



World Catholic Association
for Social Communication

SIGNIS Asia FOCUS

THE POWER TO CONNECT



We, the members of SIGNIS ASIA, drawn from 16 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam), who convened in Negombo, Sri Lanka between 24-28 August, 2015, to study and deliberate on the theme 'Social Media and Family Values Challenges and Strategies- Where are we heading towards?' acknowledge the fact that while social media has the power to connect people and build relationships it can also divide people and produce harmful effects if used wrongly.

Hence, we resolve to initiate a series of reflections among children, youth, parents, and decision makers, rural and urban communities on the positive and negative impacts of social media and enable them to devise strategies to use social media more positively to protect and promote values, build families, as responsible members of society.

We resolve to keep ourselves updated with the constantly changing and advancing media technologies so that we can address issues in appropriate ways.

We resolve to promote unity, love, peace, harmony, and understanding in families through social media.

We aim to approach social media more positively besides being critical of its dangers and use it for the purpose of building families and a peaceful society based on values and the common good.

We have to consciously take pro-active steps to engage with the Church as an institution, in various aspects and at various levels, in carrying out our duties to inform, educate and communicate.

This also means that we should become bridges, connecting the local media and the Church, encouraging collaboration between them and providing a platform for both the parties to meet and engage, and encourage more young people to become effective communicators through social communication.

SIGNIS ASIA is a regional member of SIGNIS, the World Association of Catholic Communicators.

(Statement adopted by the SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August, 2015)

SOCIAL MEDIA TO CONNECT US, NOT TO DIVIDE! SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY- 2015 in Sri Lanka



'We aim to approach social media more positively besides being critical of its dangers and use it for the purpose of building families and a peaceful society based on values and the common good,' was the statement echoed in one voice at the recently concluded SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY held in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 24-29 August 2015, represented by sixteen countries in Asia and hosted by Fr.Cyril Gamini Fernando of SIGNIS Sri Lanka.

It was a joint exploration over the theme 'SOCIAL MEDIA AND FAMILY VALUES ISSUES AND STRATEGIES WHERE ARE WE HEADING TOWARDS?' by SIGNIS Asia members, School children, College youth, Media professionals, Policy makers and Teaching community from Sri Lanka.

'The keynote address, panel discussions, group activities, large group discussions, group presentations, cultural programmes, informal interactions, sharing of experiences, all made the programme highly rich and rewarding for delegates.

Value Culture

'Should social media create, violate or challenge our relationships, values and communities?' questioned, Dr. Darshini Gunathilaka, the Director General of Information, Government of Sri Lanka, during her Key note Address. 'Technologies change, but values don't. Families need to walk the talk and set examples for younger generations. Families should develop value culture with unity, truthfulness, righteousness, love, peace and non-violence. We need to shield our children from over exposure to media. Controlling, monitoring and regulating are the mechanisms available to protect our children and youth' added the keynote speaker.

Bishop Raymond Wickramasinge, the Chairman of Social Communications of Bishops Conference, Sri Lanka said, 'We need to raise the social consciousness among our children and they should not be prisoners of E-world ! Media should unite, not divide people, we should boldly face the challenges' during his Presidential Address.

Sign Post

Dr. Magimai Pragasam, the Coordinator of the Seminar set the sign post by saying 'Exploring the power of social media, analysing its negative effects, listening from youth and stake holders on using social media appropriately, and designing training modules were the objectives of the seminar. Text messages passed through social media on each day is greater than the world population itself. While doing enormous good, users of social media are also responsible for personal neglect, isolation, avoidance from people, depression, mental problems, gambling, academic failure, Internet addiction disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, cyber brainwashing, cyber bullying, unhealthy chat, blackmailing' etc., When used well, its potential is unbeatable' he said.

Ground Realities

While sharing on the status of social media in East Asian countries, Mr. Mac and Mr.Yamazaki of Japan said, 'let's eat together, bathe together, engage in face to face communication, have more family albums and stories involving grandparents and raise our children socially' as alternatives.

'We need to stay with the children, give them Social media literacy, relate with them, show love and concern', said Kim Francis when highlighting the status of social media in Korea.

'Facebook could be a tool to connect people, create social awareness, educate people on environment, protect local cultures, reduce the urban rural divide,



By Leonard Hpuarachchi ©



By Leonard Hpuarachchi ©



By Leonard Hpuarachchi ©



fight for Justice and Empower them,' argued Ms. Widiandanjani of Indonesia, using a video based case study on positive use of Facebook.

