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Major milestones of our activities this year: our Media Literacy Project in Zambia reached new heights (large image), and our new climate change reporting project in India officially kicked off (small image)

Message from the Director

Werner Eggert

Ever since I began working in media development, two core principles have consistently shaped my work. First, it has always been essential to me that our capacity building sets clear professional standards. What journalists learn through our programs must reflect the latest developments in a profession that is constantly evolving. Second, continuity has always mattered, both within our teams and among our partners. We often work together for many years, sometimes even decades.

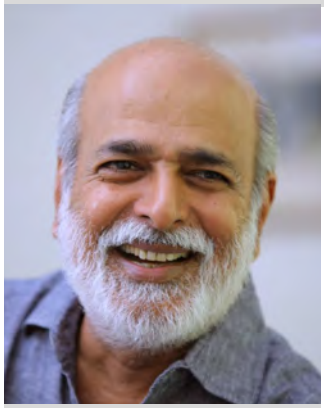
Together, these two elements, agility in content and methodology, and continuity and quality among the people involved, form the essential foundation of our success. You will find many examples of this approach in the pages of this newsletter. One is our innovative project on climate change reporting in India. Our collaboration with the Asian College of Journalism dates back to 2004, when we jointly organised an event on press freedom. Our partners in Nepal and Zambia have also been working with us for many years and are now regarded as leading institutions in their respective countries. Another example is the report by our alumna Anastasiia Morozova from Ukraine, who laid the foundations for her impressive career as a data journalist through our programmes. We are now planning to invite her back as a trainer, so that she can pass on her expertise to the next generation of journalists. You can read her report on page 22.

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year 2025.

Contents

India: Shaping a New Generation of Climate Journalists

The Climate Change Media Hub (CCMH) at the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ), Chennai, is a four-year initiative supported by Interlink Academy with funding from the German government. The project aims to strengthen climate change reporting across India and South Asia by equipping mid-career journalists with advanced skills in multimedia storytelling, investigative reporting, and the responsible use of digital and AI-enabled tools. Through intensive training, mentorship, and regional networking, CCMH seeks to address persistent gaps in climate coverage across diverse linguistic, geographic, and media landscapes. By fostering a new generation of climate-literate media practitioners and building a lasting resource and knowledge hub, the initiative aims to contribute to more informed public debate and stronger accountability on climate action. **Sashi Kuma,** Chairman of the Media Development Foundation and Asian College of Journalism reports below.



Sashi Kumar
Media Development Foundation & Asian College of Journalism

We at the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ), Chennai, India, are excited about our Climate Change Media Hub (CCMH) initiative, which is now underway thanks to the support of Interlink Academy and the financial participation of the German government. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Werner Eggert, who piloted this highly worthwhile idea and helped nurture it into the seed of a project that we will now cultivate over the four years of the grant period. Our aim is to ensure that it not only comes to fruition but also sustains itself productively in the years ahead.

Climate change, I believe—much like journalism itself—has become a beleaguered concept. Naysayers, often representing a powerful combination of governments and corporate interests, refuse to acknowledge the manifest, immediate, and potentially fatal consequences of humanity's profoundly lopsided interaction with nature and the environment, driven by narrow political or monetary gains. The need for societies everywhere to be conscious and conscientious about what is happening—rapidly, here and now—and about its implications for future generations has never been more urgent.

The media have a crucial role to play in providing a reality check on the situation on the ground, so that an informed and concerned citizenry can exert pressure on those in power to pursue policy measures and course corrections to arrest this drift and avert catastrophe. This is particularly challenging because much of the mainstream media—at least in India and across the subcontinent—continues to largely ignore the issue until disasters strike and it is already too late. In a country as vast and socio-culturally diverse as India, with its multiplicity of languages, media traditions, and journalistic practices, the task of evolving a discourse that even approaches consensus is itself daunting.

The CCMH initiative at ACJ seeks to address this complexity by enlisting multimedia practitioners from across the country—cities, towns, and the rural hinterland alike—to tell their respective communities, and one

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another, the real stories of what is happening to their environment, what is being done to it, and what this means for their lives and futures. The first step in this formidable task is to strengthen the understanding and skill sets of media practitioners themselves, enabling them to effectively frame and convey their messages to diverse publics using multimedia tools and, where relevant, artificial intelligence. Closely allied to this is the need to ensure that these revelatory stories—whether in text, video, audio, or immersive multimedia formats—reach audiences through different media platforms.

A cohort of fifteen mid-career journalists, designated as "Mentees," and three senior journalists, referred to as "Residents," will spend eight months drawing on the top-notch expertise, hands-on training, and resources carefully assembled by ACJ. Together, they will be equipped to become harbingers of a new awareness and approach to climate change coverage in the media. Four such cohorts will benefit from this program through December 2028. Online and offline workshops, seminars, and networking sessions will punctuate and complement each eight-month cycle. By the end of the program, we envisage the establishment of a substantial resource centre that will serve as a go-to hub for media practitioners and documentarists across South Asia who are engaged with climate change issues. In addition, a dedicated website will host all content produced by the Mentees and Residents, along with further information and knowledge gathered from other sources, as well as a practical toolkit offering guidance for accurate and verified climate change reporting. This material will be circulated to media organizations for ready use. Another key objective is the development of a focused and comprehensive curriculum on climate change that could be offered as a course by ACJ.

Ambitious? Certainly. But nothing less than a sea change in the way the media perceives and addresses climate change in India and the subcontinent is what we aim to achieve in the medium term—supported by the goodwill and collaboration of numerous organizations active in this field, and by fellow travellers who bring the necessary domain expertise to this shared journey.

Participants of the Residency Fellowship and Mentorship Program

India: Insights from Participants (1)

"I am sincerely thankful to the organizers for investing so much effort and care [..]"

Arjumand Wani, Multimedia Reporter for Greater Kashmir**:**

„I would like to share my experience of the 14-day training workshop at the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ). The day I travelled from Kashmir to the college coincided with news of the Delhi blast, which made the journey particularly unsettling. Being from Kashmir and travelling to southern India for the first time was challenging, but thanks to the excellent coordination of the ACJ travel team—especially Pretish, Lakshmi, and Anjana—the journey to the college was smooth and safe. I am deeply grateful to them for their careful coordination and their calm, considerate manner.

