TEAMS IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION OF PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS.

Training Session, Phnom Penh, Cambodia 7-8 November, 2012 Alastair Carthew Phuketpublicrelations.com





7 NOVEMBER

Training Session One.

Brainstorming Challenges
Processes/Structures
Organisation of TCI: Roles/Challenges
Internal Co-ordination/External Stakeholders.

TASKS



ROLES



TASKS

- Interface media, public
- Liaison with Councils/Board
- Timely delivery
- Conform to laws
- Accountability
- Translator
- Planning
- Crisis management

ROLES



- Deputy Governor [chief]
- One official [member of team]
- One official of Information Department [member of team]

DEIKA=The Three Cs.....+R

CREDIBILITY CONSISTENCY CO-ORDINATION

<u>Understand:What Is Important News?</u> repeat repeat repeat repeat repeat repeat repeat repeat

Brainstorm

Brainstorming Guidelines

- All encouraged to participate.
- Questions:
- What outcomes do you want to achieve?
- What is the best process for Cambodian conditions?
- > Processes to be adopted?

All in group to participate. No question or statement rejected. Open mind.

Brainstorming: Current Challenges Faced by PIUs.

- What are your biggest daily challenges?
- How important is teamwork?
- What human resources do you have?
- Who are the most important audiences?
- What practical tools do you have?
- What reporting lines do you have?
- What issues are manageable?
- What issues are beyond your control?

THE STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Provincial/Regional

M \boldsymbol{A} S

Restrictions...

- oCourts
- Damaging

Info

oViolation of

Rights

oSecurity

Stakeholde

Comms

with

- >NGOs
- **Business**
- ➤Govt. Depts.

Report to:

- >Province
- **Board**
- **Chairperson**
- > Council

Outcomes...

- oMeasure
- oReport oMonitor

Media..

- > Which?
- > Priorities
- > Messages
- > Themes

Timeliness..

- •ASAP
- •Discipline
- 30 Days
- •Written warning

Public...

> Direct

Comms.

Liaison

Communit

y orgs.

Law..

- Outreach
- Accurate
- Accountable
- oReporting

Issue That Needs Addressing

- TCI's have difficulty obtaining information from departments.
- Departmental officials may be afraid to give information.
- TCIs required good information in a timely fashion.
- TCIs need to build relationships with relevant departmental officials.

Steps

Spheres of Influence

Generic Objectives

D E I K A Define goals

Identify Stakeholders

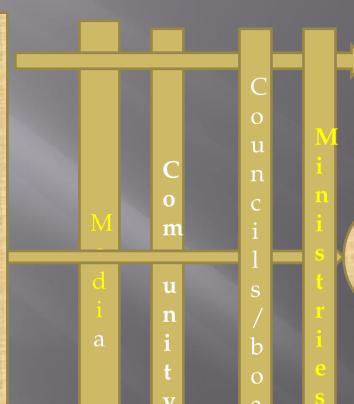
Test and Review

Launch

Defend and Respond

Assess

Evaluate.



Inform

Build coalitions

Change behaviour.

Teams in Charge of Information Capital/Provincial Administrations Training, Cambodia

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Basic Line of Communication in Event of an Issue.

Staff

Inciden t/Issue

Other TCI members

TCI

Council/Board

Adjust approach as required.

Assemble
Information

- -Source
- Outside advisers
- Research [Internet]

Appoint

Spokesperson

- -Specialist
- Fit to subject

General Media

Website

PC Media release Interview Briefing

FB/Social Media.

Feedback/Monitoring/Analysing Outcomes.

Team in Charge of Information: Roles and Challenges.

Consistent, Co-ordinated, Credible, News Identification:TCI Office Communications.

If not practised professionally, openly and in timely fashion:

- Public fears the worst.
- Impression of paralysis.
- Interests being ignored.
- Public needs not being met.
- False rumours.
- Opportunities missed.
- Political opponents can exploit
- Internal party conflict: very damaging.



