UNESCO / SciDevNet Workshop for journalists and other communicators from South East Asia on "the use of ICTs for reporting on the science of HIV/AIDS"

6-14th July 2004, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok

FINAL REPORT
CONTENTS

3 Introduction and summary of workshop
4 Workshop trainers
5 Workshop programme: timetable and description of sessions
7 Opening Ceremony
10 HIV/AIDS science
11 HIV/AIDS resources online
12 Finding, evaluating and retrieving HIV/AIDS resources online
13 Journalism skills
19 Group discussion on networking and brainstorming of suggestions for future workshops
20 Feedback from Workshop Questionnaires
27 Participants contact details
Introduction and Summary of the Workshop

From 6 – 14th July 2004, the Science and Development Network and UNESCO conducted a workshop on “the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the reporting of HIV/AIDS research” for journalists and other communicators who wished to enhance their use of information and communication technology for reporting on scientific and medical research into HIV/AIDS. It followed from two previous successful workshops of the same theme, held in Kampala, Uganda, in April 2003 http://www.scidev.net/ms/hivaids/index.cfm?pageid=103, and Chennai, India in November 2003 http://www.scidev.net/misc/Report_Jan_2004(2).doc.

Sixteen print, TV and radio journalists and other communicators attended the workshop from different countries within South East Asia: Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia and The Philippines. Three trainers, from the UK, India and Australia provided the training.

The workshop aimed to:
- Provide training in the use of the internet, email, and discussion groups to search, select and retrieve information and resources that are most relevant to reporting on the science of HIV/AIDS.
- Improve the quality and output of scientific/medical stories about HIV/AIDS.
- Help participants to overcome workplace obstacles to HIV/AIDS reporting.
- Raise awareness of HIV/AIDS reporting themes and practices in other countries in South East Asia.
- Provide new opportunities for networking among communicators in the same geographical region, for the benefit of mutual support and encouragement.

The main workshop training (7 – 10th July) took place at the Asian Institute for Technology in Nonthaburi, Bangkok (http://www.ait.ac.th), which has a fully equipped conference center including a computer suite, seminar rooms and IT support. Participants then spent from 11th – 13th July attending the 15th International AIDS Conference (http://www.aids2004.org) for practical experience.

Workshop activities included a combination of group discussions, an introduction to the basic science of HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS resources, and training in internet use and journalism skills. Participants were assumed on the basis of their workshop application forms to already possess basic internet and email skills, so that the workshop focused on applying these skills to make best use of internet resources on HIV/AIDS. In particular, participants were introduced to SciDevNet’s own Quick Guide to HIV/AIDS http://www.scidev.net/quickguides/index.cfm?qguideid=1, now updated to contain spotlights on HIV/AIDS vaccines and microbicides, as well as South East Asia resources gathered by the UNESCO Bangkok HIV/AIDS Clearing House (http://www) and also by the Cxxx.

Participants were also introduced to training modules on “Reporting on HIV/AIDS”, “Finding and Evaluating HIV/AIDS Resources” and “Web-based HIV/AIDS communication”, developed from the materials and exercises used in the previous UNESCO/SciDevNet workshops held in Kampala (April, 2003) and Chennai, India (November 2003) which are now online at ItrainOnline http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/mmtk/hivaids.shtml. All participants were provided with CD-roms containing copies of workshop resources.

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to complete anonymously a questionnaire to feedback their impressions and criticisms of the workshop training.
Workshop Trainers

**Joe Thomas**, moderator of the AIDS-India eForum and AIDS-Timor eForum, was the key IT and internet resources trainer. Joe is also HIV/AIDS/STI advisor and project manager for the National HIV Support programme in East Timor. His main background is in public health research, including ethical issues such as treatment access in resource-poor settings.

**TV Padma** is a science journalist currently working as Project Editor/Co-ordinator at the India office of Panos, an international media organisation that specialises in development communication. Padma's role there is in media projects on public health, environment and environment justice. Previously she was the Science Correspondent of Press Trust of India (PTI), India’s leading news agency, where she reported extensively on research and policy issues. She now reports on science for SciDev.Net, New Scientist and Inter Press Service (IPS).

**Julie Clayton**, is a freelance science journalist and HIV/AIDS coordinator for SciDevNet. She previously organised two similar workshops on "The Use of ICTs for reporting on the science of HIV/AIDS" for UNESCO/SciDevNet (in Kampala, Uganda, April 2003, and in Chennai, November 2003). She began her career as a research scientist in immunology then switched, 13 years ago, to science publishing and journalism. This included two years with the journal Nature as an editor, handling immunology and HIV/AIDS papers, and 3 years with BBC Science TV. During the past 5 years she has reported from about 20 international scientific conferences for websites including SciDevNet and BioMedNet, including five HIV/AIDS conferences, and has also written for Nature, New Scientist magazine, Lancet Infectious Diseases, Nature Medicine, the Journal of Biology and the Guardian Weekly.
# Workshop Timetable

**Tues 6th July**

Participants checked-in at Asian Institute of Technology and met for informal drinks at 8pm.

**Weds 7th July: DAY 1 of workshop**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am – 10.30am</td>
<td>Official welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am – 1.30pm</td>
<td>Media coverage of HIV/AIDS in South East Asia [Padma and Julie]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 3pm</td>
<td>Continuation of morning discussion on Media Coverage of HIV/AIDS in South East Asia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 – 4.30pm</td>
<td>Discussion with Penny Duckham from Kaiser Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30 – 5.30pm</td>
<td>Introduction to internet-mediated communication [Joe]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Debriefing and wrap-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Workshop welcoming dinner at AIT restaurant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thurs 8th July: DAY 2 of Workshop**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 – 10.30am</td>
<td>Presentation by the Global Campaign for Microbicides (Imogen Fua and Bobby Ramakant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am – 12noon</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS online [Joe and Julie]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Outside visit to Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>End of training day – participants boarded bus to return to AIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday 9th July: DAY 3 of workshop**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Vaccines against HIV [Chris Adasiewicz, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12am</td>
<td>Principles of Science Reporting [Padma and Julie]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 – 1.30pm</td>
<td>Communicating about HIV/AIDS research, and ethical reporting [Padma/Julie/Joe]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 – 3pm</td>
<td>Continuation of exercise on reporting on HIV/AIDS research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 4pm</td>
<td>Making the most of South East Asia resources on HIV/AIDS [Ngo Than Loan, UNESCO-Bangkok HIV/AIDS Clearing House]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 – 5pm</td>
<td>Tea and discussion with Dr Krisana Kraisintu, formerly of the Thai Government Pharmaceutical Organisation, on the production of generic antiretroviral drugs against HIV/AIDS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 5.30pm</td>
<td>Avoiding stigmatizing terms about HIV/AIDS [Padma]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Padma introduced participants to a checklist of stigmatizing terms to avoid when communicating about HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Free evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday 10th July: day 4 of workshop**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Internet-mediated communication (joe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Exploring website resources on HIV/AIDS scientific research (Joe and Julie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – 3pm</td>
<td>Preparing for conference reporting [Julie, Padma and Joe]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the process of registration and attendance at the 15th International AIDS Conference (<a href="http://www.aids2004.org">http://www.aids2004.org</a>), the conference timetable, and the use of search engines such as Google to find out more about conference speakers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 4pm</td>
<td>Brainstorming including suggestions for future networking and support (Padma/Joe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30 – 5pm</td>
<td>Workshop evaluation [Julie]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Logistics for Sunday, and wrap-up [Julie]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Workshop dinner dinner cruise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sun 11th July – Tuesday 13th July: registration and attendance at International AIDS Conference.**
Opening Ceremony