It would be an injustice not to acknowledge Preeti Mehra, the project lead, who organized every aspect of the program with great care and attention. I would also like to thank the ACJ administration for arranging comfortable accommodation and for the excellent South Indian food we enjoyed throughout our stay. Although I did not know the names of many of the dishes served in the canteen, I can honestly say that this was the first time in my life that travelling outside Kashmir did not affect my health. The food suited me very well, and I did not hear any complaints from my colleagues either. Finally, the resource persons and training sessions were excellent, as one expects from ACJ. Both the technical and knowledge-based sessions were highly relevant and significantly enhanced our understanding. I am sincerely thankful to the organizers for investing so much effort and care to provide us with the best possible learning experience. I now look forward to applying whatI have learned in my work on the ground.“

"I did not previously have a deep understanding of climate change."

K. Ravikumar, Documentary Photographer:

„I did not previously have a deep understanding of climate change. Through the Climate Change Media Hub Training Workshop, I came to realize that the photographs I have been documenting in my villages clearly reflect the significant impacts of climate change. By interacting with fellow mentees and resource persons from different parts of India, and by learning from their experiences and insights, I was able to connect these broader climate issues to the realities faced by my own people and communities.

As a member of an Indigenous (tribal) community, I sincerely thank the Climate Change Media Hub for this opportunity. Through my work and my voice—from a tribal perspective—I will continue to tell climate change stories on behalf of my people and our lands.“

"The workshop offered comprehensive insights into multiple dimensions of climate change [..]"

SubaGomathi Muppidathi, Journalist and Visual Storyteller**:**

„I am delighted to be part of the Asian College of Journalism’s Climate Change Media Hub initiative. I firmly believe that people from rural backgrounds and communities like mine have tremendous potential to contribute meaningfully to climate-related work.

I am grateful to ACJ for recognizing our capabilities and bringing us together. It is an honour to represent South Tamil Nadu as the sole participant from the region.

The workshop offered comprehensive insights into multiple dimensions of climate change, ranging from its impact on education, agriculture, and migration to the broader challenges we face today. In addition, sessions on podcasting, broadcasting, and artificial intelligence provided valuable skills that will support my growth in the media field.

The diverse perspectives shared by fellow mentees from different parts of the country greatly enriched my learning experience. Overall, the workshop encouraged me to unlearn, relearn, and broaden my understanding of climate change and its many intersections.“

India: Insights from Participants (2)

"It will be invaluable in the work that lies ahead."

Atul Howale, Multimedia Reporter and Producer at The Wire:
„Thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity. It was a privilege to be part of the Climate Change Media Hub workshop alongside journalists from across the country, from Jammu & Kashmir to Maharashtra, and from Arunachal Pradesh to Tamil Nadu. The mentorship supported by the Asian College of Journalism and Interlink Academy, Germany, has been deeply meaningful. Over the 12 days at ACJ, we explored key dimensions of climate reporting, including climate migration, air pollution, agricultural impacts, and the broader consequences of climate change.
The sessions on immersive storytelling, multimedia journalism, documentary filmmaking, and data-driven environmental reporting were especially valuable. Insights from guest speakers—including teams from Mongabay and The Hindu BusinessLine—as well as guidance from our mentors Shailendra, Meena, and Dharmesh, provided strong and well-rounded editorial direction for climate change reporting.
For me, this eight-month mentorship offers an important opportunity to report on climate change and its impact on marginalized communities whose stories are often underrepresented in Indian media and newsrooms. This program will help me bring those voices and on-the-ground realities into the media with greater depth and clarity through multimedia storytelling. I would like to sincerely thank the ACJ Climate Change Media Hub faculty and management, as well as Interlink Academy, for organizing this workshop and for their guidance and support. It will be invaluable in the work that lies ahead."

More impressions from the climate change training sessions, with a focus on *The Great Displacement*

"[..] a new way of thinking critically about climate change and its impacts [..]"

Mir Zeeshan, Multimedia Reporter for Rising Kashmir:
„It was an honour to be part of this workshop-cum-training program. Words fall short in expressing my gratitude to Preethi Mehra, the Project Lead, whose efforts made this experience truly meaningful. The mentorship offered me—and my fellow participants—a new way of thinking critically about climate change and its impacts on farming, drinking water, and other life-sustaining systems across the world. During our discussions, Arjumand and I spoke about our interest in capturing an aerial view of Srinagar city. However, worsening air quality levels made us realize that current AQI conditions would not permit such documentation. Arjumand shared that he is determined to pursue a story on the air quality crisis in the Kashmir Valley. I hope that all of us will emerge from this program with strong, immersive stories, including work created using tools such as Genially. Some participants may develop powerful, emotionally driven visual stories, while others may explore the medium of podcasts to tell compelling climate narratives."

Voices from India: Mentors Share Feedback

Shailendra Yashwant and **Meena Menon**, mentors at the Climate Change Media Hub, share their reflections and early impressions as the project moves into full swing. Drawing on their experience in journalism and media training, they offer insights into the project's progress, its evolving impact, and the opportunities and difficulties it is creating for climate-focused news and reporting in India.

Shailendra Yashwant
Mentor

The urgency of climate issues demands nuanced and impactful storytelling that combines rigorous research with strong multimedia skills. The Climate Change Mentorship Program at the Asian College of Journalism, in collaboration with Interlink Academy, is well positioned to nurture such talent at an early stage in journalists' careers. My motivation to be involved stems from a deep commitment to strengthening climate communication in India and beyond, where well-informed narratives can help drive both policy responses and public action. Through close mentorship, I hope to support mentees in developing confident, well-rounded multimedia stories that illuminate the complexity of climate change, amplify marginalized voices, and encourage solutions-oriented discourse.

The recent training workshop was a powerful reminder of just how much potential exists. Participants arrived curious, energetic, and eager to challenge themselves—experimenting with new formats and learning from one another. Witnessing this spirit of collaboration and willingness to innovate gives me great confidence in the work ahead. Supporting these young journalists as they grow is both an honour and an investment in more informed and responsible climate conversations for our collective and hopefully cleaner future.

Learning to tell the climate story that matters: impressions from the training

Any project that focuses on training and knowledge sharing on climate issues is of keen interest to me, as it also offers an opportunity for my own learning. As a journalist, one continues to evolve, and while it is essential to share experience and expertise, it is equally important to engage with new areas and emerging perspectives in climate reporting.

This program offers a valuable opportunity for young journalists to sharpen their writing skills and develop a critical lens on an issue that is central to our lives and the future of the planet. I expect that the eight-month program will generate exciting new ideas and collaborations, exposing participants to a more immersive experience that will shape how they understand and report on climate change. It will also provide new platforms for storytelling and encourage journalists to pursue more challenging, out-of-the-box narratives that can meaningfully benefit the communities they serve.

