Journalism training in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam

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Journalism Training In Laos, Cambodia And Vietnam

Both journalism and journalism training are undergoing major changes in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, where the author spent three months running workshops. This paper offers some insights and practical guidance for trainers, elements of which could apply to most developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, it highlights some of the problems encountered by a short-term foreign guest lecturer, albeit one who had spent considerable time as a journalist in the three countries.

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Seven of my 11 years in Asia were spent as a correspondent in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. When I was awarded an Asia Dunlop Fellowship, an annual grant for the recipient to undertake an independent project which enhances Australia-Asia links in the spirit of Australian humanitarian Sir ‘Weary’ Dunlop, I used it to help with journalism training in these three countries.

The media in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam are at varying levels of professional development and all are undergoing rapid transformation, influenced largely by changes in their respective governments, but also exposure to and assistance from abroad. There are virtually no similarities, and no links, between the three countries in terms of journalism training. During my time in the region, representatives in all three countries had requested assistance, so when the Fellowship became available, the Lao Journalists Association, the Cambodia Communication Institute (CCI) and the Vietnam Journalists Association were asked in what areas I could be used to help improve reporting skills. Each suggested workshop topics with a common theme and these were distilled to ‘reporting on social issues’. A schedule was developed whereby workshops would run consecutively in Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, from November 1998 to February 1999.

The three aims of the project were to enhance the skills of participating reporters, to enhance the skills of the trainers and to leave behind a manual for trainers and participants in each of the three languages: Lao, Khmer and Vietnamese. Methods used by
this reporter — who is not a trained trainer — may appear naive to professional media educators. Nevertheless the experiences of the Dunlop project are aired here to give insight into the situation of journalism training in these Indochinese countries.

The workshops in Cambodia and Laos were considered by the trainer to be successful at the time, and a year later the same courses are being run at these two institutions, suggesting a degree of sustainability. However, organising and running the Hanoi workshop was much more difficult and is less likely to be sustainable. Being a foreign guest lecturer at short-term courses or workshops can be extremely problematic. The degree of success depends largely on the host institution’s ability and willingness to organise (classrooms, interpreters, speakers, teaching aides, invitations) and, very importantly, to select suitable participants.

At two workshops in each of Vientiane and Phnom Penh, the workshop interpreter-facilitator was a resident trainer, and both of them subsequently replicated the workshop alone. Further, part of the content and techniques of the Dunlop workshop in Phnom Penh has been incorporated into CCI’s one-year degree course. The two Hanoi interpreters were professional interpreters, not trainers, and the host institution was more concerned with television technical training. Consequently, it is doubtful the Dunlop workshop will be repeated there, although a journalism lecturer from the Hanoi University sat through most sessions and said he learnt techniques he could use.

The outputs of the five workshops were:

- the ability of the Lao and Cambodian trainers to replicate the workshop in its entirety and to adopt new teaching techniques;
- manuals in three languages;
- the acceptance by Lao editors of a new writing style;
- new techniques employed by participants in their daily writing; and
- the realisation (for this trainer and the local trainers) that class analysis is acceptable in journalism training in Cambodia and Laos.

I learned two important lessons. First, the realisation that in Laos, and probably Vietnam, there is little point teaching a new style or technique to reporters unless their editors and sub-editors are convinced of the benefits. Secondly, that perhaps even the editors have to wait for permission from their superiors (ministry chiefs) before employing a new style.

As the Vietnam workshop was the most problematic and least successful, I will deal with that first, followed by the training sessions in Laos and Cambodia.
“The Vatican’s Under Secretary of State, Celestino Migliore, has paid a five-day visit to Viet Nam to improve bilateral relations.”
Viet Nam News (newspaper), 20 March 1999.

Although the number of publications in Vietnam has proliferated to more than 400, all are still state-controlled, and it is still the responsibility of journalists to contribute to the development of the country. In the peak news organisations closest to the government/party — especially Vietnam News Agency (VNA), Lao Dong, Vietnam TV (VTV) and Voice of Vietnam (VOV) — news reports often comprise political and diplomatic meetings. Reports usually present an event chronologically rather than beginning with the most important point and ending with the least important. However, some of the more liberal publications are reporting (with government sanction) on what the government calls “social evils” such as corruption, injustices, prostitution and HIV/AIDS.