Weds 7th July: 9am – 10.30am

Trainers: Julie Clayton (SciDevNet), TV Padma (Panos), Joe Thomas (AIDS-India Forum and National AIDS Programme, East Timor)

AIT hosts: Professor Jean-Louis Armand and Dr Jonathan Shaw

Dr Jonathan Shaw of AIT Extension (http://extension.ait.ac.th/) facilitated the opening ceremony, introducing to participants Prof Jean-Louis Armand, President of AIT (http://www.ait.ac.th/), Julie Clayton of SciDevNet (trainer), TV Padma of Panos Institute (trainer) and Joe Thomas, public health, East Timor and AIDS India Forum (trainer).

Stella Hughes of UNESCO, Paris, and David Dickson of SciDevNet sent messages of welcome to the participants and appreciation to AIT as workshop hosts.

Professor Jean Louis Armand

Welcoming participants on behalf of AIT, Professor Armand explained that AIT is an international post-graduate institution based in Thailand promoting high standards of education and research and which supports sustainable development of the South East Asia region. Besides the Thailand-based campus, AIT also has a campus in Hanoi, Vietnam. AIT has an international board of 30 trustees, with major donors including Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark who contribute 40 per cent of the institution’s income. 30 per cent of the funds come from Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Nepal. Professor Armand expects the regional contribution to increase to around 50 per cent in future.

AIT has around 1800 graduate students of more than 40 different nationalities, 35 % of whom are from Thailand, and two-thirds of whom are from South East Asia generally. Notably, AIT has the largest number of students from Myanmar than any other university in the world, and also provides scholarships for Tibetans in exile. “AIT, being totally non-political and totally international, can achieve that,” he said.

Stella Hughes

Stella Hughes, Chief of Media and Society Section, Communication Development Division for UNESCO Paris, sent the following message to participants:

“Welcome to the workshop on the Use of ICTs for Reporting on the Science of HIV/AIDS organized jointly by UNESCO and the Science and Development Network. I trust very much that this eight-day workshop will provide you with new skills that can be put to immediate use in the context of the 2004 International AIDS Conference. I also hope that the workshop will meet your overall expectations in terms of your professional development and your capacity to investigate and report on the science of HIV/AIDS.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about UNESCO’s recent initiative to start up a global network of broadcasters working on HIV/AIDS. It is also an opportunity to build on existing journalistic networks on HIV/AIDS and expand the possibilities of creatively addressing the information needs of journalists, producers and other communication professionals on an international scale.

The prototype programme exchange project that has led to this initiative was born in South Asia through UNESCO’s collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development. The participating TV producers received seed funding to produce mini-documentaries that were later compiled and broadcast throughout participating countries. A follow up activity is currently being designed for South Asia and will soon be replicated in other regions of the world. If you would like to be part of this network, please send an email to v.Jennings@unesco.org.
I regret not being present to welcome you in person but wish you all a very successful stay in Bangkok. I look forward to witnessing the high-quality media reports that will be generated as a result of this workshop and as part of your contribution to the fight against AIDS.”

David Dickson
David Dickson, managing director of SciDevNet, sent the following message of welcome:

“As director of the Science and Development Network (Scidev.Net) I am delighted to welcome participants to the third SciDev.Net/UNESCO workshop on the use of information and communication technologies to report on the science and HIV/AIDS.

No-one in this room needs reminding of the enormity of the HIV/AIDS threat that hangs over much of the developing world. It is a threat that must be strongly challenged at all levels, from the scientific to the political. And journalists, as the main conveyors of information to large sections of the population, have a key role to play in the fight by informing people of the hazards that they face, and providing reliable information on ways in which the infection can be both prevented and treated.

As an organisation, Scidev.Net is committed to enhancing the communication of authoritative and reliable information about a range of science-related issues that affect developing countries. Since our formation in 2001, HIV/AIDS has always been near the top of our priority list.

This task has involved not only disseminating information ourselves about scientific and medical advances aimed at combating the disease, but, equally importantly, building a capacity among health and science journalists in developing countries to carry out this task for ourselves.

The workshops that we have organised with UNESCO have been the central pillar of these efforts. I would like to take the opportunity to thank UNESCO for its support of these activities, and also the Asian Institute of Technology for providing the excellent facilities that you will be enjoying for the next few days.

Ultimately, however, the success of this workshop rests in the hands of you, the participants. I sincerely hope that each of you will find this week a productive experience, that you will learn new skills, knowledge and insights, that you will be able to establish new personal and professional relationships – and that each of these will help to equip you for the tasks ahead in helping to defeat what could become the biggest single threat to human life and health in the 21st century.”

Julie Clayton
Trainer Julie Clayton explained further some of the activities of SciDevNet and the purpose of the workshop:

SciDevNet is an organisation that promotes capacity building in science and technology in developing countries through web-based news, information and resources, and regional science communication workshops. The website provides original and externally sourced news, features, opinions, policy briefs, reports and other documents relating to a wide range of topics such as brain drain, biodiversity, GM crops, ethics of research, HIV/AIDS and more. Regional workshops cover different aspects of science communication, including workshops on HIV/AIDS journalism skills, and the use of the internet to find and retrieve information and resources and communicate about HIV/AIDS. Two previous HIV/AIDS reporting workshops organized jointly with UNESCO took place in Uganda (April 2003) and India (November 2003).

SciDevNet wishes to help raise the profile of science in the media, and to give journalists the tools to do this responsibly, so as to inform on what scientific developments are taking place, and to encourage wider participation in these developments. The media enables the general public and professionals to form their own opinions about the future direction and funding of science. Science affects all aspects of our daily
lives. The media can enable society to make demands for better environmental and pollution control, access to medicines and vaccines, and to understand the limitations of science – why is there not vaccine for HIV/AIDS? The media can inspire also youth to become scientists and so strengthen the scientific base of a country, and promote debate and scepticism over wild unjustified claims.