I found the training workshop to be wide-ranging and thoughtfully designed. However, a few areas would benefit from deeper attention, particularly the intersectionality of caste and gender, issues related to heat and resilience, and more detailed engagement with the implementation and reporting aspects of climate responses and policies.

Meena Menon
Mentor

Zambia: A Year of Growth - FPI's Media and Information Literacy Project Transforms Communities

From community radio waves to grassroots training hubs, media literacy is taking root in four Zambian provinces. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a nationwide effort to help people navigate information with confidence and care. **Joan Chirwa,** founder of Free Press Initiative (FPI) Zambia, reports down below.

Joan Chirwa
Free Press Initiative Zambia

It has now been a year and a half since the launch of the Zambia Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Project, implemented with the support of our partners, Interlink Academy for International Dialogue and Journalism.

When the Zambia Free Press Initiative (FPI) launched its MIL Project in July 2024, the idea was simple yet powerful: to equip Zambians with the tools and knowledge needed to make sense of the information they encounter every day. A year and a half later, the project's impact is becoming increasingly visible across the four provinces where it is being implemented—Copperbelt, Eastern, Lusaka, and Southern. Communities, trainers, and local hubs are working together to build a more informed, confident, and media-literate public.

The project's second year marked a period of significant growth. Initially launched with six hubs in 2024, the initiative expanded to 12 community hubs, all of which were fully operational by January 2025. With the support of our partner trainers, Bheki Tshuma and Nonhlanhla Mabikwa from Zimbabwe, who have been with Interlink Academy for many years, FPI successfully conducted a second Training of Trainers workshop for 12 additional community trainers, who began facilitating their own training sessions shortly thereafter.

This expansion was not only about numbers—the impact is being felt across communities in all four provinces. The team of community trainers grew to 24 following the establishment of six new hubs in Lusaka (2), Kafue (1), Mazabuka (1), Petauke (1), and Chongwe (1). Many of these trainers come from the communities they serve, making them central to how media and information literacy is introduced, understood, and practiced at the local level. Community training activities gained momentum quickly. January recorded 12 training sessions, and from February through December, trainers

Participants of the MIL training group in Zambia with Interlink Academy trainer Joachim Vögele (third from the left)

consistently delivered 24 sessions each month. By the end of the year, the total number of sessions had reached 276, with more than 4,000 participants taking part in trainings during the second year alone. This growing participation reflects both increased community interest and improved mobilisation as hubs refined their outreach, delivery and presentation strategies.

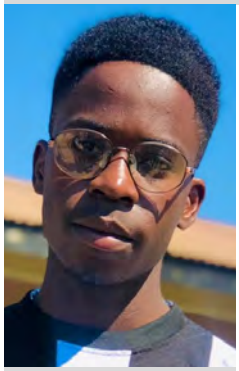
Another major milestone during the year was the development of radio spots and a comprehensive Media and Information Literacy brochure. Community trainers contributed directly to these materials, helping ensure the content was practical, accessible, and locally relevant. Several radio spots were produced in the local languages Bemba, Nyanja, and Tonga, extending the project's reach and bringing essential MIL messages directly into households beyond the established hubs. Participants are already applying what they have learned—from identifying misinformation and understanding media bias to fact-checking online content. Trainers have reported noticeable changes in behavior, with more community members questioning sources, verifying information, and sharing reliable content more responsibly.

As the project's second year draws to a close, progress is evident across all four provinces. FPI's ongoing efforts, supported by committed trainers and active community participation, are creating space for a more informed society. While much work remains to be done, the progress achieved so far is already making a meaningful difference in the everyday lives of many Zambians and will continue to do so for many years.

Training session in Chongwe and Lusaka North hub trainer Mundia Lubinda leading participants during a training session

Zambia: Becoming a Voice for Truth - My Journey Through Media and Information Literacy

In Kamitondo, rumors can move faster than facts, and misinformation often arrives long before the truth. One young man's journey through Media and Information Literacy shows how learning to question information can transform not just online habits, but personal identity. **Victor Siloka** from Kitwe District reports.



Victor Siloka
Participant

Growing up in Kamitondo, I learned early on that news doesn't need legs to run. It travels across the township faster than a minibus driver chasing his last passenger. By the time you hear it, everyone already has an opinion—and more often than not, it's wrong. I used to be one of those people who believed anything that sounded convincing or dramatic. Whether it was a viral Facebook post, a WhatsApp voice note, or a random meme, I swallowed it whole without asking questions. If it looked professional, I trusted it. If it had a picture, it was "definitely true." That was me before Media and Information Literacy (MIL) entered my life through the Zambia Free Press Initiative and its partner, Interlink Academy for Dialogue and Journalism.

My journey with MIL began almost by accident. A friend told me about a youth program run by the Free Press Initiative, where young people were being taught how to understand media and use digital tools wisely. To be honest, I joined because I thought there might be free snacks, certificates, and potentially some fun people to

meet. But that first session completely changed my perspective. The facilitator asked us, "How many of you have ever shared something online that later turned out to be false?" Almost everyone—including me—raised their hand. Then he said something I will never forget: "The moment you share false information, you become part of the problem you're complaining about."

That hit me hard. It was like someone had held up a mirror to my digital habits. I realized I was contributing to the noise—amplifying misinformation without meaning.

The sessions were unlike anything I had attended before. They weren't just lectures; they were eye-opening conversations. We debated, laughed, questioned, and reflected. For the first time, I truly understood what it meant to think critically about the information surrounding me.

As the weeks went by, we explored everything from media bias and propaganda to disinformation and digital footprints. It was fascinating to see how much effort and intention can lie behind a single post or headline. I learned that every piece of media has a purpose—sometimes to inform, but often to influence. Our trainer called it "reading between the lines," a phrase that stays with me.

We analyzed real examples of misleading news and social media posts. Some were funny; others were frightening. One video showed a politician apparently saying something offensive, but upon closer inspection, we discovered it had been edited. That moment taught me just how powerful—and dangerous—online manipulation can be.

I also learned about confirmation bias: how easily we believe information that aligns with our emotions or existing beliefs, while ignoring anything that challenges them. That's why rumors often spread faster than the truth—they appeal to feelings, not facts.

Then came my favorite part: digital tools and fact-checking. I discovered websites and simple techniques to verify photos, videos, and news sources. It felt like gaining superpowers. Suddenly, I wasn't just scrolling—I was investigating.

