



NUMBER 40 NOVEMBER 2005

IN THE NEWS...

2. PRINT MEDIA NEWS

Gabon: *Echos du Nord*, a new weekly

3. TELEVISION AND RADIO NEWS

Burundi: The RPA awards donor agencies "Certificates of Honour"

Gabon: *RFM*, Gabon's new FM radio station

Chad: Chad's first independent TV station

4. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MEDIA

Chad: HCC and Odemet hold joint workshop

5. STRUCTURING AND PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE MEDIA

Congo: Journalists learn about ethics and codes of conduct

Great Lakes: Guide to radio talk-shows as tools for peacebuilding

DRC: Kick-off workshop for PARI centres in Kisangani

DRC: *Journalistes en Danger* correspondents get training in Katanga

1. PRINT MEDIA NEWS

Gabon: *Echos du Nord*, a new weekly

As of 14 October, Gabon has had a new 12-page weekly, called *Echos du Nord*, selling for 500 Fcfa (0.76 euros). The first issue focused on economic issues in Gabon. Neither the name of the publisher nor the printer were given in this issue.

According to the publication's director, Désiré Enamea, the first 3000 copies of *Echos du Nord* were printed by Macacos (Douala, Cameroon) and distributed by Sogapress. This information was not communicated because the publisher wanted to test its readership before carrying on with the paper. The paper aims to provide news, with an emphasis on factual information.

AN / IPP

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2. RADIO AND TV NEWS

Burundi: The RPA awards donor agencies "Certificates of Honour"

On 10 November, African Public Radio (RPA) awarded "Certificates of Honour" to all the donor agencies that had helped it to become a success, including the NGO, Cordaid, the European Commission, via PREBU, (Programme de réhabilitation du Burundi), UNDP, the Open Society Institute, and the Kingdom of Belgium. These certificates were awarded "in recognition of partners' continued support for RPA", according to RPA's president, Martin Sindabuzera.

"Since it was set up on 25 March 2001, RPA has sought to promote justice and equality for those who have no voice", emphasised the station's deputy director, Jean-Marie Vianney Hicuburundi. "At the height of the war, while others were stirring hatred, RPA chose to hold debates, and to carry out reporting assignments despite threats to their journalists, in an effort to bring rebel factions back to the negotiating table" he added.

Today, RPA hopes to open a third regional station, in Ngozi, in the north of the country. Two others are already broadcasting from Makamba (in the south) and Ruyigi (in the east) with a network of correspondents. By decentralising news and information in this way, the various local concerns of communities can be addressed.

DaN / IPP

DRC: A new radio and TV station for Lubumbashi

The town of Lubumbashi has had a new commercial radio and television station, called *Mwangaza*, since October 1, 2005.

Radio broadcasts are on 89.9 Mhz with a 2000 W transmitter, while the television broadcasts on 471.25 Mhz with a 1000 W transmitter, covering a 150 km radius area. *Mwangaza*, which is directed by Mrs Rose Tshakwiza, aims to become "a crossroads, open to everyone, where the practical and the pleasurable meet". Radio *Mwangaza* has its studios on the 5th floor of the administrative building of the University of Lubumbashi, next to *Radio Phœnix*.

DS / IPP

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Chad: Chad's first independent TV station

Chad's first independent TV station, *Alnassr TV*, started broadcasting on 16 November, its 15W transmitter covering all of N'Djamena.

For the time being the non-profit station broadcasts only three hours each day with a mix of programmes devoted to education, awareness-raising and news, in both French and Arabic.

According to Mahamat Saleh Hissein Ben Malallah, the station's administrator and programme coordinator, *Alnassr TV* should soon be signing an agreement with the High Communication Council (HCC), Chad's press regulatory body, and the Chad telecommunications regulatory body, (OTRT). This agreement will also contain the station's mandate, statutes and programming.

Alnassr TV is an all-Chad creation of the Alnassr Foundation for Communication, with an investment of about 300 million Fcfa (461,420 euros).

LG / IPP

3. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MEDIA

Chad: HCC and Odemet hold joint workshop

From 10-12 October, around 30 participants took part in a national workshop in N'Djamena, held to inform and raise awareness about relationships between journalists, public sector administrators, the military and magistrates. The workshop was organised jointly by the High Communication Council (HCC) and the Chad Observatory for Ethics and Professional Conduct in the Media (Odemet).