Fr. George from Pakistan, Fr. Joyonto from Bangladesh, Fr. Ashok, Fr. Vijay along with Dr. Magimai of India shared on the status of social media in South Asia, highlighting its positive and negative use by children, politicians, social activists and seminarians.

Our Window to the World

The panel discussion led by School children and College youth drew everyone's attention. Mr. Sovanna of Cambodia coordinated the event. 'Social media are our window to the world! We get connected. We build our personalities and use them for academic achievements' said the youth. 'We also see many of our friends addicted to smart phones and ruin their studies and life' added the youth. 'We request our parents to update themselves so that they can monitor and guide us', they concluded with a smile on their faces.

The panel discussion led by Fr. Gabriel of Myanmar and participated by Principals, Doctors, Psychologists, Teachers and Religious affirmed that elders should set examples. 'Control and regulation should be applied to safeguard our children and youth', they said.

Moving Ahead

The participants worked out a series of strategies and precautionary measures to benefit more from social media. They also designed course modules on Social Media for Children and youth, Parents, NGOs, Teachers, Parishioners and Seminarians, after a session by Ms. Juby Thomas from India.

Journalism, the Key!

The first half of the third day was devoted to Journalism led by Dr. Jim Mc Donnell, the Coordinator of Journalism Desk, SIGNIS World who explained the important role of journalists in Catholic Church. He motivated the delegates to devise creative strategies to collaborate with Catholic journalists across the world. Experienced Catholic journalists, Ms. Karen of Malaysia and Mr. Joseph Ainsley of Sri Lanka shared on the existing 'thin' relationship between Church and journalists, issues they face and what could be done to improve relationships so that better collaboration could be established.

Journalism does not belong to print media alone, but branches into video, radio, television, internet and social media too. We need to initiate dialogue with journalists and see the possibilities of working together' said Dr. Jim. The delegates planned activities for future and set up an international core group too.

Project Management

Mr. Alvito D'Souza, the Secretary General of SIGNIS WORLD, along with Ms. Beatrice, the Project Coordinator from Brussels led a workshop on 'Project Management' that enlightened the delegates prepare proposals with clarity and precision. 'It's time to focus our attention on self- sufficiency and sustainability to meet the future challenges' they said.



Awards and Celebrations

The SIGNIS ASIA MEDIA AWARDS (SAMA) were presented to the winners for the categories of best short film, radio programme, photograph and poster. Mr. Sovanna of Cambodia coordinated the event.

The cultural programme organised by SIGNIS Sri Lanka and performed by Sri Lankan Army and artists was a treat to our eyes. The traditional, native, cultural dances of Sri Lanka took us to the centuries old life styles and celebrations of the Pearl of Indian Ocean and the queen of South Asian Islands.

Come Holy Spirit

The event ended with a song 'Come Holy Spirit' sung by Fr. Norbert of India and joined by all with closed eyes and folded hands, a touching moment for all, invoking the Spirit to guide us to realise all plans and goals set during the seminar.

The Assembly adopted the 'SAA Statement 2015' with a thunderous applause.

Voices

'It was an eye opener for me. I never thought there are so many positive elements in social media and equally negative aspects as well. Now I am clear about how to handle them' said a participant.

'We thought we should educate the children on social media. But after hearing from youth, I feel, it's the parents and elders who need education on social media' said a parent who participated in the workshop.

'Social media has great potential. We need to use them to build communities, relationships and awareness' said, a member of SIGNIS.

Dr. Magimai Pragasam,

Seminar Coordinator, SIGNIS ASIA BOARD.



SIGNIS ASIA RADIO DESK Radio Seminar and Workshop - Asia 2016 in INDONESIA

Theme: NOW LISTEN to THE RADIO

1-7 August 2016

At Wisma SAV Puskat, Sinduharjo, Yogyakarta - Indonesia

During the five days of the seminar/workshop, the participants will be sharing experiences in radio at the regional level for the fraternity, fellowship and link, Exchanging information on the Radio Program and managing partnerships and collaborating with other entities at the national and international level.

The content of the programme include

1. Sharing on Radio Program Successes & Challenges - Radio Station - Community Radio - Digital environment (streaming, podcasting, social networking etc.)
2. Radio and Multimedia contents
3. Radio production for promoting life values.