Important Issue: The Rule of Law

- Important all decisions by TCIs are based on the rule of law in Cambodia.
- Analyse and check statements, actions against the rule of law.
- No rules should be knowingly broken.

» Press office

TCI..Why?

- •Advocate for council/board policies.
- Correct erroneous information.
- Improve understanding of existing information. Coordination with other press offices essential.
- •Lack of co-ordination can lead to embarrassing chaos.

TCI: Why?..cont'd

- •TCI needs journalists to get information to the public.
- TCI offices must co ordinate with each other.
- •Helps public understand issues affecting their lives.
- •Explain council/board policies. Journalists need press officers to help them to understand issues.
- •Governments have so much information-TCI facilitates public understanding.





Co-ordination

Duties of Teams in Charge of Information Officers.

- Handle day to day media/public inquiries.
- Writing and distributing media releases.
- Organising press conferences.
- Setting up interviews.
- Liaising with other Press Offices.
- Speech writing.
- Organising media trips.
- Maintaining media relationships.

Duties of Team in Charge of Information Officers [cont'd]

- Research issues through department.
- Liaison with department/other Govt. departments.
- Planning campaigns [see next slide]
- Adviser to Spokesperson on ministry issues.
- Overseeing web based communication.
- Assisting other officer with development of communication tools.
- Maintaining media relationships.
- Speech writing.

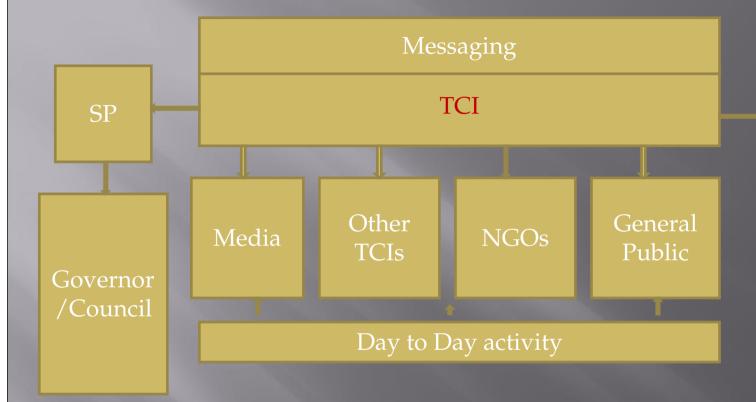
Campaign Planning

- Plan ahead: identify key dates, events.
- Match key events to communications requirements.
- Prepare plan around key theme of campaign.
- Identify key personnel to participate.
- Prepare messaging.
- Identify main communications tools to be used e.g. media release, press conferences, radio, notice boards.

Important Point

- TCI officers should be multitasked.
- One officer could specialise in planning, forward preparation.
- Key point: work together and know each other's skills and abilities.

TCI Member's Roles



- •Planning
- •Strategies
- •Liaison
- •Research
- •Organising
- •Fostering
- •Community
 Relations
- •Crisis
 Comms

Internal TCI Day to Day Process

[Pro and Reactive

- Day to day administration
- •Media
- Tool
- Organisation
 [press
 conferences etc

Planning

- Planning
- •Liaison with Ministry
- Media liaison
- •[issues management]

Spokesperson [Deputy Governor]

- Office overview.
- •Handle media as required.
- Info prepared by other officers

Municipal/Provincial Admin.

- •Oversight of Press Office.
- •Disciplinary action.
- •Political issues.

