Chapter 1 : Malaysia | Open Minds! (formerly: Moving Images blog)

After writing a book on the subject, he says that in spite of surplus water, and one of the world's richest traditions of managing it, India's water crisis has reached critical levels.

The new company shall sign a fresh agreement with Government on identical terms and conditions except for transferability of shares as provided herein for the remaining period of license of the original company. Such transfer of shares would be permitted only once during the first five years period from the date of operationalisation. An overview Traditional media, which is operated and controlled either by the government or corporate bodies, ensures little active participation of the poor and disadvantaged groups. Globalisation and the onslaught of the electronic media is also making it harder for the marginalised communities to extract full benefits of the existing technologies, thereby making the poor, the disadvantaged and the marginalised, geographically, ethnically and financially less heard. In the traditional government and commercial media, these communities are just fodders for the big media machinary. Community radio, on the other hand, makes them active participators in broadcasting their own issues and resolving the crises in their lives through it. Community radio CR has not been active in Bangladesh till now, though it has been present for 60 years in the world. Forum Theatre began to popularise the initiative through theatre productions. All these efforts led to the acceptance of the idea and the benefits of Community Radio. Lack of policy framework In the policy area, the main obstacle to its introduction was the absence of a broadcasting policy in the country. It is strange that a country which has recently seen an upsurge of both print and electronic media lacks a broadcasting policy. In Bangladesh, there is still the official existence of the Official Secrets Act of and Special Powers Act of , all of which choke the voices of people. Even in the recent years, the Government of Bangladesh failed to develop a unique broadcasting policy that support the establishment and operationalisation of CR stations. In , the Law Commission prepared a draft of Right to Information Law but it was not submitted to parliament for vote. In , a draft Broadcasting Policy was prepared by the Information Ministry but that too was not adopted because of political turmoils. That draft policy of though admirably admitted recognised community radio as one of the i4d October three types of broadcasting, namely government, commercial and community. Recent policy trends Recently, the non-partisan interim caretaker government has taken some good initiatives in policy matters by planning to introduce a Right to Information Ordinance. But without a proper broadcasting policy in the country this initiative seems to be a futile one. One of the major concerns here is whether all the good policies including this one will be continued even after the government is changed or will the cuckoo chicks be kicked out when the mother crow of politics returns to her nest. Though community radio activists from the civil society were involved in the preparation of this policy, it is still not clear how certain regulations creeped into the framework which benefit the bureaucracy rather than the community. On the other hand, what is ensured in Article 7. An advisory committee will be formed for each station with the participation of local level government representatives such as Upazila Nirbahi Officer UNO , Additional Deputy Commissioner where the station is located at a district headquarter , Police officers of the level of Assistant Superintendent of Police and appropriate level representatives of nation building departments such as Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, Forests and Environment, Health, concerned Regional Director of local public radio station and NGOs working in the relevant field, etc. Truth is that, most of the officials chosen to advise the community radio stations, being government officials, are not likely to be local. The committee will monitor the community radio station activities on a regular basis and submit a confidential report to the Ministry of Information per month. Who are the real owners of CR stations? Though the initiative is being propounded as a non-profit venture, micro-credit firms with high profiteering practices will be comfortably eligible with the signboard of poverty alleviation activities. This leads to a confusion in the definition of community the document itself has made in 1 a: Will the governments, at present and the future ones use community radio for realising their own political agenda? Will NGOs, at the moment the sole initiators of this enterprise, use it as a

convenient tool for furthering their micro-credit business, 17 with a few social service initiatives as an eyewash? With these and other questions left unanswered, it is natural to be anxious about the future of the community radio. We must be wary of not tarnishing the name of community radio by mediocre attempts. It has a history of standing upright before political storms and not bowing before power and autocracy. Taking wings However, fear and anxiety accompanies every birth of a new child and does not and should not prevent rejoices of its parents and neighbours. After the community radio policy was formulated in March , applications were submitted from different organisations for permission. Out of them, the government has identified organisations as eligible for approval in a meeting of the National Regulatory Committee held in the Ministry of Information. Community radio is taking wings in Bangladesh amidst the policy whirlwinds and it is anticipated and welcomed wholeheartedly by all. In face of the oncoming military advancement against their network, one of the last transmissions by a radio station was as heroic as this: The army is now about five kilometres from Siete Suyos and very near from Santa Ana, so we are preparing to defend ourselves. We know about 31 people detained, who have been sent to Tupiza. This is Radio Animas for all the south of the country. The self-instructional handbook is aimed at helping managers of community radio stations, FM radio stations, public service broadcasting agencies and any other organisations that deal with audio files in creating prototype archives of digital audio documents. The book also mentions the URLs from where these software can be downloaded from. Furthermore, the manual states that the software used can also handle other forms of digital files like text, pdf, HTML and video files. The digital audio archive created through software like WINISIS can be built into a website consisting of a search box, 18 a submit button, etc. The draft manual guides users to create these resources too. Taking note of the fact that not everyone is tech savvy, the authors have explained in brief most of the popular file formats used today before delving into the instructions for using the archiving software. The draft copy of the manual in various formats is available at the following addresses http: The author explores the causes Radio broadcasting in Pakistan: The FM radio broadcasters, however, are well accustomed to this term, and their radio stations too play the role of community radio to some extent despite licensed as commercial concerns. Pakistan inherited some radio stations at the time of its creation in , established during the British rule in the subcontinent. The country developed its broadcasting system effectively over the years establishing a number of new radio stations in different cities and towns but all were state-run. Unfortunately, even by the end of 20th century, when the country had completed over 50 years of its inception, there was no concept of allowing any community, a private person or company to establish a radio station. International Scale Stations 2. National Scale Stations 3. Provincial Scale Stations 4. Specific and Specialised Subject Stations and 6. Cable TV Network Stations Although, the PEMRA rules are clear on allowing community-based radio stations, as provided in categories above, but not a single license has been granted so far to this effect. On the contrary, the PEMRA used to invite bids through newspaper advertisements for setting up FM radio stations in different towns and cities and earned huge amounts through open auction of the licenses. During last five years, as many as licenses for FM radios have been granted, based on the above mentioned considerations. Out of which, around radio stations are operational. The big investors own all these FM radio stations. Registered under company law, 19 majority of investors own three to five radio stations operating in different towns. Very few FM radio licenses have been granted to universities for educational purpose like licenses were issued to Universities of Karachi and Peshawar. The license fee though for such institutions is not so high. The sources in PEMRA however, confided that setting up Community Radio stations would be discouraged, as they apprehend that this facility could be misused and regulating them would be a tough task if they sprang up in large numbers. According to PEMRA sources, regulating the FM radios is easy, as their transmission is monitored and action is taken immediately in case of violation of rules, terms and conditions. Similarly, all the equipment of FM radio in Abbottabad was seized and radio station closed. The people engaged by FM radio stations across the country, however, are satisfied that the programmes they air serve the purpose of community radio. That is community service. All our programmes are community-based. The PPF, through missions, conferences and workshops is in the process