Participants will be producing programmes in a 5 minutes mini features format. This program is a menu for radio on demands i.e. podcasting, website or other digital environment.

The outcome of the programme will be, an 'enhanced networking among radios at the international and national level and increased capacity among the participants in designing a strategy and sustainability of radio program'

The Resource persons of the programme include, Fr. Fabrizio Colombo, Director Signis Services Rome, Secretary of SIGNIS Radio Desk, Bernadetta Widiandayani, Head of SIGNIS Radio Desk, Secretary Signis Asia, Francis Kim, the Asia Radio Desk (from South Korea), Errol Jonathans, Director Radio Suara Surabaya Indonesia, Fr. Iswarahadi, Director SAV Puskat Indonesia, Benni Listiyo, Station Manager Radio Sonora Indonesia.

Participants will be from at least 10 member countries of Signis Asia, around 25 Program Managers (middle management: practitioners and decision makers; ages: 25-45; woman/man).

For more details, kindly write to : **Ms. Bernadeta Widiandayani** at <widiandayani@yahoo.com>

SIGNIS Asia Reflects on Journalism



Dr. Jim McDonald, Secretary, Journalism Desk, SIGNIS addressing the Assembly

The SIGNIS Asia Assembly in Colombo, Sri Lanka, held a seminar on how SIGNIS Asia could respond to the challenge of supporting and networking with Catholic journalists across all the media.

Dr. Jim McDonnell, Secretary of the SIGNIS Journalism Desk, stressed that the Desk was there to facilitate and support the efforts of the regions and that each region would have its own priorities.

Ainslie Joseph, from Sri Lanka and Karen Kesawathany from Malaysia gave their personal experiences of the challenges facing Catholic journalists.

Common themes were the difficulties in building good strong relationships with the Church itself, the responsibility to promote social justice and human rights and how to harness the talents of younger aspiring journalists.

Karen is a journalist working for the secular media in Malaysia and she talked about the huge challenges faced in her work due to the lack of freedom to report faith-based news. She also mentioned about the reluctance of the Church authorities there to interact with the media, even with Catholic journalists.

In Sri Lanka, however, Ainslie said that the Church has a healthy, on-going relationship with the media and also has the freedom to issue public statements on important national issues. Occasional media briefings are also held, which are well attended and well publicized both in print and electronic media.

A recent instance was with the impending visit of the Pope in January this year when there was wide speculation in the media that the Pope's visit would not take place as scheduled due to the Presidential elections of 8th January. The



Church, especially through Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando, was able to call press briefings where the media was educated on the facts and a confirmation of the

Pope's visit was given to them. Thereafter, all media publicity turned positive about that important event for which the Church had prepared for a long time.

The above sharing session was followed by Group Work where four groups examined three common questions, namely:

1. In what way will mutual relationship and collaboration with Catholic journalists strengthen the Church?
2. As members of Signis Asia, what are the ways by which we can build good relationship with Catholic Journalists?
3. Do you visualize activities for the younger generation in the field of print, Video, radio, TV, internet and social media?

Some salient points emerging from the group work through their reports were as follows:



* Catholic journalists help the Church to stay connected, both within and outside the Church and thus help to communicate ideas, opinions and truths.

* Place public relations officers in every diocese as this will help to clear misunderstandings and wrong opinions held by people, both within and outside the Church

* Include media education at Parish level and hold media competitions. There are many Catholics who are capable of doing a lot but they have no relationship with the Church. Give talented youngsters awards, scholarships etc. to encourage them to report freely and independently.

* Who is a Catholic journalist or a journalist who happens to be Catholic? Is there a difference? Anyway, gather them and give them formations in the social teachings of the Church.

*Form a Catholic Media Forum in every Diocese and bring together the professional journalists. That is the formal approach.

* Informally, there is a way of approaching Catholic journalists at Holy Mass or other informal gatherings.

* Through the Catholic journalists, the Church can connect more easily with the media. When we celebrate occasions like World Communication Day, Catholic Journalists could be invited to come and get to know each other

* Church has to be pro-active and be willing to invite journalists to be real partners in the process of media training

After the presentations the participants worked on action plans for the future and a small working group was set up chaired by Dr Magimai Pragasam.



Welcome to the SIGNIS Asian Assembly in Myanmar!

