvement of water quality, waste water treatment and reuse/management of hazardous waste. The GD research data are being used to support local communities achieve a reduction and/or prevention of water-borne diseases. GD's core working area is the environmental health sector with the principle objective of reducing environmental toxicology. Disease prevention is supported through safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion at community and household levels. GD aims to tackle the problems at hand and promotes the newest, most cost-efficient environmental health interventions.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : P.O.Box :1310, Malakpet, Hyderabad - 500 036. Andhra Pradesh, India  
Phone : +91 - 40 - 24040313  
Fax : +91 - 40 - 2409497  
Email : [info@green-destiny.org](mailto:info@green-destiny.org)  
Website : <http://www.green-destiny.org/>

**The Energy and Resources Institute**, also known as TERI (formerly Tata Energy Research Institute), is based in New Delhi and was established in 1974. It is a leading non-profit research institute and conducts its research activities with a focus on energy, environment and sustainable development with the underlying objective of efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. According to Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania, TERI was ranked 20 in the list of top global think tanks on environment and 16 in top global think tanks on science and technology. TERI has about 900 employees and, in its 30 years of existence, completed more than 2600 projects.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003, India  
Phone : +91-11-24682100; -41504900  
Fax : +91-11-24682144; -24682145  
Email : mailbox@teri.res.in  
Website : <http://www.teriin.org/>

**Integrated Research for Action and Development (IRADe)** is set up as a fully independent, not-for-profit advanced research institute in New Delhi, which aims to conduct research and policy analysis, train people and be a hub of a network among various stakeholders. In this context, the main focus is placed on energy, climate change and the environment, with a goal of developing effective policies.

The key program areas of IRADe are:

- Energy and Power Systems (EPS)
- Urban Infrastructure and Services (UIS)
- Climate Change and Environment (CCE)
- Poverty Alleviation and Gender (PAG)
- Policy Analysis and Reforms (PAR)
- Action Research, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation (ARTME)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : C-80, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017  
Phone : +91-11-2667-6181; +91-11-2667-6180; +91-11-2668-2226  
Fax : +91-11-2667-6180; +91-11-2667-6181; +91-11-2668-2226  
Email : bksarkar@irade.org  
Website : <http://www.irade.org/>

### 3.1.8 Indonesia

The **Indonesian Development of Education and Permaculture (IDEP)** focuses on disaster relief on the one hand, and on the symbiosis of men and nature on the other. Permaculture helps the people to provide food, shelter and energy in a sustainable way. This permanent culture and permanent agriculture aims to balance the needs of developing communities with Indonesian nature. IDEP addresses waste management, waste water treatment, seed saving and organic farming in its educational programs.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Br. Bucuan, Desa Batuan, Sukawati, Gianyar, 80582, Bali – Indonesia  
Phone : +62-361 294 993 / +62-361 997 8687  
Email : info@idepfoundation.org  
Website : <http://www.idepfoundation.org/>

### 3.1.9 Japan

The **Japan Water Forum (JWF)** was established after Japan hosted the Third World Water Forum. Its working tasks can be separated into six main objectives. The first is to build an information platform and a support network for international activities regarding water security. The second objective is to assist different stakeholders in the private, academic, governmental and non-governmental sectors by providing research outcomes and information on technologies, conferences or different water policies, worldwide. This objective closely connects to the first one, meaning that the JWF in itself acts as a connecting link between businesses, governments and local as well as international organizations.

The third objective is to monitor the outcomes of the Third World Water Forum. One of the reasons for the establishment of the JWF was to improve the North-North co-ordination regarding water-related issues. Task four is focused on firm partnerships with world water organizations, sharing new water-related technologies and knowledge to improve the global water situation, and to utilize these technologies and findings for solving water problems in the southern hemisphere.

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Website : <http://www.waterforum.jp>

The **Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)** is an NGO focusing on sustainable development and social justice in society. Established after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, as a think-tank for environmental policy and research, the JACSES focuses on practice-oriented policy research, independent policy advocacy and awareness raising. Currently, the activities are centered on three main programs. The Sustainable Development and Aid Programme (SDAP) aims to improve Japanese aid projects in developing countries. The Green Tax Reform is advocating fiscal instruments, like carbon taxes and emission trading systems. The third program focuses on climate change and advocates comprehensive approaches for policy reform.

The JACSES publishes significant articles and comments on its homepage, regarding national and international environmental outcomes.

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Email : [jacsces@jacsces.org](mailto:jacsces@jacsces.org)  
Website : <http://www.jacsces.org>

Note: The United States Environmental Directories have produced a directory for environmental organizations and governmental agencies in Japan (also for China). The website offers links to the different institutions and agencies, some of them very specific and some integrated into an international network.<sup>35</sup>

### 3.1.10 Kazakhstan

The ecological society, **Green Salvation**, aims for the further development of human rights in balance with nature and the improvement of the socio-economic situation in Kazakhstan.

One of the public organization's most important activities is filing lawsuits and thereby placing pressure on companies. For this reason the NGO is frequently considered one of the most influential and important environmental organizations. Green Salvation co-operates with the Ministry of Environment and other officials at all governmental levels. Green Salvation collects environmental data on Kazakhstan and distributes them over their electronic database, providing other NGOs, activists and teachers, with the most up-to-date information.<sup>36</sup>

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Phone : +7-727-253-62-56  
Email : [grsalmati@gmail.com](mailto:grsalmati@gmail.com)  
Website : <http://www.greensalvation.org/en/>

35 <http://www.earthdirectory.net/>

36 <http://www.greensalvation.org/en/index.php?page=history>

The association, **Green Women**, supports female journalists in Kazakhstan who specialize on environmental issues. Its mission is to inform and to educate the public on nation-wide, regional or local problems with the goal of growing awareness for environmental problems. Additionally, it supports youth programs to form a new generation of well-informed adults.

Green Women could also have been listed as a regional institution, because it does not just focus on Kazakhstan, but on Central Asia. Apart from that, it could also be considered an NGO focusing on environmental journalism as for the institutions in the previous chapter.

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### 3.1.11 Malaysia

**MENGO** is a platform and network of Malaysian environmental NGOs. The coalition was formed under the Danish International Development Assistance organization (DANIDA), in 2001, with the goal of strengthening local NGOs and facilitating their impact on all levels of Malaysian society.

The ultimate aim is good cooperation between MENGO and the Malaysian government on environmental policies. MENGO works on two fronts: connecting and educating the public to raise awareness of environmental problems in Malaysia on the one hand, and on the other hand supporting the government to promote environmental issues.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : MENGO Support Unit, C/O ENSEARCH, No 30-2 Jalan PJU 5/16 Dataran Sunway, Kota Damansara, 47810 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia  
Phone : +60-3-6157-5708  
Fax : +60-3-6157-6707  
Email : [mengo@tm.net.my](mailto:mengo@tm.net.my)  
Website : <http://www.mengo.org/>

The **Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)** is Malaysia's largest and oldest environmental NGO. Its working field is in the conservation of the environment and educating about Malaysian wildlife and its habitat. Since the NGO was founded in 1940, it has spread throughout the country with 14 branches in different cities. MNS is working with international companies like IKEA and The Body Shop to raise awareness for their goals and mission.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : Persatuan Pencinta Alam Malaysia, JKR 641 Jalan Kelantan, Bukit Persekutuan 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Phone : +60-32287-9422  
Fax : +60-32287-8773  
Email : [mns@mns.org.my](mailto:mns@mns.org.my)  
Website : <http://www.mns.my/>

The **Malaysian Water Association (MWA)** was formed in 1988 as a non-profit organization. Members include different Malaysian water and waste water industries. The MWA tries to establish priorities and a strategic direction within the water industry. On a national level the MWA co-operates closely with government parties and the private sector. On the international level, linkages with related organizations are established to improve inter-regional and international cooperation.

The MWA provides a forum for different actors in the water/wastewater sector, bringing together water authorities, research bodies, consultants, manufacturers, suppliers and contractors. Next to publication work, providing information for private and public bodies and publicizing new technologies, MWA also

promotes training, research and development in the sciences and the practice of engineering as well as management in the water supply and waste water industries.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Phone : +60-36201-2250, +60-36201-9521  
Fax : +60-36201-5801  
Email : [rubby@malaysianwater.org.my](mailto:rubby@malaysianwater.org.my)  
Website : <http://www.mwa.org.my>

### 3.1.12 Nepal

**Love Green Nepal (LGN)** is a local NGO with the aim of improving the conservation of environment, sustainable development, education, small community infrastructure and community health. Its mission is to promote model communities which can live off their own resources and thereby realize development of rural communities ecologically.

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Phone : +977-1-559-1377/559-2372  
Email : [lgnearth@mail.com.np](mailto:lgnearth@mail.com.np) , [lgnearth@gmail.com](mailto:lgnearth@gmail.com)  
Website : <http://www.lovegreennepal.org.np/> (currently offline)

Since 1992, the **Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH)** has worked towards having clean drinking water, hygiene promotion and sanitation throughout the country. As of January 2011, NEWAH had worked in 51 Nepalese districts improving infrastructure development, promoting health hygiene and increasing livelihood opportunities.

NEWAH's work can be categorized into three main topics: water, hygiene and sanitation. Additionally, NEWAH works on so-called cross-cutting themes such as children's rights, gender equality and emergency response. NEWAH also publishes reports and project analyses on their homepage, to make their findings public.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website : <http://www.newah.org.np/>

The **Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF)** was established in 2000 in Kathmandu and has, since then, focused on awareness raising concerning water management. To achieve this goal, NWCF conducts research, publishes the outcomes and engages in public dialogue. By networking and co-operating with local communities, as well as other organizations at local, national and international levels, NWCF is improving water management and also addressing emerging challenges and pressing for educational needs.

The foundation focuses on three main projects: research and training, publications and maintaining information sources, and holding a repository of "gray literature" (literature which is difficult to acquire via regular channels such as publishers). In the research and training sector, NWCF tries to find solutions for emerging problems caused by ineffective resource management. Therefore conferences, seminars and public debates are offered to reach out to community managers, policy makers and academics. The training is designed to combine presentations with case studies, group discussions and lectures. Research outcomes and gained knowledge are shared through education and advocacy focusing on new generations and disadvantaged groups.

NWCF activities range across five specific fields: floods and vulnerability to enhance the abilities of communities to cope with monsoon floods, natural hazards and extreme hydro-climate occurrences; the local water management sector explores underlying challenges for water management facing geo-physical and social barriers; the community support sector engages water users and civil society by organizing training programs and networking with relevant national agencies; capacity building for young professionals; social dialogue is a forum for professionals, policy-makers and civil society groups, and is one part of the dissemination process to gain extra knowledge. The NWCF has its own research center, which can be accessed by anyone interested in the general topic of water conservation, security and other related topics.