of preparing a comprehensive report on the state of FM radios in Pakistan. Conclusion The conference had passed a declaration demanding the PEMRA to grant licenses for community radio being vital for sustainable development. Some of the broadcasters at the conference viewed that opening more FM radio stations in an area might not be financially viable due to competition in a very limited market of 50 km radius. The PEMRA had granted temporary license for this radio soon after earthquake but later refused its renewal. He admitted selling some transmitters to certain organisations but stopped making them after PEMRA threatened him of legal action after receiving a tip off. It was in May that the department set up a radio studio and training centre equipped with an analogue system to produce radio programmes with financial support of the Friedrich Ebert Shiftung. Being an inexpensive medium, it can reach to the poor and being an audio instrument, it can reach to the the illiterate ones Introduction Radio for nearly a century has been an effective medium of communication. The state-owned All India Radio AIR has emerged as the largest broadcaster in terms of the number of people who can have access to its transmitting stations situated all over the country. The only disadvantage has been that most of the programmes are centrally programmed, produced and broadcast. Also, the political, geographical, cultural and linguistic diversities of a vast nation like India, does not allow many common programmes. The programmes have to be listener specific. Other programmes included a workshop conducted for 50 women on producing programmes on health awareness including child health. Apart from live broadcast of important functions in and around Kongu CR, live phone-in programmes were organised by bringing elected representatives to the studios and making them answer a variety of questions posed by listeners over the phone ranging from developmental schemes to health hazards. Some additional programmes were contemplated, commenced and planned to widen the area of activity. There are also instant broadcast of useful information, ranging from unexpected traffic diversion or train delay to long-term forecasting on health, agriculture, weather, etc. Participation by students added variety to the programmes. In addition to talks and interviews, they were able to produce lively skit, songs and stories highlighting several aspects of health and nutrition. Taking a cue from the preliminary survey, a workshop for community volunteers was organised by a team sent by CEMCA led by Jai Chandiram in April Free radio receivers were distributed to about 50 villagers in order to encourage them to listen to and participate in Community Radio programmes symposia has helped quite a few community members to have access to instruments used for recording and reproduction of sound and also editing and programming of broadcasts with the equipment available at the Kongu CR. Some of them regularly visit this studio to produce programmes and also use the available equipment to record programmes elsewhere. It is desirable that the programmes aim at economic, educational, environmental and moral development of the members of the community which CR serves. Findings of the survey A survey was conducted by Kongu Community Radio in a few villages in its coverage area, and among other things; the health awareness and needs of the rural women were also studied. Some of the findings of the survey are given below. Through all these activities, Kongu CR has been trying its best to encourage and empower the common people, providing them available information on their legitimate rights and entitlements. It has been serving as a platform to air their grievances, longings and aspirations. This has helped bridge the gap between the community on one side and the wealth of useful information available on the other side. The advantage of radio is that it can be accessed from anywhere, at anytime. The receiver need not have power supply. Hence, it can reach areas where there is no electricity.

Chapter 2 : Full text of "When the Curtains Rise"

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

Weekly first staffer in Goa a task which includes work for the Times of India group which runs that mag. It could be showcasing music in a range of languages -- Konkani, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Hindi or whatever We want to get the people of Panjim back to the city gardens and open spaces as new recreational options for the citizens. The Bandstand at the Municipal Garden is doing just that. Our plan aims towards contributing to the revitalisation of the spaces, since the PMC has been putting money into sprucing up the gardens, and the effort should not go waste. We also want to promote the city, with its built in heritage and geographic beauty, to become a vibrant urban tourism option, by making our events a feature on the tourism calendar of Goa. Does this fit in a bigger scheme of repackaging Panjim? Panjim is perhaps one of the most beautiful cities in the country, which if promoted in the right spirit and packaging could get Goa the attention she rightly deserves, and quality tourists to boost her economy. The government is cleaning up its act by paying attention to how the city looks. The idea is to take up every open space and buzz it with activity. Let me add, this is purely our initiative as individuals interested in the betterment of our city. Why the need for this now? I think Panjim is ready for a renaissance of sorts. The older generation completely neglected looking into what the city could have grown into, despite being in positions where they could have used their offices to undo many damages. I think our enthusiasm for the city is the driving force behind us. Despite assurances from many, it was not until the last two days of the event that things fell into place. The Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has been very supportive and enthusiastic of our efforts, while the PMC facilitates speedy permissions and extends support in more ways than one. Politicians we would gladly want to stay away from. Too many good, sincere causes get politicised for personal gains. We want no part of that. If the Chief Minister believes we are doing the right thing by way of contributing to the growth of the city as individuals, through our musical events, then there is no problem. We want to promote the city, period. We are individuals who love this city very much too. I do not believe Mr Parrikar is using our initiative to politicise his political dreams, simply because his work is proof enough of his commitment to the city. There is no comparison. Though at some point our ideas do converge, in that we are working to make Panjim city happen. Can such an event not be done without intrusive advertising and commercialisation, even if on a smaller scale? The concept is pure and we strive to keep it that way. All invited musicians play free at the Bandstand, same with the sound and lights put up by Just Audio, and the people working behind the scenes. Nobody takes home a penny. The idea behind the Bandstand is to give amateur artistes a platform to perform and simultaneously use this synergy to get people to use the garden once again. Our other events involve costing, since there are big out-of-state bands involved. Advertising is a necessary evil to popularise the concept. How else can one percolate the idea to the general public? This has never happened before to such magnitude. The taps never seem to run dry at the houses of politicians and bureaucrats. I find this absolutely absurd. Is this the case of lop-sided priorities? Erratic electricity supply is still a pain, even as the State earns much revenue selling excess power to its neighbours. Too many frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuations is bad news. From buses to taxis, to autos, the prices fluctuate as per their respective whim and fancies. Any spot on the road becomes a bus stop, taxis fleece through the nose and autos decide upon their own tariff rates. After 7 pm, the city goes dead, literally and figuratively. Parking spaces in the city is a lost cause. Where do people go after 7. All our events have respected this timing stricture and will continue to do so in the near future. Neither are we promoting any particular genre of music to please a section of the population or politician. We believe music has no categories, as long as it serves the purpose in taking further our primary goal, i. Too bad if people in power want to politicise music to suck up to their political ideology. Radio jockey Richard Dias, DJ Troy

Furtado and me are passionate music lovers and have always looked for an opportunity to promote good music. Our synergy was spontaneous. The ball rolled from there. We were proved right again. The show was a huge success. Both on the positive and negative sides? The chief minister has personally called me and promised his support to our future events. On the negative side, there have been others who have tried to sabotage our events by trying to pull away musicians after promising them more money at the last hour. Petty issues that one must learn to overlook, because it happens all the time in Goa. After all, not all are motivated by the fast buck.

Chapter 3 : No Agenda episode - by Law and by Rule

India's Water Crisis: An Interview with Author Nitya Jacob DELHI, India, May 26, (ENS) Former business and environmental journalist Nitya Jacob has undertaken an unusual task - an ecological travelogue across the Indian subcontinent focused on water.