Date: August 21-27, 2016

(Arrival: August 21 and departure: August 27)

Theme:

SIGNIS ASIA: Redefining Our Mission and Moving Towards Sustainability

Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to participate in the very important 'SIGNIS Asia General Assembly on the theme **'SIGNIS ASIA: Redefining Our Mission and Moving Towards Sustainability'** which will be held at Myanmar Sport Hotel, A/B/C Thu Wa NA Football Stadium Compound, Lay Daunt Kan Road, Thin Gan Kyun Tsp., Bathan, Yangon, Myanmar.

The schedule is as follows:

August 22-24 Study days

August 25 - Exposure to the local culture

August 26 - Business session

Registration:

The hotel charges will be per person basis.

(Single: USD 65, Double: USD 55 per person = USD 110).

Please register before August 10, 2016 to ensure accommodation!

Please use the registration form which has been emailed to you.

REGISTRATION FEE: USD 50 per person

Send your registration to:

leo.mang6@gmail.com / widiandayani@yahoo.com

VISA Requirements

Please write to **Fr. Leo Mang (SDB)** at leo.mang6@gmail.com.

It should include your name as written in the passport, nationality, date of birth, passport number, place issued and date of expiry.

For further details kindly write to :

Bernadeta Widiandayani at [<widiandayani@yahoo.com>](mailto:widiandayani@yahoo.com)



SAMA AWARDS 2016

Rush your entries on or before 10 August 2016

The Signis Asia Board invites the SIGNIS ASIA members to participate in the SIGNIS ASIA MEDIA AWARD (SAMA) 2016 on the theme **'Merciful Action through Media'** for the category of Video, Poster & Photography and Radio.

The participants include children, youth and all members.

The members are requested to send all the productions for the competitions to :

Fr. Leo Mang (SDB), Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar, Office of Social Communications (CBCM OSC) 292(A) Pyay Road, Sanchaung P.O, Yangon 11111, Myanmar. Tel.office: (+95)-1-525808.

The Last day for the submission: August 15, 2016.

The submission could be through : W-transfer/drop box/ SEND Space/Youtube or social media.

Below are the detailed categories of the competition:

Video (for all)

Comprising 2 categories with the duration of 1 & 5 minutes

1 minute: First Prize carries USD 500, a trophy and certificate

5 minutes: First Prize carries USD 750, a trophy and certificate

Poster & photography (for youth, age up to 25): First Prize carries USD 300, a trophy and certificate

Radio (for all)

Two Categories with the duration 1 & 5 minutes, with attached synopsis in English

1 minute: First Prize carries USD 300, a trophy and certificate

5 minutes: First Prize carries USD 500, a trophy and certificate

**Welcome to
SIGNIS TV SEMINAR in Taiwan!**

We are happy to announce that the registrations for the SIGNIS TV Seminar 2016 in Taipei are now open. The seminar will take place at Chinatrust Executive House Hotel on 9th-12th September 2016. This year, we will have the pleasure to be joined by the SIGNIS Journalism Desk which has decided to partner with us.

The main local partner will be Kuangchi Program Service, and Father Jerry Martinson, SJ.

The theme of the seminar is "Imaging the Church in Media: Television and Journalism". Along with the panel and the keynote address, our sharing this year will take the form of "Case studies," a slight variation on our traditional Show & Tell. Also, we will receive speakers from 3 local TV Stations: Kuangchi Program Service (Catholic), a Buddhist station, and a Christian (Protestant) one. The draft programme is presented in signis website.

The registration for the SIGNIS TV/Journalism Seminar 2016 includes: accommodation in the Chinatrust Executive House Hotel (3 nights), meals (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners), and participation in meetings and conferences.

This year, we also offer an optional sightseeing excursion of the city of Taipei, after the close of the Seminar, on the afternoon of September 12th. This includes a 1/2 day trip to CKS Memorial Park, 101, KPS Studio, NPM



and Fishermen Wharf at Tamsui. The price of this excursion includes one more night at the hotel and one more dinner.

Registration does NOT include: plane tickets, visa costs (see below), transport from and to the airport. You will, however, be welcomed at the airport upon arrival, and given an option of limousine or taxi. We will try to form groups so that transportation from airport to hotel will be only about US\$50 per person.

The deadline for registration is June 15th, 2016.

Registration details can be obtained from signis website.