Work Closely Together

TCI Accountability

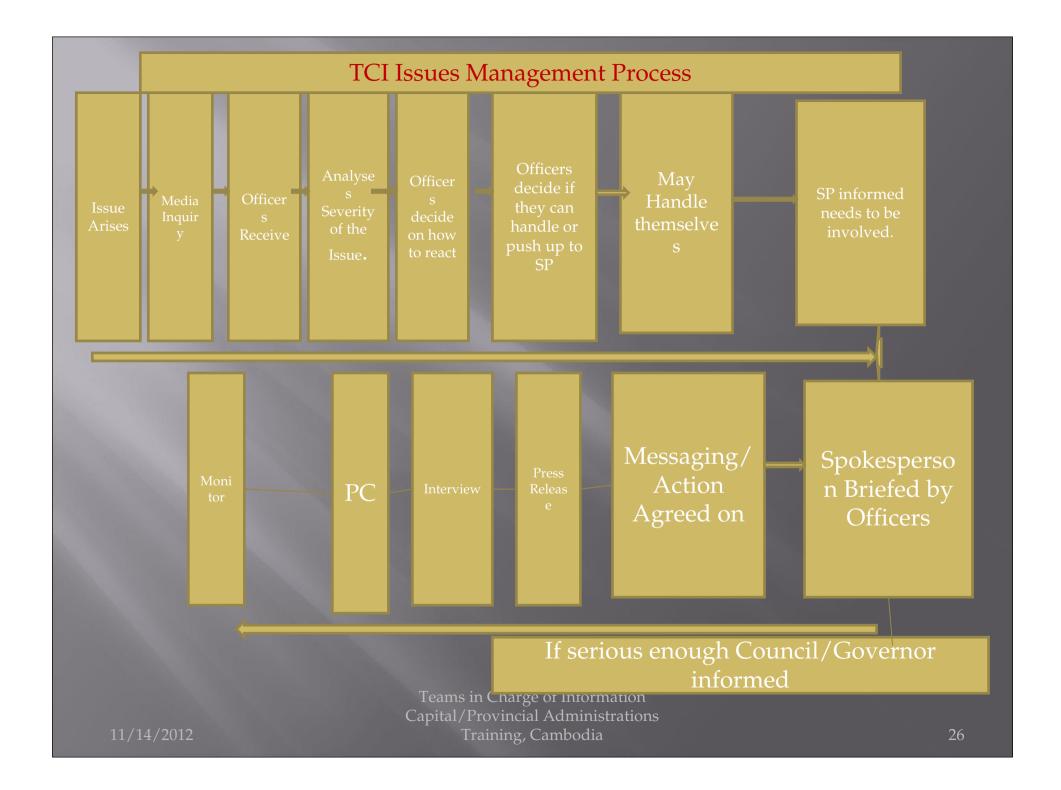
TCIs must adhere to the rule of law in Cambodia.

Provincial and Ministry TCIs Dep.
Gov./Sp
okespers
on

Improve IT
comms
between SP
nd provincial
TCIs

Municipal /Provinci al Council

Public



Spokesperson Reporting Lines Min of Min of Interior Information Chairperson of Chiefs of **Departments** Council Governor **Deputy** Governor/Spokesperson Information Municipal Other Internal Ministry Official Staff Official Teams in Charge of Information

The Filter/Control The Message System.

Govt.

Ministry

Council/Governor

Spokesperson

TCI

Political implications

Financial implications/policy

Local implications

Needs Attention/Can be dealt with

Public Issue.

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Media

NGOS

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Training Session 2.

Feedback/Brainstorm Co-ordinate TCI Roles Roles/Qualities of Spokesperson Co-ordination of Spokesperson Role Co-ordinating Role with Messaging

Responsibilities To Council/Board/Province

Checks & Balances: Check Before Speaking

- Spokesperson MUST check with responsible authorities
- •Accountability to the council and council board on information being disseminated.
- Regularly report to the council and council board about such information.
- •Failure to respond in the prescribed time [30 days] chairperson or governor can issue a written warning.

FIRST RULE OF
ACCOUNTABILITY....ALWAYS
CHECK FACTS AND POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS FIRST.



Council/Municipality/P rovince Responsibilities.

- ·Must co-operate.
- •Provide clear information on time to TCI.

Transfer Responsibility

To TCI

- If not in charge of information in council/province.
- Requests from others, TCI transfer responsibility to council/board/province or relevant government department.



What <u>NOT</u> to Provide Information On.

- Info courts bans.
- •Case under court investigation
- ·National security and public disorder
- Damage with foreign countries
- Violation of individual rights
- •Info on health issues and other secret information.