Virtually all recently recruited journalists have a university degree — in any field, not necessarily journalism. Those employed by the foreign-language media usually have a degree in that language (English/French) and then became journalists. Three government universities offer four-year journalism degrees — Hanoi University, Ho Chi Minh University and the Political Academy in Hanoi — and Dong Do private university’s international affairs course includes some journalism subjects. VNA, with 700 reporters, has its own in-house training program whereby every two years recruits are given two months of lectures/talks followed by one month of on-the-job coaching. Most of the large news organisations ask senior journalists to provide on-the-job coaching to recruits, and Viet Nam News for a short period ran daily, one-hour, in-house seminars for journalists.

Preparations for the Dunlop workshop were initially conducted through the Vietnam Journalists’ Association, which later proved to be unworkable. The original plan was to conduct a two-week workshop in each of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, until it was suggested that I — who was giving my time voluntarily — should give the VJA $US3,000 a week to conduct the workshops. In the VJA’s proposed budget, the cost of the opening ceremony, closing ceremony and trainer’s (entertainment) expenses was equal to the entire cost of the same workshop in Laos, and certificates were to cost $10 each, when all 18 certificates could be printed in-house for less than that.

Eventually, thanks to Unicef-Hanoi, the International Press and Communication Cooperation Centre (IPCCC) hosted the workshop. IPCCC is under the Ministry of Information and Culture, and normally facilitates the visits of foreign
correspondents and film crews. It also facilitates TV training by international trainers, so the Dunlop workshop was the first workshop IPCCC had hosted for reporters.

The participants ranged from a Chief of Staff with 20 years experience to an unemployed recent graduate who was occasionally freelancing and three university journalism students. Apart from one Voice of Vietnam (radio) reporter, all worked for newspapers or magazines. Women reporters outnumbered men 4:1. This was by no means a substantial sample, but of the 16 participants, three graduated in journalism from Hanoi University, two were journalism graduates from the National Political Academy, three were literature graduates of Hanoi University, one graduated from the Technical University, two were former teachers, one was a former doctor, two were undertaking journalism at the private Dong Do University and one at Hanoi University; one did not give details.

Where the Vientiane and Phnom Penh workshops had been two weeks duration, with time for practical sessions and report writing, Hanoi was crammed into one week. Consequently, it became more of a lecture session, relying on examples and exercises, than a writing workshop. The Hanoi workshop also differed from the others in that, inexplicably, few guest speakers were used, participants were not keen to write reports in class, and each day the participants differed — as some dropped out, others came. Only about half the participants wrote a report which they thought could be published/broadcast. Some said their editors would not accept the new style.

The Hanoi participants were far more sophisticated, as well as experienced, than their colleagues in the Lao and Cambodian workshops, and several were already specialising in writing on social issues. As none of this was known until the first session, the course could not be adequately prepared in advance. Secondly, it was extremely difficult to tailor a course for participants ranging from 20 years experience to none. The Hanoi workshop was not as successful as the others, highlighting the need for long preparation time, careful participant selection and the need to know in advance the participants’ level of experience and knowledge of the subject, in this case social issues.

“Up to the beginning of this February, farmers in Vientiane Province have deployed their efforts and finished planting the second rice crop, in the area of 6085 ha or 81.5% of the irrigated fields, and it is estimated that farmers will accomplish this work throughout the whole province by the end of this month, with the total area of 7000ha.”

Vientiane Mai (newspaper), 22 February 1999.

Laos
Since the communist Pathet Lao came to power in 1975, the state has owned all media in Laos, which today comprises a government news agency, two television stations, three radio stations, two daily newspapers (combined circulation 17,000), two foreign-language newspapers, and several weekly, monthly and quarterly publications of government agencies and ministries. The population of Laos is 4.7 million, but Lao TV reaches only 35% of the country and radio 75% and only a few thousand copies of the publications are distributed outside Vientiane.

The media publish and broadcast in what I call ‘old style’ or communist style reportage, that is the writing style seen in communist states, former and present. It is unattractive and unimaginative. Virtually all news reports are positive; accidents and incidents are rarely reported; non-sanctioned criticisms never appear in print or broadcasts. Reports are mostly of the activities of senior government officials, of agriculture and industry production, and of events involving foreign embassies and international agencies such as Unicef or AusAID, as these relate to economic development and diplomatic relations. Journalists tend to publish or broadcast government and agency documents rather than interview sources, and rarely initiate reports — the two exceptions being the English and French-language newspapers.