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Website : <http://www.nwcf.org.np/>

### 3.1.13 Singapore

The **Singapore Environment Council (SEC)** is a local NGO, heading 40 green groupings in Singapore with the aim to promote public awareness of environmental issues. The SEC's objective is to support new sustainability standards for urban development, educate communities and to conserve biodiversity in the urban environment. Local NGOs are supporting the government in developing environmental law and policy. The government therefore has opened broad channels for participation at all significant levels of decision-making. In 2012, the SEC launched their first ever Asian Environmental Journalism Awards (AEJ Awards) to recognize and reward excellence in environmental journalism at all levels of society.

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### 3.1.14 South Korea

The **Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM)** was launched in 1993 after several Korean environmental groups merged and became Korea's largest environmental organization. Until today, KFEM has steadily grown with over 85,000 members and 47 local branches working on different types of environmental issues. KFEM conducts and collects studies and disseminates information on global and national trends, to the society and puts effort into organizing international conferences and exchange programs with other NGOs.

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Email : [kimchy@kfem.or.kr](mailto:kimchy@kfem.or.kr)  
Website : <http://english.kfem.or.kr/>

**Green Korea United** is tackling dangers for the local wildlife and their habitats, such as dams, nuclear power plants or roads. The NGO is devoted to its aims of sustainable life, safeguarding human rights through the protection of the environment and building eco-villages, thus creating an eco-society in Korea.

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Website : <http://green-korea.tistory.com/>

### 3.1.15 Sri Lanka

The **Environmental Foundation – Justice for Nature (EFL)**, aims to protect and conserve the environment by legal and scientific means. It has also influenced environmental policies and good governance in Sri Lanka and is able to lobby for environmental changes. EFL works in different sectors such as climate change, natural resources, pollution, protected areas and waste management. In addition, the organization co-operates with other NGOs in different projects, e.g. the conservation of coastal wetlands, which is funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as part of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative.

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Email : efl@slt.net.lk  
Website : <http://www.efl.lk/>

Another example of a local NGO is the **Federation of Wildlife Conservation (FWC)** which aims to conserve biodiversity in Sri Lanka. FWC conducts programs with the government and private organizations to raise public awareness. Its goal is to educate the Sri Lankan population about protecting wildlife and biodiversity. The FWC's programs can be separated into four groups: Education, Wildlife, Livelihood and Recreation.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email : wildfeddirect@slt.net.lk  
Website : <http://www.wildfed.org/>

The **Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ)** stands for the objective: "Environmental Justice for All". Its programs cover environment law, advocacy and science. To support its mission, the CEJ offers free legal aid to affected communities. Research and education about the environmental and science sector are other major areas of its work.

The CEJ engages in campaigns for water rights, against genetically modified organisms, environmental justice and good governance, anti-incineration, energy and climate change, protection of the natural environment and sustainable livelihoods. For different thematic issues, CEJ partners up with other NGOs like IUCN and trains civil society organizations. It engages in direct lawsuits against environmental destruction and provides legal aid.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Phone/Fax : +94-112-683282  
Email : info@ejustice.lk  
Website : <http://www.ejustice.lk/>

### 3.1.16 Thailand

A fairly new organization is the NGO, **Society, Environment, Economy, Knowledge (SEEK) Phuket**. SEEK is involved in a few pilot projects around Phuket, e.g. water testing, waste management and organic farming.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email : Contact via email form on website  
Website : <http://www.myseek.org/>

**The Seub Nakhasathien Foundation** was set up in memory of Seub Nakhasathien, the Chief of Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary in western Thailand.

During his work in a wildlife sanctuary, he was in contact with illegal loggers and poachers and opposed a logging concession granted to a plywood company in the area of the sanctuary. His commitment to the wildlife and sanctuary as well as the rangers who were involved in it, has become an inspiration for the environment movement in Thailand and beyond.

Before he passed away, Seub launched a reserve fund to protect Huay Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuaries and commenced his last project - to make both sanctuaries a World Heritage Site.

The Foundation continues Seub's work in those two wildlife sanctuaries, supporting the rangers and villagers who live in that area as well as environmental projects. The Fund also campaigns on broader environmental issues in Thailand.

Among its activities are:

- Conserving wildlife and forests in cooperation with local communities and stakeholders
- Monitoring potential threats to wildlife
- Setting up and helping raise ranger welfare funds to assist their well-being
- Raising awareness and developing mechanisms to encourage active participation in the conservation of the environment in Thailand

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Website : [http://www.seub.or.th/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=25&Itemid=129](http://www.seub.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=25&Itemid=129)

Established in 1991, the **Green World Foundation (GWF)** is a non-profit organization which collaborates closely with youth, educators, practitioners and community leaders throughout Thailand to inspire the development and adoption of environmental ethics, and to strengthen the capacity for proactive contribution towards a sustainable local environment.

GWF's activities include:

- Development and production of educational resources and reference materials pertaining to the environment of Thailand
- Development and implementation of educational and training programs
- Maintenance of an accessible Environmental Information Centre
- Working closely with a network of environmental educators and other organizations in Thailand, including government organizations

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Website : <http://www.greenworld.or.th/about-en>

**The Environmental Litigation and Advocacy for the Wants (EnLaw)** has been founded as a result of consensus reached among NGOs working on the environment, energy, human rights and developments. They all agreed that intense industrialization has caused extensive impact on people's livelihood and the environment, directly and indirectly. Existing laws for natural resources and environmental management in Thailand have failed to cope with the rapid development of the country.

The legal problem is twofold: A lack of enforcement on the one hand, the laws themselves that are stagnant and have not been changed to cope with the evolving situation and the ever more complex and chronicle environmental problems, on the other.

A group of NGOs agreed that an environmental law organization needed to be set up to provide legal aid to them in their activism and to identify flaws in the legal system and propose solutions. EnLAW was thus founded in 2001 with a mission to monitor and enhance enforcement of laws and to advocate change of the existing law to provide better protection for individuals and communities in exercising their legal environmental rights. At present, five full time staff members are employed and one volunteer lawyer. EnLAW plans to get registered as a legal entity in order to better advocate environmental issues.

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### 3.1.17 Philippines

The **Haribon Foundation** is a pioneer environmental organization in the Philippines and is constantly working for the local environment by empowering communities and offering scientific expertise.

Working fields include the protection of the endangered species and their habitat, as well as training programs. These programs range from orientation to paralegal training and are aimed at supporting people interested in becoming environmental trainers for their communities or local organizations. In addition, they are using social media like Facebook for contests and thereby promoting conservation of the environment on a worldwide platform.

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Email : act@haribon.org.ph  
Website : <http://www.haribon.org.ph/>

The **Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)** is an NGO committed to supporting communities in their fight for environmental rights. ELAC works together with lawyers, scientists, community organizers and paralegals, and provides legal representation in environmental court cases as part of their assistance. ELAC also offers legal advice in drafting environmental law, as well as paralegal training for law enforcers and community volunteers. By addressing the social causes of environmental damage, like pollution on land and sea, ELAC is mainly tackling illegal practices and unsound policies. The mission is to provide for a legal environment that addresses the causes of natural degradation effectively.

The organization is split into seven branches to work more effectively: 1) developmental legal assistance (DLA), 2) community-based resource management (CBRM), 3) education and training, 4) advocacy, 5) law enforcement, 6) research, and 7) institutional capacity-building.

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The **Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern (PFEC)** started as a network of individuals, non-governmental organizations and people's organizations concerned with environmental issues.

PFEC is committed to the empowerment of communities in sustainable resource management and offers services mostly to community based organizations. It has adopted eight principles as guide for its programs and directions as an environmental NGO:

"A healthy environment is a basic and inalienable human right, and Humans are a part of Nature and not its Master.

Environmental problems must be met with an encompassing strategy and action from a holistic perspective.

Development must be in harmony with the environment. Benefits of the country's natural resources must accrue to all Filipinos, thus environmental efforts must be responsive to their needs.

Environmental consciousness and efforts should be the task of all Filipinos and not just the elite.

Environmental actions must be performed collectively and with coordination.

Environmental action must involve the creative participation of people, independent of vested interest and external pressures.

Filipinos must join hands with people from other countries in seeking solutions to environmental problems."

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Website : <http://environmentalfederation.com/>

### 3.1.18 Vietnam

The Vietnamese NGO scene is a rather young one. Most of the organizations have developed in the last 5 to 10 years and were mainly working on their own, until an initiative by the environmental NGO, **Live & Learn**, helped form the **Vietnam Green Generation Network**. This network acts as a platform for local environmental groups and supports their coordination. The website is only available in Vietnamese.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Website : <http://thehexanh.net>

The **Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV)** was established in 2000 and is the oldest non-governmental organization focusing on the conservation of Vietnamese wildlife. Its mission is to foster a greater understanding of local and regional threats to the environment amongst the public.

To fulfill its mission, the ENV offers environmental education and training, and provides resources and technical support via its Environmental Education Network. Through this network, it also distributes a bi-annual children's nature magazine nationwide, to promote child education on environmental issues, as well as show student contributions from around the nation.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dong Da District, Ha Noi, PO Box 222, Hanoi  
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Email : env@fpt.vn  
Website : <http://www.envietnam.org/>

The **Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU)** was founded in 2005 as part of the ENV to mobilize the public in the effort to fight illegal wildlife trade. ENV works closely with law enforcement agencies and assistants, e.g. in coordinating the placement of animals and providing advice for the authorities.

To raise awareness, the ENV uses different tools like TV, radio, the Internet and newspapers as well as a Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team, which travels the country to inform students and officials about ENV's work.

The **Raising Awareness on Environmental and Climate Change Program (RAECP)** is a voluntary organization based in Hanoi, committed to educating the public about the different causes of climate change. Recognizing that certain environmental problems affect not only specific countries but the whole world, the RAECP conducts training for future mentors, making sure their information travels through Vietnam and reaches a maximum number of people. Their activities include the gathering and writing of environmental educational material, training courses and the organization of conferences.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Website : <http://www.raecp.org/>

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### 3.2 on a regional level

The **Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN)** was established in 2005, to promote improved compliance with environmental legal requirements in Asia, through regional exchange of policies and practices. Members are national and sub-national agencies from Asian countries. Presently included are agencies from the following countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The AECEN is supported by Environmental Cooperation Asia (ECO-Asia) which is a branch of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

AECEN builds and strengthens bi-lateral and multi-lateral partnerships by offering networking events and workshops. AECEN also established the Asian Justices Forum on the Environment to focus on the support of judges and courts.