**TV Padma and Joe Thomas**

Trainer TV Padma explained the role of Panos Institute in promoting communication in developing countries. Joe Thomas, with his expertise in both public health and internet-mediated communication, explained the importance of ICT as a tool for capacity building in South East Asia. He would be providing workshop training on the use and management of ICT for communication and information retrieval, and as a tool for networking among journalists and other communicators.

**Participants**

Participants then introduced themselves, identifying their position, organisation, and expectation of the workshop, including to learn more about internet-based information on HIV/AIDS, improve journalism skills, and strengthen communication between scientific institutions, government departments and the public.
HIV/AIDS Science

Participants heard three different presentations on HIV/AIDS science

Thursday 8th July
Presentation by the Global Campaign for Microbicides (Imogen Fua and Bobby Ramakant)
Participants were introduced to the science and ethics of microbicides against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases: basic concepts, clinical progress, and the role of the media.

Outside visit to Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center
Participants visited the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center in Bangkok, home to HIV-NAT, the Netherlands, Australia and Thailand research collaboration that has world-class expertise in HIV/AIDS treatment, care and research http://www.hivnat.org/. Hosted by Dr Chris Duncombe, participants saw an anonymous HIV/AIDS testing clinic, a research and treatment monitoring laboratory, and heard presentations by local HIV/AIDS researchers and clinicians on HIV/AIDS treatment research, particularly on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Friday 9th July
Vaccines against HIV
Chris Adasiewicz of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative introduced participants to the science and ethics of HIV vaccine clinical trials, including the basic concept of how a vaccine works, the challenge of setting up clinical trials in developing countries, and recent progress in the research and development pipeline.
HIV/AIDS Resources

Kaiser Family Foundation
On the first workshop day, Wednesday 7th July, Penny Duckham and Jackie from the Kaiser Family Foundation discussed briefly with workshop participants how the Kaiser Family Foundation would be providing live webcasts of the forthcoming 2004 International AIDS conference, as well as online material including interviews with key scientists and policy makers involved in HIV/AIDS, such as Peter Piot, Randall Tobias and Suniti Solomon, and video reports on HIV/AIDS in Thailand, India and Brazil.

The Foundation would also provides, on a regular basis, an online Daily HIV/AIDS report containing a news digest of HIV/AIDS media stories, mostly originating in US publications, but some international coverage also included. This can be obtained as an email alert following free registration at the KFF website. KFF also provide media training opportunities, including scholarships, currently available to US reporters wishing to undertake special assignments, which KFF plan to make available to non-US journalists. Penny also provided each participant with a copy of the special supplement on HIV/AIDS Asia written for Science magazine by reporter Jon Cohen.

In future, KFF plan to produce an online manual on HIV/AIDS reporting, containing a glossary of terms, table of drugs, and frequently asked questions, and a set of animated graphics about HIV/AIDS.

UNESCO Bangkok HIV/AIDS Clearing House
On Friday 9th July, Ngo Than Loan from the UNESCO Bangkok HIV/AIDS Clearing House presented a set of resources on HIV/AIDS, including electronically available reports, documents, online databases, websites and events, particularly with relevance to South East Asia (http://hivclearinghouse.unesco.org/bangkok).

CWS Indonesia
Workshop participant Galuh Wulan provided each participant with a hard copy of the publication “Asia Pacific HIV/AIDS Website Guide” produced by CWS Indonesia, and which is also available online (http://www.cwsindonesia.or.id) email info@cwsindonesia.or.id

Science and Development Network
Julie introduced participants to the Science and Development Network’s quick guide to information and resources on the science of HIV/AIDS (http://www.scidev.net/hiv), including documents and links to specific topic areas, such as microbicides, vaccines, drugs, basic biology, and prevention science. This also included a tour of the SciDev.Net website, highlighting the recently developed ‘spotlights’ on HIV vaccine and microbicides research, and the quick guide to science communication.

Media Training Kits
Participants were alerted to the Multimedia Training Kit resources developed from UNESCO and SciDevNet’s previous workshop training, containing exercises, handouts and trainers’ notes relating to the themes of the current workshop: finding and retrieving HIV/AIDS information, internet-mediated communication, and HIV/AIDS reporting, all of which are now available online at ItrainOnline (http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/mmtk/hivaids.shtml).

Participants were also provided with workshop resources on CD-rom, including reports, documents, recommended weblinks, and training resources, as well as the programme for the 2004 International AIDS Conference.
Finding and retrieving HIV/AIDS resources on the internet

Introduction
On the first workshop day, Wednesday 7 July, trainer Joe Thomas introduced participants to some of the basic concepts of how to find the best internet-based sources of news and information about HIV/AIDS, and how to evaluate the quality and credibility of web-based information.

Online graphics
On Thursday 8th July, Joe and Julie introduced participants to online interactive graphics showing: AIDS clock http://www.unfpa.org/aids_clock/ (a continuously updating estimate of the number of people infected with HIV around the world), images of HIV/AIDS at AVERT (http://www.avert.org/pictures.htm), and graphics at John’s Hopkins University website showing how antiretroviral drugs target the virus life cycle http://www.hopkins-aids.edu/hiv_lifecycle/hivcycle_txt.html.

Participants were also introduced to internet resources on research into microbicides, including the website for the Global Campaign for Microbicides and the Alliance for Microbicides Development, including a searchable database of information of microbicide products in the research and development pipeline.

Internet-mediated communication
On Saturday 10th July, Joe Thomas guided participants through the exercise of signing up for email alerts (with SciDevNet, AEGIS.com, and the Kaiser Family Foundation). Joe then guided participants on choosing an HIV/AIDS discussion forum and creating an email user group. Participants carried out a group exercise on how to evaluate the quality and credibility of website info on HIV/AIDS and presentation, followed by group work and feedback.

Exploring website resources on HIV/AIDS scientific research
Participants then explored SciDevNet’s spotlights on research into microbicides and vaccines against HIV/AIDS (http://www.scidev.net/hiv), selected clinical trials databases, such as the HIV Prevention Trials Network (http://www.hptn.org), and Asia-specific websites such as AmFAR’s TREAT Asia (http://www.amfar.org).
HIV/AIDS Journalism Skills

In the first journalism session on Wednesday 7th July, workshop participants discussed HIV/AIDS in South East Asia: the current epidemic situation, how government, NGO’s and donors are responding, and the issues being covered in the media.

Cambodia (Pamela Spurdon and Chay Sophal)
Pamela reported some of the statistics of the Cambodian HIV/AIDS epidemic. She noted that the first AIDS case in Cambodia was in 1991. Cambodia has the highest prevalence of HIV infection in Asia: 3.3% of the younger population (age 15-49) was HIV-infected at the epidemic’s peak in the late 1990s (out of a population of 13 million), but the number has now reduced to 2.6%, in people aged 15-49. There are now 160,000 HIV-infected individuals living in Cambodia, including 20,000 children. 1000 people have already died of HIV/AIDS, and there are now 100,000 orphans and elderly dependents.