The front page of almost every publication has standard, predictable, photos of senior leaders meeting dignitaries and at signing ceremonies and conferences. However, the English-language bi-weekly Vientiane Times, published by the Ministry of Information and Culture, has agreement from its ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it is not necessary to publish reports and photographs of all senior officials — only the most senior. And the more recently-launched bi-weekly French-language Le Renovateur, also published by the Information Ministry, initially did not publish any leaders-meeting photos, but has since relented.

Government funding to the media is being reduced, forcing individual media institutions to become more financially viable and self-sufficient. Although state control remains firm, there are signs of eminent change in content and presentation of news reporting. More balanced and realistic reporting is appearing, and some media personnel have embraced the more attractive style of reporting and publishing but are reluctant to employ it until sanctioned by the government.

Of the 200 journalists registered with the Lao Journalists Association, some have degrees in literature from Dong Dok, the national university; a small proportion have attended workshops at the National Mass Media Training Centre; a handful have been outside Laos. Few speak or write English, although some among
the older generation can employ French. They are assigned to their respective newspaper or broadcaster, usually without choice. Few of them regard journalism as an honourable profession.

How does a foreigner, who does not speak Lao, contribute to enhancing the professionalism of the Lao media? It was indeed a daunting task. Although I had been involved in training journalists in Cambodia, on a voluntary, part-time basis, since 1991, I could not assume similarities with Laos.

I arrived in Vientiane, on another assignment, three weeks before the training was to begin. This was fortuitous as the former director of the Training Centre, with whom I had been corresponding since June, did not tell his successor of my eminent arrival and had not obtained the necessary permission for the workshop from the Ministry. The new director later confided that we started our workshop without Ministry permission as he believed the training was important and he was confident the Minister would agree, which he did part-way through the workshop. Lesson number one: arrive a month before training begins, or arrange for an international representative in-country to triple check the schedule with everyone involved.

The Media Training Centre, established in 1989, comprised two class rooms — used for English-language lessons for Ministry personnel — a partly-functioning TV training studio and three offices. A new stand-alone classroom had just been built and the paint was drying as the first Dunlop workshop opened, and I bought tables and whiteboards before we could begin. The Centre had not been operating as a media training institution, except to occasionally conduct workshops when international trainers visited.

However, this is about to change. The Centre has a new director, Vanthalom Akkharath, and the Minister commissioned him to upgrade it to an institution. Vanthalom, who had been deputy director of the Party’s daily Pasason (People) newspaper for 11 years but had no training as a trainer and had never run a journalism workshop before, immediately showed he had the qualities needed of a trainer in this part of the world. He was senior enough to command respect, but was at ease cajoling participants, had years of practical experience to share, and was keen to absorb new skills and techniques.

Each of the 18 Lao media outlets were invited to send one experienced reporter — and every one of them came to every session (unlike the more free-wheeling Cambodia where half the time I was looking at empty seats). Of the 18, only three were women, which I was told was indicative of the media composition. Their experience ranged from 4 months to 18 years and they included journalists from the news agency, newspapers, radio and
television, which made it difficult in training terms. Few were daily news reporters therefore were not able to have their workshop reports published or broadcast.

The theme of the two-week workshop was “reporting on social issues”. In the first session participants identified what they regarded as the social issues confronting Laos: poverty, pollution, labour migration, HIV/AIDS, road safety, safety at home and work, Unexploded Ordinance (UXOs), handicapped and rehabilitation. One topic was covered each day, together with one reporting technique: building contacts, note taking, preparing questions, interview techniques, multiple sourcing, balanced reporting, preparing backgrounds, and writing profiles.

The participants’ first task was to collect contacts for each of the nine social areas identified. These were written collectively on boards and were added to each day. On the last day all were typed up, and each participant received a list so they left the workshop with a substantial contact list for reporting on social issues.

Each day began with one or more guest speakers, experts on that day’s topic, who then fielded questions, as in a mock news conference. We ensured all speakers were authoritative and had something newsworthy to say, so that participants could write a “live” news report to be published or broadcast by their respective news organisations. Speakers included representatives from the National Committee for the Control of AIDS, the Lao Red Cross, the National Rehabilitation Centre, the Lao Handicapped Association, UXO Lao, the Department of Labour, the Department of Road Safety, the National Traffic Police, the Lao Federation of Trade Unions, the Lao Women’ Union and the Science, Technology and Environment Organisation.