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Website : <http://www.aecen.org/>

The **Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)** was founded in 1998 under an initiative of the Japanese Government to establish an international research institute for the Asia-Pacific region. The Institute conducts practical and innovative research for fostering sustainable development in the region. In April 2010, the fifth phase of IGES strategic research started and now focuses on three main issues of importance to Asia and the Pacific: climate change, nature resource management and sustainable consumption and production.

IGES also takes an active approach in policy formulation.

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The **Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)** was founded after the Fourth World Water Forum to act as a platform for stakeholders and to share knowledge on water-related issues in Asia and the Pacific. Initially, it was proposed during the World Water Forum, co-ordinated by the Japan Water Forum. Its final establishment was supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and different United Nations organizations, such as UNESCAP, UNDP, UNEP and the IUCN. The APWF was to become a mechanism for encouraging better co-operation on water-related issues and resource management to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Asia-Pacific region.

A special focus is on boosting investments, and building capacity and more thoroughly conducted cooperation on a regional and international level. Therefore a tight network of member organizations is being established.

The APWF is a common platform and the voice for the region regarding water issues. Its goal is to improve national and multi-lateral projects to save the region's diversity and culture. The three priority fields for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum are common to all areas of Asia and the Pacific and include water financing and capacity development, water-related disaster management and water for development and ecosystems.

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Website : <http://www.apwf.org/>

Established in 1993, the **Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)** is a non-profit organization focusing on environmental issues, such as the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development in Thailand and in the region. TEI's work is based on research, training and capacity-building activities.

Founded on the belief that partnerships are the most effective approach to achieving a more sustainable way of life, the institution advocates a participatory approach to shared environmental responsibility. Working closely with international organizations, government, nongovernmental organizations, academia, the private sector and local communities, TEI helps to formulate environmental directives and link policy with action to encourage meaningful environmental progress in the region and also serves as a reliable and up-to-date information and knowledge resource.

TEI's activities include the following:

- Conducting research activities within and outside the country to benefit the conservation of natural resources and the environment. TEI supports and participates in the practical application of the research findings
- Establishing up-to-date and reliable information systems and providing for extensive dissemination of quality information on environmental issues
- Developing and enhancing the knowledge and capabilities of TEI staff
- Producing quality research publications to be made available to relevant institutions and the general public, both locally and internationally
- In line with its social obligations towards the Thai society, TEI undertakes environment-related capacity-building activities among the more vulnerable groups of society in support of the national poverty alleviation goals and within the overall framework of sustainable development

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### 3.2.1 South Asia

The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** is an association of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which supports overall welfare in South Asia. The environment is one of the cooperational areas. Periodical meetings of the national environmental ministers are held to examine running cooperation projects and plan further initiatives for the region.

The environmental forum adopted a common position regarding environmental changes on the international stage. After the tsunami in December 2004 and the earthquake in December 2005, the association established the **SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)**, which provides policy advice and special training programs for effective disaster risk reduction and management.

Regional centers such as the **SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre** in the Maldives, the SAARC Forestry Centre in Bhutan, the **SAARC Disaster Management Centre** in India and the **SAARC Meteorological Research Centre** in Bangladesh, address different aspects of the consequences that environmental change has had on the region.

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The **South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)** is an inter-governmental organization established by the region's governments to focus on the environment, and to promote and support its protection. Its member countries are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These countries share different factors that influence their environments, such as poverty and rapid economic growth. Due to both factors, the water quality and quantity has dropped, forests and coastal resources are dwindling and the soil suffers from degradation.

Though some countries have taken action on a national level, trans-boundary problems like air pollution can only be managed on an inter-regional level. SACEP works in the areas of environmental education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution and the protection of wildlife.

To achieve the best results for the region, SACEP is working with other national, regional and international organizations, governmental and non-governmental alike, as well as consulting experts.

The cooperation between the member states creates the most beneficial outcome for the environment and the member states themselves.

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Website : <http://www.sacep.org/>

The **Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS)** is an independent research think-tank based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It organizes conferences and conducts research in areas of South Asian regional cooperation, peace and conflict in South Asia, small arms proliferation, trade and connectivity and strategic issues concerning South Asian countries as well as Nepal's conduct of international relations. Apart from these focus areas, CSAS has also become more active in the field of Energy and Environmental Security. It also cooperates with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Regional Programme SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). In this context, both organizations hosted a regional conference in February 2012 in Nepal on the topic "Regional Environmental Issues: Water and Disaster Management".

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Email : Email through contact form via website  
Website : <http://www.csas.org.np/>

The **Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)** is a non-profit organization and independent think tank devoted to the study of peace and security issues in South and Southeast Asia. Regarding the environment, the issue of climate change proves to be a great concern for Bangladesh. The country is among the most vulnerable states in the world facing threats of climate change, and the level of its vulnerability poses security threats to the state. Consequently, BIPSS has established a climate change cell in the institute to monitor developments and to formulate policy recommendations for government agencies, policy makers and foreign development partners. The primary focus lies on security dimensions of climate change, by studying both the human security dimensions of climate change and the climate change related social unrest and intra/inter state conflict. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Regional Programme SAARC organized a conference in cooperation with the Institute in April 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh on the topic "Climate Change: Non-traditional Security Threats".

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The **Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)** was established in 1978 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, for undertaking and promoting research and deliberation on international affairs, security and developmental issues. BIISS has institutional linkages with similar think tanks within the South Asian region and beyond. The Institute is included in this study, as it also deals with environmental issues. For instance, the BIISS is cooperating with the KAS Regional Programme SAARC for an event in August 2012 on the issue "Development and Management of River Basin: The Case of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM)".

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### 3.2.2 South East Asia

The **Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA)** takes a networking approach for providing financial and technical assistance, as well as meetings, resource persons, access to literature, publication outlets and opportunities for comparative research across its ten member countries. EEPSEA is also providing fellowships and grants for research in environmental and resource economics.

Member states are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. EEPSEA's goal is to strengthen local capacity to carry out economic analysis of environmental problems. The network meets twice a year for workshops, bringing together active researchers, scientists, resource persons, eminent speakers, the Advisory Committee and (once a year) the sponsors group. The workshops offer the possibility of working in research groups, as well as plenary sessions with international experts.

EEPSEA shares publications on five main topics: coastal, economy, forestry, pollution and methods.<sup>37</sup>

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Website : <http://idrc.org.in>

<sup>37</sup> <http://web.idrc.ca/eepsea/>

### 3.2.3 Pacific

The **Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED)** aims to address critical environmental issues and offers expert assistance. APFED is pushing for the implementation of environmental policies, and focuses on three main aspects: policy dialogue, knowledge initiatives and showcase programs. APFED has published a booklet on Good Practices and Innovative Activities (2005-2009) for Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific, which demonstrates 75 successful cases in the region supported by the Forum.

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### 3.2.4 Central Asia

The **Interstate Commission for Water Coordination for Central Asia (ICWC for Central Asia)** is a collective body of Central Asian states formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union, to prevent conflicts and serious complications in water resource management. The ICWC is based around the equal rights of the Central Asian people and their responsibility for ensuring sustainable water management in the region and also recognizes the fact that only joint action will be effective in solving regional water problems.

Since the biggest rivers are trans-boundary with at least two countries being affected by changes, many challenges for the region can only be tackled by a multi-lateral organization like the ICWC, which supports regional and national programs.

The Commission has several implementation strategies for Central Asia. The first is a legal base of interstate collaboration, including several multi-lateral agreements for governments to approve and the establishment of regulations for regional cooperation relating to disaster management, joint design, construction and operation of multi-objective structures.

The second tool is the financial base and mechanisms for inter-state collaboration, which aims to provide reliable financial support by the states for water management agencies, services and nature conservancy authorities. It also includes the implementation of a substitution for fuel/energy-water exchange to cover expenses for flow formation and the protection of the deltas.

Well-defined limits should be set on water withdrawal, and payments should be made when limits have been exceeded. This money would be used to improve the joint protection of the water basin. Another part of sector two is to define, agree and implement a mechanism of damage compensation.

The third strategy is the development of capacity building, consisting of an information system on trans-boundary waters, a knowledge base and analytical tools to strengthen existing training systems.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.icwc-aral.uz/>

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**Republic of Uzbekistan**

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Website : <http://www.agro.uz/uz/>

**CAWATER** is a knowledge platform for the Central Asian region and is closely connected to the ICWC. It includes a database for the region, country studies, world facts, as well as a specific database for water-management organizations. The web portal informs about different projects on integrated water resource management, climate change, regional cooperation and networks, as well as several regional projects. This homepage supports the networking in the area and puts together its important information.

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The **Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)** was established after the Fourth Pan-European Conference, in 1998. The founders of the CAREC are the five Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, as well as the United Nations Development Program and the European Commission. The organization addresses environmental problems in the region and aims at trans-boundary cooperation between the member states and their donors. Programs and activities are split into six different branches.

The Environmental Management and Policy branch organizes multi-stakeholder dialogues, supports local environmental initiatives and promotes sustainable production and consumption.

The Civil Society Initiatives Support provides a platform for environmental NGOs, involves civil society and supports local NGOs with capacity development.

The Education for Sustainable Development branch has developed a legislative and institutional basis to promote environmental education in the educational systems in Central Asia to further harmonize the national education standards and environmental programs in the region.

The Water Initiatives Support aims at promoting Integrated Water Resources Management in the whole region. This branch also supports trans-boundary water resource management, as well as regional water cooperation. This is important since the water efficiency in Central Asia needs to be improved and

pollution to the water systems needs to be reduced. Therefore Water Initiatives Support stresses the need for equal policy standards in the region.

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy is a more practical branch with the objective of enhancing the energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy and the development of public-private partnerships for climate change.

The last branch is Information and Capacity Building. The main goal is to raise awareness among stakeholders on key issues addressed by CAREC, through its website, mass media coverage and other resources. CAREC's publications range from educational material to situation analysis and studies, and are made public on their website.

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### 3.3 on the international level

**Conservation International (CI)** developed from a group preserving natural areas as untouched relics of the past to a group conserving nature to form a future in which nature and humanity live in balance. Starting with only a few key partners like Wal-Mart and Starbucks, CI now works with governments, businesses and individuals on every continent.

Due to the thoughtless waste and destruction of natural resources, CI's vision is to stabilize the climate, supply everyone one with fresh water, as well as reliable food, and protect the oceans to ensure a better life for everyone and everywhere on earth. To reach their goal and to tap the full potential of environmentally friendly economic development, CI engages its scientists, field staff and policy experts to work on six key issues: climate, fresh water, food, health, human cultures and option values that nature provides.