Who is Kapil Siba trying to fool? We know that a new broom sweeps clean. But what is to be done if the person wielding the broom, surrounded by heaps of dirt, declares there is not a speck seen to be cleaned? If officials trained to conduct Government audit cannot distinguish between zero and Rs 1. Indeed, the CAG itself should be disbanded for this outrageous computation. Or maybe, more sensibly, Mr Sibal should revisit his ridiculous calculation and trust the experts in the matter. Had the issue been one of differing figures, it would be understandable. After all, not all people on the earth believe two plus two make four. Children who have yet to be introduced to basic mathematics will offer several options. Mr Sibal is not a child, nor does one expect his calculating prowess to be as weak, though his forte, as we all know, is law. Yet, if he has chosen to ridicule the CAG, it is with a larger purpose, and that is to denigrate a constitutional body in the eyes of the public simply because it has shown a mirror to the Government. What the Congressmen want is that the CAG should silently bear the pummeling it has been subjected to. Unfortunately for them, that is not happening. Of course, for a party that has a history of short-changing constitutional institutions, the current posturing comes naturally. So much so that even the Constitution was sought to be customised to rob people of their fundamental rights during the Emergency and set aside judicial verdicts in the Shah Bano case. That Congress leaders could not destroy the institutions is not for lack of trying; the resilience of our democratic system survived the assaults. And, like the others then did, the CAG has now emerged stronger and more relevant following the attacks. The CAG calculated the "presumptive loss" â€" revenue that did not come in because the Telecom Department refused to exploit the market demand for 2G services â€" using four parameters. The one that projected the largest revenue loss and which is much disputed by Congress leaders of Rs 1. The 3G auction fetched more than Rs 1 lakh crore a year ago when market forces were allowed impartial play. Since Mr Sibal has a problem equating the 3G revenue flow with the lost 2G revenue he probably believes it is a case of comparing apples and oranges , it is pertinent to note that the CAG has referred to a Telecom Regularity Authority of India report of , where the latter had observed that 2G services were in effect offering 2. The CAG then went on to conclude, "While comparing spectral efficiency and other factors, it is fair to compare existing 2. Does that not show that the two are comparable? The lowest estimate is a loss of Rs 57, crore, while two other determinants provide the figures of Rs 67, crore and Rs 69, crore. Incidentally, when the CBI took over the case it pegged the loss at a lowly Rs 23, crore, though soon enough it added that it was in touch with the CAG to arrive at a proper figure bearing in mind the 3G auction. Referring to criticism that the audit was "hypothetical" and incorrect, the CAG has noted, "The attempt by Audit is only to highlight that the price discovery of spectrum through a market mechanism would have fetched a much higher value and thus increased receipts for Government. Speaking at the th anniversary celebrations of the CAG, Mr Singh said, "The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General are taken very seriously by the media, by the public, by the Government and by our Parliament. This casts a huge responsibility on the institution.

Chapter 4 : calendrierdelascience.com: Emmanuel M Décarie's weblog on scripting.

Travelling in wooden boat for two kilometers through the flood water, the AIR team reached Aakah villages in water to find the villagers waiting for food, clothes, medicines and drinking water.

For 18 months she recently used a hard cast. It changed her writing. I am an eternal optimist and I believe in these tough times, and with what has brought the global economy to its knees â€"all the stories of greed and fraud we have heard â€" we will become a more caring world. And if each of us look hard for our silver lining, we will all find it. The niche market of accessible tourism could well be the silver lining for travel companies who are smart enough to recognise the potential and go after it in a targeted, responsible manner. Since it is such a new field, the ones who do it first and who get it right will have an advantage. I see accessible tourism as the second wave behind the environment, which is now finally top on the agenda for tourism and other businesses. And just as it did with environmental issues, it will take a combination of political will, legislation and growing consumer demand to force the pace of change. Posted by rollingrains at Ltd, Tokyo, represented by Satoshi Nakagawa, Japan. The Good Design award is a prestigious international award that puts the spotlight on innovative new product designs and graphics. Fulfilling the principles of the Universal Design, this chopstick was created with special consideration for elderly passengers, and passengers who may not be frequent users of chopsticks. Universal design is an approach to the development and improvement of products, services and environments so that they are usable by as many people as possible regardless of age, ability or situation. From an environmental perspective, as with all chopsticks used onboard JAL, the award-wining chopsticks have been made with wood obtained in Japan from forest-thinning to supports forest conservation efforts. They will become ambassadors of disability pride by sharing cross-cultural disability perspectives with members of the local the community! Delegates will be developing leadership skills, building self-confidence, making friends, and learning Spanish! Delegates will experience Costa Rican culture, food and customs by living with a host family! MIUSA strives to organize programs that include people with and without disabilities and people from diverse cultural backgrounds. First time travelers with disabilities who are from a cultural minority and of low socioeconomic status are included every year. MIUSA exchange programs are inclusive of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing, or have cognitive, visual, physical, psychiatric, systemic, non-apparent, or other types of disabilities. June 26 â€" July 10, Where: Generous partial scholarships available to qualified applicants. Late applications considered as space permits. Participants are expected to act as positive and respectful citizen ambassadors of the United States and must be committed to work across cultural and other differences to promote intercultural understanding. Participants must show previous leadership experience, positive communication skills and be committed to disability rights. Watch for more in ! It has been an exciting year for AccessAbility. Some of our key achievements in have been: Launch of our Diversity Employment Initiative at www. Launch of Free2Wheel - www. The travel portal is being advertised by the Ministry of Tourism on the Incredible India home page to promote India as an accessible destination. Our Access Consultancy division has assisted premier brand names in the travel and hospitality industries, higher educational institutes, retail and office complexes and builders in incorporating disabled friendly infrastructure in their existing and upcoming properties. We have also had an opportunity to review and develop some path breaking policies with various Government Ministries. Publication of books authored by us: Employing Persons with Disabilities online version at http: It also covers web applications and is said to give developers more flexibility than the old guidelines. According to the consortium, WCAG 2. The guidance is designed to address barriers encountered by people with visual, hearing, physical, cognitive and neurological disabilities and older people with access needs. For more news see: And the answers can be found in Asia. The four primary business models and philosophies that will, without a doubt, become the future pillars of the industry were compiled for the first time in a study presented at the first ITB Asia in October The holistic social, economic, cultural and environmental concepts of Mahatma Gandhi, the kings of

Thailand and Bhutan, and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus contain clear pointers for a more realistic revival of the industry in a way that puts the fundamentals of need above speed and greed. It is available free of charge upon request. Most importantly he tackles the question of how to present that information in the article, "A Methodology for Testing Accessible Accommodation Information Provision Formats. In the meantime, while the travel industry stumbles idly in the general direction of a solution, the folks at Dapper may have created a way to bootstrap to Internet stardom the first hotel chain to get it right. With accurate and relevant accessibility information captured in its databases and exposed for web developers to use to "mashup" such innovators could see themselves as Internet celebrities with a viral word-of-mouth campaign online promoting them. Who might these disabled-friendly innovative hotel chains turn out to be? Below is a screencast on the technology that might be an unexpected boon to hotels pursuing inclusion. Learn how to make a dynamic contextual ad with MashupAds in 5 minutes: Part 1 of 2: Part 2 of how to make a dynamic, contextual ad with Dapper MashupAds for a travel website and travel publisher. They have just announced a program to partner with travel agents allowing agents to source equipment for clients and make a seamless one-stop experience for their clients. The company offers electric scooters, wheelchairs, power chairs, oxygen, supplies for companion animals, hearing devices and Braille printing. An estimated 40 million Americansabout 1 in have some form of disability. Even so, many rentals at Special Needs at Sea are to travelers who may not use scooters or wheelchairs at home, but are concerned about walking long distances on tours or shore excursions and navigating long corridors on the newer, larger cruise vessels. Special Needs at Sea delivers directly to the ship or hotel so the equipment is waiting when the client arrives. The company has a global distribution network and delivers to ports, cruise ships and hotels around the world. Travel agents must register in advance of any client bookings to qualify for commissions. They may register for the travel agent program at http: To reserve equipment, for more details about Special Needs at Sea, or to request a brochure call Special Needs at Sea toll free 1. People with disability face many barriers to full participation in society and are likely to face an increased risk of social exclusion. This may include being unable to access education, health services, earn a living or participate in decision making. Social exclusion is a major contributor to the level of poverty which people with disability experience, particularly those who live in developing countries. The Australian Government recognises that poverty is both a cause and consequence of disability and is committed to ensuring that the benefits of development reach those who are most excluded. Further, to achieve the targets set for the Millennium Development Goals and to alleviate poverty, the Government believes that people with disability must be actively included in development activities and processes. Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program , publicly committing the Australian Government to ensuring that people with disability are comprehensively included and supported in improving their quality of life through all aspects of the aid program. The Strategy seeks to improve the quality of life of people with disability through a range of programs and funding mechanisms - including targeted initiatives to meet the specific needs of people with disability, building the leadership skills of people with disability and their organisations, and ensuring major programs in sectors such as education and infrastructure meet the needs and priorities of people with disability. The Strategy will also focus on reducing preventable impairments through support for avoidable blindness and road safety. In recognition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Development for All will also ensure that the rights of people with disability are respected and promoted. Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program is available below as a PDF or word document and in large print. Audio format is also available. Braille copies can be ordered online at: Below he argues for more rational development in the travel industry - and calls for input from new voices. It is being affected by too much happening too quickly in too many different sectors and parts of the world. The need for new ideas, from new people for a new era has never been more important. Here are some areas that may help fulfill that objective: Most of the speakers are from western, and largely British, organisations, companies, universities and institutions who reflect, quite naturally, their own perspective. Also poorly represented are environmentalists, NGOs, trade unionists, consumer protection organisations. There is no forum for young