The real turning point came when a friend shared a message claiming that a local health clinic was secretly injecting people with harmful vaccines. The message spread rapidly, and panic followed. This time, instead of forwarding it, I paused. I checked the clinic's official page, consulted credible health sources, and discovered it was a false rumour caused by a misunderstanding of a government campaign. I shared the correct information, backed by evidence.

Several friends thanked me. In that moment, I realized something powerful: change doesn't come from shouting louder, but from sharing smarter.

Soon, people jokingly started calling me "Fact-Checker Victor." It became my online identity. I wasn't just another voice anymore; I was someone others turned to when they wanted the truth. MIL didn't just teach me about media—it taught me about myself.

Before, I was shy in group discussions and felt my opinions didn't matter. Through these sessions, I learned to express myself confidently and support my views with facts. I began participating more, sharing reflections, and helping others understand why responsible media use matters.

Trainer Maria Salubusa of the Matero MIL Hub engaging participants during a group discussion in April 2025

One of the most memorable activities involved designing a "responsible social media campaign." Our group focused on digital kindness—encouraging people to think before commenting. I helped write the captions, and my teammates joked that I sounded like a radio presenter. That's when I realized my voice could educate, not just

meet. But entertain. Today, I see social media differently. I no longer chase likes or trends; I chase meaning. I've unfollowed pages that spread negativity and misinformation and now follow platforms that promote learning, empowerment, and creativity.

I've also learned that being media literate doesn't mean knowing everything. It means constantly questioning, learning, and being aware of the influence we carry.

Not everything was serious—we had plenty of funny moments too. One day, we analyzed a viral political meme. Everyone laughed at first, but then we realized that even humor can shape opinions and reinforce stereotypes. It reminded me that humor is powerful—it can educate, but it can also mislead.

A friend once told me, "Victor, you've changed. You used to be the first to gossip; now you're the last to believe." We laughed, but I took it as a compliment. Growth often looks funny from the outside.

In my community, people still joke about me "verifying" everything. Even when someone says, "It's going to rain," they reply, "Wait for Victor to confirm." I don't mind. I'd rather be teased for checking facts than remembered for spreading lies.

The more I learned, the more I realized that MIL is not just about social media—it's a life skill. I now mentor a few younger friends on online safety and digital responsibility. We meet informally after church or at the community centre, discussing how to use phones wisely. It may be informal, but it's making a difference. I see myself continuing this journey, perhaps becoming a media educator or community journalist—helping others find their voices through truth. I also hope to collaborate further with the Free Press Initiative to reach schools and youth groups, because the earlier young people understand media literacy, the more responsible they become both online and offline.

Looking back at who I was and who I am now, I can only say thank you. Thank you to the Free Press Initiative for creating a platform that transforms ordinary youths into informed digital citizens. Thank you to the facilitators—patient, funny, and inspiring—who didn't just teach us, but believed in us. And thank you to my community, Kamitondo, for being my testing ground and giving me real-life lessons no classroom ever could.

Media and Information Literacy has not only improved my knowledge; it has transformed my identity. It has made me more confident, responsible, and aware of my role in society. I now understand that every message, every post, every story carries power—and that power can either build or destroy.

Today, I walk with a renewed sense of purpose. I want to be part of a generation that chooses real facts over made-up fiction, loving kindness over brutal chaos, and long-term truth over shot-lived trends.

Zambia: Media and Information Literacy Project Extends Reach Beyond Training Sites Through Radio

From training halls to community radio stations, the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Project is helping Zambian communities navigate information with confidence and responsibility. This report captures key developments from the project's second year of implementation**. Raphael Banda** officer and journalism mentor at the Zambia Free Press Initiative, attached to the MIL project reports.

Raphael Banda
Zambia Free Press Initiative

The Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Project, now concluding its second year of implementation, has recorded remarkable achievements across all twelve hubs in four provinces. Communities surrounding these hubs in Lusaka, Eastern, Southern, and Copperbelt Provinces have increasingly recognized the project's value, demonstrating growing enthusiasm and commitment to participating in trainings conducted by trainers. To further enhance visibility and outreach, the project is currently producing a series of radio spots, with all twelve hubs actively contributing ideas for content on key MIL topics. These radio spots are scheduled to air on radio stations in their respective areas next year. Hubs in Chongwe, Mazabuka, Petauke, Mufulira, and Kitwe are among those currently engaged in content development. This coordinated effort is expected to extend the reach of MIL messages beyond the districts where the project is directly implemented, potentially reaching over one million listeners through radio broadcasts and social media platforms once the content is aired. The radio spots will be produced in English as well as local languages—

The project is expected to reach more than one million listeners via radio broadcasts and social media platforms upon airing

Bemba, Nyanja, and Tonga—reflecting the linguistic diversity of the four provinces covered by the project.

Several community trainers interviewed expressed their appreciation to Interlink Academy and the Zambia Free Press Initiative (ZFPI) for what they described as a transformative project that has significantly improved digital hygiene within communities. At the Chongwe Hub, community trainer Thandiwe Jere highlighted the strong impact of the training topics, particularly those focused on digital security and password use. She noted that among the various subjects covered during the Media and Information Literacy and Digital Safety trainings, the session held on December 7, 2025, stood out as especially impactful.

"On 7 December 2025, we took time to discuss with community members how they had applied what they learned from the trainings, and the most prominent change—especially among elderly women—was their understanding of the importance of digital security," Thandiwe explained. She noted that prior to the training, many participants did not see the need to use passwords on their phones. Some had even believed that passwords were only used by 'cheating partners.' The training helped them understand that passwords are essential for protecting personal information and preventing potential misuse—underscoring the importance of sharing such information through radio programming as well.

In Southern Province, the Mazabuka Hub has also recorded significant progress, supported by positive feedback from community members. The hub is now actively packaging training content into radio spots to ensure wider reach. Community trainer Nandi Hachintu reaffirmed the relevance of the topics, emphasizing their direct connection to everyday life. She highlighted that the mix of elderly participants and youth in the trainings has worked particularly well, and that the forthcoming radio spots will further consolidate these gains once aired.

"The combination of youth and elderly participants has been very effective, as many rely heavily on radio and are now better able to analyze language, engage in discussions, and use social media more responsibly," Hachintu explained. She added that some women

reported plans to use platforms like WhatsApp to advertise their merchandise, while others pledged to stop spreading fake news altogether. According to her, many trainees have committed to more responsible information-sharing practices as a direct result of the MIL trainings.