THE SPOKESPERSON'S ROLE

Spokesperson: Crucial Role



Jay Carney, President Obama Spokesperson. -always calm --always friendly -- always on top of the facts.

The spokesperson MUST be part of the top echelons decision making process

-must have authority to meet Governor [for example] at any time.

- direct contact at all times essential.

Do's and Don'ts



Do's

- ·Always assess the situation carefully before responding.

- Respond according to the information at hand.
- If not all information available, say so.
- If further information becomes available, distribute it as required.
- ·Correct mistakes immediately.
- Use plain language.
- •Treat everything as "on the record."
- ·Be OPEN.
- Correct mistakes by media if warranted.
- ·Use all types of media to get your message out.
- •Return all phone calls **PROMPTLY**.
- ·Have a sense of humour.

Don'ts

- Never LIE: if you don't know the answer immediately, say so.
- Avoid saying NO COMMENT if possible.
- •Do NOT speculate: if you don't know, don't say.



- •Don't comment "off the record."[unless you know and implicitly trust the person].
- •Never expect any email not to be public property.
- Never fail to respond to phone calls.
- Never harass a reporter.

MESSAGING AND THE SPOKESPERSON'S ROLE

Messaging: Stay On Message at All Times



repeat

Message Development



- •Map out your year, if possible, <u>focusing on the major</u> recurring events.
- ·Fill the calendar with themes—even one a week.
- Develop a message for each theme e.g. theme: agricultural production reform. Message: we will look at methods to encourage productivity.
- ·Make a master calendar
- •Check that themes and messages are agreed upon and relate to council/board objectives.
- •Ask: who do you want to hear the message e.g. farmers, students, women.

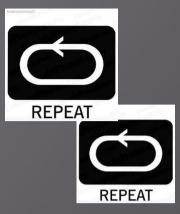


- ·Identify media outlets and locations.
- •Make delivery visual: photo opportunity at a site outside the office.
- •Identify media likely to be most interested in your issue.
- •Remember specialised media e.g. agricultural journals.
- ·Tiered approach—e.g. newspapers
- --- hard news
- •--feature article
- --- editorial page article



Staying on Message

- ·Leader of council/board must help develop the messages.
- •Articulate three to five themes or objectives the leader wishes to accomplish.
- ·Messages must be repeatedly articulated.
- •Focal point of the administration.
- •Short term messages—handle immediate issues.
- ·Long term messaging—adhere to agreed themes.
- ·Above all: BE CONSISTENT...
- ...REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT.





Communications Plan.

- •Once messaging is agreed, develop plan around it.
- Research: audit of internal and external stakeholders to obtain views about the organisation [strengths and weaknesses].
- Ask yourself: what themes do you want to communicate
- •What media strategy to use to communicate these themes.
- •Prioritize the most important themes then..
- •REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT.





Important Issue:Change Public Behaviour

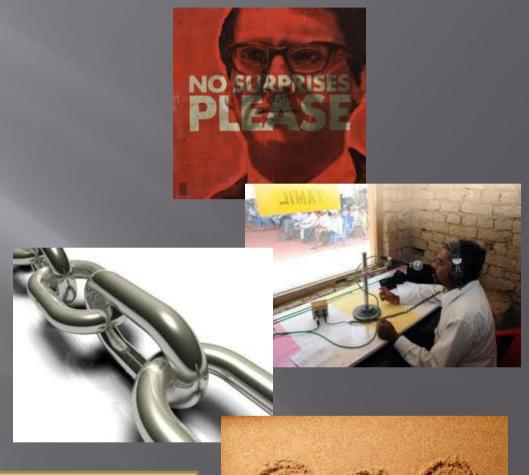
- Good messaging can positively change public behaviour e.g. compulsory wearing of motorbike helmets.
- Repeated messaging will help public understand policies that affect their daily lives e.g. importance of HIV protection programmes.

Spokesperson Duties/Role

Spokesperson's Role

NO SURPRISES!!!!!!!!