In 1998, 100 people a day were becoming infected. Now it is 20 people today thanks to control measures. Initially, most infections were among commercial sex workers, but now the infections are spreading to families, as clients pass infection to their wives and children. 7 out of 20 cases per day are of transmission from husbands to their wives, and 7 out of 20 are from mothers to infants.

Now, 90% of sex workers are protected through condom use. There are now 157 VCT centres across the country. But with the Cambodian government recently having been in disarray, there have been no government-led initiatives over the past year. Although there are 1,400 NGOs working in Cambodia, there has been a stalling of around 8 billion US dollars in foreign aid reaching Cambodia. The income per capita of the population is only 8 US dollars per year.

Nonetheless, as Sophal noted, Cambodia spends 22 million US dollars per year on HIV/AIDS control, including condom promotion programmes.

Sophal has contributed to a Rockefeller study on media coverage of sexuality and safe sex in the context of HIV/AIDS which will be launched at the 2004 International AIDS Conference following this workshop. The study found that 1997 was the worse year for HIV infection in Cambodia. There is inadequate coverage of sexuality in the Cambodian media, which defines sexuality purely in terms of heterosexual intercourse. Most coverage has an entertainment emphasis rather than being educational or relating to the prevention of STDs. Most discussions are embarrassing to women and portray women as immoral. Consequently, women hardly ever even talk about sexuality.

Most women do not protest if their husbands get drunk and demand sex. The culture among men is one of believing that “drinking, smoking and having sex is the way to make money”.

Journalists and other communicators in Cambodia have only limited access to technology to check information and find alternative stories. Many stories are based on campaigns by NGOs. National newspapers tend to report on statistics, medicines and vaccines. Also on discrimination of HIV-infected individuals.

China
Li Dongli told the workshop that China’s first AIDS case was reported in 1985. But before 1999 discussions about AIDS were limited to small circles of people, but now there is a greater public awareness, particularly with campaigns around condom promotion.

Since 1999 the media has played an increasing role in promoting discussion of the cultural issues around HIV/AIDS, including stigma and discrimination. Ironically, the recent SARS epidemic helped China understand how to deal with public health issues, and the situation is changing rapidly. But discussion on sex issues are still far from adequate, and there remains a tremendous gap in the level of information reaching the public. Media capacity needs building. The media wants to report on HIV issues, particularly through newspapers, TV and websites. Reporting currently focuses on issues such as AIDS orphans, and
there is little attention to scientific research. The Chinese media is very commercially driven and doesn’t want to get too professional or technical in subject matter.

The media needs to go deeper into issues. According to government statistics, China has 60,000 reported cases of HIV infection, including 3,000 orphans, but there are an estimated 840,000 cases (or as many as 7 million according to the US Central Intelligence Agency). Where does the real truth lie? Fewer than one per cent of the population is infected with HIV, but the rate of increase of new infections has been greater than 30 per cent per year since 1997. This is ranked as one of the world’s highest rates of increase. Intravenous drug users account for around 70 per cent of the total number of infections in China, particularly in the poor areas of South West and North West China where there are common drug trafficking routes with Afghanistan.

In South East China, blood donation and contaminated blood supplies have been the main route of HIV transmission until the mid-1990’s. In 1997 new government laws brought a halt to this, but these were too late to prevent the 250,000 individuals thought to have been infected this way (according to the report by Jon Cohen for Science’s special issue on AIDS in Asia).

Government leadership on HIV/AIDS is improving, particularly with international assistance.

Philippines

Connie Fernandez reported to the workshop that in the Philippines the media is almost entirely dependent upon press releases from the government Department of Health for information about HIV/AIDS. Government statistics are always linked to political motives. The government wishes to play down the HIV/AIDS statistics, while agencies wish to promote them for funding purposes.

According to government figures, there have been fewer than 2,000 AIDS cases since 1984, although UNAIDS puts the figure at around 9,400. With a mostly Catholic population (including the country’s president), there is little promotion of condom use. Although the constitution marks a distinction between church and state, the church dominates the country.

Free medications are provided for those willing to be tested for HIV and to admit their status. There are few HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns, and the last aggressive government campaign was in 1994. Commercial sex workers are helping by providing discounts to clients who agree to use condoms.

The media does feature interviews with HIV-positive individuals (a highly publicized case was on television six years ago). There is no science coverage of HIV/AIDS locally – instead this comes from international news agencies such as Reuters and the Associated Press – and is only on the science page of newspapers. Science is sidelined in the mainstream media. Politics is the main obsession. And dengue fever is a more pressing concern than HIV at the moment, with a possible new infection expected this summer. Few journalists in the Philippines have the necessary skills for specialized science reporting, for digesting scientific data and breaking it down into everyday terms.

Lloyd noted that being an island archipelago, it is hard to disseminate information in The Philippines, and despite good policies on HIV/AIDS there is little co-ordination. 30 per cent of HIV-infected individuals are 29 years or less. Student newspapers are failing to report on scientific aspects of HIV/AIDS. “We have these immature and close-minded attitudes to HIV/AIDS. There is also a considerable brain drain from The Philippines, as doctors, nurses, scientists and other experts on HIV/AIDS leave for work abroad.

Nereo Luja commented that most NGOs in the Philippines work on reproductive health care because of donor agencies. Discrimination around HIV/AIDS remains, and stigma remains stronger than laws aimed at preventing it.
Vietnam
Vu Than Thuy told the workshop that the first case of HIV infection in Vietnam was detected in 1990. There are now more than 81,000 HIV-infected individuals, of whom around 10,000 have AIDS, and 7,000 have died. Although around 60 per cent of infections occur among intravenous drug users, and the incidence among commercial sex workers is high, infection is not restricted to high-risk groups. The government spends around 4 million US dollars per year on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, including programmes for promoting the use of clean needles among drug addicts and to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The epidemic is still in a serious phase, and HIV statistics are updated weekly. Only around 100 AIDS patients are covered by government-funded treatment programmes.

Cuong Pham Duc noted that Vietnam has little media coverage on HIV/AIDS, and that stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS-affected individuals is a big problem.

Indonesia
Andry Ariefin told the workshop that HIV/AIDS coverage in Indonesia is very poor – among print, radio & TV, and is usually restricted to World AIDS Day (1st December). This coverage normally highlights statistics and cases of stigma, and there is little coverage of scientific issues, or of how HIV is affecting people, families, orphans. Training of the media is greatly needed, especially to overcome cultural taboos.