Upon receiving your registration, we will send you a link to the payment form. Your registration will be confirmed only after receiving your payment.

Please note that some people might need a Taiwanese visa. Please check the website to learn about the visa application:

<http://www.taiwanembassy.org/SG/ct.asp?xItem=57812&CtNode=4778&mp=287>.



If you need an official invitation letter from us, please send the following information to tvdesk@signis.net: Scan of your passport page with the photo; Your working or home address and contact data (telephone and e-mail). And dates of arrival and departure.

**Frank Frost and Isabelle Verbrugge,
SIGNIS TV Desk.**

An Introduction to Signis Korea

The nature of SIGNIS in one country may not be the same in another country. While understanding the differences, we need to motivate one another.

Is there any difference between Signis Korea and Signis of your country?

There is a difference and let me share with you the same briefly.

UNDA Korea was established in 1971. OCIC Korea was set up in 1974. Signis Korea was founded in 2001, merging the two organizations.

Korea has 3 major Broadcasting Companies, KBS (Korean Broadcasting System), MBC (Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation), SBS (Seoul Broadcasting System). All major broadcasting companies have their own Catholic group or organization.

Signis Korea is composed of members from major broadcasting companies in Korea like KBS, MBC and SBS and EBS (Educational Broadcasting System), an educational channel, PBC (*Pyeonghwa Broadcasting Corporation*) which is a Catholic channel

have also enrolled as members of Signis Korea.

We have about 600 members at present. Although we have good number of members, we do have many problems and difficulties. The members are aging. The youth do not seem to join the group. It is just like Korea's Catholic Church. **How about the situation in your country?**

The fund raising is also not easy for Signis Korea. Even though the Archdiocese of Seoul supports Signis Korea, it mainly runs by the donation given by members.

Sometimes, the board members have to contribute to meet the deficit

Signis Korea carries out a series of activities, In Signis Korea, 'Holy Mass' remains as the center of all activities. All catholic groups of the major broadcasting companies attend services every month. Both KBS and MBC have their own choir. They invite conductors from outside. It is not easy to maintain a choir in Korea. Sadly, the number of choir members keep decreasing as days go by.



Signis Korea Joint Retreat 2016

And some cable TV channels. In addition to these, groups of engineering, advertising and freelancers, for example writers and reporters, the Society of St. Paul and the Daughters of St. Paul

Signis Korea organizes the combined mass once in every 3 months, where, all the members are invited. But only about 100 members participate in that mass.



New Signis Korea President and Board Members 2016

Signis Korea has produced a series of video clips about on Catholicism since 2012. The duration of each clip is around five minutes. We try to produce from 2 to 4 videos. It is not easy to produce such video clippings. Due to financial problem, last year, we had to request subsidy from Signis Asia. Thanks to Signis Asia, from now on, Signis Korea can produce more videos without much financial constraints. Signis Korea also organizes retreat and the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the members.

Signis Korea collaborates with the other Catholic organizations such as Catholic Journalist Association and Catholic Press and Publishing Association. We have joint retreat and joint Pilgrimage too. We also run the Catholic Forum and Catholic Journalist School.



Signis Korea producing Catholic Video

Signis Korea hosted the Signis East Asia Conference in 2013. I had the opportunity of participating in it as a delegate through which I came in contact with Catherine, former Signis Asia Treasurer and various others members too. The event also paved way for Signis Korea to collaborate with Signis members of Asian countries.

**- Seung-wal Franacis Kim, South Korea.
(Treasurer, SIGNIS ASIA)**

MA degree for Social Media Activists



Fr. C. M. Paul

Two years ago, an university in Guwahati, northeast India launched a brand new program to prepare a new breed of social media activists with an MA degree in Mass Communication. The first batch of that group of 12 students who put their faith in the program will graduate in May end 2016.

The eight-year-old Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) based in Guwahati, claims the new course entitled *Convergent Media and Technologies* which started in July 2014 is "one of its kind post graduate degree program in backpack journalism to prepare citizen journalists."

Speaking about the value added components of the course *Jamia Millia Islamia Alumnus and Asst. Professor at ADBU* - Mr. Kaushik Bhuyan says, "Today's media professional needs to connect with her/his audience across multiple platforms - broadcast, mobile, on-line, social media and other new platforms. The MA degree course in Convergent Media and Technologies in the Dept. of Mass Communication provides this multiplatform environment to help students build their skills - conceptual and technical - to produce new digital content. This is the only MA course where students are taught to create multi-platform media content using professional Free and Open Source Software."