The global offices in Asia-Pacific are located in Australia, Cambodia, China, Singapore, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa and Vietnam (only Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines have websites). According to CI, the Asia-Pacific region offers one of the world's best opportunities to control, and maybe reverse, the impact humans have on the environment.

The region harbors 13 of the world's biodiversity hotspots along with the second largest tropical forest on earth. Tools to reach the overall goals of CI have different angles. The first one being policy. By partnering up with governments at local, regional and national levels and supporting them in crafting environmentally friendly laws, CI generates a network on the inside of the governments.

International decision-making bodies, mainly under the umbrella of the United Nations, also play a critical role in this sector. The second working angle is field work. This includes up-scaling of field-level results, e.g. to advocate for a national protected area policy framework. This angle includes decisions about where to work, as well as field demonstrations and lessons on the local work that is being done.

The third angle is partnerships. According to this principle, everyone can, and must, act in the best interest of the environment. Therefore, CI is partnering with governments, multilateral partners, NPOs, NGOs, universities, businesses and local communities. Partners are being provided with strategic, financial and technical support as well as evaluation of previous projects.

Everyday work is the understanding of the fourth working angle: science. CI's scientists research in the field, and also work on studies published by CI to back up their arguments up and confirm them scientifically. The scientists also attend and present at conferences throughout the year.

The last angle for CI is the so-called Team Earth. It is a series of CI stories about their results that introduces and profiles partners and staff from all over the world and gives CI a face.

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**Fauna & Flora International (FFI)** was the first international environmental conservation organization. FFI split its initiatives into eight different sectors to improve their management and combine them as needed.

In the Conservation Capacity sector, FFI works with local organizations to strengthen their abilities and to ensure protection of the environment in the long-term.

The Livelihoods & Governance sector supports the local people who are depending on the environment and assists their sustainable development and management of natural resources.

Linking the first two sectors, Conservation Science hands out and publishes information essential for expertise and decision-making. Another important angle is the Business & Biodiversity initiative, which aims for the adoption of environmental standards for companies and the awareness of their impact on the environment.

The sector called, Environmental Markets, tries to ensure that the benefits gained from biodiversity flow back to the protection of the environment again.

The Climate Change sector works on of the greatest threats to biodiversity, which is being tackled by developing adaption plans as well as reducing emissions overall.

Marine Conservation is a recently launched program and focuses on the protection of key marine sites and addresses the main causes of their decline. The last, and overall linking sector, is Cultural Values, where the connection between people and nature is forged by improving effectiveness, while helping local people to retain their values, knowledge and traditions.

In Asia, FFI has launched projects in Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam, to conserve some of the region's most important species and habitats.

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The **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** is an independent NGO, promoting responsible management of the world's forests. FSC is a global, consensus-oriented forum, developing strategies for sustainable forest management, delivering a trademark and providing accreditation services to a global network of businesses, organizations and communities wanting to preserve the world's forests.

The FSC certification is a credible link between responsible production and consumption, enabling consumers to make a purchasing decision to support the environment and local businesses protecting it. FSC is the only internationally recognized standard setting organization for sustainable management of forests, supported through the private, as well as the corporate sector.

Their mission is to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management, to ensure that biodiversity is maintained. At the same time the organization supports local people and communities in achieving long term benefits, and forest operations are managed without destroying natural resources.

FSC has network partners in over 50 countries worldwide. In Asia, those are located in Australia, China, Fiji, India, Japan, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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##### **Fiji**

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##### **FSC Australia**

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The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** addresses global environmental issues. It unites 182 governments and partners with international institutions, NGOs and private sector parties. The GEF is an independent financial organization and provides grants to developing countries for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, sustainable forest management/REDD+, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants.

Since its establishment in 1991, the GEF has grown to be the largest funder of environmental projects today with more than 2700 projects in over 165 countries worldwide.

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The **Global Water Partnership (GWP)** supports sustainable water development and management worldwide, at all levels. It was founded in 1996 to support integrated water resource management and thereby maximize economic and social welfare by managing water properly without compromising its quality and the environment. GWP is a network of institutions involved in water resource management which share core values determined by the United Nations.

The global action network focuses on sustainable development in the water sector and invites like-minded organizations to join the movement for the best networking structure possible. In addition to this, GWP has 80 country water partnerships which manage and govern themselves and can address specific topics with national relevancy.

Overall, GWP has established 13 regional water partnerships and 80 country partnerships, which include 2400 partners from 158 countries. The partnership supports sustainable development on all levels: trans-boundary, regional, basin, national and local, with a focus on strategic design for approaching the improvement of water management by connecting its projects.

The aim is to build local capacity in the long term and to use mechanisms for coordinated actions with their development partners. GWP produces many publications which can be downloaded from its homepage<sup>39</sup> and provides an online library of case studies, brochures and reports.

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**Reef Check** was founded in 1996 with the aim of protecting tropical coral reefs and California's rocky reefs. With teams in over 90 countries worldwide, the NGO creates partnerships among communities, government agencies, businesses, universities and other NPOs/NGOs.

Their goal is to educate the public about the importance of coral reefs, monitor and report on changes, help produce and communicate environmentally-sound solutions for projects which might affect coral reefs, and to stimulate local communities to take action in protecting and rehabilitating damaged reefs worldwide.

The first five-year report published in 2002, at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, was the first scientific documentation of the decline of, and the human impact on, coral reefs all over the world. Since then, many more self-funded marine protected areas have been established throughout all tropical seas.

Reef Check carries out its tasks in three main areas: the EcoDiver Program, the Coral Reef Management Program which monitors coral reefs and works on the establishment of new protected areas, and Reef Check California, which monitors and focuses on the Californian rocky reefs.

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Email : [rcinfo@reefcheck.org](mailto:rcinfo@reefcheck.org)

Website : <http://reefcheck.org/>

The **United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC)** is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and a UK-based charity, WCMC. UNEP-WCMC is the specialized arm of UNEP for biodiversity assessment. Its mission is to include the many values of biodiversity into decision-making processes at a national and international level. Therefore, UNEP-WCMC aims to become an internationally recognized center for information.

There are 10 main working areas in which different programs are being conducted: (1) biodiversity, biomass and food security, (2) biodiversity science, (3) business biodiversity and ecosystem services, (4) climate change and biodiversity, (5) ecosystem assessment, (6) informatics, (7) international policy and strategy, (8) marine assessment and decision support, (9) protected areas and (10) species.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre,  
219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK  
Phone : +44-1223-277314  
Fax : +44-1223-277136  
Email : [info@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:info@unep-wcmc.org)  
Website : <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>

The **World Resources Institute (WRI)** is a global environmental think-tank cooperating with governments, businesses, and civil society to tackle urgent environmental challenges. WRI provides practical strategies and tools to measure its success with a number of new policies, products and practices. The think-tank's work is organized around four key elements: climate protection, governance, markets and enterprise, as well as people and ecosystems. To improve its work, WRI works with five-year strategic plans. Five years is an adequate time-span for understanding, informing about and making educated decisions on mostly complex environmental issues, but not too long to recover from any miscalculations.

Since an important part of its work is awareness raising, WRI publishes books, brochures and other documents on its homepage. These publications are separated into four key elements and two extra sections with charts, maps and datasets.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

##### Headquarters

Address : 10 G Street, NE (Suite 800) Washington, DC 20002, USA  
Phone : +1-202-729-7600  
Fax : +1-202-729-7610  
Email : [moko@wri.org](mailto:moko@wri.org)  
Website : <http://www.wri.org/>

##### China Office

Address : Unit 0902, Chaowai SOHO Tower A, Yi No. 6 Chaowai Dajie,  
Chaoyang District, Beijing 100020, China  
Phone : +86-10-5900-2566  
Fax : +86-10-5900-2577

The **World Water Organization (WWO)** is an international membership association of professionals from governments, international organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and multi and transnational corporations. The ultimate goal is to overcome global water challenges with workable, affordable solutions, proposed by United Nations and World Bank professionals as well as United Nations member state governments.

Therefore, the WWO provides a problem solving forum for decision-makers, innovators and technical experts, to take concrete actions on sustainable water policy. Yearly conferences are tied to one of the three core elements of the WWO: (1) water and global health: the challenge of the 21st century; (2) water security: protection and preservation of water infrastructure worldwide and emergency disaster management/relief; and (3) The International Water Summit.

The outcome of these rather theoretical conferences is being transformed into ground-level action by WWO's projects or cooperational projects with other organizations and donors. These projects are designed to fulfill four main goals: firstly, to improve access to water on a daily basis; secondly, to reduce the burden of water collection for communities and individuals; thirdly, to improve the water quality in these communities and, fourthly, to address water-related challenges like waterborne diseases.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Address : The World Water Organization, 866 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA  
Phone : +1-212-759-1639  
Fax : +1-646-666-4349  
Email : [info@theworldwater.org](mailto:info@theworldwater.org)  
Website : <http://theworldwater.org>

**The Climate Group** is a non-profit organization which brings together a global coalition of the world's most powerful governments, brands and public figures across Asia, Europe and North America to promote clean technologies and policies, with the aim of expanding clean technology markets and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

After launching with the support of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2004, the organization now has offices in the UK (headquarters), the United States, Europe, Australia, India, mainland China and Hong Kong. Ever since its foundation, the group has been working with governments, business leaders and influential individuals to push for the policies, technologies and investments, creating solutions to climate change that are compatible with economic growth.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Email : [info@theclimategroup.org](mailto:info@theclimategroup.org)  
Website : <http://www.theclimategroup.org>

### UK office

Address : The Climate Group Second Floor, Riverside Building County Hall  
Belvedere Road London SE1 7PB United Kingdom  
Phone : +44-207960-2970  
Fax : +44-207960-2971

### Belgium

Address : The Climate Group, Marnixlaan 22, 1000 Brussel  
Phone : +32-47856-2035

### United States

Address : The Climate Group, 145 West 58th Street, 2A New York NY, 10019 USA  
Phone : +1-646-233-0550  
Fax : +1 (646) 861 4606

### Australia

Address : The Climate Group, Level 17, 1 Nicholson Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000 Australia  
Phone : +61-39668-5798  
Fax : +61-39663-1546

## Chapter-related websites

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council  
<http://www.wsscc.org/>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Forest Trends  
<http://www.forest-trends.org/>

Birdlife International  
<http://www.birdlife.org/>

Asia-Pacific Network on Climate Change  
<http://www.climateanddevelopment.org/ap-net/>

Worldwatch Institute  
<http://www.worldwatch.org/>

# CHAPTER 4 AWARDS, FUNDS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

## 4.1 Awards

The number of awards for environmental journalists is growing both on the national, as well as on the regional and international level. In some cases, awards are not specifically aimed at journalists or quality reporting about environmental topics. Yet, journalists and/or media outlets may apply and present their projects for these awards. This chapter does not include all awards but provides an overview of some of the most prestigious rewards for journalists in the Asia-Pacific region.