people, indigenous peoples or small and medium-sized enterprises. The assumption is that only CEOs, and mainly those from the west, deserve a platform and have the answers. But whose interests do these industry leaders truly represent? Or their staff and their guests? One organisation already realising its mistakes is PATA which in the last six years was headed by a European and became a hugely centralised, autocratic organisation that lost sight of many of its grassroots members. Constructive debate, and a healthy check and balance mechanism is a vital part of any democratic society. But none were debates in the real sense of the term, with no cross-fire of opposing viewpoints. Perhaps in order not to upset sponsors and corporate backers, hard questions are seldom raised. The result is that new agendas do not enter the mainstream discussion process. An industry of dreams refuses to confront its nightmares. It also conveys the image of an industry that does not tolerate opposing viewpoints and sees critics as enemies. Although the agenda of economic growth, job creation and sustainability is now well accepted, hearing the other side of the coin is becoming imperative. Numerous issues need to be raised â€" from the management of security concerns to consumer protection complaints, from human resources management to privacy and the impact of technology and even ceksual harassment in the workplace. Not everything that was said to be good for the industry 10 years ago is actually turning out that way. And what may have been good in the past will not necessarily be good in future. Globalisation was seen as a panacea but is coming under increasing fire in global forums. For example, the industry is all excited about how mobile phones are becoming new marketing tools but appears less concerned about the environmental impact of millions of discarded mobile units. At one session on technology in travel, I raised this question, only to receive a frosty non-response from haughty panellists who thought the issue was not worth their time. Many of the marketing and management and forecasting gurus who made lofty predictions and trends forecasts were just plain wrong. Much is made these days about promoting competitiveness and branding. But branding is becoming boring and the need to compete is diminishing in importance, especially as there is plenty of business going around.

Chapter 5 : Community Radio : October Issue by i4d magazine - Issuu

Sweden has steered clear of the recession that's engulfed the euro area, helping the AAA-rated Nordic nation to emerge as a haven from the debt crisis and allowing the state to cut both income and corporate taxes.

To view a copy of this license, visit The opinions, figures and estimates set forth in this publication are the responsibility of the authors, and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of the United Nations. The designations used and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Mention of firm names and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations. As the World Economic Forum fittingly states, ICTs represent our collective nerve system, impacting and connecting every fabric of our lives through intelligent, adaptive and innovative solutions. Indeed, ICTs are tools that can help solve some of our economic, social and environmental challenges, and promote more inclusive and sustainable development. The increased access to information and knowledge through development of ICT has the potential to significantly improve the livelihoods of the poor and marginalized, and promote gender equality. ICTs can serve as a bridge connecting people from different countries and sectors in the region and beyond by providing more efficient, transparent and reliable means and platforms for communication and cooperation. ICTs are essential to the connectivity that facilitates more efficient exchange of goods and services. Success stories from Asia and the Pacific region abound: Yet, the digital divide in Asia and the Pacific is still seen to be one of the widest in the world. This is evidenced by the fact that the countries of the region are placed across the whole spectrum of the global ICT Development Index ranking. Despite the impressive technological breakthroughs and commitments of many key players in the region, access to basic communication is still not assured for all. In order to complete the bridging of the digital divide, policymakers must be committed to further realizing the potential of ICTs for inclusive socio-economic development in the region. Each person should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in order to understand, participate actively in, and benefit fully from, the Information Society and the knowledge economy. Launched in and based on strong demand from member States, the Academy presently consists of 10 stand-alone but interlinked modules that aim to impart essential knowledge and expertise to help policymakers plan and implement ICT initiatives more effectively. Widespread adoption of the Academy programme throughout Asia-Pacific attests to the timely and relevant material covered by these modules. It is our hope that through their regular delivery at national and regional workshops for senior- and mid-level government officials, the acquired knowledge would be translated into enhanced awareness of ICT benefits and concrete actions towards meeting national and regional development goals. In and of themselves, ICTs are simply tools, but when people know how to effectively utilize them, ICTs become transformative drivers to hasten the pace of socio-economic development and bring about positive changes. The Academy has reached thousands of individuals and hundreds of institutions throughout the Asia-Pacific and beyond since its official launch in The Academy has been rolled out in over 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, adopted in numerous government human resource training frameworks, and incorporated in the curricula of university and college programmes throughout the region. The impact of the Academy is in part a result of the comprehensive content and targeted range of topics covered by its eight initial training modules, but also due to the Academy s ability to configure to meet local contexts and address emerging socio-economic development issues. In , as a result of strong demand from countries in the Asia-Pacific, APCICT in partnership with its network of partners developed two new Academy training modules designed to enhance capacity in the use of ICT for disaster risk management and climate change abatement. It In Partnership approach, the new Academy modules 9 and 10, like the initial modules 1 to 8, were Developed, Implemented and Delivered in an inclusive and participatory manner, and systematically