Participants were told to identify the speakers’ main points before writing their news report. Initially, all participants had difficulty choosing and prioritising the main points. So they were broken into groups of 4-5 to collectively agree on the lead and subsequent paragraphs. After eight days of this, they agreed they were surprised how easy it was to then write the report, although without sustained supervision I doubt many employ this technique in their daily reporting.

Another technique introduced at this workshop was for the participants to collectively comment on each others’ news report. Each handwritten report was photocopied onto an overhead transparency and projected onto a whiteboard. This allowed the other participants to identify what was correct — thereby reinforcing good writing — and to mark (on the whiteboard)
words/sentences/paragraphs they thought should be cut, moved or rewritten. Final edits were made with a permanent marker on the transparency that was given to the author to keep as an edited sample. The whiteboard was then cleaned, ready for the next editing exercise. Knowing the Lao’s reluctance to speak up, especially to criticise, I was initially hesitant to ask participants to comment on each others’ work, however, they quickly recognised the advantage and welcomed it, as they saw their own strengths and weaknesses in others’ writings. This proved to be the most successful part of the workshop.

It was emphasised from the outset that this was to be a productive workshop where the participants — all working journalists — aimed to have the reports they wrote each day at the workshop published or broadcast. This not only increased the participants’ moral, but reinforced new techniques — they were published or broadcast for all to see and hear including colleagues and editors. The output was surprisingly high, especially radio and TV, although, as expected, not all reports were published/broadcast. Some participants said that their editors changed their copy back to the old style. After one participant commented, “You have to teach our editors what you are teaching us”. Vanthalom took the request to the Ministry. Consequently, I returned to Vientiane, after two months in Cambodia, to run a similar workshop for editors.

In this second workshop, the editors requested assistance with collecting information, writing news, editing, selecting news, layout, editing for radio, and “how to make the old style attractive”. Eighteen media organisations were invited, and 14 sent participants, from radio, television, newspapers and magazines. Positions ranged from reporter to Editor in Chief, and experience ranged from four to 20 years in journalism. Each participant brought a copy of his/her most recent publication, broadcast or bulletin, and these were assessed by this trainer to improve content and presentation.

By the end of the workshop, participants had received the basics in identifying the main points, prioritising the main points and lead writing, gathering additional information for an incomplete report, editing for more concise writing, cropping photographs and layout. The one-week intensive workshop was not long enough, and much more training would be needed for these concepts to be implemented across a broader spectrum of the media. Although the editors said at the end of the workshop that it had been useful and they appreciated the new techniques, it is doubtful the workshop had any significant impact in changing the style of reporting and presenting news in Laos.

The reporters had received a spiral-bound volume of
Reporting on Social Issues — Participants’ Notes, which comprised the key points presented at the workshop and my lecture notes edited, as well as examples and lists of contacts. The editors received a similar volume, adjusted for editors. Vanthalom acted as interpreter and facilitator for both workshops in Laos and I arranged for him to work at the Cambodia Communication Institute while I repeated the same two-week workshop in Phnom Penh. The aim was for him to be able to repeat the workshop alone in the future. The most valuable part of the Lao reporters workshop — thanks to Vanthalom — was to have the Information vice-Minister close the workshop, and to repeat many of the key messages presented to the participants during the workshop.

The media in Laos is on the verge of emerging from decades of a cloistered existence, and journalism training will soon become more professional. Since the Dunlop workshops, UNESCO has committed funds to help transform the Training Centre into the renamed Lao Institute for Communication Development (LICD). UNESCO is funding curriculum development and the revitalisation of the TV training studio and Vanthalom is preparing a three-year Batchelor of Communication Arts degree to be offered after students complete two years at the national university. Efforts are also under way to train trainers.

“A married man was arrested by police in Takmao town, Kandal Province, on Monday for attempting to rape a 13 year old girl who was rescued by neighbours.”


Despite the historical parallels between Laos and Cambodia — French protectorate until 1953-4, communist takeover in 1975, Vietnamese occupation until 1989 — journalism in Cambodia is now at the opposite end of the spectrum from Laos. When I first went to Cambodia in 1988, the country had one news agency, one TV station, one radio station and five newspapers — all state owned. In November 1998, the only state/party-run media were National Radio Cambodia and TV Kampuchea. But Cambodia, with a population of 10 million, had an additional five TV stations, 12 other radio stations and more than 60 newspapers including several in English, French and Chinese.