### 4.1.1 on a national level

The **Australian Museum Eureka Prize** rewards excellence in four categories: research and innovation, science leadership, school science, as well as science journalism and communication. It is Australia's largest award scheme for research into critical environmental and sustainability issues facing the country and generates publicity throughout Australia.<sup>40</sup>

China's first **Environmental Press Award** was jointly organized by The Guardian, China Dialogue and Sina, China's biggest web portal, in 2009, and held its first ceremony in 2010. Categories are in-depth reporting, best investigative reporting, most influential reporting and the best human interest story.<sup>41</sup>

### 4.1.2 on a regional level

The **Siemens Green Technology Journalism Award** honors journalists for their reporting on green technology, sustainability and environmental issues, in the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) region. The competition aims to develop an environmental conscience and to raise awareness of problems the region is, and will be, facing, such as climate change, flooding, declining biodiversity etc. The award system is divided into main groups.

Professional journalists can submit their work in three categories: energy efficiency, industrial productivity and sustainability. Young journalists must still be studying in universities and polytechnics in the ASEAN region and can submit their work in the same categories.<sup>42</sup>

The **Green Pen Award** is a competition for journalists from around the world working in any kind of media, the environment, United Nations, government agencies and NGOs. The award is sponsored by the APFEJ and is presented at their annual world conference.

The **Greenbelt Reports** are a series of 12 x 5 minute reports filmed in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. They are produced in consultation with a large number of local, national and regional conservation organizations and research institutes. Among them are IUCN Asia, the UNEP regional office for Asia and the Pacific, Mangrove Action Project and Wetlands International.

Launched by the Asian Development Bank to award a significant contribution in journalism toward development in Asia, the **Developing Asia Journalism Awards (DAJA)** focus on four themes: urbanization, environmental issues, rebalancing economic growth as well as regional cooperation and integration. Special focus is placed on the impact of these issues on the poor of the region, to help accomplish real Asia-wide improvements.<sup>43</sup>

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40 <http://eureka.australianmuseum.net.au/about/about-eureka>

41 [http://www.chinadialogue.net/weblogs/4/weblog\\_posts/242?lang=en](http://www.chinadialogue.net/weblogs/4/weblog_posts/242?lang=en)

42 [http://www.siemens.asia/ph/en/Press/Press-Releases/Siemens\\_unveils\\_winners\\_of\\_ASEAN\\_s\\_first\\_green\\_technology\\_journalism\\_awards.aspx](http://www.siemens.asia/ph/en/Press/Press-Releases/Siemens_unveils_winners_of_ASEAN_s_first_green_technology_journalism_awards.aspx)

43 <http://www.adbi.org/journalism.awards/>

The **Asian Environmental Journalism Awards (AEJ Awards)** were initiated in 2011 by the Singapore Environment Council. The award recognizes the important role of the media in educating the public about environmental issues which are interlinked with other issues such as health, safety and biodiversity. The awards are open to journalists and students reporting on Asian environmental issues on all kinds of media platforms: TV, radio, newsletter, magazines, the Internet and social media.<sup>44</sup>

Launched by the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ), the **Asia-Pacific Awards for Excellence in Environmental Journalism** support regional journalists and recognize their work. Submissions can cover any aspect of the environment, including scientific research, climate change, protected areas, ecotourism, conservation, mining and logging.<sup>45</sup>

### 4.1.3 on the international level

Each year, the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) honors outstanding environmental coverage in six different categories, during its annual conference. The **Kevin Carmody Award** for Outstanding In-depth Reporting (large market) and the Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding In-depth Reporting (small market) both honor investigative, explanatory features, or a series on a single environmental topic, but in different sized markets where the news is published.

The **Outstanding Beat Reporting** (large and small markets) honor journalists with up to five broadcasts or published reports on one or more environmental topics in different market sizes.

The **Rachel Carson Environment Book Award** honors a non-fiction book covering an environmental topic. The last category, Outstanding Single Story, honors an environmental news story within 30 days of a news event or development.<sup>46</sup>

The **COMplus Media Awards** by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the Reuters Foundation, honor and recognize excellence in professional reporting on environment and sustainable development. The global winner is selected from six regional winners representing Asia, English-speaking Africa, French-speaking Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America and Oceania. The objective of the award is to promote the quality of environmental journalism worldwide. It explicitly states that no political motives are involved.<sup>47</sup>

The **Panda Awards** are the leading and most influential awards for film of the natural world. Nicknamed the Green Oscars, they are awarded at the Global Wildlife & Environmental Film Festival. Although most of the categories do not concern media journalism, two of them might be interesting for specific groups of environmental journalism.

The **Natural History Museum Environment Award** honors programs that highlight issues concerning the environment, conservation or sustainable development, and illustrates the need to protect the natural world. The Wildscreen's Award to promote filmmakers from developing countries, takes entries from countries designated as low or lower-middle income by the World Bank. They aim to support and encourage local film makers.<sup>48</sup>

## 4.2 Funds

### 4.2.1 Grants and sponsorships

A wide variety of organizations in Asia-Pacific and beyond offer grants and sponsorships for environmental journalists. Two major examples are:

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44 <http://www.sec.org.sg/awards/asianjournalism>

45 [http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/asia\\_pacific\\_awards.html](http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/asia_pacific_awards.html)

46 <http://www.sej.org/initiatives/awards/instructions#Categories>

47 [http://cms.iucn.org/media/media\\_awards/](http://cms.iucn.org/media/media_awards/)

48 <http://www.wildscreenfestival.org/index.php?pageid=312&parentid=0>

### Society of Environmental Journalists

SEJ's Fund for Environmental Journalism was launched to provide incentives and to support journalists and news organizations. SEJ wants to enhance the quality of existing environmental journalist reports and the quality of journalists focusing on the environment. Any journalist can apply, with the funds covering expenses of projects.<sup>49</sup>

### The Earth Journalism Network

The EJN grants fund projects in media development and capacity building of local environmental network structures and their members, which respond to their communities' needs. The main focus for funds is on the developing world and on building new environmental journalist networks, such as the Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists, but projects may vary depending on opportunities.<sup>50</sup>

## **4.2.2 Fellowships and Scholarships**

Environmental journalism fellowships and workshops are available around the world for further study in environmental journalism. Many of them are based in the United States.

### Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma

The Dart Asia Fellowships offer senior journalists and their editors in Asia an opportunity to improve reporting and coverage of tragic events. The fellowships are open to print, broadcast and online reporters with a strong command of the English language and at least five years full-time journalism experience.<sup>51</sup>

### Jefferson Fellowships – East-West Center

The Jefferson Fellowships' programs are open for United States and Asia-Pacific journalists and include a one week dialogue with professional colleagues, followed by a two-week study tour.<sup>52</sup>

### The John Alexander Project

"Above the Fray" is a keynote program of the John Alexander Project. It is designed to give promising journalists the opportunity to cover important, but under-reported, stories from a location outside of the USA. The fellowship supports journalists who are at pivotal moments in their careers and want to cover under-reported regions and issues. The main focus is on applicants with between three, to no more than five years professional experience.<sup>53</sup>

### The John S Knight Journalism Fellowships

Fellows can study at Stanford University for one year to develop their ideas for improving the quality of news worldwide and the type of information reaching the public. Every year, 20 journalists from around the world receive a scholarship.<sup>54</sup>

### The Kiplinger Fellowship

This short fellowship offers week-long training sessions at the Ohio State University, in the utilization of new media for journalists.<sup>55</sup>

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49 <http://www.sej.org/initiatives/fund%20for%20environmental%20journalism/overview>

50 [http://earthjournalism.net/recent\\_news/earth-journalism-grants-fund-building-network-and-media-capacity-cover-environmental-iss](http://earthjournalism.net/recent_news/earth-journalism-grants-fund-building-network-and-media-capacity-cover-environmental-iss)

51 <http://dartcenter.org/content/new-dart-asia-fellowships>

52 <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/seminars-and-journalism-fellowships/journalism-fellowships/jefferson-fellowships>

53 <http://www.thejohnalexanderproject.org/abovethefray.html>

54 <http://knight.stanford.edu/>

55 [http://www.kiplingerprogram.org/kiplinger\\_program/index.html](http://www.kiplingerprogram.org/kiplinger_program/index.html)

### Knight Science Journalism Fellowships at MIT

Every year, 10 to 12 journalists are accepted to attend one year courses at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Harvard University. Applying journalists must have experience in covering science, technology, the environment or medicine.<sup>56</sup>

### The Knight International Journalism Fellowship via the ICFJ<sup>57</sup>

#### **Bangladesh**

Title : Creating the First Women's Broadcast News Agency

#### **India**

Title : Make Government Data More Accessible to Journalists

Title : Enhance a Cutting-Edge, Multimedia Academy and Help Make it Sustainable

Title : Use Mobile Technology to Bring News to Isolated Tribal Communities

Title : Cultivating Greener Coverage

Title : Enhance a Cutting-Edge, Multimedia Academy and Help Make it Sustainable

#### **Indonesia**

Title : Launch a Mobile Environmental News Service for Rural Communities

Title : Expand Environmental Coverage

#### **Malaysia**

Title : Design a Business Model for Robust Citizen Journalism

#### **Pakistan**

Title : Upgrading the Quality of Broadcasting News

#### **The Philippines**

Title : Tracking Government Efforts to Reduce Poverty

### The Knight-Wallace Fellowship at Michigan<sup>58</sup>

Each year, six fellowships are offered, with a duration of four to eight months. Applicants must be full-time journalists with at least five years of experience. Print, broadcast, photo, documentary and Internet journalists are eligible.

### The Vermont Law School's Environmental Law Media Fellowships<sup>59</sup>

The Vermont Law School offers Summer Media Fellowships every summer for full-time working journalists from the United States and overseas, covering the environment, natural resources, energy, legal affairs, public health and other environment-related issues. The aim is to educate journalists in environmental law and policies by inviting renowned legal educators, lawyers and policy makers to take part.