drew upon an extensive and exceptional group of development stakeholders. The entire Academy has been based on: These workshops provided invaluable opportunities for the exchange of experiences and knowledge among users of the Academy from different countries. The result is a comprehensive module Academy curriculum covering a range of important ICTD topics, and indicative of the many voices and contextual nuances present across the region. APCICT s inclusive and collaborative approach to development of the Academy has also created a network of strong partnerships to facilitate the delivery of ICTD training to government officials, policymakers and development stakeholders throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Academy continues to be rolled out and adopted into training frameworks at the national and regional levels in different countries and regions as a result of close collaboration between APCICT and training institutions, government agencies, and regional and international organizations. This principle will continue to be a driving force as APCICT works with its partners to continuously update and further localize the Academy material, develop new Academy modules to address identified needs, and extend the reach of Academy content to new target audiences through new and more accessible mediums. The APCICT Virtual Academy ensures that all the Academy modules and accompanying materials are easily accessible online for download, dissemination, customization and localization. To enhance accessibility and relevance in local contexts, APCICT and its partners have collaborated to make the Academy available in English, Bahasa Indonesia, Mongolian, Myanmar language, Russian, Tajik, and Vietnamese, with plans to translate the modules into additional languages. Clearly, the development and delivery of the Academy would not have been possible without the commitment, dedication and proactive participation of many individuals and organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of our partners from government ministries, training institutions, and regional and national organizations who have participated in Academy workshops. They not only provided valuable inputs to the content of the modules, but more importantly, they have become advocates of the Academy in their countries and regions, and have helped the Academy become an important component of national and regional frameworks to build necessary ICT capacity to meet the socio-economic development goals of the future. I would like to add a special acknowledgment to the dedicated efforts of many outstanding individuals who have made Module 9 possible. I sincerely hope that the Academy will help nations narrow ICT human resource gaps, remove barriers to ICT adoption, and promote the application of ICT in accelerating socio-economic development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The digital economy, also known as the knowledge economy, networked economy or new economy, is characterized by a shift from the production of goods to the creation of ideas. This underscores the growing, if not already central, role played by ICTs in the economy and in society as a whole. As a consequence, governments worldwide have increasingly focused on ICTD. For these governments, ICTD is not only about developing the ICT industry or sector of the economy but also encompasses the use of ICTs to engender economic as well as social and political growth. However, among the difficulties that governments face in formulating ICT policy is that policymakers are often unfamiliar with the technologies that they are harnessing for national development. Since one cannot regulate what one does not understand, many policymakers have shied away from ICT policymaking. But leaving ICT policy to technologists is also wrong because often technologists are unaware of the policy implications of the technologies they are developing and using. Policymakers at the national and local government level who are responsible for ICT policymaking; 2. Government officials responsible for the development and implementation of ICT-based applications; and 3. Managers in the public sector seeking to employ ICT tools for project management. The module series aims to develop familiarity with the substantive issues related to ICTD from both a policy and technology perspective. The intention is not to develop a technical ICT manual but rather to provide a good understanding of what the current digital technology is capable of or where technology is headed, and what this implies for policymaking. The topics covered by the modules have been identified through a training needs analysis and a survey of other training materials worldwide. The modules are designed in such a way that they can be used for self-study by individual readers or as a resource in a

training course or programme. The modules are standalone as well as linked together, and effort has been made in each module to link to themes and discussions in the other modules in the series. The long-term objective is to make the modules a coherent course that can be certified. Module 9 ICT for Disaster Risk Management 7 8 Each module begins with a statement of module objectives and target learning outcomes against which readers can assess their own progress. The module content is divided into sections that include case studies and exercises to help deepen understanding of key concepts. The exercises may be done by individual readers or by groups of training participants. Figures and tables are provided to illustrate specific aspects of the discussion. References and online resources are listed for readers to look up in order to gain additional perspectives. The use of ICTD is so diverse that sometimes case studies and examples within and across modules may appear contradictory. This is to be expected. This is the excitement and the challenge of this newly emerging discipline and its promise as all countries begin to explore the potential of ICTs as tools for development. The e-co Hub gives access to knowledge resources on different aspects of ICTD and provides an interactive space for sharing knowledge and experiences, and collaborating on advancing ICTD. The module provides an overview of DRM, its information and communication needs, and the applications of ICTs in its activities. Module Objectives The module aims to: Provide an overview of DRM; 2. Learning Outcomes After going through this module, the readers should be able to: Identify and describe the major activities in DRM mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery ; 2. Identify some of the information challenges in DRM; 3. What is Disaster Risk? Some key definitions 18 Box 2. Participatory communication 32 Box 4. No one was prepared for this. People are angry and afraid. What are the MDGs? Disaster Risk Management Cycle 20 Figure 2. Information Management Cycle 28 Figure 3. Landslide Susceptibility Maps of Bandarban 47 Figure 4. Some steps for base map preparation 48 Figure 5. Screen shot of Stop Disasters! Operational aspects of an early warning system 53 Figure 8. Components of an end-to-end early warning system 90 Figure Active hazards, recent events, and population density visualized in the Natural Hazards and Vulnerabilities Atlas 93 List of Tables Table 1. Top 10 disaster types and their impact, Asia and the Pacific, Table 2. Disaster events and impacts by sub-region and country, Table 3. A snapshot of different information needs in different disaster management activities 29 Table 4. Comparison of the mitigation strategies for selected hazards 42 Table 5. Comparison of damage caused by three recent earthquakes 43 Table 6. Remote sensing and GIS applications for disaster preparedness 54 Table 7. Functions and responsibilities of the Information Management Group 64 Table 9. Describing how disasters are a product of hazards effects upon societal vulnerabilities, and made worse by a society s limited capacity to manage disaster risk; Emphasizing that DRM is not focused on hazards alone, but on ensuring that the development process does not increase the risk of disasters; Noting how the Asia-Pacific region is experiencing a disproportionately large share of disaster impacts versus other regions of the world; and Introducing policy issues related to improving DRM by utilizing information and communication technologies ICTs. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UNISDR defines disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption, and environmental degradation. Disaster impacts on human lives and the environment remind us of the intimate linkage between disaster and development. On the one hand, disasters stall development and can erode and destroy livelihoods. Disasters also affect social and economic investments aimed at eradicating poverty and hunger; providing access to education, drinking water, sanitation and safe housing; protecting the environment; and securing employment and income. On the other hand, unsustainable development practices increase disaster risks. Unsustainable practices include encroachment into high-risk areas due to rapid urbanization, construction of unsafe shelters, pollution, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, and social discrimination. Slow-onset disasters are those that build up over weeks, months or even years; an example of a

disaster of this type is brought on by drought. Rapid-onset disasters include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, cyclones, tsunamis and flash flooding. With regards to the uncertainty of hazards if the frequency of the hazard is low and no clear-cut pattern of occurrence can be determined, then uncertainty would be considered high. Disaster risk is a combination of potential hazards, existing vulnerabilities and capacities.

Chapter 6 : WHO | Open Minds! (formerly: Moving Images blog)

Gerhard Pfandl is associate director of the Biblical Research Vi Institute of the General Conference of Seventh day Adventists. He holds a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Andrews University.