- **·CO-ORDINATION**
- •PLANNING—short and long term
- ASSERTIVE—emphasise certain aspects of the council/board policies.
- ·CORDIAL/POLITE
- ·TRANSLATOR
- LINK—between council/board and public.
- •CRISIS MANAGEMENT fronting for the organisation, as required.



Highly adaptable to changing situations

DUTIES

- Respond to media requests as required.
- Conduct regular press conferences
- Develop the messaging
- •Short and long term planning.
- •Co-ordinating messages with other press offices/council/board
- Develop themes
- ·Liaison with council, board.
- ·Supervising speech writing.
- ·Supervising research.
- Overseeing monitoring.



Spokesperson's role could vary according to topic e.g someone else who has intimate knowledge of subject..this should be decided by the team.

Spokesperson's Typical Day.

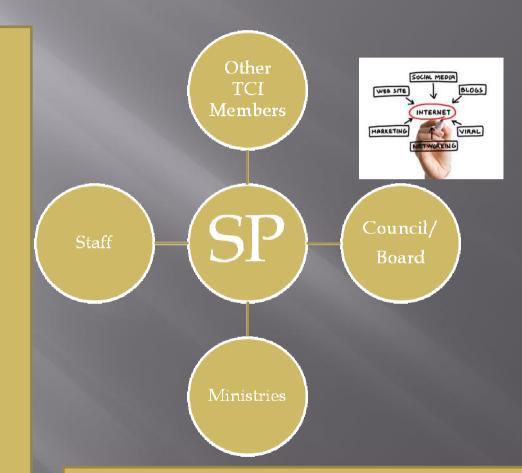
- ·Start early.
- •Review day's media [newspapers, radio, television]
- Early meeting with staff.
- Identify key issues.
- Develop key messages
- •Assess if interviews, press conference necessary.
- •Answer questions throughout the day.



Spokesperson's role could change according to circumstances e.g. someone else with better understanding of specific topic.

Co-ordinate, Co-ordinate, Co-ordinate

 Are other offices questions? Should off? the higher



Calendar
is
important
for coordinatio
n.

Monitor the key communications issues.

Weekly Grid To Track Comms.

April.	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	W e e k e n d
External events		Report				
Chair	Overse as		Report		Chair back	
Dept Chair	In charge					
Councill ors	Messag ing meet	Media briefin g			Info/PS plannin g meeting	
Website						
Internal			Staff attend			

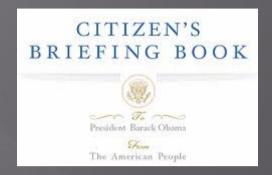
- Co-ordinates across council/province
- Reduces slip ups.
- Better informed comms. Specialists.
- Keeps on message.
- Well informed media is a happier media.

Briefing Book [optional]

- •Prepare a briefing book in advance.
- •Official information about the event.
- ·Who will attend.

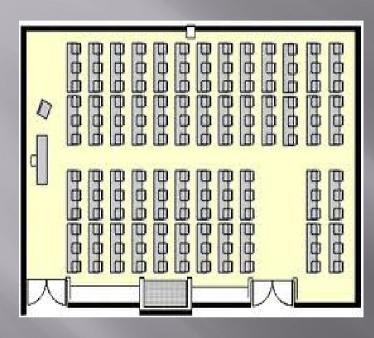
TO AVOID SURPRISES.

- ·Key information:
- -- purpose of event
- ·Size of audience
- ·If media attending.
- ·Major issues being addressed.
- •Names of participants.
- ·List of issues.
- Diagram of the layout.



Applies mainly in the event of a high up person meeting the media direct e.g. Governor or minister.

Layout For Briefing Important



In office interview. SP must sit in on the interview

*Note: Budgets should take such events into account.

- Key person well positioned.
- Backdrop possible [for TV, photos]
- Accessible camera space.
- "Press Conference" feel.
- Key person has more control.
- Looking down on media.
- Room for officials.