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56 <http://web.mit.edu/knight-science/fellowships/overview.html>

57 <http://www.icfj.org/our-work/knight>

58 <http://www.mjfellows.org/about/>

59 [http://www.vermontlaw.edu/news\\_and\\_events/media\\_guide/summer\\_media\\_fellowships.htm](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/news_and_events/media_guide/summer_media_fellowships.htm)

## 4.3 Education and Training

### 4.3.1 on a national level

#### Center for Environmental Education (CEE)

The CEE was created because of the important need for an overall environmental education and development strategy in India. Supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India and the Nehru Foundation of Development, CEE carries out environmental education programs all around the country with the help of various field offices. To review their work, annual reports are published on the CEE's website, split into different working fields and initiatives.<sup>60</sup>

#### Indian Institute of Journalism & New Media (IJNM)

Founded in 2001, the IJNM focuses on increasing opportunities for employment in the media profession in India. IJNM is an independent institution not affiliated with any newspaper or media organization. The curriculum was developed with the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York, and offers programs in print, television, radio and online/multimedia journalism.<sup>61</sup>

#### The Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists

To improve the level and value of environmental news reporting, PNEJ aims to offer services for working journalists through seminars or conferences, study tours, links to other media organizations (locally and internationally), awards for the best environmental reporting and other activities.<sup>62</sup>

### 4.3.2 on the regional and international level

#### The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma conducts training seminars and consultation programs for journalists reporting on violence, natural disasters, war or human rights issues. The training prepares journalists for covering more extreme stories.<sup>63</sup>

#### UNESCO

UNESCO focuses on capacity building for media professionals in Asia through its communication and information activities. The aim is to increase competency of media training institutions, improve accountability, ethical and professional standards in journalism and provide training in investigative journalism.<sup>64</sup>

#### Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism (ACFJ)

The ACFJ at the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines does not specialize in environmental journalism, but provides a variety of programs and diploma courses for working journalists from all over the region. The master's program (Master of Arts in Journalism) consists of core courses about Media Law, Media Ethics, and Advanced Reporting and Writing. The range of electives – including Investigative Reporting, Reporting about Information Technology, Reporting about Religions,

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60 <http://www.ceeindia.org/cee/index.htm>

61 <http://www.ijnm.org/>

62 <http://pnej.org/>

63 <http://dartcenter.org/seminars-training-and-consultation>

64 <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/events/calendar-of-events/communication-and-information-events/>

Media and Politics, and Multimedia Journalism – provides intensive training in covering specialized news and hones critical thinking. The core courses are taught using a blended online (distance-learning) and on-campus method. Electives take place fully online while cognate courses are held on-campus.

ACFJ's diploma programs in Photojournalism and Multimedia Journalism provide comprehensive training to journalists who wish to venture into new media and improve skills they need to be competent in a converged newsroom.<sup>65</sup>

## Chapter-related websites:

Fellowship programs:

Non-SEJ Environmental Journalism Fellowships and Workshops:

<http://www.sej.org/initiatives/awards-fellowships/non-sej-environmental-journalism-fellowships-and-workshops>

The Climate Change Media Partnership:

<http://www.climatemediapartnership.org/climatemediapartnership.org/>

Detailed list of other available fellowships:

[http://www.journalismjobs.com/fellowship\\_listings.cfm](http://www.journalismjobs.com/fellowship_listings.cfm)

Asian Federation of Environmental Journalists' Code of Ethics:

<http://www.eyeonethics.org/journalist-code-of-ethics-in-asia/asian-federation-of-environmental-journalists/>

OSCE training courses on environmental journalism in Kazakhstan:

<http://www.osce.org/astana/89491>

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<sup>65</sup> <http://acjf.ateneo.edu/new/Site/page.php?ctype=wyscontent&&entry=1>

# CONCLUSION

## 1. The state of environmental reporting in Asia

The preceding chapters confirm a major truth for environmental reporting in Asia-Pacific: the region's size and importance demands much more attention to environmental reporting because of the impact of a range of threats. They also confirm that despite a myriad of journalistic networks, institutions, awards, forums and associations, the region still lacks an over-arching, coherent organization to coordinate the challenges in the coming years.

In 2009, six major environmental problems were identified as facing Asia-Pacific. They were urban excess, deforestation, overfishing, global warming, air pollution and limited safe water supplies.

Economic issues, such as the 1997 Asian crisis, aggravated these trends. In addition, in Asia in particular, less regard has been given to the sustainability of exploited resources. Urban excess is a classic example of what is facing Asia - its urban profile increased from 27 percent in 1980 to 38 percent in 2000 and will rise to 50 percent by 2020.

Much of South-East Asia's original forest cover has been destroyed, at an annual loss rate the size of Switzerland. Water shortages are projected for 2025 in India, China, North and South Korea, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Bangladesh could lose 17 percent of its land area to rising seas caused by global warming, and Indian crop yields could decline by 30 percent by 2050.

Nine of the 15 cities with the highest air pollution in the world are in East Asia. The picture to be painted by an environmental journalist is not pretty, but the amount of material he/she has to report on is endless.

Yet, within many Asia-Pacific news organizations, the age old problem of lack of urgency to a slowly evolving problem that projects dire warnings decades out, lack of understanding of the complex issues involved and the need for more and more "instant" news amongst traditional media to match the onslaught of "citizen journalism", leaves environmental journalism in a backwater.

What are the answers? One is the Internet. The Internet became a major player in the early 1990s. It has since become the dominant media force. A major reason is that Internet and new media applications have proven trans-boundary effectiveness (they can fuel revolutions e.g. the Arab Spring) that traditional media do not necessarily have, apart from global outlets such as the BBC and CNN. These outlets have done much to spread the environmental message to a wider audience, but are still constrained by time and reach.

In Asia, traditional media operate within national boundaries and focus on local issues. No trans-boundary newspaper or Asian-based television organization exists.

Perhaps a revolution, such as those that drove the Arab Spring uprisings and revolts in Eastern Europe and even in Asia (the Philippines ousting of Marcos was driven by cell phone technology), is needed in environmental journalism in Asia-Pacific.

Without such a solid platform on which to expand the influence of such reporting on governments, local authorities, institutions and the wider public, the role of the media as a final bastion standing between intelligent understanding of the issues, overriding exploitation of precious resources, especially water, will melt away in the same fashion as the glaciers and icebergs are succumbing to the unrelenting assault of climate change.

It will be a challenge. Even in the United States, which is much more highly sophisticated and experienced in coverage of environmental issues, the growth of teaching institutions and forums in environmental journalism and communication, has been steady, but not spectacular.<sup>66</sup>

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66 Sharon Friedman, Professor and Director of Science & Environmental Writing Programme, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. <http://www.sejarchive.org/>

The range of courses offered across many United States universities range from a lone course in environmental journalism, to complete degrees and certificate programs, to graduate or undergraduate level. And, even in the United States, problems arise, including lack of effective textbooks and the differing skills of students in the environmental journalism courses.

The need for some scientific knowledge in accurately reporting environmental issues is another matter that would need to be addressed in Asia-Pacific, as few of the educational forums identified in Chapter 4 of this journal include science as a prerequisite for becoming a fully fledged environmental journalist.

It is a Catch-22 situation. While few journalists have sufficient scientific background to adequately explain complex scientific/environmental issues, students with scientific backgrounds lack journalistic training.

To a large extent the journalistic, education and training organizations across Asia-Pacific, for environmental journalism are very country specific. An exception is the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ), a network and regional association founded in 1988 and dedicated to promoting educational understanding and awareness of the environment through the "honest and accurate report of local, regional and international environmental and development issues."

APFEJ has held many seminars and workshops for journalists around the region and is well established with affiliations to a range of environmental and media groups around the world. But the APFEJ is still somewhat limited in providing the necessary funding and range of expertise through physical forums and seminars, to increase the number of professional environmental journalists that Asia-Pacific is going to require.

And why the urgency in this region? The basic truth about how the Asia-Pacific environment is rapidly changing as outlined in Chapter 1, tells only part of the story. In addition, environmental journalists in this region have extra pressures that most in Western countries do not.

Firstly, the physical threats faced by such journalists in Asia, in particular, are very real. Environmental journalists are facing the same threats now as human rights, political and economic journalists were 10-20 years ago.<sup>67</sup> Bloggers, in particular, are more vulnerable to closure of their sites and intimidation, but so are traditional journalists.

Often, environmental journalists are isolated in their jobs, so the best protection for them is to publicize their stories if they are being challenged by vested interests. Another issue is ethics. In 1998, the sixth world conference of the International Federation of Environmental Journalists, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, adopted a code of ethics which, according to Jim Detjen, professor and director at the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism in Michigan, USA, who attended, was "quite a challenge," given the diverse cultures and number of countries involved.<sup>68</sup>

The eight principles laid out a worthy blueprint to ensure upholding of ethical and professional standards. However, the principles were struck in 1998 and since then, the media sphere has changed radically. Communication techniques and technology have advanced through the rapid evolution of the Internet and other new media. These developments, coupled with an increasing awareness of global environmental issues such as climate change, urgently call for another conference to review and update these principles.

The Copenhagen conference on climate change launched an international appeal for better protection of environmental journalists. As Reporters Without Borders, who promoted the appeal, said: "Without a free press, efforts to combat global warming will be in vain."<sup>69</sup>

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67 DW-World.DE. Reporters Without Borders Secretary General Jean-Francois Julliard. June, 2010.

68 Ethics for environmental journalists. Jim Detjen. Sri Lanka, 1998.

69 Reporters Without Borders. High-Risk Subjects - Deforestation and Pollution, Investigative Report on Journalism and Environment. [http://en.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/RSF\\_Report\\_Environment-2.pdf](http://en.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/RSF_Report_Environment-2.pdf). p.2

In Asia, in particular, the issue of government control of broadcasting outlets - much higher than in the West - is a constraint on effective reporting of the environment. Government censorship, private level interference (controlling advertising), lack of time/space and editorial bias, are amongst the constraints an Asian journalist is more likely to face. China, Vietnam and Cambodia are good examples. Legal threats also exist in places like India.

To obtain a view from the coal face about the issues above, we asked a number of people working in the climate change area and environmental journalists for their direct views on the issues confronting environmental journalism in Asia/Pacific. We have taken these as small case studies.

Feedback from the front line on the quality of environmental journalism in Asia-Pacific is probably the most accurate measure of the current status of coverage in the region. To this end, a number of environmental organizations and working journalists in the region were directly asked for their analysis and comments. Here are some samples.

**Henry Derwent, President and CEO, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA). Address to the Carbon Forum Asia 2011 Conference, November, 2011, Singapore:**

"How difficult is the task of journalists to explain emissions trading? Part of their task is to get beyond the emissions trading schemes. It is really, really complicated to explain what is going on. From the journalists' perspective there are a number of difficult challenges.

- 1) Emissions trading issues are out of kilter with the human attention span.
- 2) People do not understand the carbon emission options. A degree of patience and humility is necessary to explain what the emissions trading market is about.
- 3) Journalists must navigate us away from many people with axes to grind; people who do not want to do anything about mitigating climate change.
- 4) Journalists must find people who can explain what is going on around the world and not just focus on local issues."