Contributors addressed a number of issues including the legal and institutional framework of media in Chad; the mandates of HCC and Odemet; possibilities for collaboration between the media and forces of order; citizens' right to free speech and the vocation of journalist; decriminalisation of press offences.

According to members of the HCC and Odemet, journalists often have conflicting relationships with other professions, which are founded on prejudice and *a priori* judgements. This is why this workshop hoped to provide participants with an opportunity to reflect and seek means to render relationships more harmonious.

The workshop was supported by GRET (*Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques*).

LG / IPP

4. STRUCTURING AND PROFESSIONNALISATION OF THE MEDIA

Congo: Journalists learn about ethics and codes of conduct

Brazzaville hosted a workshop/seminar on Media and Democracy on 8-9 September at the Evangelist Resource Centre, organised by the OCM (*Observatoire congolais des médias*), the Congolese media watchdog body.

The meeting provided OCM members with an opportunity to remind journalists of their code of ethics and professional conduct, as well as to work on Law n°8 of 12 November 2001 governing the profession of journalist. Speaking at the seminar, Alain Akoualat Atipault, Minister for Communication, and Government Spokesman, who chaired the meeting, reminded participants that "press freedom is an extraordinarily serious and important matter, and those who make use of it on a daily basis cannot continue to flout the codes of ethics and professional conduct, as we see they too often continue to do".

This is why the OCM made a commitment to monitor journalists regularly in order gradually to eliminate breaches of ethics and codes of conduct. To do so, they drafted a monitoring schedule to show up any acts that are contrary to professional journalism.

AKM / IPP

Great Lakes: Guide to radio talk-shows as tools for peace-building

Radio for Peace-building Africa (RFPA) has published on its website a new guidebook to radio talks-shows for peace-building.

Developed in April 2005 at a workshop in Burundi that brought together 21 radio talk-show presenters and producers from 11 countries in sub-Saharan African countries, the guide is addressed to anyone involved in producing these kinds of programme. The guide outlines techniques that can help presenters to deal constructively with conflicts that arise. It aims to help producers and presenters of radio talk-shows to play a role in peace-building.

The guidebook, *Radio Talkshows for Peacebuilding* is now available in English and French on CD-Rom and in the manuals section of the website www.radiopeaceafrica.org.

RFPA is a project of the international NGO Search for Common Ground, which works on the transformation of conflicts. RFPA aims to develop peace-building techniques that are adapted to the contexts of Africa and to encourage the production of content that integrates these techniques.

RFPA / IPP

To receive a copy of the manual:

Send an email to radiopeaceafrica@sfcg.be with your name, the name of your radio station and your postal address.

DRC: Workshop to launch PARI in Kisangani

From 5 - 13 November 2005, sixteen journalists and technicians from independent radio stations in Eastern Province took part in a workshop on media coverage of the elections in DRC, and the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT). The workshop also marked the launch of Kisangani's second PARI independent radio support centre.

The seminar, which was organised by Institut Panos Paris, provided participants with an opportunity to improve the content of their programmes using Internet as a source of information. They also learned how digital audio techniques can boost broadcast quality. According to Freddy Mulongo, president of ARCO, the association of community radio in DRC, the seminar "opened the way to professional broadcasting in Eastern province".

A network of journalists was also set up to facilitate the production and exchange of information, while an independent radio charter was adopted by participants in the framework of the PARI. The charter should help guide the journalists during the elections, as signatories commit themselves to share air time equally between political players of different persuasions, to provide media coverage in partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), and to remain impartial in the treatment and dissemination of information.

This second PARI is an initiative of Institut Panos Paris, in collaboration with Worldcom and NIZA, with support from British development aid (DFID).

FN / IPP

DRC: *Journalistes en Danger* mission in Katanga

Thirty-five print and broadcast journalists from all over the province of Katanga took part in a training session held by JED from 26 - 27 October at the Park Hotel in Lubumbashi on "Techniques for investigating allegations and attacks on press freedom, and writing alerts". The session also enabled JED to widen its circle of correspondents, with new members of the OMAC alert network.

During the mission, on 28 October, a partnership protocol between JED and the Ngulungu Associates law firm was officially signed. This provides JED with a source of legal assistance for journalists who are being prosecuted for pursuing their profession, legal advice on press freedom issues, as well as defence if legal action is taken against JED itself.

This mission for JED was organised in collaboration with Institut Panos Paris, with support from British development aid (DFID).

DS / IPP

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