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WORKSHOP BULLETIN

Climate Journalism Education Workshop

June, 01 2022

WORKSHOP BREAKDOWN!

- Welcome and session opening by Ms. Rachel Hasan, Chairperson Department of Mass Communication.
- Keynote Speech by Prof. Altaf Ullah Khan, Dean of Humanities, FCCU.
- Impacts and solutions of climate change through climate mitigation and adaptation presented by Dr. Derk Bakker.
- Earth Journalism Network's resources which can supplement course materials for academics were shared by Ms. Hannah Bernstein.
- Brief on editorial policies for climate journalism and role of climate communication in climate mitigation and adaptation by Mr. Syed Muhammad Abubakar.
- Discourse on models for education on climate journalism in Pakistan by Prof. Elizabeth Eide.
- Guidelines on theory vs practice and their convergence to educate students on climate journalism by Mr. Syed Muhammad Saqib.
- News reports on how climate change is affecting lifestyle in Pakistan shared by Mr. Daud Khan.
- Highlights on gendered impacts of environmental degradation and how we can change the narrative by Ms. Stella Paul.
- Concluding speech by Prof. Elizabeth Eide and Ms. Oona Solberg (Coordinator JMIC).
- Final comments from Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble.
- Distribution of certificates among all the participants.



DEAN'S MESSAGE



Journalism in Pakistan needs diversity of themes to overcome everyday polarization in the media and society. Pakistani journalism has remained focused on statement and conflict journalism, rooted in politics. All this happened at the cost of themes of everyday importance. Coverage of climate related stories remains one of the major handicaps in journalism in this country. Climate Journalism needs factual understanding of science as well as the skill to interpret it for the common audience. For climate Journalism to become mainstream we need better climate journalism education. This workshop is aimed to act as a baseline for a national level program in Pakistan to introduce a course on Climate Journalism in Pakistani universities. The main objective of this course is to use and present factual evidence in climate reporting.

Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan

Bird's Eye View

Dr. Derk Bakker

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & CHAIRPERSON OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT, FCCU



Dr. Derk set the pace for the workshop by giving a thorough background on the science of climate change and why it should matter to us not only as journalists, but also as humans. He also shared some impacts and how we can work towards climate mitigation and adaptation to curtail the effects of climate change.



Prof. Elizabeth Eide

NORWEGIAN JOURNALISM PROFESSOR & CO-CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL MEDIA CLIMATE NETWORK

Prof. Elizabeth discussed the challenges of climate journalism and shared the models for education on climate journalism. She said that it is crucial to combine studies with field visits for students as well and help them learn from local experts and indigenous people.

Hannah Bernstein

SOCIAL MEDIA & PROJECT MANAGER AT INTERNEWS' EARTH JOURNALISM NETWORK



Ms. Hannah shared some key takeaways and resources available at Earth Journalism Network's (EJN) website for academicians to utilise in formulation of courses on climate journalism. She motivated academicians by saying its high time climate journalism became a crucial part of curriculum at journalism institutes.



Syed Muhammad Abubakar

COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST AT INTERNATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (IWMI) PAKISTAN.

Mr. Abubakar shared some messages from top academicians around the world on climate journalism and the need to incorporate it in the curriculum. He also highlighted editorial policies of international news agencies on environmental journalism and the role climate communication plays in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Syed Muhammad Saqib

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MASS COMMUNICATION AT FCCU & MEMBER GLOBAL MEDIA CLIMATE NETWORK



Mr. Saqib gave a comprehensive guideline on how a model climate journalism course could integrate both theory and practice. He explained that we need to teach the historical background of climate change, give its context, share the research and resources available on it, teach ethics and develop critical thinking among students so they have an eye to identify climate news and investigate it.



Muhammad Daud Khan

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST & STATION MANAGER AT PAKHTUNKHWA RADIO

Mr. Daud used his expertise as someone working from the field of climate journalism to address the climate change challenges faced by Pakistan and how he as a journalist is using climate communication to mitigate its effects. He encouraged the participants to help introduce climate journalism as a course in the curriculum.

Stella Paul

PROJECT MANAGER FOR CLEAN AIR CATALYST & STOP SPILLOVER AT EARTH JOURNALISM NETWORK.



Ms. Stella explained environmental journalism through the gender lens. She said that journalists and academicians are seldom brought together this way to talk about climate. She also mentioned that journalists are storytellers working as mediators between people at the frontline of climate crises and masses. They are the ones to telling the missing stories to the world.

EDUCATORS' RESOURCES



- EJN Online Courses: earthjournalism.net/resources/online-courses
- EJN Webinars: earthjournalism.net/webinars
- EJN Tip sheets and Guides: earthjournalism.net/resources
- Resources for teachers, journalists and students on Climate Journalism Research: <https://mediacclimate.net/>
- Suite of interconnected climate-literacy labs: <https://sites.gsu.edu/geog112/>
- Resource to understand climate data with a section on teaching climate: <https://www.climate.gov/>
- Resource for climate/environment stories: <https://www.scidev.net/global/>
- List of resources for journalists, broadcasters and organizations reporting on climate change: <https://www.publicmediaalliance.org/>
- Resources, briefings, and tips to help report all angles of the climate story including webinars and other opportunities: <https://coveringclimatenow.org/>



PARTICIPANTS' REMARKS

Climate change is menacing the entire ecosystem of Pakistan, but it is hardly a topic of discussion in Pakistani journalism. In the absence of formal education on climate journalism in Pakistan, this workshop is the first practical step to sensitize journalism academicians to play their role in highlighting the importance of reporting environmental issues and global climate crisis. - Dr Ayesha Ashfaq, Punjab University, Lahore

This workshop was a commendable effort to bridge the gap between journalists' knowledge, available resources, academia and the need to report on climate change. It's a very useful initiative and really hope that this platform would definitely make a difference.

- Dr Savera Shami, Punjab University, Lahore

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop as it was very informative and thought provoking. It was organized in a very professional manner and it gave me a new perspective to look at climate journalism. - Dr Maira Qaddos, NUML, Lahore

It was certainly a useful workshop for journalism professors and trainers. It provided theoretical and practical frameworks to address climate change and environmental issues in the curriculum of journalism schools. - Dr Mofizur Rahman, Dhaka University, Bangladesh

The workshop was very informative, although for future I would advise to hold it for longer time duration. It is very crucial that academicians focus on topics like climate journalism and integrate it into their syllabus. We should encourage our students to take interest in such issues and even if the media does not give them space for their stories, they should utilize social media to talk about it for better public understanding.

- Dr Rahman Ullah, Kohat University of Science and Technology