Currently, FPI is working to secure agreements with community radio stations across all provinces where the MIL Project is being implemented, ensuring reliable platforms for airing the substantial content being produced. In addition to strengthening community-level understanding of media literacy through training and radio engagement, FPI has also developed a comprehensive MIL brochure, which is now ready for printing. The brochure has been designed as a user-friendly resource tailored to diverse audiences, including rural communities, youth groups, teachers, civic leaders, and grassroots organizations involved in information-sharing activities.

The publication distills key MIL concepts into simple, relatable, and practical messages. It addresses essential topics such as identifying misinformation, verifying online content, understanding digital footprints, and staying safe on social media. Through clear language and visual cues, the brochure makes complex ideas accessible even to first-time learners and individuals with limited exposure to digital tools. Once printed, the brochure will serve as a vital complement to the project's trainings, radio discussions, and community outreach activities. Trainers and facilitators will distribute it during engagement sessions, ensuring that participants leave with a tangible resource they can refer to long after workshops have concluded. It will also help sustain learning by enabling households, schools, and community hubs to reinforce positive digital behaviors.

The brochure, which will also be uploaded to the FPI website (https://fpi-zambia.org/), is expected to further expand the project's impact by providing communities with a practical guide that promotes safer, more informed, and responsible media consumption.

In Remembrance of Our Colleague Chisaba Masengu †

In November 2025, we lost our Zambian colleague Chisaba Masengu from our partner organization, Free Press Initiative Zambia. His sudden and unexpected passing left us deeply saddened and devastated. Chisaba's death is a profound loss, both on a personal level and in terms of his exceptional professional contributions. He was a warm hearted and generous person, always supportive and deeply committed to the people around him. Spending time with Chisaba was a privilege, filled with kindness, good humor, and meaningful exchange.

As Chief Trainer in our Zambian project, Chisaba was responsible for supervising and guiding 24 Zambian community organizers within our Media and Information Literacy in Zambia program. He carried out this responsibility with remarkable dedication and care. The outstanding success of the project is due in no small part to his tireless efforts and leadership.

Chisaba will be remembered not only for his professionalism and commitment, but also for his humanity, generosity, and the positive spirit he brought to his work and to all who knew him.

Zambia: A Warm Welcome in Chongwe - Villagers Embrace FPI's Media Literacy Training

From under a village tree to online spaces, digital skills are reshaping how communities access and share information. This report highlights the growing importance of Media and Information Literacy in rural Zambia. **Panji Nyimbili** and **Thandiwe Jere** report on the project impact.

Mobile connectivity is rapidly expanding across Zambia, with internet access now reaching even the most remote rural communities. Digital life has become part of everyday reality for millions of citizens. In places like Ndango village in Chongwe, smartphones are no longer a luxury—they are essential tools for communication, business, entertainment, and access to information. However, as online access increases, so do digital challenges, including misinformation, scams, disinformation, and unsafe online behavior.

Against this backdrop, the arrival of the Free Press Initiative (FPI) in Ndango village in April 2025 was met with enthusiasm. Conducting a Media and Information Literacy (MIL) training under a large village tree, FPI drew residents eager to learn how to navigate the digital world more safely and responsibly. What began as a simple community session quickly evolved into a lively and eye-opening discussion about truth, trust, and technology.

Headman Ndango, who attended the training alongside other community members, described the lessons as timely and highly relevant.

"The training has opened our eyes to the best ways to use our mobile phones," he said. "We have learned how to avoid misinformation and how to use social media responsibly. We are grateful for the knowledge."

The session focused on practical, everyday skills: identifying misleading content, verifying information before sharing it, and staying safe online. Participants were also introduced to the concept of digital citizenship, which promotes responsible behavior in online spaces that increasingly influence community life.

According to FPI founder and project manager Joan Chirwa, such trainings are designed to empower rural communities that now have widespread access to smartphones but limited exposure to credible information sources and digital literacy tools.

For Headman Ndango, the impact of the training is already visible. "We ask FPI to continue and reach other villages in Chongwe," he added. "This program benefits our community greatly."

The Ndango training forms part of FPI's broader Media and Information Literacy project, which aims to equip communities across Zambia with critical digital skills—one gathering, and one conversation, at a time.

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The Russian Club of Lawyers and Court Journalists Versus Totalitarian Russia

2025 marks the second year of the "Club of Russian Lawyers and Court Journalists." As its name suggests, the project brings together Russian human rights lawyers and journalists who specialize in covering court proceedings. Ten of the fifteen project participants live and work in exile in Germany, France, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. Two journalists have been designated as "foreign agents," while another six collaborate with media projects that the Russian government has placed on lists of "foreign agents," "undesirable," or even "terrorist" organizations. Regardless of their current location, the project participants are dedicated to protecting the rights of Russian citizens and contributing to the reform of Russia's totalitarian political system. This project would not have been possible without the active participation of our partner, Interlink Academy, and the support of the Swedish human rights organization Civil Rights Defenders. **Viktor Yukechev,** Chairman of the Board of Directors of Transparency Trans Talk reports below.

Victor Yukechev
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Transparency Trans Talk

With each passing year of Russia's war in Ukraine, it has become increasingly difficult for liberal-minded journalists to defend human rights and participate in reforming the country's totalitarian state. According to the international organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the practice of convicting Russian journalists in absentia has increased over the past year. This repressive legal tactic is used to intimidate journalists, prevent their return to Russia, and exert pressure on their relatives. The widespread use of in absentia convictions against Russian journalists in exile has intensified since the onset of the war in Ukraine and the adoption of new laws on "fake news" and "discrediting the army." In April 2024, the Russian State Duma expanded the grounds for in absentia convictions—clearly targeting individuals abroad—to include 20 categories of crimes, among them "extremism," "terrorism," and calls for sanctions against Russia. As a result, pressure on journalists covering events remotely has increased significantly. Individuals who facilitate the implementation of decisions by international organizations in which Russia does not participate now face prison sentences of up to seven years.

Our project as a whole, and each of its participants individually, clearly contribute to the implementation of decisions by international organizations in the field of human rights protection. These include the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Court of Human Rights, which operates under its auspices and from which Russia withdrew at the start of the war in Ukraine. Consequently, every member of the Club of Lawyers and Court Journalists could potentially be accused of assisting banned international organizations.

The In Fact website (https://in-fact.org/), created within the framework of the Club, was blocked in early 2025 by the Russian Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology, and Mass Media (Roskomnadzor), and access from within Russia is now possible only via VPN. Throughout 2025, Russia effectively "killed the internet," blocking or restricting access to major instant-messaging applications and communication platforms. This significantly hindered communication both among project participants and with their sources and colleagues.