Spokesperson's Job Description

- · Media background [not essential].
- · Working knowledge of media.
- How the media works.
- Experienced in own job.
- Understands issues
- Calm under pressure.
- Credible/trustworthy.
- · Maturity
- Sense of humour.
- Patience
- Shrewdness





-CREDIBLE FACE OF THE ORGANISATION.

8 NOVEMBER

Training Session 3.

Media: how to handle.

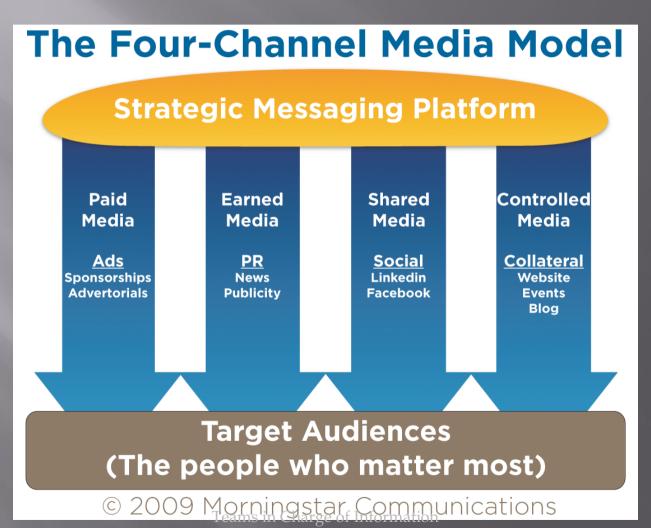
Crisis communications: case study.

Preparation of scenario.

Media: Key Stakeholder



Basic Model



Media: Remember...

- Media are on the outside looking in.
- You have access to more information than they do.
- Your credibility hangs on transparency, facts.
- •In general media must take the information given at face value.
- Media will always seek an alternative point of view viz critics, NGOs, politicians, people affected by the crisis [families].
- •Be prepared to anticipate what your critics will say.[Q and A for minister]



Media Perspective of PR People.

- PR people are "necessary evils."
- >PR people are "paid liars."
- >Avoid PR people if possible.
- Off the record/background briefings highly valued.
- >Press releases generally viewed sceptically [starting point].
- >Television the most important medium.
- > Radio can set the day's agenda.
- >Social media changed all traditional rules.





Media Perspective [cont'd]

- Healthy tension between media and PR people.
- Anyone in your office is fair game to obtain information.
- The ends justify the means to get information.
- Key personnel acknowledgement/friendship is highly valued.
- Physical presence in council office as much as possible.
- Off the record briefings highly valued.
- Press releases generally viewed sceptically.
- Speeches important source of information.

Media Tool Kit

- ·Press release
- **Press conference**
- ·Confidential briefing
- ·Written statement
- ·Website
- ·Monitor

Use Paper

- Helps refine the message
- ·Media will better understand information.
- ·Reference for media.
- Increases chances of story hitting the emphasis you want.

Social Media

- ·Website
- Blogs
- Facebook
- ·Twitter
- ·Apps





CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

Crisis Communications

"Never let a good crisis go to waste"

Rahm Emanuel, Former White House Chief of Staff



NO COVER UP



- Avoid the temptation to cover up.
- Being up front and being seen to address the issue honestly is the best course in the long run.
- Cover ups seldom work in a thriving democracy.
- Social media is making it even harder.

Acknowledge

- Acknowledge, explain, re-assure.
- Avoid the blame game.





Above all: GET ALL THE INFORMATION OUT THERE IN ONE GO.



The Crisis Communications Process

Don't Panic

- Don't panic.
- Identify the specific problem.
- Separate the speculation from fact
- Confirm the facts.
- Analyse the source of the information e.g. media, citizen journalist, political enemy, NGO.
- Does the "cock up" theory or the "conspiracy theory" apply?



Assemble the Team

- Spokesperson to lead but PR to advise.
- Political Team: TIC, chairman, council and board members, Press Office, political advisers, legal, experts as required.
- Others: other Press Offices, departmental heads and advisers; maybe outside trusted colleague [business person?]

