# Report on Philippines Visit

## Description

Under an Advanced International Training Programme on "Media Regulation in a Democratic Framework", a 5-day visit to Manila was arranged in October 2023 for the ITP Media Alumni and Stakeholder meeting. The Training Programme 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 ITP Media Alumni and Stakeholder Meeting brought together alumni and participants from all the ITP cohorts since the inception of the programme in 2019, as well as nominated stakeholders from Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The overall purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the regional network, enhance collaboration between the four ITP cohorts and promote networking with key stakeholders.

The alumni and stakeholder meeting was held from 6-8 October at Manila, the Philippines. There were 11 participants from Bangladesh country team 1 to 4 in this programme, and MRDI is working as the country facilitator for the programme.

During the meeting, all ITP cohorts from each country made presentations on their change initiative projects, their impact, success stories and ways of carrying forward. It also discussed the outcomes and results of the ITP Asia programme and its key takeaways.

The programme also conducted some sessions on Media and AI; Media Accountability Measures, Safety for Journalists; Southeast Asia/South Asia Regional Media Citizen Council - Challenges and Opportunities, and How to engage? How to build networks?

Some of these sessions included panel discussions to figure out the situation of these countries. One thematic group discussion was held dividing programme participants into groups of media councils, professional associations, newsrooms, academia, and NGOs to discuss strategies for advancing self-regulation and co-regulation within the media sector.

## Key lessons learned

- Media self-regulation is not widely adopted in Asian countries, but it serves as a valuable tool to ensure a free and independent media landscape.
- Media self-regulation ensures ethical, objective and quality journalism.
- Embracing self-regulation is essential for newsrooms in their battle against misinformation.
- Regular interaction between the newsrooms and their audience can increase business viability and rebuild trust.
- Gender Equity in the media is essential in order to align with the world's evolving conversations around gender.

**The program schedule is enclosed.**