The first reported case of AIDS in Indonesia was a foreigner visiting the island of Bali in 1987. Since then, 4000 people have been reported as HIV-positive, although the estimates are as high as 130,000 cases. Infections occur mainly through commercial sex workers and intravenous drug users. The government spends around 1.5 million US dollars per year on HIV/AIDS, with the rest provided by the World Health Organisation, UNDP, the World Bank and UNAIDS. NGO’s play a big role in Indonesia.

Galuh Wulan added that media reporting in Indonesia fails to show sensitivity towards people with HIV/AIDS, and contains a lot of stigmatizing language. Training is definitely needed for journalists. Most journalists have non-medical and non-scientific backgrounds. HIV/AIDS is regarded as a set of statistics rather than something that affects people’s lifestyles. Scientific journals are not accessible. Government policy is supportive of HIV/AIDS efforts but is inadequate and does not filter down. Church leaders are reluctant to address the issue of condom use.

Malaysia
In Malaysia, Aesha Binte Nun noted that more in-depth reporting of HIV/AIDS is needed. There is an ongoing public awareness campaign asking people to restrict their number of sexual partners. Most HIV infections, however, have occurred through intravenous drug use, although the infection is now spreading more to non-drug-using women and children. According to the UN, Malaysia ranks seventh in Asia for cases of HIV infection, with around 59,000 cases. NGOs are promoting awareness campaigns for both the public and also for target groups such as drug users and commercial sex workers.

Myanmar
Than Lewin told the group that reports on HIV/AIDS in Myanmar are based on government releases. According to official reports in 2001, there are more than 170,000 cases of HIV infection. The WHO, however, estimates that there are around 500,000 cases. UNAIDS and UNDP are the main donors for HIV/AIDS control programmes. The government has an annual budget of 22.5 million US dollars for HIV/AIDS, with 5 million spent on HIV testing and related laboratory equipment. Country and district level programmes are being implemented, and government departments issue information on HIV/AIDS. But the local language media, including radio and TV stations, do not report on HIV/AIDS issues.

Thailand
Tepin told the workshop that there are more than 300,000 HIV-infected individuals in Thailand, and 75,000 people have died of AIDS. Concerns are that teenagers are sexually active but many are not using condoms. Intravenous drug users and men who have sex with men are hard to reach in prevention.
programmes. The annual incidence (number of new cases) of HIV infection has fallen from 140,000 in 1991 to around 21,000 in 2003. Treatment for HIV infection is now available through government-financed social welfare schemes.

Nithat commented that 6 or 7 years ago the Thai government was afraid to admit to the HIV/AIDS statistics for fear of losing tourism business. But now the government is actively supporting HIV/AIDS awareness. At the forthcoming International AIDS Conference, there will be presentations of Thailand’s success at tackling the mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Despite some media coverage on HIV/AIDS in Thailand there remain many cultural taboos around the subject.

Thailand is the first country in the region to have conducted HIV vaccine trials. The failure of the largest trial so far, however (conducted by the company VaxGen and reported in February 2003), did not receive much media coverage, although some government-owned TV channels did explain why the trials had failed.

### Reporting on the Science of HIV/AIDS

**Principles of Science Reporting [Padma and Julie] Friday 9th July**

Padma gave a brief introduction to the principles of science reporting: in the media generally, and specifically relating to HIV/AIDS, there is often little coverage of science issues. Science reporting is a specialized activity and most journalists lack the necessary skills.

**Similarities with other reporting areas**

Often, general journalists fear the technicalities of subjects such as physics, chemistry and biology, and consequently shy away from science reporting because they think an expert knowledge of these areas is required, and do not realize that science reporting is really about linking developments in these areas to our everyday lives. Climate change, for example, is affected by global warming, pollution and industrial activity, all of which are the products of, or influenced by, scientific developments. If science is regarded, rather than as an impenetrable area of technicality, and more as a process of identifying problems and then looking for solutions, then its similarities with other areas of reporting, such as politics, can be realized.

**Differences**

- **Shyness** - politicians and sports personalities, for example, actively seek publicity, whereas scientists are generally not media savvy people and don’t market themselves.
- **Arrogance** – some scientists put themselves on a different plane to other people.
- **Interview skills** – when interviewing a scientist journalists must make it clear when they have not understood technical terms and concepts and ask for explanations.

**Information sources**

Journalists must be aware of the relevant and reliable information sources about scientific developments:

- Publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals, which are a good indicator that a particular claim is valid.
- It is worth also getting acquainted with the staff of local research institutions for greater access to information, and possibly also library facilities.
- Scientific conferences – such as the 2004 International AIDS Conference that the workshop will be attending next week – these are an excellent way to discover what the current issues and controversies are in a particular field of research. Journalists should listen carefully to the questions and answers at the end of presentations, and discussions, and follow these up.
- Internet resources – scientific institutions and individual scientists often have their own websites and webpages containing background information about their research, and links to their publications, as well as contact details.
- Press releases and email alerts – this is now often used as a means of alerting journalists to scientific developments.
Approaches to reporting scientific developments
- Journalists should take a different view from that posed by a government press release, for example, such as that of an NGO or scientist.
- Journalists should build up a personal rapport with scientists in order to gain their trust and get hints on new developments
- Where necessary, use graphics to explain scientific concepts and technical details

Communicating about HIV/AIDS research, and ethical reporting
[Padma/Julie]
Group discussion and exercise on how to report on HIV/AIDS research including into microbicides and vaccines against HIV, and the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, following presentations to the workshop by the Global Campaign for Microbicides, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, and the outside visit to HIV-NAT at the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre.

Review of Presentations
Padma and Julie reviewed some of the key points that journalists could consider following from the workshop presentations on microbicides, vaccines and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention of mother to child transmission.

Microbicides and Vaccines
- Vaccines and microbicides both aim to prevent infection with HIV, whereas drugs are treatments for people who are already infected with the virus. There are, as yet, no microbicides or vaccines that are proven to work against HIV
- It will be at least 10 years before a microbicide makes it through research, development, marketing and licensing.
- Why is it difficult to develop a microbicide or vaccine?
- Questions to ask about clinical trial volunteers: who are they, why do they volunteer, how does their risk perceptions and behaviour? What is the representation of women and ethnic groups among trial volunteers? How is ‘informed consent’ obtained?
- What is the basic science behind a particular trial of a vaccine or microbicide?
- Beware of the hype that often surrounds announcements about microbicides or vaccine research
- Beware that activists often oppose clinical trials

Group work
Participants divided into three groups (print journalists, TV and radio journalists, and “other communicators”, to discuss how they would approach reporting on HIV/AIDS research.

“Other Communicators”
The “communicators group – Pamela Spurdon, Andry Arifin, Nithat Sirichotiratan, and Li Dongli – imagined that they would conduct a press conference around the topic of HIV/AIDS research into microbicides. The theme of the press conference would be “New perspectives for women on how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS”.