Most journalists were killed or fled during or immediately after the Khmer Rouge period (1975-79), so when the Vietnamese ousted the Khmer Rouge on 7 January 1979 they gathered eight Cambodians, including Khieu Kanharith, trained them in the basics, and launched Kampuchea newspaper on 25 January. The state/party-run radio and TV stations were re-established, as were

Cambodia
newspapers of the ruling party, the army, the interior and the Phnom Penh municipality, and the newsagency SPK.

The state’s agency, radio, TV and five papers remained thus until the October 1991 Cambodia Peace Agreement after which the United Nations began its peace-keeping mission and opposition parties (the so-called ‘resistance factions’) returned and began establishing radio and TV stations and newspapers in Phnom Penh, along side three English- and two French-language newspapers. By mid-1994, more than 40 publications were registered with the Information Ministry; at the July 1998 election the number was more than 90. All were aligned to one party or another — none were truly independent.

Until 1989, almost all training — in reporting, subbing, photography and layout — was on-the-job. The exception was for reporters sent to Soviet-bloc countries, mainly Vietnam, East Germany and the Soviet Union, but also India which was the only non-communist country to recognise the Phnom Penh regime. In 1991, this author ran once-a-week training at SPK, set up a typing school for journalists, and prepared a plan to establish a school of journalism. Subsequently, fellow Australian journalist Sue Aitkin ran a series of workshops on reporting and layout, then, while working for UNESCO, assisted Cambodian journalists to found the Khmer Journalists’ Association, and ultimately established the Cambodia Communication Institute (CCI) which she ran until 1997.

The main funders of media-related training have been Danida (the Danish government aid agency), the French Government, the Asia Foundation (US), AusAID (Australia), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany), the Freedom Forum (US) and Japan Relief For Cambodia. In 1992, the first journalism course was set up at the University of Phnom Penh as part of the French Language Department, as an optional subject for final year French-language students.

In 1994 Asia Foundation funded American journalist Mike Fowler to run training sessions at the Khmer Journalists Association and later at the University of Phnom Penh. UPP continues to run regular journalism classes. From 1994, Freedom Forum provided one or two scholarships a year for Cambodian reporters to undertake journalism courses in the USA, and this has produced a small band of elite journalists, several of whom are now working for foreign news agencies and papers. The Indochina Media Memorial Foundation (IMMF) has run several workshops in Thailand for regional reporters and photographers.

CCI was established by UNESCO, with seed funding from the French and Danish governments. It opened in 1994 with two Cambodian trainers, assistants, and Susan Aitkin as chief technical adviser. The stand-alone building consists of four to five class/
conference rooms, two rooms that have been leased out to other media organisations (including the French and Australian broadcasters CFI and ABC) and staff rooms, with the typing school, radio studio and another classroom downstairs. The Institute has run more than 100 short-term courses, generally from one to six weeks, in reporting, editorial, feature and environmental writing, photography, layout, radio and TV production, etc. All courses are free for journalists, but the Institute is partly self-funded, by hiring out its class/conference rooms, running aid agency-funded, media-related courses, for example, on communications skills, newsletter writing, magazine production, news release writing, written English and French. Although administered by UNESCO, the Institute is physically in the Information Ministry compound, which is also home to the government news agency and the national TV station TVK.

Unlike Laos where an invitation from a government institution — the Media Training Centre — is in effect an order for the media to send participants to a workshop, for all its courses CCI issues an invitation to all appropriate media and waits to see who turns up. Twelve reporters registered for the Dunlop social issues workshop. The only woman participant was also the only radio reporter; all other participants were reporters from daily or weekly newspapers; there were no TV or magazine representatives. And unlike Laos, where all participants attend all sessions (because they are ordered to), Cambodian reporters attend when they do not have something more pressing. Several times, part-way through a session, a mobile phone would ring and a participant would excuse her/himself to attend a news conference or demonstration (the workshop coincided with student and teacher protests, which included tyre-burning — something unimaginable in Laos).