"In our technology dominated world, the professions are multi-tasked and



require one to be an expert in more than one narrow specialism,” says student from South Sudan Shyjan Job who did one month internship with EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) studios in Alabama, USA.

His two companions Sabin Sebastian from Vishakapatnam and Daniel Thomas from Thiruvananthapuram who spent one month with Goodness Television in Kerala say, “greater demands are made on modern media persons to become a producer, a director, a cameo actor, a scriptwriter, a copywriter, a video/audio editor, a PR campaigner, a cameraman, a journalist and even an advocacy enthusiast.”

“The MA programme,” says Aurelyne Mary, from Shillong who had her internship at Doordarshan Kendra Shillong “is designed to equip one with a thorough knowledge of the entire media spectrum from journalism to radio and video production, traditional to mobile media, the gamut of social media, citizen journalism, development communication and the world of public relations.”

“For those who are not so social media savvy,” suggests Steffi Soibam from Manipur who did internship with Press Trust of India New Delhi, “there is another world out there for critical commentators to keep a tab on the ways in which media reflects, represents and influences the world.”

Jacob Malkias from Nashik and John Paul Tirkey from Salana, Assam who did their internship in a television production house at Indore say, “The ADBU post graduate degree program takes students through hands on

exercises in the glamour of the advertising gimmicks, showing the way how a news story gathers steam, and help students try their hands at getting a video from script to screen, and cause waves.”

“The media platforms Blog, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Podcast, Facebook and other social media networks are so varied, pervasive, influential and fast changing that it is a continuous challenge to keep pace with the latest trends in media-related industries,” tells Assistant Professor Dr Robi Augustine Mundackal who teaches Public Relations and Media Management.

A bouquet of 10 programs in Mass Communication include the following: PhD; MA in Convergent Media & Technologies; MA in Development Communication; MA in Public Relations; PG Diploma in Convergent Media & Technologies; PG Diploma in Development Communication; PG Diploma in Public Relations; Certificate in Professional Communication Skills; Certificate in New Media and Citizen Journalism; and Certificate in Media Management and Entrepreneurship.

Applicants will have entrance test and interview (please check dates on www.dbuniversity.ac.in) at ADBU's Azara campus in Guwahati, and selected candidates will start classes on 27th July 2016.

For more information: www.dbuniversity.ac.in.

- Fr. C. M. Paul



VOICES FROM THE READERS!

Congratulations... Keep the spirit alive of Signis Asia.

Fr. Joaquim Fernandes sdb, DBC South Asia Network, Mumbai, India.

I am indeed very grateful for giving a special place to Pakistan in SIGNIS Asia Focus Magazine. A correction: The total number of participants in our annual listeners' conference was 130, not 30. I appreciate it very much. You and your team deserve special appreciation. Keep up the good spirit of serving the Lord and His people through this print media. God bless you.

Fr. Samuel George, Signis Pakistan.

Dear Magi, Once again you have done it! Great job to give a face to SIGNIS Asia. I hope this will be passed on to the various community beyond SIGNIS. Also perhaps in the next issue, SAF Newsletter can focus on social communications mission in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam etc, Once again appreciate your time and energy put in this publication for all. Peace

Lawrence John, Vice President, SIGNIS.

You are doing an excellent job in form of a newsletter, a great effort ! Kindly let me know the date of next Asian assembly. Thanks !

Joe Fernando, Malaysia

Thanks Magi for the latest newsletter...its fine to see as we try to get back to feeling "normal" here in Nepal and wait for the BIG aftershocks to REALLY stop. Thanks for your prayers.

Chirendra Satyal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Good job! God bless your efforts.

Stella Chin, Malaysia

Thank you Magimai. I am happy to have news about SIGNISAsia.

Good Work!

Sr. Cora, fsp, Thailand.

Thank you, Magimai. Compliments once again on your SIGNIS ASIA FOCUS eNewsletter. I like the fact that it is written with a larger audience in mind than just your members. The opening page mission statement is useful as reinforcement for your members and as helpful information for strangers. The newsletter appears to give a really good picture of what you do. I am forwarding the newsletter to our SIGNIS North America members as a sign of what can be done.

