

# Report on visit Philippine

## Description

As part of Advanced International Training Programme on “Media Regulation in a Democratic Framework”, one visit to Philippine was organized in October 2022. The Training Programme is organised jointly by NIRAS Sweden AB, FOJO Media Institute, Global Reporting and International Media Support, on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The visit was a part of a yearlong fellowship which is mainly organized digitally through zoom platform. There were 11 participants from Bangladesh country team 3 and 4 in this programme, and MRDI is working as the country facilitator for the programme. Team 3 has already completed their fellowship and shared their work, while team 4 has just entered in the programme.

The visit was thus divided into two parts. The first week’s schedule included introductory meetings, sightseeing and visit to some relevant institutions to the fellowship. Then second week team 4 got more orientation on the process and mechanism of the ITP programme.

Sessions included, ‘media landscape in the Philippine’ by Prof. Danilo Arora, University of the Philippine, ‘self-regulation and Coregulation in the Philippines’ conducted by Melinda de Jesus, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, ‘East Timor - how to promote press freedom (and succeed) in a war-ridden Country’ conducted by Rico Junior, ‘ABS-CBN Corporation’ by Ging Reyes and ‘Disinformation and the war against journalism’ by Prof. Christian V Esguerra. There were study visits to Historical Intramuros in Manila, Rizal Park, and Ateneo de Manila University. There were also group works where each country teams prepared presentations on take aways from different sessions. The team get to introduced with the Swedish Ambassador to Philippines, Annika Thunborg and Niras Manilla staffs. The Bangladesh Ambassador to Philippines, FM Borhan Uddin also hosted a dinner for the visiting Bangladeshi team.

## Key Lessons learned:

- Media Self-regulation is not a very common practice in Asian countries; however it is very crucial to have a free and independent media
- Bangladesh can set a good example by adapting some self-regulatory approaches to make media sustainable
- Effective and responsible press council can take journalism forward
- To increase more discussion on the pressing issues, more forums and trainings for journalist is needed
- Adverse impact of political environment creates distrust: media is facing an existential threat
- Those who works in digital media are continuously trying to cope with distrust from the audience
- Responsible journalism can counter this challenge
- Capacity building on fact checking, Skill to debunk disinformation digitally is needed
- Media literacy can help audience to become smart news consumers
- Introducing media literacy in early stages in education can make positive changes
- Need to improve gender scenario in the media

The program schedule is enclosed.