

“Reporting development dilemmas”fellowship for journalists

During the past few years in Sri Lanka media coverage has mostly been on political and security related issues often bypassing other development issues. Lack of awareness about certain issues, lack of relevant sources to obtain information, changing priorities of media organizations and lack of convincing stories are some of the major reasons that hinder investigative journalism on development.

In order to address these gaps there has to be continued programmes that build the capacity of journalists with constant mentoring and incentives to continue investigatory journalism. Practical Action in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Press Institute organized a capacity building programme with the view to increase and improve media coverage on development issues which are often unnoticed by the traditional way of reporting on issues.

Nine journalists were nominated from *Siyatha*- 01 Sinhala newspaper, *The Island & The nation* - 02 English newspapers, *Veerakesari*- 01 Tamil newspaper, *Swarnawahini*,*Rupavahini*&*Young Asia Television* 03 Television stations, and *Lak FM* 01 radio station.

Three workshops were conducted on the themes of climate change, disaster risk reduction in development & fisheries. Subsequent to the workshops a field visit was organized to identify issues faced by lagoon fishermen in the eastern province. The journalists visited Kathiraveli village in Batticaloa district lagoons in Komari and Periyakalapu interviewed the fishermen and other village leaders. The participants have already produced number of articles reporting on stories related to climate change, disasters and development and fisheries.

The final step of this process includes an awarding ceremony which will be followed by a discussion. The awarding ceremony will be held on the 14th July 2010 at the Sri Lanka Press Institute, Kirula Road, Colombo 05 from 3.30p.m to 6p.m.

Date : 14th July 2010

Venue : Sri Lanka Press Institute

Draft Agenda

- 3.45p.m Introduction and welcome
- 4.00pm Screening of video, audio productions by participants
- 4.30p.m Participants share their experience about the fellowship
- 4.45p.m Reporting environmental & development issues

Attorney at Law & environmentalist JagathGunewardane

- 5.15p.m Address by DrVishakaHidellage, Regional Director, Practical Action
- 5.30p.m Address by Prof TissaKariyawasam& awarding of certificates & gift vouchers to participants
- 5.45p.m Awarding of certificates
- 6p.m Discussion

