

## Radio Veritas Asia begins Training its Producers in Online Broadcast

“Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) is initiating an historical training program which will bring about a radical change in RVA” said Bishop Roberto C. Mallari as he inaugurated an Intensive training for new RVA producers from various language services on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017. During the RVA General Assembly in 2015 there was a unanimous consensus among the delegates that RVA should migrate to online if it sees the signs of the times so that the Shortwave broadcast of RVA for the last 46 years should not become a museum piece. RVA management pursued this decision with consultations at various levels which resulted in this training.

The first step to realize this historical decision is to train new producers. Since the heads of Bishops’ Councils/Conferences are in charge of the present 20 RVA language broadcasts, they were asked to recruit suitable candidates for this challenging task. As a result 29 new trainees from the following services are undergoing this intensive training from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> June at RVA premises, Manila.

- Mandarin service: 3
- Vietnamese service: 1
- Myanmar language services:
  - Myanmar service: 3, Kachin service: 3, Pwo Karen service: 3, Sgaw Karen service: 2, Zomi Chin service: 2, 1 each from following Chin services: Mindat, Hakha, Teddim, Falam,
- Hindi service: 2
- Hmong service: 2
- Khmer service: 2
- Sinhala service: 2

To enable the new trainees to become professional, each of them are provided with a smart phone and each language service is provided with a laptop. Professional trainers both from Manila and other parts of Asia are engaged to realize this dream. Catholic Media Council (CAMECO) and FABC-OSC were actively involved in designing this training program along with RVA. An International Expert, Mr Jonathan Marks is a Consultant. In order to retain professional standard and retain newly trained producers in their assignments in future, FABC-OSC and RVA have proposed to remunerate them up to \$ 500 per month in consultation with the individual Bishops’ Council/Conference in charge of the respective language service. More trainees will be trained through subsequent trainings so that ultimately each language service will have at least a team of 3 trained producers in online service. This training is made possible due to the support of the German Churches who have been the backbone of RVA broadcast. Missio was kept informed while planning various stages of this training and it is due to their generous support, this training is made possible. A big thanks to Missio and their partners who have accompanied RVA for over 50 years in setting it up and in sustaining it all these years and have now enabled RVA to migrate to online service. RVA is the only Catholic Continental Radio Station for which the Bishops of Asia and FABC should be proud of. Many of Asian Bishops’ Conferences are also financially supporting RVA.

This training is only the beginning of the pilgrimage that FABC-OSC and RVA have begun. The next challenge will be to design a professional migration process from SW to online service. In addition on-going training and capacity building are also planned to improve the competence of the producers on the Word of God and Church History. RVA will reincarnate into online service when it crosses the threshold of 50 years of existence in 2019.

Some of the highlights of the training are the following subjects: use of Cell phone for future online broadcast, proficiency in Social Networks, free Online editing facilities, e-journalism, etc.

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