They would begin the press conference with presentations on the following:
- Women’s vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, including figures on the number of women infected with HIV and their age range
- Gender issues – including women’s low negotiating position when it comes to condom use
- The need to protect women against HIV infection as a strategy to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Reproductive health and rights – the right to choose whether or not to become infected with HIV
• Existing prevention and control measures against HIV/AIDS, including the “ABC” approach of promoting the practices of “Abstinence, Be faithful, and use a Condom”

The press conference would then proceed with a presentation on the need for new prevention and control measures, such as microbicides. This would introduce the concept of how microbicides are intended to work (as gels, creams or pessaries that can be inserted into the vagina or anus to protect against infection with HIV during sex). The presentation would cover the latest research progress into microbicides – for which there is not yet any demonstration of “proof of principle” – in other words, no microbicide has yet been proven to work in clinical trials.

Discussion
Other journalists in the workshop then raised several questions that they would ask at such a press briefing:
• How would the press conference organizers sell the idea of microbicides research to church leaders in the Philippines, where premarital sex and safer sex practices are discouraged?
• What is the effect of AIDS on their community, and hence the potential benefits of such research?
• What would be the social or economic perspective of the development of a microbicide?
• How would you convince a woman to use a microbicide, and how would you introduce one into the community, or convince the government to support this?
• Who is the target audience for a microbicide campaign?

Print journalists
The print journalists (Connie Fernandez, Lloyd Luna, Nereo Lujan, Cuong Pham Duc, Chay Sophal) suggested what points they would include in a feature on research into developing microbicides & vaccines against HIV:
• Existing prevention options: condom use – this has been successful in commercial sex workers
• Limitations of existing options: cultural/religious barriers to condom use
• Questions: why is there no serious work in our own countries on microbicides or vaccines against HIV? (Cambodia/Philippines)
• Why are there so few government funds for research on vaccines, microbicides – national governments should pay more attention to these areas of research
• Why is there so little scientific interest in research on vaccines
• The effect of brain drain on scientific research
• The rationale that prevention is better than cure
• The sobering point that as yet, there remains no vaccine or microbicide
• Who to interview: researchers, government officials for health, science and technology, NGOs, activists, National AIDS Council representatives

Broadcast journalists
The broadcast journalists (Haslinda Binte Hassan, Aesha Binte Nun, Than Lwin, Thanawan Choomsang, Tepin Cravinish) described the points they would include in TV or radio broadcasts (news, talk shows or features) about HIV/AIDS vaccine research:
• The need for researchers to develop a local vaccine
• Governments should support vaccine research
• Need for funding
• Paucity of current research locally/nationally into HIV vaccines

The features would include interviews with ministers, investors, NGOs, researchers, volunteers, clinicians, policy makers, and health officials, national vaccine programme managers. The broadcast journalists also said they would use libraries, news archive and websites as sources of information. Target audiences need to include youth and women, and this could be achieved by including interviews with youth and women.
**Group Discussion on Networking**

At the final session on Saturday 10\textsuperscript{th} July, participants discussed how they would like to continue networking and information sharing with workshop colleagues and with other communicators in South East Asia. They highlighted, in particular, the need for the following:

- Guidelines on HIV reporting
- Weekly updates on individual countries from e-group members
- Get information and copies of HIV/AIDS stories by other members via the egroup
- Keep in touch and expand network
- Invite egroup members to countries
- Hold a reunion
- Provide information relevant to each others countries
- Provide access to other journalists interested in HIV/AIDS
- Share information with public health experts and encourage them to interact with journalists in a more friendly way

**Brainstorming suggestions for future workshops**

Participants recommended that future workshops:

- Have a longer duration - 4 days is too short
- Provide more information on vaccines and microbicides
- Maintain the same combination of skills training, on use of the internet, science and reporting skills
- Include the opportunity to interact with HIV-infected persons
- Include exercises and assessment of writing skills
- Longer sessions on website resources
Feedback from workshop questionnaires

Participants were asked to complete the questionnaire frankly and anonymously for the purpose of improving future workshops.

They were asked to rate each major training session according to the answer that most closely fitted their impression, and also to rate the trainers and the overall effectiveness of training in three main areas: introduction to HIV/AIDS scientific concepts, journalism skills, and the use of the internet for finding and retrieving relevant HIV/AIDS information and resources, and for communication.

Twelve out of sixteen participants completed the questionnaires as summarised below.

Q1 Official welcome: Opening Ceremony with Professor Jean-Louis Armand, President of AIT, Dr Jonathan Shaw and workshop trainers: Julie Clayton, TV Padma, and Joe Thomas. Participants then introduced themselves.

I found this ceremony:
(a) Appropriate as a formal way to open a workshop
(b) Interesting to hear about AIT’s activities
(c) Interesting and helpful for establishing the theme of the workshop
(d) Too formal
(e) Boring and a waste of time

Answers
All 12 responding participants were satisfied with the opening ceremony: 11/12 chose either (b) “interesting to hear about AIT’s activities” or (c) “interesting and helpful for establishing the theme of the workshop”. 1/12 chose (a) “Appropriate as a formal way to open a workshop”.

Q2 Group discussion on the AIDS situation and media coverage of HIV/AIDS in SE Asia (led by Padma and Julie): What is the AIDS situation in each of the participants’ countries, how are the government and other organisations dealing with the situation, and what is the media coverage like? Participants present their own country perspectives, and discuss common regional HIV/AIDS reporting issues.

I found this session:
(a) interesting and stimulating
(b) unnecessary – I already knew about HIV/AIDS prevention and care in South East Asia
(c) boring and a waste of time – I was already familiar with how the media is covering HIV/AIDS in SE Asia

Answers:
All 12 participants described this session as (a) “interesting and stimulating”.

Thursday 8th July

Q3 Presentation by Global Campaign for Microbicides (Imogen Fua and Bobby Ramakant)
The science and ethics of research into microbicides against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases: basic concepts, clinical progress, and the role of the media.
I found this session:

a) interesting to hear about the scientific concepts and process of microbicides research
b) too technical – I could not follow the scientific details
c) boring and a waste of time – I already knew these details
d) too much information to take in

Answers:
All 12 responding participants said they found the session interesting to hear about the scientific concepts and process of microbicides research. One participant also said that the session was too technical and that they could not follow the scientific details. (These were minimal, and GCM were advised that all participants were non-specialists.)

None said there was too much information to take in.

Q4  HIV/AIDS online (Joe and Julie)
Participants explored online interactive graphics showing: AIDS clock, AVERT pictures, and graphics at John’s Hopkins University website showing how antiretroviral drugs target the virus life cycle.