Tap semi-urban, rural savings -- FM Pg 12 Visit us at: After hearing arguments ad- vanced by the prosecution and defense counsel, Additional Ses- sions Judge P V Kamat has re- served his orders to Wednesday morning. She said there could be more persons in- volved in the death of Nadia Tor- rado. Fayaz Ahmad Wani was killed when security personnel al- legedly opened fire at a stone- pelting mob protesting the death of a man who he fell into a drain during a demonstration in Bat- maloo area of the city last night. A year-old woman identi- fied as Fancy was killed by a stray bullet in the same area when security forces fired in air to disperse a mob which at- tacked a police building after torching a welfare centre in the same premises, police said. I nde f i n i t e cu r f ew was clamped in the city after the lat- est spell of violence. The army called out on the streets of Srinagar late tonight to enforce the curfew keeping in view the non-availability of adequate number of police per- sonnel many of whom have been deployed for Amarnath Yatra and counter-insurgency opera- tions, official sources said. In the evening, Abrar Khan, 18, was killed while year-old Owais Ahmad was seriously in- jured when police fired to dis- perse protesters in Maisuma in the heart of Srinagar city after they defied curfew orders, po- lice said. Besides Srinagar, violence also took place in Baramulla, Pam- pore in Pulwama and parts of curfew-bound Anantnag leaving 25 injured including an assistant sub-inspector who was hit by a stone on his head at Mattan Chowk in Anantnag. Police said the mobs also pelted stones on police stations at Pattan and Pampore. The po- licemen fired in air to scare away the protesters. Police resorted to firing to disperse mourners carrying the body of Fancy who was killed in Batmaloo. The Home Ministry asked the Naxal-affected States and the Railways to take necessary ac- tion to guard railway properties, tracks, public places, markets and other vital installations to avoid any untoward incident during the hour bandh called by CPI-Maoists beginning to- morrow. The bandh was called in protest against the killing of top Naxal leader Cherukuri Rajku- mar a l ias Azad in Andhra Pradesh last week. The Maoists also re- portedly asked people not to travel by train during the bandh period. The Centre is particularly concerned over the safety of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains, rail tracks and passen- gers as nearly people lost their lives following the derail- ment of Jnaneswari Express in West Bengal on May 29 by Maoists. He was speaking at a function organised by the Margao Mu- nicipal Council to felicitate SSC students from the city schools scoring highest marks in social studies. Saying that this is the age of the survival of the fittest, Kamat said merit will be the main cri- teria in respect of admissions to professional colleges in the future. Complimenting the Margao Municipal Council for deciding to felicitate SSC students for ex- celling in social studies, the chief minister advised the students not to forget the parents and teachers who contribute to- wards their success. Goa Scholarship Scheme soon: The detentions by the CISF came this evening after King- fisher and Jet Airways call centres received calls from an anony- mous person that these people were to board two flights to Dubai with fake visas. The caller also gave PNR numbers of their flight tickets, sources said. According to reports, the ac- cused, Ahmed Shaikh 20 , al- legedly murdered Mehabosabh Mulasabh Kamatgi 33 of Baina, who also had a criminal record in Baina. Friends of the accused also informed that Mehabosabh along with some persons had allegedly assaulted Ahmed near Hanuman Temple, Baina, about a week ago, where the murder took place on Tuesday. It may be recalled that the government on July 1 issued a notification under Section 4 of Land Acquisition Act to acquire land to construct the road, a four lane, from Tilamol to Curchorem and Quepem Deputy Collector Agnel Fernandes was appointed land acquisition officer. The residents on Sunday con- vened a meeting at Bansai to op- pose the land acquisition and make the people aware about its effect on the people residing alongside the road. Addressing the residents, Babu Prabhu Dessai said if the road is for the benefit of the local people, then the people will demolish their houses them- selves, but if the proposed ac- quisition is for the benefit of the mining lobby, then they will not allow the acquisition. He said the present

road is enough for the normal traffic and widening is not re- quired by demolishing houses of hundreds of people for no proper reason, unless the gov- ernment has some hidden mo- tive behind this move. Christanand Pednekar said re- cently there have been numerous accidents due to mining transport and if widening becomes a reality, then people will have to walk with their coffin in their hands expecting death any moment. Soccorina Goes said people have been asking for a by-pass road for so long for mining activity which the authorities had prom- ised, but now it is evident that they were fooling the public. Mafaldo Fernandes said the government should forget about the road widening and take up the by-pass road work, if they want peace in the region. Villagers have decided to meet Quepem Deputy Collector Agnelo Fernandes, who was appointed acquisition officer, and submit their grievances. They also de- cided to meet Chief Minister Digambar Kamat over the issue. The villagers warned that if their demands are not met by the elected representatives, then they would knock the doors of the court. The trend observed is almost 88 per cent of the cases in and 85 per cent of cases in were from the project areas where construction activity is going on. This is a good breeding site for the anopheles stephensi species of mosquito which transmits malaria. Hence, focus has to be on high risk areas to prevent the spread of the disease in the State, says Dr Dias. In , 9, cases of malaria were reported of which around 28 per cent were due to falciparum malaria the dangerous species of malaria and 21 deaths. In , there were cases with 21 per cent falciparum cases and ten deaths and data till March this year show that there were reported cases with no deaths. But, this is not a reason to be complacent. It is now mandatory that all the labourers have a malaria test and possess a Malaria card. The Directorate of Health Services is making all efforts to consoli- date the gains, control the dis- ease, lower malaria cases further and prevent all deaths due to malaria. According to Dr Dias the problem of Malaria is manmade and ironi- cal ly i t is uncon- trolled development that has led to the resurgence of this disease. More research on the parasite and vector dynamics in the State to improve techniques to fight the disease has to be promoted. He suggested that local NGOs, panchayats and schools could be engaged to control breeding sites and bring about awareness and behavioural change in the community. Even though sources could not confirm the number of ab- ductors brought at the site, black-coloured clothes had covered their heads, as they were reportedly brought down from the vehicle and were taken deep inside the cashew plantations as part of police investigations into the kidnap- ping case. It may be recalled that Goa Police assisted by some local youth from Agonda rescued the boy and arrested all the seven abductors, who were al- legedly involved in abduction for ransom. Earlier, the police had re- portedly taken in their posses- sion a makeshift plastic tent, which the abductors reportedly erected and used on Friday night, after bringing their cap- tive all the way from Anjuna. Police succeeded in nabbing the last and seventh abductor, who reportedly dodged policemen on Saturday night by hiding under dried leaves in the same forest. One of the local youth, who helped police during rescue operations, told Her- ald that in the absence of suitable light, they found it very difficult to walk in- side their own houses, but the way the Nepali seventh abductor ran on that Sat- u r d a y n i g h t f r o m t h e purview of police torchlight was amazing. Meanwhile, taking cog- nizance of reports appearing in print media, including Her- ald, about the help provided by three Agonda youth, Cana- cona police on Monday report- edly collected their contact details. According to municipal sources, police protection has been sought to carry out dem- olition drive of illegal temporary structures in civic areas on Wednesday. It may be recalled that coun- cillors in their last meeting had urged the chief officer to initiate stringent measures on default- ing temporary licence holders, who had failed to restore their places to normal self after the expiry of licence period. But contrary to what Dessai says, locals in the civic areas al- leged that at least one-third of 1, temporary structures per- mitted by CMC during the last tourist season continue to stand tall and some are reportedly doing business. The locals also alleged that structures of some influential people continue to stand illegally and instead fictional specifics are provided to the controlling authorities by inspecting teams with ulterior motives. According to Collem police PI Manoj Mardolkar, accused Arjun Laxman Masurkar, who was staying with his wife and two children, was not in good terms with his wife for the last two years. Thereafter, Arjun left his house and was staying at Asodem. After committing the act, Arjun fled from the site. Collem police have registered a case against the accused