Frank Frost, Vice President, SIGNIS

Thanks Magi! Another great issue!

I have forwarded it to the delegates of SIGNIS Europe. Best !

Dr Jim McDonnell, Director of Development, Sec, Journalism Desk, SIGNIS.

Dear Magimai, Congratulations on an excellent newsletter: energizing, informative and very handsomely presented. I particularly loved the SIGNIS "esprit de corps" it transpires. Thank you very much for this priceless service!

Now I have been left wanting more. Could you please send me the previous issue, which I never got to receive? Please send it to this address.

Thank you!

Best regards,

Gustavo, President, SIGNIS



SIGNIS Awards (Sri Lanka)

38th SIGNIS SALUTATION Cine and Tele Awards 2015

The talents in Sri Lankan cinema and teledrama industry were recognised at the recently held 38th SIGNIS Salutation Film and Teledrama awards ceremony in Sri Lanka.

Yesteryear silver screen queen, Punya Heendeniya was honoured with the Special Signis Salutation Award. This is the highest award given by Signis Sri Lanka for a person who has contributed immensely for the development of cinema in Sri Lanka.

In addition five other veterans in the fields of theatre, cinema and music; Lucien Bulathsinghala, Anoja Weerasinghe, Bandu Samarasinghe, Hyacinth Wijesratne and Priya Sooriyasena, were honoured with lifetime awards, Signis International Homage.

Ashley Rathnavibhushana was awarded the Cyril B. Perera Memorial Award for his contribution to Sri Lankan film literature, while Gamini Weragama was given the Leslie Botheju Memorial Award, which has been introduced for the first time for the Best Book of the Year on Media.

Among the main award winners of the SIGNIS TELE Awards 2015; Outstanding Performance (male) Jackson Anthony Gold award (Appachchi) and Janak Premalal Silver award (Girikula), Outstanding Direction- Rukmal Nirosh, Gold award Sulanga Matha Mohothak and Ananda Abeykoon, Silver award (Appachchi) 6

Award winners for SIGNIS Film awards 2015 were; Creative Script Writing- Jayantha Chandrasiri Gold award (Samanala Sandhawaniya) Anuruddha Jayasinghe Silver award (Bomba saha Rosa), Creative Performance (Female)- Yashodha Wimaladharm Gold Award (Samanala Sandhawaniya) and Chandani Senevirathna Silver award (Nikini Wassa), Creative Performance (Male) Uddhika Premarathna Gold award (Samanala Sandhawaniya).

Creative direction Gold award for Jayantha Chandrasiri (Samanala Sandhawaniya), Creative Performance (Male) Gold award for Jagath Chamila (Sameege Kathawa) and Creative Direction Gold award for Priyankara Withanachchi (Sameege Kathawa) and Silver award for Nilendra Deshapriya. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando, former Sri Lanka Signis President is the Chief architect of this programme.

A Note from the Editor

Dear Friends,

The fourth issue of Signis Asia Focus is in your hands after a long gap! The delay will not occur again! The present issue reminds us about the memorable Assembly we had in Sri Lanka! It also carries information about our forthcoming Assembly in Myanmar in August and our SAMA Awards! May I request our members to share this newsletter with others through all available media !

We look forward to information about productions, trainings, research, film festivals and various communication activities of your centres which will be a great source of inspiration to all of us!

'Merciful Action through Media' is the theme for the SAMA Awards this year! Encourage all our members to participate in the festival with creative productions!

Thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Warm regards,

Dr. Magimai Pragasam
Editor, Signis Asia Focus.

SIGNIS Asia FOCUS

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SIGNIS ASIA FOCUS is an E-Newsletter of SIGNIS ASIA which is published four times a year (July, October, January, April) from Chennai, India. Members are kindly requested to share news and views, programmes and productions in SIGNIS ASIA FOCUS.

Kindly send your materials to: magimai2005@gmail.com



*SIGNIS Asia Board with Most Rev. Olivier
Bishop of Phnom Penh*

SIGNIS Asia Board

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Radio:

Fr. Gabriel Htun Myint, Mr. Francis Kim Seung-Wal, and Ms. Bernadetta Widiandayani

Media education & Journalism:

Dr. Magimai Pragasam and Mr. Ly Sovanna (VJ)

SAMA Awards

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- South Asia : Dr. Magimai Pragasam (India)
- South East Asia : Mr. Ly Sovanna



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