Mr Derwent confirmed that most of the emissions trading scheme activities are to be found in Asia-Pacific countries like Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Taiwan, China and Japan.

**Eurocham Sustainability Committee: Market Potential in Energy Efficiency in South-East Asia. Presented to the Singapore Carbon Forum Asia 2011 conference:**

Amongst five recommendations resulting from a comprehensive study of energy efficiency in South East Asia: "Promote greater awareness of energy efficiency (EE) among users through campaigns aimed at communicating the potential benefits and latest developments of EE technologies.

This involved mainly governments taking great steps to increase the general knowledge about EE and to change "persistent mindsets that EE is not a worthwhile investment to make by instilling a deeper consciousness among their people and companies on the need to use energy more efficiently.

Recommended were nationwide, regional and local level seminars and workshops. Amongst five key barriers along the EE value chain as identified by companies in the survey: "Lack of awareness on energy efficiency."

**Bruce Avasadanond, Journalist/Presenter/Broadcaster. Radio Thailand English Language Service:**

"In general, there is very little coverage of environmental issues in Thailand. People do not seem to pay much attention to what is happening around them, be it deforestation, pollution etc. Lately, with the floods and increased frequencies of storms, there are more attempts to point fingers at possible culprits, and global warming has been one factor that has been discussed more and more.

In terms of the environment, I have also noticed that most news stories are linked to politics; for example, many resorts and homes have been constructed in national parks and in areas which are supposed to be free of any form of development. We then find out the names of rich and influential people who have “invaded” these protected areas, and so it becomes more of a blame game than really looking at the root causes or the consequences.

As mentioned at the beginning, I think that the Thai audience is more interested in economic issues and money-related stories, but there is more attention paid to the environment now because of the realities of the floods which are engulfing the country.”

#### *Improve Coverage*

“To improve coverage, there should be more training provided to journalists, because I think many of us also are not aware of how to report about the environment and what the issues are. (...)

Apart from one journalist who has a program on recycling and talks about the environment on some occasions, I do not know anyone who brands himself as an environmental journalist or see much about the environment on TV (except for when there is an earthquake, trespassing on protected land etc).”

#### **Usman Cheema, Staff Reporter, The Nation Daily, Islamabad, Pakistan:**

“My news organization does cover the environmental issues if there are some discussions, seminars and press conferences that need to be covered. In addition, if the government takes any steps towards making the environment better that is also a “must” to cover.

We are facing a problem here in Pakistan that there are many timber mafia groups destroying the forests. Such stories highlight the issue and force the government to realize its duties. Municipalities and city development authorities are responsible for the cleanliness of cities and environment-related issues for a certain area so their performance frequently comes under scrutiny by the environmental reporters.

As far as the global environmental issues are concerned, if there is some workshop or seminar on the issue they are well covered. For some years the educated community in Pakistan has become concerned over environmental issues. Editors and news editors fall in that category so they do publish stories addressing environmental issues.

The major problem, in my view, that reporters face in covering environmental issues is that they are not informed to the extent they should be on the subject. They need capacity building or they need to be more informed about environmental issues and what the international community is doing in that regard.

Environment is a simple, but in some sense, a technical, subject, so, in my view the technical side of the subject is not very well understood by most reporters. Another element is that there are not many experts on the subject in government departments so reporters are unable to learn from the officials. In every organization there is someone covering the environment, but as such, there is no active environmental journalist organization. But in their individual capacity they try to do their best. The media in Pakistan is very vibrant and active these days. Reporters, whatever they cover or are assigned to, do their best to report accurately.”

#### *Capacity Building Required*

“To expand and improve the coverage of environmental issues, I think capacity building of journalists is needed. This should be done by the government and non-governmental organizations. I think the organizations responsible for the environment should play their part in that regard and should conduct the workshops and training programs.

I attended the Carbon Forum Asia in Singapore to find out more about emissions trading. I strongly feel that reporters should be briefed on this complex subject in a simple and easy way. I feel that the reporters should learn about international laws, practices and basic ideas behind environmental issues in the easiest and most understandable language possible.”

**Ms Yuen Meikeng, Journalist for an English language newspaper, Malaysia:**

“Establishing an organization of environmental journalists could be helpful in sharing ideas, stories and reports from different sources and perspectives. The coverage of environmental stories in my news organization is part of the general scope of issues. We cover issues such as illegal dumping, landfill issues, the clearing of forests, wildlife conservation, the haze phenomenon and so on. While we do not have a regular environment pull out/column, environmental issues are reported in both the news and features sections.

Editors and news editors are sympathetic toward the environmental type of stories. News on a recent illegal clearing of forests hit the front page and news of Anson Wong, the illegal wildlife trader, being charged in court and jailed, received a lot of coverage. The haze in Malaysia is almost an annual occurrence and my news organization reports on the poor air quality when it happens. Regarding some of the problems we encounter in covering environmental stories in Malaysia, sometimes it is difficult to obtain information from government officers on certain issues. Some are quite tight-lipped and do not want to divulge details. As far as I know, I do not think there is an environmental journalist organization, group or club in Malaysia. Regarding what I would like to see done to expand and improve coverage of the environment in Malaysia, I would like the environmental reporting team to be expanded in my news organization so that more issues can be covered more extensively and in depth.

The environment beat in the country should also be developed to be placed on the same standard as for example, the crime beat. I would like environmental reporting to spur on conservation of our natural surroundings and expose those who exploit/pollute the environment.”

**United Nations Environment Programme: Satwant Kaur, Regional Information Office, Asia-Pacific, Bangkok:**

“When UNEP began monitoring environmental news coverage in Asia-Pacific in 2005, there was a difficulty in getting people interested in that branch of journalism. But over the years, coverage in the region has improved. The catalyst was the Al Gore documentary, ‘An Inconvenient Truth,’ and other controversy around various environmental reports and organizations.

Also changes in weather patterns have heightened media awareness of climate change and its effects with more and more climate-related events and ‘disasters’ occurring, especially in Asia-Pacific.

There are various media groups in Asia-Pacific dealing with environmental issues. Out of those, the UNEP works with the Asia News Network, community radio broadcasters and the Asia Media Summit, which includes broadcasters from around the region. The next meeting is taking place in Bangkok in 2012.

However, despite the existence of such organizations, hesitancy remains amongst Asia-Pacific environmental reporters because of the complexity of the subject. Journalists need to know more about the technical background of environmental issues.”

## 2. Major findings and results of the study

This study sets out to achieve a number of objectives of importance to environmental journalism in the Asia-Pacific region. The objectives are:

- To identify the key environmental issues facing the Asia-Pacific region
- To identify and assess journalism organizations, NGOs and others involved in environmental journalism.
- To identify relevant environmental institutions
- To assess the state of environmental reporting in Asia-Pacific

This chapter analyses, in summary, all of the information gathered, with the set objective of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the various media organizations, institutions, NGOs and others involved in environmental journalism in the region

To establish the relevance of such an exercise, it is important to put its need into context with the prevailing environmental situation in the region. Here are the key elements:

- Asia-Pacific's greenhouse emissions are increasing at a rate twice as fast as the global average (5.8% change per annum compared to 2.8%)
- The region contributes 43% of global nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions
- Concentration of particulate matter in Asia-Pacific cities is higher than the global average
- Trans-boundary air pollution ("haze") is common in the region
- Asia-Pacific has the highest annual water withdrawal of all the world's regions  
Water security is a major resource and political issue.
- Water availability across the region varies greatly, from South-East Asia which has plenty, to the Pacific sub-region which has little
- Agriculture accounts for 84% of water withdrawal
- Sea level increases are threatening several regional countries i.e. Mekong Delta Vietnam and China's Pearl Delta
- South-East Asia lost 13% of its forests in the last 20 years, even though forestation in China has increased in the same period by 5.4%
- The proportion of primary forest in Asia-Pacific is decreasing. The region's average primary forest cover is 25% compared to a world average of 34%
- Share of protected areas in Asia-Pacific is one of the lowest in the world at 10%.  
However marine protection did increase 2%-5% between 1990 and 2009
- Almost one-third of the world's threatened species live in Asia-Pacific. While covering just 6% of the earth's surface, 18% of all species and one-third of coral reefs are in the region
- The region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, drought, storms and tsunamis
- Climate change has pushed Asia's annual average temperature up by more than 1°C
- Population growth in Asia-Pacific is faster than most other regions
- On average, around 21% of the Asia-Pacific region's population goes hungry

# ANALYSIS

Against this somewhat alarming and depressing background, we have researched and analyzed what, if anything, needs to be done to further expand, improve, fund, enhance and increase the standard of environmental journalism in Asia-Pacific.

Clearly, with such enormous environmental problems facing the region, the need for widespread, accurate, informed and regular communication on all aspects of the environment is crucial to mitigate these issues as much as possible.

As our chapter on Feedback indicates, within the media organizations themselves remains inertia toward treating environmental journalism as a mainstream strand. Reporters themselves, and those who work closely with them on environmental issues, such as NGOs, say that more education and exposure to opportunities that expand their skills and knowledge through grants, fellowships and the like, is necessary.

In addition to being competent journalists, the reporters must also be researchers, have some scientific and even economic knowledge to be able to accurately conduct their duties. In some states, as we point out, journalists must also be prepared to confront vested interests, who, in some cases, can turn violent. But journalists are not magicians. They cannot suddenly become experts in their fields. They must have the resources, the encouragement of their peers and organizations and access to relevant information. Furthermore, they must have the ability to network for best practice and contacts, and be able to undertake higher education if possible.

Our research and findings underscore that, notwithstanding the huge impact and ability of the Internet to provide instant access to a bewildering array of research information, this, in itself is not enough. It does not provide the average environmental journalist in a poor Asia-Pacific country (or a rich country for that matter) with the underlying, long term knowledge of their subject and craft to necessarily and confidently analyze and report on complex environmental issues.

An analogy would be the political correspondent. They tend to specialize with the strong support of their media organizations, because of the impact of politics on every citizen's life. Political reporters live and breathe the environment.

They often have access to resources other journalists do not have. For example, political polls are a ready-made source for political reporters to analyze trends, to set agendas and have some influence with their audience.

By contrast, environmental reporters still remain the poor cousins despite the overwhelming evidence (accumulated in this study) that environmental matters are as important, if not more important in some countries facing disaster. These include, small, low lying Pacific Island states disappearing because of rising sea levels; scarcity of drinkable water in places like Bangladesh despite annual floods; chronic health problems in some industrialized Chinese cities...the list goes on.