In response, we expanded our training program over the course of the year and organized several webinars for Club members focused on improving digital security and mastering alternative communication tools. Nevertheless, for the same reasons, project participants ultimately decided to remain anonymous in the public

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sphere, including on the In Fact website.

Despite these threats and risks, the members of the Club consider it their professional and civic duty to continue their work to strengthen the protection of citizens' rights to freedom of expression. They remain confident that close cooperation between human rights lawyers and independent journalists is a key prerequisite for the transformation of Russia's totalitarian system into a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

Over the past year, the Club has effectively become a meeting platform for Russian lawyers and journalists in exile, enabling them to seek a balance between the protection of human rights and freedoms and the safety of trial participants and journalists reporting on court proceedings. The Club facilitates the exchange of experience among regional lawyers in developing optimal defense strategies in cases of alleged "anti-state activity," a charge frequently used by Russian authorities to suppress criticism of state policy. At the same time, journalists contribute by disseminating information about these legal practices and broader trends to Russian and international audiences.

Our main strategic partner in the project is a team of young Russian lawyers who, under the auspices of the Memorial Human Rights Center, developed a package of legal solutions for a future transitional government of Russia entitled "100 Days After Putin." We invited the authors of this initiative to participate in our webinars and held several joint discussions on the following topics: "Action Plan for Democratization," "Action Plan for Transitional Justice," and "The Right to Truth and Ways to Implement It."

The guiding principle of all educational activities within the project is a comparative analysis of international and Russian legislation and law-enforcement practices in the field of freedom of expression.

This analysis and the accompanying discussions for Club members were led by Andrej Richter, Research Professor at Comenius University in Bratislava. The project is not yet complete: four months remain until the end of 2026. During this period, we aim to finalize a draft of practical, case-based recommendations for lawyers and journalists on how to make use of the core elements of the international human rights protection system—despite the fact that this system has been largely dismantled in Russia.

We undertake this work in full awareness of the risks of repression, convinced that without a return to the foundations of international human rights law, Russian society has no future.

Screenshot from the In Fact website, promoting citizens' rights and freedom of expression in Russia. Please follow this link, to access the website directly https://in-fact.org/

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A snapshot from one of the workshop classes at the CMR Nepal Journalism Academy in Kathmandu

Nepal: Journalism Academy Transforms Media Training

Ujjwal Acharya
CMR Journalism Academy

In April 2025, I was invited to speak on a panel at the Lumbini Media Conference in western Nepal. While it was an otherwise typical professional engagement, two moments made this well-attended conference meaningful for me.

The first came during the award acceptance speech of Amrita Anmol, a highly respected Nepali journalist. In her remarks, she publicly thanked the CMR Nepal Journalism Academy, noting that had she received such practical mobile journalism training earlier in her career, she could have produced many more stories for her television channel, supported by stronger visuals and more compelling storytelling. She described her time at the CMR Journalism Academy as one of the three most important milestones in her professional development.

The second memorable moment followed shortly afterward, when six journalists approached me to take an alumni group photo. They reflected warmly on their time at the Academy, emphasizing how central the skills they acquired there had been to their careers. Several other journalists also spoke with me, explaining that they had applied multiple times but had not yet been accepted. Seeing how effectively the Academy's alumni were using their skills, they told me, had only strengthened their determination to apply again.

I returned from the Lumbini conference with a deep sense of pride in the Academy's impact, but also with a renewed awareness of how urgently its work is needed. Nepali journalists have very limited access to high-quality professional training, yet even a single course can enable many to develop into skilled professionals who serve the public and strengthen democratic discourse. Over the past three years, CMR Nepal Journalism Academy has become synonymous with quality journalism training in Nepal, made possible through the support of Interlink Academy. Still, much more remains to be done, particularly in helping journalists navigate the new realities introduced by artificial intelligence and in expanding access to reporters working in Nepal's regions.

Participants in the Multimedia Storytelling Course 2025 proudly presenting their certificates

Three Years of Impact: Interlink Academy–Supported Journalism Academy Trains 299 Mid-Career Journalists

Bikash Karki
CMR Journalism Academy

As a number, 299 may not seem particularly large. Yet as Director of Operations at the CMR Nepal Journalism Academy in Kathmandu, I am immensely proud of what it represents. When we launched our first course in January 2023, our goal was to deliver 18 courses and train 216 Nepali journalists within three years, supporting the digital transformation of their profession. We reached this target by mid 2025 and used the remaining time to organize six additional courses, welcoming 83 more journalists into our alumni community. This brought the total number of trained journalists to 299.

The composition of this group is especially meaningful. More than 42 percent of our participants are women, at least three times the estimated industry average. Over 50 percent come from regions outside the Kathmandu Valley, where professional training opportunities for mid career journalists are extremely limited. For the majority of participants, the course is not merely an addition to their CV, but a cornerstone of their journalism careers.

In 2025 alone, we organized 12 eight week blended learning courses across six topic areas. These included three each on data driven journalism, multimedia journalism and podcasting for journalists, as well as one course each on mobile journalism, digital security for journalists, and verification and fact checking. Each course combined two intensive one-week long in person phases with six weeks of structured e-learning in between. Ensuring the smooth delivery of this program required exceptional commitment and coordination from my team.

In addition, our classrooms hosted two further week long trainings in 2025. These included a training of trainers program for the Nepal Sports Journalism Forum and a podcasting course for Working Women Journalists.

The foundation of this success is our partnership with the Interlink Academy. Beyond enabling us to design, develop and deliver journalism courses that are otherwise unavailable in Nepal, this partnership has helped CMR Nepal Journalism Academy grow into an agile and resilient institution capable of responding to the evolving needs of the country's media landscape.

Participants from the Mobile Journalism Course 2025 (left) and the Multimedia Journalism Course 2025 (right)

Empowering Change: A Female Nepalese Journalist's Journey After CMR Journalism Academy Training

Nirmala Kumari Tharu
Journalist / Participant of Podcasting course

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to CMR Nepal Journalism Academy. The training you provided became a turning point in my life. It brought meaningful changes not only to my professional skills but also to my personal confidence. The improvements I see in myself go beyond acquiring new skills. They reflect renewed energy in my thinking, perspective, and way of working.

The most significant transformation I feel is in my communication. I can now speak more fluently, clearly, and engagingly than before. I learned how to choose the right words, express emotions, and connect with an audience while hosting a program. At the same time, the improvement in my writing has been deeply motivating. Previously, I struggled with clarity, structure, and impact. After the training, I learned how to maintain purpose, flow, and emotional balance in every sentence. My storytelling, writing style, word choice, and reasoning skills have all improved considerably.

