

FABC-OSC 21st Annual Bishops' Meet
K'Long Salesian Retreat House Dalat, Vietnam
October 3-8, 2016

**Theme: "Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) goes Online:
Challenges & Opportunities; Strategies & Synergies".**

The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, Office of Social Communication (FABC-OSC) held its 21th Annual Bishops' Meet (BM) at K'Long Salesian Retreat House Dalat, Vietnam from October 3-8 2016. There were 57 participants: 14 Bishops, 31 Priests, 2 Religious Brothers, 1 Religious Sister and 6 lay persons. These were either National Presidents/Secretaries of National Office of Communication or Stake-holders of RVA language services. Dr. Nataša Govekar, Director the Theological-Pastoral Department from the newly set up Secretariat for Communication along with Dr. Sean Patrick Lovett, and Mr. Michael Unland, the Executive Director of Catholic Media Council (CAMECO) guided the participants as resource persons.

On the evening of 3rd October the Government Officials of Vietnam and the Chairperson of National Office of Social Communication of Vietnam welcomed the participants. The Salesian Retreat House lavished on their guests their best hospitality with variety Vietnamese menu and cultural programs. Fr. Peter Pham Van Chinh, sdb was specially thanked for volunteering to arrange BM in this venue. Various Bishops presided over the Eucharistic services and ensured the presence and participation of the Holy Spirit during the meeting.

At the outset, Fr Raymond Ambroise pointed out that this Bishops' Meet (BM) is unique as it combined the members of BM and the stakeholders of RVA due to the special theme selected. In 2015 RVA General Assembly decided to migrate from Shortwave broadcast to online service latest by the Golden Jubilee of RVA in 2019. The outcome of this meeting will also be very significant in the context of XI FABC Plenary Assembly in November at Colombo. Since Online demands new vision and mission statements, the new General Manager of RVA, Fr Victor Sadaya cmf presented the new statements after wide consultation. The new Vision statement extends the scope of RVA from the limited Target area in Asia to Glocal (Global and local) Asians.

Dr. Sean Patrick Lovett and Mr. Michael Unland dealt on the following aspects of online service: definition, potential with some samples and methodology. Dr. Natasa Govekar presented the power of images from the paintings in Rome. The discussion finally focused on the new producers and the measures to build their capacity on Online. The discussions and deliberations crystalized into the following roadmap which was approved by all participants unanimously.

Final Recommendations

- i. RVA language services are invited to volunteer to join online service.
- ii. To qualify for selection, any language service should have developed a good website, failing which it should earnestly engage itself first to develop the respective website and apply then to become online service.
- iii. When a language service is certified by RVA to qualify to join online service, then that language can select new producers. Initially 2 or 3 producers will be selected for intensive training and appointment by RVA. Actual number to be selected will be communicated before the end of December. The candidates thus selected, should meet the following requirements:
 - a. Should be digital natives aged preferably between 25 to 40 years. (Exemptions should be justified).
 - b. Should have competence in English and computer.
 - c. Should have experience in engaging Social Networks and be able to provide their account details so that RVA can verify.

- d. Should have basic knowledge on faith and should have been involved in local church activities.
 - e. Submit the selected candidates to the preliminary online course via internet indicated by RVA and prove their competence.
- iv. Candidates selected as per above criteria must be submitted to RVA for final assessment and selection for intensive training.
 - v. Time frame:
 - a. The deadline for the submission of the Website details (e.g. variety of programs) for selection to RVA will be on or before 10th Dec. 2016
 - b. RVA should verify and confirm qualification by 20th Dec. 2016
 - c. Submission of the selected candidates (Ref.no.iv) to RVA will be 15th Feb. 2017.
 - d. Facilitate the candidates to apply for passports.
 - vi. 8 weeks of intensive training on online service in Manila will start in April, 2017. Date will be informed later.
 - vii. Once trained and approved as qualified, they will be commissioned to initiate online service immediately with a commitment contract with RVA to serve 3 years under penalty clause. Probation will be for a period of 3 months. A sum of \$450 per month will be paid during the probation period. They will be equipped with basic facilities like Smart phone, camera, etc.
 - viii. Once online is commissioned on regular basis, then SW broadcast will be closed.
 - ix. Once probation is over, they will be appointed as regular producer of the language service for a period of 3 years with a remuneration starting with \$500. RVA will organize on-going training to the producers.
 - x. The Respective Bishop of the language service should inform this process to their Bishops' Conference/Council and request them to accompany the broadcast as well as popularize it among their constituents particularly the youth in the respective dioceses.

FABC