Thus, there is a need - becoming more urgent by the year - for environmental journalism to step up, despite the many media and relevant organizations involved in environmental issues to varying degrees. In this chapter, in addition to the background research listed previously, our findings can be summarized as such:

## Media Organizations and Institutions

- Several large trans-boundary media support organizations are well established
- Many of the country-specific media based organizations provide well meaning, but relatively weak support mechanisms for environmental journalists in their country
- Few substantial broadcasting environmental journalism organizations exist

- There is a need for more English-speaking based organizations in countries where English is a second language, to enable journalists to communicate with outside institutions
- Fellowships and higher educational scholarships are mainly available from the United States and other institutions outside of Asia-Pacific, presenting funding problems for those wishing to further their higher learning
- Numerous journalism awards exist in various countries and some international awards, but few pan-Asia-Pacific specific awards are available
- Few publications/handbooks are published on a regional level
- Environmental blogging is growing rapidly with a strong emphasis on climate change
- Numerous funds are available for education and training in Asia-Pacific, but not enough for a region of this size facing the environmental issues it does
- Numerous websites exist, but they vary enormously in quality if required for background or research purposes

### **Relevant Institutions/Organizations/NGOs**

Institutions such as NGOs and others with environmental credentials are identified in Chapter 3. The chapter assesses the type of support available to environmental journalists as supporters, research sources and as important parts of the environmental journalistic mix. In summary we found the following:

- Environmental organizations capable of supporting environmental journalism were available in Asia-Pacific, but mainly on a country specific, rather than regional level
- Country specific organizations are generally government backed, with the associated resources they can provide
- Regional organizations that exist are also, generally, supported by states
- International organizations tend to be more independent of governments, but not all
- A strong focus on water resource management, understandable in Asia which has the highest annual water withdrawal world-wide
- Most institutions provided legal advice and facilities, something many environmental journalists do not normally have ready access to
- Many institutions concentrate on issues such as poverty eradication because of its relationship to environmental influences i.e. deforestation, soil degradation, water scarcity caused by human habitation
- Few organizations focus on species and habitat conservation
- Many institutions have sufficient funding to support environmental media organizations

### **Where To From Here?**

Our research shows that the resources available to environmental reporters from across the region - the majority of them from poorer countries with less access to international higher education and awards - are somewhat inconsistent.

There are many media organizations run by journalists themselves, but they are not necessarily very active, sometimes require payment to join and on top of that are language specific to that country.

Regional organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) have a significant reach with more than 12,000 members in 150 countries. APFEJ also has strong partnerships with organizations such as Greenpeace, IUCN, Friends of the Earth and others. Yet, the Forum would not necessarily qualify as a resource for environmental journalists, as it does not provide information which is updated on a regular basis.

International organizations available to Asia-Pacific journalists tend to be offering awards, fellowships and forums which, frankly, are beyond the means of many reporters in the region for financial and logistical reasons.

### **Over Arching Site**

What appears to be missing is an over-arching site that can act as an ongoing source of information on a day-to-day basis that Asia-Pacific journalists can access in a variety of languages, not just English; combined with regularly conducted regional forums in the Asia-Pacific region which could update, educate and inform journalists on key environmental issues.

The Internet would appear to be the answer to the first issue. A centrally placed permanent chair in environmental journalism would be the second.

Partnerships would be necessary. No organization could handle this alone. Support from outside NGOs and other related institutions would be crucial. What it would need is a single Asia-Pacific entity prepared to undertake the task of organizing and maintaining such a service, both online as well as on the personal level.

# APPENDIX

## 1. Publications on environmental journalism

### 1.1 on a national level

Sri Lanka Environmental Journalist Forum (SLEJF)

- Journalists Environmental Handbook, 128pgs (Sinhala – price Rs 400)
- Media and Environment Handbook, 91pgs (English – price US\$60)

Both handbooks can only be purchased via the SLEJF.<sup>70</sup>

### 1.2 on a regional level

Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists

- Reporting on the Environment: A Handbook for Journalists, Sharon M. and Kenneth A. Friedman. U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists. First printing, 1988. Second printing, 1996

Other:

- The Green Pen: Environmental journalism in India and South Asia, Keya Acharya, Frederick Noronha, Sage Publications, 2010 - For more information:  
[http://www.sagepub.in/browse/book.asp?bookid=1456&Subject\\_Name=&mode=3](http://www.sagepub.in/browse/book.asp?bookid=1456&Subject_Name=&mode=3)

### 1.3 on the international level

- Carbon Finance: news and analysis of market solutions to climate change<sup>71</sup>
- ReCharge: weekly newspaper with business, financial and contract news from the renewable energy sector, technology news and insights, comment, analysis, in-depth features and profiles<sup>72</sup>
- Argus: information about energy and commodity markets, covering crude and petroleum products, natural gas and LNG, electricity, coal, emissions, biomass, biofuels, fertilizers and transportation<sup>73</sup>
- The Reporter's Hazardous Assignment Handbook: Wildfires, Hazardous Media LLC (July 2003), ISBN 097412660874
- Reporting on Climate Change - Understanding the Science, Fourth Edition, 2011, ISBN 9781585761562<sup>75</sup>
- The Reporter's Environmental Handbook, Bernadette M. West; Peter M. Sandman; Michael R. Greenberg, 2003, 0813532868<sup>76</sup>

Detailed list of publications concerning Environmental Communication:

Center for Environmental Communication, Loyola University New Orleans, US, Library:

<http://www.loyno.edu/lucec/library>

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70 [http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/publications\\_list.htm](http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/publications_list.htm)

71 <http://www.carbon-financeonline.com/>

72 <http://www.rechargenews.com/>

73 <http://www.argusmedia.com/>

74 <http://www.loyno.edu/lucec/library>

75 <http://www.loyno.edu/lucec/library>

76 <http://www.loyno.edu/lucec/library>

## 2. Environmental blogging

The number of environmental blogs experienced an upsurge from 2009 onwards. The Internet is now one of the main, and most important, sources for information on environmental issues. Shown below are examples of the many blogs now available on the Internet, relating to environmental journalism.

### 2.1 National Blogs

#### China Environmental Law

Written by Charlie McElwee during his years as an environmental and energy lawyer in Shanghai, this blog offers information on national law and recent amendments.<sup>77</sup>

### 2.2 Regional Blogs

#### Sanctuary Asia Blog

Sanctuary Asia is an Indian wildlife, conservation and environment magazine established in 1981. Since its establishment, more blogs have been produced, such as the Sanctuary Club For Children, The Ecologist Asia, Sanctuary Films, Sanctuary Features, the Sanctuary Photo Library and an own blog. Their focus lies on the Indian sub-continent and Asia in general. The blog is open for members to publish their articles on topics connected with national, regional and international issues linked to biodiversity, development strategies and wildlife conservation.<sup>78</sup>

#### Eco Walk the Talk – Asia’s Global Green Community

This blog has an environmental focus on Asia. It covers news on environmental issues as well as green living tips. The Singapore-based enterprise aims at educating the public with grass root information, using new media to enable people to take action in their daily lives and communities.<sup>79</sup>

### 2.3 International Blogs

#### The Guardian Environmental Blog

The Guardian offers a platform for green journalists to report on climate, energy and wildlife. On this blog, Guardian journalists, as well as politicians and other people, publish and discuss different topics. This blog is not only informative, but also engages everyone to distribute dialogue about the environment to build a perception about sustainability in everyday life.<sup>80</sup>

#### The World Bank Climate Change Blog

Different authors publish their comments, strategies and news on the platform offered by the World Bank regarding climate change all over the world. This is seen as a new approach for the World Bank to engage with people, promote discussion and use the full potential of the Internet.<sup>81</sup>

#### Green Blog

The Green Blog is a multi-author environmental blog with bloggers from all over the world and daily updates. In addition to the blog, a green community forum is also offered.<sup>82</sup>

#### The Science Blog

On this blog, press releases from research organizations have been republished since 2002. The blog also publishes articles and comments by its readers. This blog mainly offers a scientific angle to the environment, animals and new breakthroughs.<sup>83</sup>

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77 <http://www.chinaenvironmentallaw.com/about/>

78 <http://www.sanctuaryasia.com/index.php>

79 <http://www.ecowalkthetalk.com/blog/>

80 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog>

81 <http://climatechange.worldbank.org/blog>

82 <http://www.green-blog.org/>

83 <http://www.green-blog.org/>

### AccuWeather Blog

The AccuWeather Blog focuses on climate change and its influences on weather patterns. In its position statement, AccuWeather expresses its deep concern about the way climate change has been handled in recent years. It wants to support the idea of full consideration of relevant data. Therefore, the blog publishes articles on the weather, influences of climate change and official statements, as well as comments.<sup>84</sup>

### The Earth Times

The Earth Times is an online newspaper specializing in environment-related issues. Since 2011, the website has also included the Green Blogs. The Green Blogs are split into five sections: green opinions, green living, eco-friendly fashion, eco-friendly gadgets and ecotourism. In addition, an Environmental Encyclopedia offers a research base.<sup>85</sup>

### Greenedia

Greenedia aims to collect and link different kinds of environmental blogs. Both expert and group blogs can be found via their homepage. The most popular articles from their blogs are also published on the website, as well as featured videos and podcasts.<sup>86</sup>

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84 <http://www.accuweather.com/en/climate-change>

85 <http://www.earthtimes.org/>

86 <http://www.greenedia.com/>

In 2009, six major environmental problems were identified as facing Asia-Pacific. They were urban excess, deforestation, overfishing, global warming, air pollution and limited safe water supplies.

Nine of the 15 cities with the highest air pollution in the world are in East Asia. Asia-Pacific's greenhouse emissions are increasing at a rate twice as fast as the global average. Much of South-East Asia's original forest cover has been destroyed, at an annual loss rate the size of Switzerland. Asia-Pacific has the highest annual water withdrawal of all the world's regions. Water shortages are projected for 2025 in India, China, North and South Korea, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Bangladesh could lose 17 percent of its land area to rising seas caused by global warming, and Indian crop yields could decline by 30 percent by 2050.

Clearly, with such enormous environmental problems facing the region, the need for widespread, accurate, informed and regular communication on all aspects of the environment is crucial to mitigate these issues as much as possible.

Environmental Journalism, however, is a fairly new field. In addition to being competent journalists, environmental reporters must also be researchers, have some scientific and even economic knowledge to be able to accurately conduct their duties. In some states, as we point out, journalists must also be prepared to confront vested interests, who, in some cases, can turn violent.

This publication sets out to achieve a number of objectives of importance to environmental journalism in the Asia-Pacific region. The objectives are:

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- To identify relevant environmental institutions, journalism awards, funds and educational programs
- To assess the state of environmental reporting in Asia-Pacific