This growth was made possible through your continuous guidance, support, patience, and encouragement. The trainers' feedback, motivation, and the positive learning environment were truly exceptional. The classroom atmosphere made me feel comfortable acknowledging my weaknesses, working on them, and growing stronger. Each session helped me discover new skills, new experiences, and new potential within myself. Even when my confidence wavered, your encouragement helped me regain strength and move forward. You did not only teach me skills. You helped me believe in myself.

What I gained from this training will stay with me throughout my life. These skills will strengthen not only my present work but also my future journey. The person I am today, more capable, more confident, and clearer in thought, is the result of your invaluable contribution. Wherever I go and whatever success I achieve, the foundation of that journey will be this course. Thank you, Journalism Academy, for giving me direction, courage, identity, and renewed energy.

Nepal: Journalist Reflects on Her Training and Gowth

"The course has been extremely valuable. It has given me both the motivation and the energy to do more."

„The two-month podcast training came to an end very quickly. Along with learning many new knowledge and skills from the training provided by CMR Nepal Journalism Academy, I also had a chance to connect with twelve journalists from all seven provinces of Nepal giving me a great opportunity to know the state of things in the country. For a beginner in podcasting like me, someone eager to learn, the course has been extremely valuable.

It has given me both the motivation and the energy to do more. While attending the training for *Yuwaaz Unfiltered* (shortened version of voices of youth unfiltered), I received guidance and mentorship from the trainers and all the respected journalists, for which I am truly grateful.

Thank you all for encouraging me to apply for this course. Now, the real challenge is to put what I've learned into practice, but I am committed to trying and I am very convinced that I will be able to achieve the goals I set myself."

Asthanju Basnet
Yuwaaz Unfiltered

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Voices from Nepal: Testimonials from Trained Journalists

"The training has given me the confidence and resilience needed to move forward."

Sujata Limbu, ThahaKhabar.com

„Working as a journalist at the local level often means limited opportunities and many challenges. At a time when the growing influence of multimedia and AI made me feel the need for new skills, the course provided by CMR Nepal Journalism Academy became extremely important for me. Learning skills like shooting videos, editing, creating thumbnails, and designing graphics had a positive impact on my professional abilities. After the training, I got the opportunity to work as a video editor within my own district. I also started producing content for my YouTube channel directly on my mobile phone. This training has given me the confidence and resilience needed to move forward in the rapidly evolving field of journalism.“

"One of the most important learnings in my journalism journey."

Yamuna Saud, Sudurpatra Online

„I had the opportunity to attend a data driven journalism course from CMR Nepal Journalism Academy. This training became extremely effective and useful for me to move forward with my career. Data journalism has become one of the most important learnings in my journalism journey. After the training, I learned how to present data clearly, simply and attractively. I gained essential skills such as choosing reliable data sources, analyzing data and creating engaging visualizations while producing fact-based news contents. In addition, practical skills like working with spreadsheets, data cleaning, maps and creating charts strengthened my abilities even more. This course helped me present news more effectively and with evidence.“

"Attending the training itself was a major achievement."

Apsara Bista, NepalPress.com

“The eight week mobile journalism training provided by CMR Nepal Journalism Academy has made my professional journey more effective. Being selected for this training was in itself a major achievement. The skills I gained enabled me to apply concepts such a photography, video, storytelling, multimedia graphics, and photo essays in my daily work as a journalist. Today, I design graphics on a daily basis and am fully capable of producing visual content for the media organization I work for in an effective and professional manner. This training has significantly enhanced my efficiency, and the overall quality of my news presentation.”

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Strengthening Skills Globally: Nepali Trainers Attend Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Malaysia

A team from CMR Nepal Journalism Academy attended the Global Investigative Journalism Conference (GIJC) 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from November 20 to 25. During the conference, trainers and members of the management team participated in a wide range of sessions to enrich the Academy's courses with new developments, practical experiences, and innovative ideas. Data journalism trainer Chetana Kunwar and podcasting trainer Sabita Acharya noted that many sessions were directly relevant to their training areas and were particularly valuable for understanding emerging trends and new tools. The Journalism Academy team also engaged with journalists and media experts from around the world, introducing the Academy's work and exploring potential opportunities for collaboration. Special attention was given to building connections with media professionals and institutions across the Global South.

Interlink Academy's Director, Werner Eggert (left), pictured with the Journalism Academy team— (in order) Bikash Karki, Sabita Acharya, Chetana Kunwar, Prateek Pradhan, and Ujjwal Acharya—at the GIJC 2025 in Malaysia

Expanding Access: Journalism Handbook in Nepali

Interlink Academy, with the support of CMR Nepal Journalism Academy, has published a Nepali edition of one of Germany's most widely used journalism textbooks, *Journalismus. Das Hand- und Lehrbuch*, authored by Stephan Russ Mohl and Tanjev Schultz.

The book serves as a valuable resource for newcomers to journalism, helping them quickly grasp the essentials of the profession. At the same time, experienced journalists and journalism educators use it as a reference for guiding news selection, investigative work, and the presentation of stories for discerning audiences across print, radio, television, online, and social media platforms. Expressing his appreciation to the publishers, author Stephan Russ Mohl said, "The Nepali version is being published at a time of turbulent change in the world, in the media, and in journalism. I hope the book can contribute to improving journalism and journalism education in Nepal." Interlink Academy Director Werner Eggert also welcomed the collaboration, saying, "We are pleased to work with CMR Nepal Journalism Academy to make this popular German textbook available to Nepali journalists and journalism students. Being able to read such a book in one's own language significantly increases its value, and I hope Nepali journalists will find it both useful and inspiring."

