

In a Box Innovations

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

News

AMARC Asia Pacific and SAARC Information Centre to Work Jointly for the Development of Community Radio in South Asia

The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC Asia Pacific) and the SAARC Information Centre (SIC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in June 2013, to work jointly for the development of community broadcasting in South Asia. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) alliance includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The AMARC-SIC MOU is based on an earlier decision made by the SAARC Standing Committee to organise SAARC level consultations and capacity building workshops on an annual basis in partnership with AMARC Asia Pacific.

Mr. Ashish Sen, President of AMARC Asia Pacific has welcomed the partnership with SIC. "The MOU will have long term and positive impact on community broadcasting in South Asia. On behalf of AMARC, I welcome the MOU and look forward to working with SIC to achieve our common objectives of advancing the community broadcasting in the sub region. Through the partnership, we hope to advocate for community radio at the highest level of policy making in South Asia," Mr. Sen said.

As the first step of implementation of the MOU, AMARC and SIC will organize a South Asian Seminar on "Enhancing role of Community Radio and Promoting Positive Social Change" from August 25-27 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal. It will be participated by policy makers, community broadcasters & advocates and stakeholders of the sector from the South Asian Region.

Mr. Suman Basnet, Regional Coordinator of AMARC Asia Pacific and Mr. Laxmi Bilas Koirala, Director of SAARC Information Centre signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations.
(Asia-Pacific AMARC)

I can't see, so when my radio was destroyed in the cyclone, I felt very isolated. Now that I have a radio, I feel like I can see!

A blind Monk in Burma who received a radio after cyclone.

Pioneering community radio in rural Mongolia



Radio-in-a-Box being setup

The community radio stations have been established to ensure that the residents in ten minority-populated soums in four aimags - Bayan-Olgii, Uvs, Khovd and Khuvsgul - have access to locally-generated radio content in their own language. The radio stations are located either in the community learning centers (CLC) or in public buildings, and are working with the population at large in a participatory way, with an elected board, a manager as well as producers and volunteers.

The remote soums were introduced to the concept of community radio and of local ownership, and community participation. Each radio station is supervised by a Board consisting of 10-15 members elected by the community and representatives of the local civil society. A total of 70 people from the involved soums were trained on radio management, journalism, programming and technical operations and maintenance. In all, twelve training workshops were conducted, and each station's staff was provided with legal and professional handbooks, manuals, copyright-free music, audio programmes and educational audios.

A total of 536 citizens and 178 board members, staff and volunteers were directly involved.

The community radios are now broadcasting news, live programmes and talk shows. Stations are taking initiative to achieve sustainability with income generation activities. A strategy to further support the community through the creation of a Community Radio Network has been developed by the partner NGO, Globe International, to ensure the medium term sustainability of the radio stations.

(UNESCO)

(Editor's note: These 10 radio-in-a-box units have been supplied by In a Box Innovations and are operating very successfully in extreme climatic conditions).

Products in Development

We are developing a low cost TV Studio (in a Box). Facilities provided will include, 4 camera inputs, SD/HD capability, recording on solid state memory, chroma key, upstream and downstream key, 1Mix Effect (1ME), audio mixing, programme/preview and multiview monitoring.

Watch this space!!

We are also able design and supply facilities for Community Learning Centres. These facilities include:

- 1) Sound system for audio mixing, recording, editing, CD/DVD duplication and workshop/seminar room
Options:
 - a) Portable PA system with 50W PA amplifier, 2x wireless microphones and CD player
 - b) 3 drive CD/DVD duplicator
- 2) Video system for video filming events/talks/discussions on SD/HD video format in house or on location and video editing.
- 3) Community meeting room digital signage to automatically display scheduled video clips, documentaries, notices, community messages and advertisements.

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Technology

How is sound recorded?

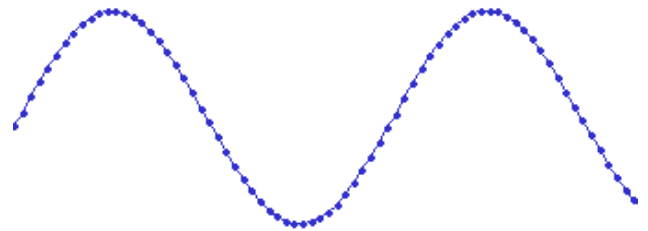
A microphone consists of a small membrane that is free to vibrate, along with a mechanism that translates movements of the membrane into electrical signals. (The exact electrical mechanism varies depending on the type of microphone.) So acoustical waves are translated into electrical waves by the microphone. Typically, higher pressure corresponds to higher voltage, and vice versa.

A tape recorder translates the waveform yet again - this time from an electrical signal on a wire, to a magnetic signal on a tape. When you play a tape, the process gets performed in reverse, with the magnetic signal transforming into an electrical signal, and the electrical signal causing a speaker to vibrate, usually using an electromagnet.

How is sound recorded digitally?

Recording onto a tape is an example of analog recording. Audacity deals with digital recordings - recordings that have been sampled so that they can be used by a digital computer, like the one you're using now. Digital recording has a lot of benefits over analog recording. Digital files can be copied as many times as you want, with no loss in quality, and they can be burned to an audio CD or shared via the Internet. Digital audio files can also be edited much more easily than analog tapes.

The main device used in digital recording is a Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC). The ADC captures a snapshot of the electric voltage on an audio line and represents it as a digital number that can be sent to a computer. By capturing the voltage thousands of times per second, you can get a very good approximation to the original audio signal:



Each dot in the figure above represents one audio sample. There are two factors that determine the quality of a digital recording:

Sample rate: The rate at which the samples are captured or played back, measured in Hertz (Hz), or samples per second. An audio CD has a sample rate of 44,100 Hz, often written as 44 KHz for short. This is also the default sample rate that Audacity uses, because audio CDs are so prevalent.

Sample format or sample size: Essentially this is the number of digits in the digital representation of each sample. Think of the sample rate as the horizontal precision of the digital waveform, and the sample format as the vertical precision. An audio CD has a precision of 16 bits, which corresponds to about 5 decimal digits.

(Courtesy Source Forge Website)

Continued on Next Issue