under Section IPC attempt to mur- der. The message is also printed on the ration card. Immediate fallout of this prac- tice is people continue to apply for ration cards not because they want to stake claims to their share of ration but to use it as a social document. Total quota of foot grains re- ceived from the Centre is distributed equally among total card holders. But in reality, many do not purchase their share of ration. The number of ration cards has gone up even as ration quota received by the civil sup- plies department has remained static. There are 3,54, ration card holders in the State. In this case, the complainant Savio Fernandes had lost his bag containing all documents of his bank transactions, including those of the accounts with the bank. He immediately through his mandate holder requested the bank to block his accounts so that the same could not be operated by the person, who had managed to secure posses- sion of his bank documents to- gether with ATM cards. He, however, maintained that there was deficiency in service by the bank by neglecting to ad- here to the instructions to block the account, resulting in a loss of the amount withdrawn by the culprits from his account. The bank, in its reply, had de- nied any deficiency in service or dereliction of duty by the bank staff. In his order, President of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Adv Jagdish Prabhudessai observed that the Forum is duty bound to accept the legitimate grievance of the complainant that this is clear case of failure to perform duty towards the ac- count holder of the bank. We agree that instruc- tions are issued to the account holders of the precautions to be taken to protect the ATM card, but they do not come into picture in the present case since the documents were all lost and bank was informed to block the account. Bank ordered to pay NRI Rs 6. Contributory negligence attributed by the bank to the ATM card holder are not applicable to the facts of the present case. The taluka has 14 fair price shops servicing 11, ration cards in different areas of Cana- cona taluka. The 8, APL cardholders from the taluka are eligible for 10 kgs of rice with a price tag of Rs 8. Sources also informed that 2 kgs of wheat is eligible to APL cardholders, while only grams of sugar is sold to all the ration cardholders. When citizens came to the Civic body to view the plan, there were no maps displayed anywhere in the Municipality. The citizens were only told that a copy of the bulky CDP has been kept with an Assistant en- gineer for viewing, raising ques- tions whether the Civic body is really serious in getting objec- tions and suggestions from the citizens on the CDP. The situation has evoked crit- icism from the opposition in the Civic body, who demanded to know the whereabouts of the plan. How are the citi- zens supposed to know the con- tents of the plans. Councilor Narayan Fondekar echoed similar sentiments by seeking to know whether the Civic body is fooling the citizens under the pretext of keeping the CDP for public viewing. But, we are told that a copy of the bulky plan is kept with an engineer for the public to peruse. An official said the very pur- pose of keeping the CDP for public viewing will be defeated if the public have no proper ac- cess to the contents of the plan. The cow was electro- cuted and could not move away from the electric pole. Incidentally, the municipal workers had cleared garbage from the same spot on Tuesday morning and were lucky to have escaped from getting electrocuted. After receiving information of the incident, the power line was discon- nected. The electricity department from Ponda informed that the animal died due to an electric shock from an electric connec- tion provided to a nearby build- i ng. The cab le was underground and partially burnt. Ward Councilor and Ponda Municipal Council Deputy Chairperson Vincent Fernandes said authorities should take precautionary measures so that such incidents do not repeat in the future. Fernandes also charged the electricity department Ponda for not maintaining street lights during night. This I do only for the people in my ward when electricity personnel do not switch on the lights. One of the co-owners of the property, Vikas Vasu Bene said the contractor constructed a stage in his property at Sirvoi- Quepem in March , which was inaugurated by a councilor. The police erected a barricade at the main entrance gate of the court premises to keep the sup- porters at bay. A police party manned the main door of the building and allowed people ins ide, only a f ter scrutiny. The supporters, who braved heavy rains outside the court building, were an agitated lot, demanding to know whether the court has ordered the police not to allow them inside the building. They accused the police for acting on their own for the de- cision against allowing them in- side the building. Defense counsel Adv Suren- dra Desai said that there is something wrong in the police investigations if the case papers of both Apollo Victor and Jupiter Hospitals do not speak anything

about the injuries. Adv Desai sought to know how the doctor from the Chen- nai hospital has fixed the age of injures without examining the body. The doctor ought to have looked at the medical papers of Apollo Victor and Jupiter Hospitals.

Although the rapid economic development has seen India cruising through the outreach five of G8 summit, the complex poverty-hunger situation and growing regional economic disparity drags its growth momentum. However, despite rapid economic growth, the number of hungry people increased by over 20 million to reach million in India report by Committee on World Food Security, FAO, September Hunger and malnutrition situation in India is still pathetic. Although India has successfully continued to achieve food security at national level, with food grain production touching new high of The high work force dependency on agriculture The real challenge for the development practitioners remains to sustain the food production levels taking into account the incremental population pressure, dietary changes due to socio- economic development and increased risks due to climate change and related factors, apart from the foremost challenge of ensuring food and nutrition security at household level. Poverty has been the root cause of hunger and malnutrition. Lack of livelihood access, economic opportunities, resource ownership, information and skills, social discrimination, environmental uncertainties are some of the immediate causes of household food insecurity. With about million people living below poverty line, according to a World Bank estimate in , the task of securing food and nutrition security at household level is gigantic for India. Knowledge management for food and nutrition security Government of India has already taken policy initiatives towards poverty alleviation, integrated rural development, nutrition security and augmenting agriculture development. India has also a very robust agriculture and nutrition education, research and extension system. Differing socio-cultural background, linguistic barriers, geographical remoteness and differential incentives to work for public good make it further challenging. Significant gap between research priorities, lack of cross-disciplinary perspective and approach, lack of convergence, coordination and networking, multiplicity of institutions, bureaucracy, etc. Farming and the science of nutrition are both knowledge intensive and practice oriented. Established, traditional, tacit or experiential knowledge often assumes significance, at par with scientific knowledge. In this era of rapid change and globalisation, generation, adaptation, diffusion and application of knowledge needs to happen at local level for deeper, faster and sustainable impacts. Development practitioners were brought together by forming Communities of Practice CoP where members share their concerns and interests voluntarily, through electronic moderated e-mail groups producing tangible knowledge products at the end. The first task was to act as a bridge between two distinctly segregated segments - Food and Nutrition. Members were initially hesitant: Talking to people to get them on board with a new and different cultural mindset of sharing, focussing and finding solutions for their daily problems albeit not an academic or a hypothetical one, was not easy. At times the issue of fee expectation, copyrights for contribution, etc. Members started pouring in their queries, uniquely attempting to find solutions to their practical problems, seeking opinions, advice, and experiences. Since , the community has grown dramatically over its three years of existence. Currently, the community has a membership base of nearly and it has about consolidated replies published as knowledge products to its credit. With ever increasing membership from across the various states of India, and having discussed wide range of issues from sustainable food production, food quality and safety, climate change, food supplement programmes, to many critical issues involving policy deliberations, the FNS community has made a significant mark among the development practitioners in India. The consolidated replies of these discussions have been widely used as reference documents and often cited in national and international journals. Another milestone of the community has been the action group on introduction of vegetables in Mid Day Meal scheme of Government of New Delhi. The work of FNS community transcends social, cultural and geographical boundaries. Its a unique learning experience - very positive, focused, demand driven and inclusive. Its neutrality, utility and impact have been appreciated by the Government as well as the Civil Society. Overcoming cultural obstacles, creating awareness in knowledge sharing and building an open,

