



Center for Media Research - Nepal

Introductory Annual Report 2012/13



Introduction

Center for Media Research – Nepal (CMR Nepal) is a not-for-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered with Nepal Government and Social Welfare Council (SWC) and based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The major objectives of the organization it to conduct, support and promote researches on various aspects of media; design, manage and conduct capacity-enhancement trainings to the working journalists especially on new emerging technologies; advocate for free and independent media and Internet-based media and publishing training manuals and researches.

The organization specializes in media research –on print, electronic and digital media and media training; advocating media rights and promotion of ethical journalism across platforms.

Objectives

- Design, conduct and support studies and researches on various aspects of media
- Develop, design, manage and conduct skill development trainings, workshops and seminars for journalists especially on emerging new Internet-based media technologies
- Publication of training manuals and research reports in print and electronic formats
- Partner and co-ordinate with other similar organizations to work to uplift journalism standards and practices
- Advocate for media rights, media freedom especially on the Internet by publications, trainings and support to media rights activists and organizations

Ujjwal Acharya
Chairman

Tilak Pathak
Vice-president

Bhuwan KC
Secretary

Bikash Karki
Treasurer

Rishikesh Dahal
Umesh Shrestha
Rajneesh Bhandari
Ujjwal Prajapati
Members

**POBox 10211, Anamnagar,
Kathmandu, Nepal**

Priority Research Areas

- Media and Information Literacy
- Digital / Online Journalism
- Social Media and Journalism

<http://research.butmedia.org>

www.facebook.com/CMRNepal

www.twitter.com/cmrnepal

Partner Organizations

Digital Media Committee at Federation of Nepali Journalists;
Center for International Media Ethics (CIME); Photojournalists'
Club; Online Journalists Association; Bloggers Association of
Nepal; Asia Journalist Association – Nepal



Ujjwal Acharya
Chairman 2011-13

CMR-Nepal is the first name that crosses anyone's mind thinking of media research.

In January 2011, many of us gathered around a table and envisioned a media organization.

Almost three years later, the organization we've established, CMR-Nepal, is a matter for pride for all of us.

I was entrusted the responsibility of ensuring recognition of it, first as the chair of the interim committee, and three months later, as the chair of unanimously elected first executive committee.

I wanted to do a lot of things going through excellent suggestions and support you have provided, all of which was not possible. Those things possible were done.

Today, CMR-Nepal is the first name that crosses anyone's mind thinking of media research. We have a few very good independent researches conducted under our auspices.

We did some ground works by designing training program for journalists on new digital media technologies and I'm hopeful we'll soon have the pilot training before finalizing the course and manual.

We held very good discussion programs and partnered with good media organizations.

I'm sure you'll be happy with the progress we've made.

Thank you!

**Chairman's
Message**



Bhuwan KC
Secretary 2011-13

CMR-Nepal has established itself as a premier institution in media sector, a matter a pride for all of us.

Welcome to everyone attending the Annual General Assembly of Center for Media Research – Nepal.

CMR-Nepal was formally constituted on January 2011 and the first AGM was held three months later. In those three years, the organization has established itself as a premier institution in media sector, a matter a pride for all of us.

Since you will find all activities of CMR-Nepal in later pages of this report, let me focus on more subjective report on what we have gained in those three years. I will also dwell on what we wanted to but couldn't do in those years and our future plans.

The organization has become a well-known organization within media fraternity.

We've begun the process of institutionalized yet independent researches on media and we've been receiving requests for support on research designs.

The use of resources on our websites has increased and due to various visits, on other capacities by CMR-Nepal members have helped us to gain international exposure and partnership.

Yet, we have not been able to use the resources at the CMR-Nepal to its full potential. Gatherings of members and discussions on

**Secretary's
Report**

We are also open to any other programs or projects that fulfills our objectives.

media issues are still not frequent. And, we haven't been able to raise funds for our programs.

We've very transparent accounting system yet it needs to be systematically updated.

Now let me talk about future plans!

1. Establishing partnership and co-operation with other national and international organizations with similar objectives to further advance researches, trainings, discussions and advocacy for media rights.

2. Raising funds for implementation of current and new projects.

3. Focusing on institutional

and individual media researches.

4. Updating website to make it more resourceful.

5. Publication of books and web journals.

We are also open to any other programs or projects that fulfills our objectives.

In those three years, the contributions by all our members were overwhelmingly encouraging and I want to ensure that we'll continue to be independent media organization dedicated to its objectives.

With all your supports, it's possible and we'll succeed.

Thank you!