Appoint a Spokesperson

- Who? Depends on severity of the crisis.
- If serious the Governor/Council for ultimate transparency and credibility.
- If not so serious: PR who works trusted contacts.
- One spokesperson throughout. All of the team must be "on message."

Messaging



- Crucial to define the message and rigidly stick with it, unless circumstances require a new tactic.
- All key players should participate in developing the message. Sometimes time will dictate this is only two or three people.
- Must be co-ordinated with council/board/province and other offices.
- TCI must ensure all likely players [council. Board members, Press Offices, other aides] are on message.
- If applicable, other council/boards—Royal Government personnel, should be informed.

 Teams in Charge of Information

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Training, Cambodia

Agree the Line to Take [Message



Prepare a brief for the chairman [if necessary to front]:

- Decide if the issue needs immediate addressing or not
- If you decide to address the issue decide: if it can be dealt with by written statement to avoid ambiguity, or needs someone to "front up" to the media.
- If a spokesperson is required select one person **and don't deviate from this.** PR person if not serious, chairman/head if serious.

TIME

- "Time cures everything."
- Somewhat true in politics and still applies. [public and media attention quickly moves on]
- But not as much as it used to be.
- Reason: Social media/television/radio 24/7 news cycles.

By being up front from the outset the issue is more likely to disappear than a cover up.

Key Processes

Press Conference/Confidential Briefing.

- Hold it in top person's office if necessary.
- On site of crisis if possible.
- Only with selected media. Those you want to make the most impact with.
- "Off" or "on" the record assessment made.

PR to Conduct:

Only with trusted journalists.

On and Off The Record

Four Os:

- On the record: everything can be used and attributed to you by name.
- On background: can use by not attribute to you e.g. well informed source.
- On deep background: can use but without any contribution.
- Off the record: for his/her knowledge only but cannot be used in any way. Used to provide a context to the story.

Social Media



- Instant filing at briefing or press conference common e.g. the wire services.
- Be careful not to admit non-registered media [citizen journalists] to briefings or press conferences.
- Spokesperson should be prepared to Twitter, Facebook or website blog rebuttals/information.
- SM can put you on the front foot again if you are proactive enough.

Website

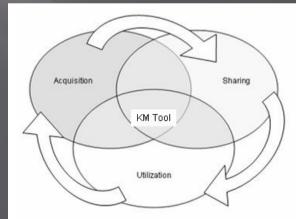


- Post notice of action to be taken, if warranted.
- Major Crisis: activate "dark" site.
- Post continual updates on progress of crisis.
- Use to keep media and public informed.
- Avoid speculation: only facts.
- Use to extend condolences if required.

Action

Main processes for dealing with a crisis.

- Wait and see if it has "legs" and not respond if it doesn't.
- If it does one or all of the following depending on how serious it is:
- Written statement
- One on one briefing.
- Press Conference.
- Website
- Twitter, Facebook
- Parliamentary statement.



Written Statement

- Write a brief statement for email distribution.
- If only one media source for the issue, issue just to them.
- If the story is running in multiple media: issue to media with most immediate deadlines.
- If media say deadline is imminent, dictate statement over the phone.

Press Release

Press Conference

- Only if a major issue.
- Hold it in council/province/board office if possible.
- Have expert advisers on hand for advice.
- Set firm time for start and finish.
- Do not talk to media after the press conference.
- However: some media will definitely want to talk "off the record" if possible. Should only be done with trusted media. PR person should do this if possible with official consent.

Confidential Briefing

Chairman/Spokesperson to conduct:

- Only with selected media. Those you want to make the most impact with.
- "Off" or "on" the record assessment made.

PR to Conduct:

- Only with trusted journalists.
- Usually "off" the record.



Social Media



- Instant filing at briefing or press conference common e.g. the wire services.
- Be careful not to admit non-registered media [citizen journalists] to briefings or press conferences.
- Spokesperson/head should be prepared to Twitter, Facebook or website blog rebuttals/information.
- SM can put you on the front foot again if you are proactive enough.