I found this session:

a) useful to see graphics to understand how HIV infects cells and where drugs act.
b) Too technical – I could not follow the scientific details
c) boring and a waste of time – I already knew these details
d) too much information to take in

Answers:
11/12 participants chose (a), saying that the session was useful. The remaining one noted option (b), saying the session was too technical, which one of the other eleven also agreed with.

Q5. Outside visit to Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center
Participants saw an anonymous testing clinic and a laboratory where HIV/AIDS treatment monitoring takes place.

I found this session:

a) interesting to hear about the aims and progress of HIV/AIDS treatment research
b) too technical - I could not follow the scientific details
c) interesting to meet researchers, and see the lab and clinic
d) boring and a waste of time – I already knew about these trials and have visited labs and clinics before
e) too much information to take in for an afternoon session

Answers:
8/12 participants found this visit (a) “interesting to hear about the aims and progress of HIV/AIDS treatment research”, or (c) “interesting to meet researchers and see the lab/clinic. 4/12 found the visit (b) too technical to follow scientific details, while one of these also noted that it was at the same time (c) “interesting to meet researchers and see the lab/clinic”.
FRIDAY 9th July

Question 6:
Vaccines against HIV (Chris Adasiewicz, IAVI)
Intro to the science and ethics of HIV vaccine clinical trials, including the basic concept of how a vaccine works, and the challenge of setting up clinical trials in developing countries, the importance of epidemiology and social behavioural studies.

I found this session:
  a) interesting to hear about the scientific concepts and process of vaccine research
  b) too technical – I could not follow the scientific details
  c) boring and a waste of time – I already knew these details
  d) too much information to take in

Answers:
All 12 participants said that this session was (a) interesting to hear about the scientific concepts and process of vaccine research.

Question 7:
Communication about HIV/aids research (Padma/Julie)
Presentation by Padma and Julie on the principles of science reporting. Also, exercise and group discussion on how to report on HIV/AIDS research, including into microbicides, HIV vaccines and drug treatment (prevention of mother to child transmission). Participants divided into groups (print journalists, TV and radio journalists, and “other communicators” to discuss and present to the workshop what angle to take with a news story or feature, and how to research further, or how to stage a press conference.

I found this session:
  a) interesting to hear about strategies for science reporting
  b) encouraging – I shall try to do more science reporting in future
  c) too complicated – I do not wish to do science reporting in future
  d) boring and a waste of time – I already knew these ideas and strategies
  e) too much information to take in.

Answers:
4/12 participants described this as (a) interesting to hear about strategies for science reporting
4/12 preferred the statement that this was (b) “encouraging – I shall try to do more science reporting in future”.
4/12 selected both of these statements, (a) and (b).

Question 8:
Making the most of SE Asia resources on HIV/AIDS (Ngo Than Loan from the UNESCO-Bangkok HIV/AIDS clearing house.

I found this session:
(a) Interesting to hear about these regional resources – I hope to use them
b) not approp for my needs
c boring and a waste of time – I already knew these details
too much info to take in

Answers:
One participant failed to complete this section

9/11 found the session (a) “interesting to hear about these regional resources”.

1/11 found the session boring and a waste of time, while the remaining 1/11 participant preferred the statement that this session was (b) “not appropriate to my needs”.

Question 9:
Discussion with KK, producer of generic ARV drugs (formerly with the Thai Govt PO but now a freelance technical advisor to drug manufacturers in Africa)

I found this session
a) interesting to hear about the issues involved in generic drug production and the need for cheaper ARVs against HIV/aids
b) too technical – I could not follow the scientific details
c) boring and a waste of time – I already knew these details
d) too much info to take in

Answers:
All 11 responding participants (one failed to complete this section) found Krisana’s talk (a) “interesting to hear about the issues involved in generic drug production.

Question 10:
Avoiding stigmatising terms (Padma)
Padma introduced participants to a checklist of stigmatising terms to avoid when communicating about HIV/AIDS

I found this session:
a) useful - I was not aware of the importance of avoiding stigmatising terms
b) b imp to have this to pass onto my colleagues, even though I knew all this already, and praactice this in my work
c) boring and a waste of time – I already knew these terms
d) too much info to take in

Answers:
Of the 11 participants completing this portion of the questionnaire, 3/11 chose (a) “useful – I was not aware of the importance of avoiding stigmatising terms.”

5/11 chose (b) “Important to pass this onto my colleagues, even though I knew all this already. The remaining 3/11 chose both of these statements, (a) and (b).
Saturday 10th July

Question 11:
Internet-mediated communication (joe)
- Signing up for email alerts
- Choosing an HIV/AIDS discussion forum and creating an email user group
- How to evaluate the quality and credibility of website info on HIV/AIDS and presentation, followed by group work and feedback.

I found this session:
A) exciting and new
b) useful to hear someone else’s perspective, even though I have a lot of experience of using internet resources
c) good to have a set of criteria with which to judge the content and organisation of websites
d) confusing: I did not understand the instructions and found it difficult to follow the exercise.
e) boring and a waste of time

Answers:
2/11 participants chose the statement (a) that this session was “exciting and new”.

2/11 said (b) “useful to hear someone else’s perspective”.

3/11 said “good to have a set of criteria with which to judge the content and organisation of websites.

4/11 said a combination of these statements (a), (b) or (c)

None chose options (d) or (e)

Question 12
Exploring website resources on HIV/AIDS scientific research (Joe and July)
- Microbicides and vaccines (spotlights) clinical trials databases, eg HPTN, and Asia-specific websites eg AmFAR’s Treat Asia

I found this session
a) exciting and new
b) useful to hear someone else’s perspective on web resources
c) confusing: I did not understand the instructions and found it difficult to follow the exercise.

Boring and a waste of time

Answers:
This section was completed by all 12 responding participants.

5/12 chose option (a) “Exciting and new”

6/12 chose (b) “useful to hear someone else’s perspective on web resources”

1/12 chose both statements (a) and (b)
Question 13
Preparing for conference reporting (Julie, Padma and Joe)
Overview of the AIDS 2004 conference programme, with suggestions for themes to follow and satellite sessions to attend. Participants then explored how to look up info on individual speakers on the internet, such as Paul Farmer, using search engines such as Google.

I found this session:
A exciting and new to be planning for the conference  
b) useful to see how to find out further info on speakers  
c) worrying to think of such a big conference and so many sessions to choose from  
d) Boring and a waste of time

Answers:  
5/12 responding participants described this session as (a) “exciting and new”. 4/12 chose (b) “useful to see how to find out further information on speakers”, while 3/12 chose both (a) and (b).

Question 14:  
Brainstorming including suggestions for future networking and support (Padma/Joe)
I found this session:
   a) useful to be able to feedback about this workshop  
   b) b) useful to think about how to network with other colleagues  
   c) fun to make suggestions for future workshops  
   d) boring and a waste of time

Answers:  
4/12 said (a) “useful to be able to feedback about this workshop”  
3/12 chose both (a) and (b) “useful to think about how to network with other colleagues  
1/12 fun to make suggestions for future workshops  
3/12 chose all three options (a), (b) and (c)  
None found the session (d) “boring and a waste of time”.