Activities

Research
Fellowship
Discussion Program
Training

Research

CMR-Nepal conducted two surveys in last three years. Published in 2012, the survey on 'Journalist and Social Media' helped in establishing the foundation of the organization.

Chairman Ujjwal Acharya and vice-president Tilak Pathak presented the survey results in various conferences and programs. The report was also published in prestigious Nepali Journal of Contemporary Studies.

A Twitter User Survey was also conducted under the auspices of CMR-Nepal. More than 600 Twitter users from Nepal participated in the survey and the preliminary report was published in 2013. The news and summary of survey was widely published by the mainstream media.

Besides those two researches a score of other individual research projects are ongoing with support provided by the organization.

(continued)

All our research reports, rapports of discussion programs and fellowship details are available on our website

Discussion Program

On July 21, 2012, CMR-Nepal organized an open discussion program on state of media literacy in Nepal.



Prof P Kharel during open discussion on media literacy.

Participants of the International Media Ethics Day discussion.

During the program chairman Ujjwal Acharya presented a concept paper on the topic on which participants, mostly journalism educators from

various universities, commented and shared experiences. Professor P Kharel of Tribhuvan University delivered a keynote concluding remarks. A rapport of the program is available for download in our website.

On September 21, 2012, CMR-Nepal organized a focus group discussion in Kathmandu to mark the International Media Ethics Day in association with Center for International Media Ethics (CIME).

Executive Committee member Rishikesh Dahal presented an overview of situation of media ethics in Nepal. Media law expert and Administrative Court chair Kashiraj Dahal gave the keynote speech.

Participants of the discussion included Jagat Nepal, secretary of the Federation of Nepali Journalists and Manrishi Dhital, a member of Press Council of Nepal among other media practitioners and academicians.



In July 21, 2013, CMR-Nepal organized another focus group discussion on use of anonymous sources in Nepal's newspapers. The program was participated by senior political journalists of all mainstream dailies. The focus group served as a data collection program of senior fellow Prakash Acharya's research on same topic.

Pathak. It was participated by 15 photojournalists working for various national and international media organizations whose feedbacks were very encouraging.

The organization has also drafted a digital media skills training for journalists and the training course will be finalized after a pilot training scheduled late this year.

Media Research Fellowship

Last year, CMR-Nepal introduced an innovative Media Research Support Fellowship Program to promote media researches within and outside academic field. After call for submission of proposals, the organization selected a senior fellow, lecturer Prakash Acharya at the Central Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of Tribhuvan University, and four fellows, namely, Mukunda Nepal, Sudeep Upreti, Rajneesh Bhandari and Umesh Shrestha.



Participants of Basic Journalism for Photojournalists training. The week-long training was organized jointly by CMR- Nepal and PJ Club.

Training

CMR-Nepal organized a five-day Basic Journalism training for photojournalists in association of Photojournalists Club in Kathmandu from November 12-16, 2011. The training was designed by CMR-Nepal and co-ordinated by Tilak

Co-ordinated by Central Department of Journalism and Mass Communication's Rishikesh Dahal, the program ran for six months during which the fellows met regularly at CMR-Nepal office to discuss progress with assigned mentors and in-group. The fellows were provided CMR-Nepal's facilities and small library during their fellowship.

Media Studies subject committee co-ordinator of Purbanchal University Tilak Pathak, lecturer of Madan Bhandari Memorial College Bhuwan KC and lecturer at Kathmandu University Ujjwal Prajapati worked with fellows as mentors.

We expect the research reports from fellows soon.

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CMR-Nepal Fellows 2013

Prakash Acharya, senior fellow

Acharya, a media lecturer at the Central Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of Tribhuvan University, will be the fellow under CMR-Nepal Media Research Partnership Program.

Acharya will be conducting a research on use of anonymous sources in Nepali newspapers. Under the program, CMR-Nepal will support his research activities.

Mukunda Nepal, fellow

Nepal of Ratna Rajya Laxmi College is named a fellow under CMR-Nepal Media Research Mentorship Program.

Nepal will be writing a Masters level thesis on social media's role in agenda setting for mainstream media particularly analyzing journalists' use of information on social media.

Sudeep Uprety, fellow

Uprety, a master's level student in conflict and peace studies, is also named a fellow under CMR-Nepal Media Research Mentorship Program. He will analyze the media's discourse on security issues.

Rajneesh Bhandari, fellow

Named as a fellow under CMR-Nepal's own research program only available for members of the organization, Bhandari will conduct a study on impact of mobile evolution on youth in Nepal.

Umesh Shrestha, fellow

Also named as a fellow under CMR-Nepal's own research program only available for members of the organization, Shrestha will conduct a study of audience responses on online news analyzing news portals.