Website



- If office has a website, or government website.
- Post notice of action to be taken, if warranted.
- Major Crisis: activate "dark" site.
- Post continual updates on progress of crisis.
- Use to keep media and public informed.
- Avoid speculation: only facts.
- Use to extend condolences if required.

Monitoring



- Use personal contacts with media to monitor the issue.
- Professional monitoring organisation.
- Website applications e.g. Google alerts.
- Analyse if more information is required.
- Prepare extra information as required.
- Use selective information drops if it is not necessary for all of the media to know the same messaging.
- Monitor all media coverage.

Internal Communication

- Keep staff informed. PM PR person should attend any briefing, press conference.
- Spokesperson to keep other province/board/council heads informed personally, by email. PRs included.
- Keep own staff informed.
- Prepare statement to council/board if necessary.

Issues Management

- Creating an environment through personal contact to mitigate damage in times of crisis.
- Frequent meetings with the media.
- Media training for politicians.
- Cultivate certain members of the members of the members of the members of the members.
- Given selective briefings as required.
- Social contact important.

Stakeholder And Issues
Management
Approaches



Facilitation Of Scenario

- 3-4 facilitators required
- Group appoints own facilitators.
- Locations for group meetings to be identified.
- Facilitators to gather groups together.
- Brief groups on scenario and allocate roles.
- Set time limits for report back.
- Use white boards for exercise.
- All group members encouraged to contribute.
- Facilitator to note key points on whiteboard.
- Facilitators to prepare report back to main group.
- Facilitators or nominee report verbally to whole group.

Scenario Scene Setter

- Cambodia's health care varies greatly because of isolation in some areas, and concentration of people in others [800,000 in Phnom Penh]
- Many diseases: malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrheal, dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis, yaws, intestinal worms.
- Preventative health measures include educational materials via radio, TV, newspapers, posters, seminars with flip charts, audio visual displays.
- In fact mortality rate of 120 per 1000 births up to age one, one of highest in the world.

Health Scare Scenario

Background....

- •Seven villages [communes] in isolated province.
- Outbreak of unidentified disease in remote province.
- ·25 adults and 30 children affected.
- ·Five people died.
- No immediate medical facilities available within 50 km.
- . Area remote. Diseases such as malaria, TB, Typhoid, hepatitis, VD common.

Challenge...

- Could cause panic as disease not identified.
- To calm public concern that this outbreak could spread to nearby villages.
- To establish a suitable course of action.
- To handle aggressive media questions.
- How to co-ordinate with provincial health department.
- Public concern being whipped up by media.
- Mobilise public opinion.
- To ensure the Council's reputation is not damaged.

Action to be Taken

- What internal lines of communication would you use?
- Delegations of responsibilities.
- What research necessary?
- What messages?
- Who is the spokesperson?
- What authority head to co-ordinate with?
- At what stage is the issue referred upwards?
- What appropriate communication tools will you employ?
- Other issues: legal, political?
- How monitor and adapt to changing situation?

Outcomes Sought

- Calm public fears.
- Preserve reputation of organisation.
- Prevent misinformation by media.
- Limit criticism by experts, NGOs.
- Educate public about the "mysterious" disease.
- Show authority, calmness in dealing with crisis.
- Mobilise public participation on the issue.
- Move on to the next issue.

8 NOVEMBER

Training Session 4.

- Report Back on Scenario
- Discussion
- Summing Up
- Further Development of Deika

SCENARIO REPORT BACK

- Approach.
- Messaging
- Action.
- Delegations
- **Reporting Lines**
- Monitoring.
- **Outcomes**

Further Development of The Deika: Talking Points

- Intense spokesperson training.
- Co-ordination with stakeholders.
- More IT training at provincial level.
- Stronger communication between provinces and government.
- Building media relationships.
- More on internal co-ordination.
- Calendar of events defined.
- Liaison with other press offices.
- More message development.
- Define communications plan objectives.
- Prepare crisis communications plan.

 Teams in Charge of Information