facilitating environment are our other major accomplishments. It has provided a two-way process of experience sharing, collaborative learning 8 and looking at development under diverse perspectives. Many discussions have significant contributed to programme implementation and also contributed to the policy debate. It has enabled listening to and bringing up local issues and perspectives, hitherto remained unheard and unrecognised. Another key achievement has been the taking up of development practitioners on board - with the cultural mindset of sharing, focussing and finding solutions for their problems and helping to create a practical knowledge base with crossdisciplinary perspective. And the challenges are daunting to help India sustain food security not only at national level but to achieve food and nutrition security at household level. So the question is how to broaden and deepen the reach of FNS community - bringing in people who need knowledge, as also identifying the ones where such knowledge rests. The cultural barrier of knowledge sharing has been overcome, next challenges are to overcome the barriers of language, literacy, e-literacy and the barriers of access to communication infrastructure i. Department of Agriculture-funded project to develop, test and evaluate a fleet of autonomous tractors designed for precision agriculture applications. Researchers from Cornell are developing an automatic sprayer that recognises a target - in this case canopy volume and adjusts air and liquid deposition of chemicals accordingly. NREC will focus on developing the tractor. The projects aims to develop tree-level precision agriculture applications that leverage, at very low cost, autonomous mobile platforms and supporting infrastructure; reducing the cost for wide-scale adoption; and soliciting feedback from growers, regulators and technology suppliers. The researchers will also study such questions as how disease detection, yield estimation and precision spraying can be most effectively deployed from the mobile platform; how many platforms one operator can safely monitor and what installation, setup and support issues are associated with the system. Unbridled population increase combined with longer life expectancies, land conversion, biofuel production and a shrinking agriculture sector exacerbated by rising oil prices and climate change may lead to food shortages and spiraling food prices at a global scale. Within this milieu, e-Agriculture and its emphasis on information and communication technologies and applications in the agricultural sector have been perceived as irrelevant. Not many are aware that the answer to the impending global food crisis may be found in e-Agriculture. And yet if we examine these factors, most of them may be addressed by information and communication. We live in a global information society characterised by information-based economies where information is the primary commodity and the critical resource. It is axiomatic that an impending global food crisis can be solved by information. This crisis is a product of social entropy or societal breakdown. Cybernetics and general systems theory teaches us that entropy can be negated by information. It is therefore through the process of information exchange that the world may find its salvation. However, these may seem as empty theoretical constructs to a person with an empty stomach. The e-Agriculture community employs Communities of Practice CoPs to generate solutions to agricultural problems. Unfortunately, it ends there. The failure of this approach when applied to large-scale societal crisis stems from the fact that it stops short from mobilising sectors and does not go beyond information and knowledge sharing. There are, of course, exceptions within the e-Agriculture community such as Solutions Exchange India, but by and large, CoPs i4d February of their sweet potato to get enough money to buy one kilo of rice. CoCs should push sweet potato, cassava and soybeans as alternative staples. Most of all, the advocacies of e-Agriculture CoCs must involve the participation of mobile communities at the grassroots level. Mobile communities should live up to its name by engaging in practice. CoPs should disseminate information to correct unsound policies e. In other words, CoPs should engage in advocacy. Bringing CoPs to the next level: Communities of Champions CoCs We should note that the CoP concept was a progression from the CoIs or Communities of Interest that characterised the early Internet workgroups that essentially shared notes, information and insights on common areas of interest, beginning with CERN physics and Internet protocols. When CoIs began solving common problems, this brought the workgroup concept to the next level, the CoP. The problems that confront e-Agriculture nowadays are to a scale that often requires policy interventions, not technological solutions. We have fully dealt out the technological card by engaging into

GMO research and precision agriculture. Thus, from CoIs that share information and CoPs that share solutions, e-Agriculture must move into CoCs that mobilize sectors through information, knowledge and advocacy. Under alternative fuels, CoCs should push jathropa as a source of biofuels instead of corn, sugarcane, palm oil and coconut oil. Under alternative fertilizers, the organic initiative should be resurrected against petroleumbased fertilizers. Under alternative feeds, CoCs should prod animal nutritionists to consider alternatives to corn and soybean as feed for livestock and poultry considering it takes a hundred kilos of soybeans to produce one kilo of beef. Under alternative foods, upland families in Kalimantan, Indonesia sell 10 kilos 12 Fearless forecasts: In the IAALD Conference held in Atsugi, Japan, the e-Agriculture keynote panel, which included this writer, made seven forecasts on the future of e-Agriculture, all revolving around mobile telephony: Mobile phones will make telecentres or community eCentres redundant and the OLPC initiative irrelevant 2. Mobile phone users in agricultural communities will or have already reached a critical mass 4. Mobile phone functionalities will lead to collaboration and networking and will render intermediaries unnecessary 5. Mobile phone content will efficiently address issues such as the language medium, auto-translations, relevance and the lack of local knowledge. Mobile phone handsets will make ICT services affordable to agricultural communities 7. Mobile phone applications will provide the e-Agriculture community with an effective Web2. The 3G mobile phone, in general, and the iPhone 3G, in particular, a most disruptive tool, has given e-Agriculture, the much needed platform for Web2. A lot of these have to do with the mobile phone itself. Mobile phones are no longer phones but are mobile workstations, and more. As early as , Nokia began fining employees in Finland who referred to the Nokia as a phone, not as a computer. The five Cs For the past decade, we in the e-Agriculture sub sector have been confronted by the following challenges, the Five Cs: ICT use in the rural areas has not reached the numbers required to make an impact on agriculture productivity and poverty alleviation. Intermediaries only make partnerships and collaboration possible. Generally, farmers, housewives and rural youth do not use ICTs without the intervention of line agencies that provide basic services. There is a lack of local content. There cannot be a universally accepted medium. Rural communities cannot afford ICT hardware and services Carriage: Even the need for telecentres, i4d February agricultural ATMs or kiosks has vanished. The OLPC has likewise been made redundant. Consider a household with an iPhone. The husband would regard it as a source of information. The wife would consider it as a medium of communication. The college student would use it as a mobile library. The adolescent sees it as an iPod wherein audio and video podcasts may be downloaded and played back. A professional can use the iPhone as a handheld Mac or a mobile office. A field worker can employ it as a documentation tool capturing images and audio.

Chapter 8 : India's Water Crisis: An Interview with Author Nitya Jacob

Later, a study of India's campaign by Pakistan's National Defence College concluded that: "the credit really goes to General Jacob's meticulous preparations in the Indian eastern command and to the implementation by his Corps commanders" for India's blitzkrieg in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Along with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the China factor perhaps for the first time crept into the Kashmir discourse last week at a London conference attended mainly by the India-bashing, India-baiting Kashmiri diaspora. On a cold and frosty day in London, Kashmiris kept going round and round the Mulberry bush till it came to China when they asked: Why is India envious of China-Pakistan friendship? The China-Pakistan all-weather strategic alliance against their common adversary India is at least 50 years old and results in mutual benefits. China has nurtured Pakistan with nuclear and conventional weapons, including missiles, and international and diplomatic support to try and wean it away from the US. China supported Pakistan in its and wars against India and aided insurgencies in our North-East. China is the only country that does not wag a finger at Pakistan over terrorism. Whenever Pakistan is in trouble its leaders rush to Beijing. We are in love. China does not acknowledge nuclear and missile proliferation to Pakistan. Chinese scholars tell Indians: But that was before we signed the NPT. It has not happened since then… but if it has, we are sorry for it. The Khunjerab-Gwadar strategic corridor has immense potential if it can be realised. Beijing wants to alter ground rules for the India-China border talks. The idea is to further delay the resolution of the border dispute till China becomes so strong that it can dictate the terms of settlement. By lopping off 1, km of the border they cannot remove the presence of our troops, they add. The Chinese wizardry in quotations is legend. Mr Wen Jiabao in said, "China and India have enjoyed friendly relations over 2, years or In terms of conflicts, the conflicts between our two countries only lasted two years or less than 0. Even in case of conflicts we could always turn swords into ploughshares. But there is little to show for it. Earlier he had noted that China was entering South Asia in a concerted manner. The recent arrest of Chinese spies and revelations about Beijing reopening its links with insurgents in the North-East as well as Maoists expose the Chinese. Mr Wen Jiabao may say conflict between the two countries lasted only 0.

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