The workshop theme and structure was the same as in Laos. The participants identified the social issues, contact lists were added to each day, a new reporting technique was introduced each day, guest speakers gave news, participants’ reports were projected on a whiteboard and analysed by the class, and edited reports were published/broadcast. However, several features of the Phnom Penh workshop were different. First, as the participants were news reporters, most were able to have their workshop reports published/broadcast. Second, half the speakers were non-government and one was a trade union official from the opposition Sam Rainsy Party which resulted in the immediate publication of her comments in the opposition press. Third, an evaluation was
conducted. Fourth, a follow-up workshop was offered.

The evaluation asked participants to indicate five ratings between “strongly agree” and “strongly disagree” for 13 basic questions about the course structure, content, timing and duration, as well as the quality and appropriateness of guest speakers, then whether they wanted a follow-up workshop. The three key findings — which allayed my earlier hesitation — were support for the mock news conferences, the challenge to have workshop reports published/broadcast, and the overwhelming acceptance of the participants analysing each others’ work.

The follow-up workshop was offered two weeks after the close of the first, to allow the reporters to implement what they had learnt in the work place. It also served as a self-evaluation of the trainer as I wanted to determine whether (a) what they had learnt was practical and (b) it was sustainable outside the classroom. Although the follow-up workshop was optional, all 12 participants attended. They brought with them reports published during the two weeks and these were analysed. Points needing reiteration were identified, and additional points were added to the Reporting on Social Issues — Participants’ Notes, which had been given to them at the end of the first workshop.

Privately, some foreigners involved in the media had been critical that over the past three to four years a large amount of money had been spent on journalism training in Cambodia, yet the quality of reporting had not improved greatly. As each of the workshop participants’ reports had been translated into English for my benefit, they were then added to a database at CCI so they can be used as a benchmark for a future evaluator to determine whether standards have improved since that time.

While the writing style in most Cambodian newspapers is closer than in Laos and Vietnam to the ‘modern’, non-communist, presentation, it was obvious (from the workshop and reading local newspapers) that Cambodian reporters require training in balanced reporting, defamation and ethics. The evaluation was valuable, and in retrospect should have been conducted in Vientiane and Hanoi too. When the ‘reporting on social issues’ workshop was repeated at CCI, 30 reporters applied, compared with 12 the first time.

I said at the onset of this paper that being a foreign lecturer at short-term courses or workshops can be extremely problematic. However, having such guest trainers is beneficial, and such
problems can be minimised. Exposure to new techniques and ideas by foreign trainers is welcomed by participants and local trainers in these three countries as seen by (a) the evaluation, (b) replication of the workshop, and (c) incorporation of the workshop into CCI’s degree course.

However, such lecturers must take considerable time and effort to understand the local scene when planning the workshop, and preferably arrive on site at least on week before beginning the workshop. Secondly, the Vientiane workshop highlighted the importance of top-down (editors-before-journalists) training in Laos. Thirdly, the Vietnamese experience illustrated the importance of demand-driven training. The VJA wanted the workshop for financial, not training, reasons, and when the money was not forthcoming the plan collapsed. IPCCC had not requested training – it simply agreed to accommodate this foreign trainer – therefore did not own, and consequently did not sustain, the course.

I found four techniques useful, and the evaluation by the Cambodian journalists also indicated they were beneficial:

- Photocopying journalists’ reports onto overheads then projecting them on to a whiteboard;
- Having participants critique each other’s reports, first identifying the good points then collectively suggesting improvements;
- Running classes in the morning and having participants work at their respective news organizations in the afternoon, then bringing their work to the next class;
- Scheduling one-to-two weeks of work time between parts 1 and 2 of the workshop, as this allowed participants to put into practice what they had learnt and to identify weaknesses, and secondly allowed the trainer to self-evaluate her teaching.

Notes

4. The observations in these paragraph are based on reading numerous translations of articles and broadcast scripts, from running workshops for Lao reporters and editors, and personal communications with senior media personnel and ministry officials.
   Note: Kampuchea was not a relaunch of Cambodia’s French-
language magazine Kambuja (Kampuchea).
6. Sapordarmean Kampuchea, later renamed Agence Khmer Presse (AKP)
7. On-going research of Judith Clarke suggests at least another 30
organisations have assisted the Cambodian media since 1991.
8. These include Som Sattana, Sek Barisoth, Ker Munthit, Reich Sambath,
   Seang Kim Seang and Ek Madra.
9. Sek Barisoth and Steven Pak.

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