Trainers
Participants were asked to rate each trainer on a scale from 1 to 5 for:
   a) interest of workshop materials  
   b) clarity of presentation  
   c) usefulness of workshop resources (websites and CD-rom)

Participants gave ratings of 4/5 or 5/5 for all three workshop trainers on all counts, except in one cause where a score of 3/5 was given – although it was unclear to which aspect of training this referred.

Overall value of the workshop themes
Scores out of 5 were given for each of the workshop themes:
HIV/AIDS Science, internet resources on HIV/AIDS and journalism skills

11/12 participants rated each of the three themes as either 4/5 or 5/5  
1/12 rated HIV/AIDS science and journalism skills as 4/5 or 5/5, but rated internet resources training as only 3.5 out of 5 because they would have liked to have spent more time on internet skills.
Extra comments:

Which if any of the above themes, you would like to have spent more time on?

4 participants said they would like to have spent more time on journalism skills. One of these, plus two other participants, said they would like to have spent more time on internet resources. Two participants said they would like to have spent more time on HIV/AIDS science.

4 participants did not complete this section.

Which, if any of the above themes, you feel had too much time devoted to them?

Eight participants gave no reply to this question. Two said the balance was right between the different workshop themes, one said too much time was spent on resources, while one said too much time was devoted to HIV/AIDS science.

Additional comments about how a similar workshop could be improved in future:

Five participants gave the following statements:

“I loved the flexibility of the program and very much appreciated Julie’s persuasive powers in bringing in top, unexpected guests.

Our first rule was punctuality, a concept again proven to be alien to many in this part of the world – and perhaps that precluded more work on internet resources. But Julie’s adaptability and leadership in setting a convivial atmosphere was masterful.”

“Practice writing a science report and bring comment/feedback from facilitator.”

“Should have a day or two more, so that we can practice writing skills, and spending more time on each website (strength and weaknesses of the websites).”

“It is a very well-designed schedule, consisted of not only very excellent presentations in several key areas of AIDS/HIV basic research, one vivid outside visit, an unforgettable discussion with an outstanding AIDS fighter, but also classes teaching about very practical tools and detailed skills that can instantly improve the quality of HIV/AIDS science reporting. I never expected to be granted such a wonderful opportunity to attend a SciDevNet/UNESCO workshop for journalists and other communicators for South East Asia for reporting science of AIDS!”

“It must be of longer duration.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Email and fax no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spurdon</td>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Cambodian Communication Institute</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Pamela_spurdon@hotmail.com">Pamela_spurdon@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 855 23 219 558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tel 855 12 648 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sophal</td>
<td>Chhay (M)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Cambodia News</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Chhaysophal@yahoo.com">Chhaysophal@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 855 23 884 094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>855 12 904 894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cell phone 855 12 904 894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dongli</td>
<td>Li (F)</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>China Population and Development Research</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lidongli@readchina.com">Lidongli@readchina.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Center,</td>
<td>tel 86-10-2570716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 86-10-2172437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andryansyah</td>
<td>Arifin (M)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Surabaya</td>
<td>Mulia Abadi Foundation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Andryarifin@yahoo.com">Andryarifin@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel 62318703916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wulan</td>
<td>Galuh</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Jakarta</td>
<td>CWS Indonesia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:galuh@cwsindonesia.or.id">galuh@cwsindonesia.or.id</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tel 62.21.7197929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 2.21.71793387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hassan</td>
<td>Haslinda</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>RTM Radio reporter</td>
<td>Direct tel 60 3 228 49971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Binte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>direct fax 60 3 228 20291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c/o <a href="mailto:aeshah@rtm.net.my">aeshah@rtm.net.my</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile: +60-12-3987466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aesha</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>radio assignment editor for National Radio</td>
<td>Direct tel 60 3 2288 7866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Binte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(RTM)</td>
<td>6019 3301342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>direct fax 60 3 228 20291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>email <a href="mailto:aeshah@rtm.net.my">aeshah@rtm.net.my</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Contact Name</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Institution/Company</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Lwin Than M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>Editor Myanma News Agency News and Periodicals Enterprise</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mnae@myanmar.com.mm">mnae@myanmar.com.mm</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATTN: U THAN LWIN (INTERNATIONAL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Or c/o <a href="mailto:mrtv@baganmail.net.mm">mrtv@baganmail.net.mm</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tel 95-1-294160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 95-1-294195</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THAILAND</td>
<td>Sirichotiratan Nithat (M)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>Manidol University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nithats@hotmail.com">Nithats@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax (66-2) 644-8999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel 66-2 640-9851 to 9854</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choomsang Thanawan F</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chieng Mai</td>
<td>Radio Thailand Chieng Mai</td>
<td>Tel 66 5381 8055</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile 661 1952 2348</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 66 5327 4151</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:thanawan9@hotmail.com">thanawan9@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cravinish Tepin F</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>TV National News Bureau</td>
<td>Tel 66 2275 4926</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66 2275 4927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax 66 2275 5015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>Duc Cuong Pham (M) M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>Institute for Social Development Studies (lISDS)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Duccuong@isds.org.vn">Duccuong@isds.org.vn</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsds@isds.org.vn">lsds@isds.org.vn</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel 84 912321000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>84 4 2510232</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>84 4 2510233</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thanh Thuy Vu F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Radio the Voice of Vietnam News and Current Affairs</td>
<td>tel 84 4 825 5669</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fax 84 4 826 1122</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>email <a href="mailto:thuyvu@yahoo.com">thuyvu@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C/o <a href="mailto:Qhqt.vov@hn.vnn.vn">Qhqt.vov@hn.vnn.vn</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hoang</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel 84 4 8240044</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax 84 4 8261122</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>Fernandez Connie E. (F) F</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cebu City</td>
<td>Phillipines Daily Enquiry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Conni@skyinet.net">Conni@skyinet.net</a>/conni_fernandez@yahoo.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax 0063-32-2329938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel 63-32-2330346</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lujan JOSE M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iloilo City</td>
<td>The Guardian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nclujan@yahoo.com">Nclujan@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>Tel</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEREO C.</td>
<td>63 33 3367827</td>
<td>63 33 3210968</td>
<td>+63 918 5000 483.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(M)</td>
<td></td>
<td>+63 33 5008156</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luna</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd Abria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(M)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Manila</td>
<td>Network of Campus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lloydluna@yahoo.com">lloydluna@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Journalists of</td>
<td>Fax +63 736 6902</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the Philippines</td>
<td>639173375760</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>