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Nepal: Glimpses of the Journalism Academy's Activities

Participants of the podcasting course displaying their certificates at the closing of the training at the Journalism Academy

Members of the Journalism Academy's advisory committee, consisting of academics and editors, after a meeting in 2025

Journalism Academy staff with Interlink Academy's Werner Eggert during the Planning and Evaluation Meeting and Staff Retreat in 2025. During the meeting, the team reviewed past activities and developed strategies for future initiatives

Students practice mobile video shooting as part of the training. Program in data-driven journalism, multimedia journalism, and podcasting are highly popular among journalists in Nepal, reflecting strong professional demand

Trainers, alumni, staff, and members of the Journalism Academy interact with visitors from the federal BMZ ministry, Germany

For many participants from the region, training at the Journalism Academy is a cornerstone of their careers

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Ukraine: Alumna Anastasiia Morozova — From Interlink Academy to the Columbia Journalism School in New York

The Advanced Data Journalism Program held in 2022 continues to demonstrate lasting impact through the work of its alumni. For **Anastasiia Morozova**, the program provided foundational skills in data collection, analysis, coding, and human-centered visual storytelling, transforming her from a journalist who relied on basic charts into a confident practitioner of data-driven investigations. Today, she applies these skills to lead investigative projects, build data teams, mentor other journalists, and contribute to cross-border investigations on disinformation and electoral interference. Fo a while, she even worked as a teaching assistant at the Columbia Journalism School — clear evidence that the program's influence continues to strengthen independent journalism across Europe and beyond

My name is Anastasiia Morozova, and I am a 2022 alumna of the Advanced Data Journalism Program at Interlink Academy. I am writing to share how profoundly this program has shaped my career, strengthened independent journalism in Poland and Ukraine, and fostered long-term professional networks that continue to generate high-impact collaborative projects. I hope my experience illustrates why supporting another cohort of this program is both valuable and urgently needed.

When I joined Interlink Academy, I was working in Kyiv as a news presenter and journalist for Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). Although I had previously attended a few introductory workshops on data visualization, my skills were limited to creating basic charts—and only when clean datasets were already provided.

During the first module at Interlink Academy, I installed Python—a programming language—for the first time and learned how to collect, clean, analyse, and prepare data for meaningful visualization. Beyond technical skills, the program introduced me to colour theory, human-centered design, and ways to integrate data into reporting that strengthen storytelling, uncover new angles, and add depth to journalistic narratives.

Shortly after the war in Ukraine began, I relocated to Poland and joined the investigative outlet Frontstory.pl. There, I introduced data-driven reporting to the newsroom—an approach that remains relatively uncommon in Poland. Within a year, our outlet received the national GrandPress Award for Innovative Storytelling. Over the following two years, I built a dedicated data and research team in which all members now possess basic coding skills and a solid understanding of data journalism principles. None of this would have been possible without the training I received through Interlink Academy.

Equally important, Interlink Academy created a professional network that continues to generate tangible impact. During the program, I met colleagues with whom I have maintained close and ongoing collaboration. After

Happy smiles from our Fellows over their graduation in 2022. Anstasiaa Morozova stand in the middle (circled)

graduating, I worked with fellow alumna Maya Guseva from Russia on a major data project for RFE/RL. Maya is now at OpenMinds, a London-based research institute that uses advanced machine-learning techniques to analyze Russian disinformation.

When OpenMinds prepared a report on Russian influence campaigns during Poland's 2024 parliamentary elections, Maya invited me to co-author the project because of my expertise in Polish politics and social media analysis—expertise that began with the skills I developed at Interlink Academy for International Dialog and Journalism.

I also remain in close contact with another alumna, Kate Mamyan from Armenia. We regularly meet at conferences, peer-review each other's work, and support one another's professional development. In 2024, I completed a short professional program in data journalism at Columbia University in New York and later served as a teaching assistant there.

I encouraged Kate to apply the following year, helping her access similar opportunities for growth. Most recently, at DataHarvest 2025—Europe's leading investigative data journalism conference—I spoke about the use of machine learning in social media analysis. Through Kate, I was introduced to the organizers of a comparable annual conference in Georgia, which resulted in both of us being invited to speak about the practical application of artificial intelligence in news reporting.

All of these career developments, cross-border collaborations, and high-impact investigations trace back to a single origin: the training, mentorship, and community created by Interlink Academy.

I am deeply grateful for the support that made my participation possible, and I sincerely hope you will consider supporting another round of this essential program.

Its impact extends far beyond individual careers—it directly contributes to stronger, data-driven, and more transparent journalism across borders.

Anastasiia Morozova with Werner Eggert at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia: Global Investigative Journalism Conference 2025

For many years now, the Interlink Academy has been a partner and supporter of the Global Investigative Journalism Conferences (GIJC) which take place every two years in changing countries. In 2019, Interlink Academy had even the honor of co-hosting the big event in Hamburg with more than two thousand participants from all over the world, at the time together with the Global Network of Investigative Journalists and the German organization Netzwerk Recherche. In 2025, the GIJC took place in Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia, and Interlink Academy brought journalists from our Asian partner organisations to the probably best international journalism conference. Very inspiring and ground-breaking presentations and workshops. For Interlink Academy's Director Werner Eggert, it has been also the opportunity to meet and re-unite with alumni and partners from all over the world. One of Interlink's main field of work has been the training of investigative reporters, and many of our trainees have made it to the top of the trade. This year's local co-organizer was the local media outlet Malaysiakini under the leadership of Steven Gan and Premesh Chandran. Premesh was hired a trainer by Werner for the first time in 2007. This year's GIJC in wonderful Malaysia was a truly remarkable and unique experience Interlink's Director will remember for a long time.

Top images: Interlink Academy's logo displayed among the sponsors of the Global Investigative Journalism Conference 2025 (left) and Werner Eggert with Shubitidze from Georgia (right). Middle images: Werner Eggert with Maria Zemlyanska from bihus.info, Ukraine (left) and Aye Kye Zin and Lae Lae Thin from Myanmar (right). Bottom images: Premesh Chandran from Malaysia's Malaysiakini (left) and Prateek Pradhan, Editor-in-Chief of the Nepalese news portal Baahrakhari (right)

Alumnus Ronny Rojas Wins IRE and GIJN Awards

Interlink Academy's Managing Director, Werner Eggert, met alumnus Ronny Rojas at the annual conference of the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) Association in New Orleans, USA, in June. Ronny was part of a team that received the prestigious Tim Renner Award from IRE for their investigation "Cargo Trucks – A Trap for Migrants."
Ronny participated in an in-depth blended learning training course on digital journalism in Germany more than a decade ago. Originally from Costa Rica, he now works as a journalist for Telemundo in Miami, USA, and also teaches part-time at the City University of New York (CUNY). Later this year, Ronny and his collaborators on "Cargo Trucks – A Trap for Migrants" were further recognized with a Shining Light Award from the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), underscoring the lasting impact of cross-border training and collaboration fostered through Interlink.

Hamburg Press Freedom Week 2025

The Hamburg Press Freedom Week took place for the third time in 2025, and Interlink Academy once again contributed with an event at the Hamburg Central Library. Through the participation of international guests and the screening of video documentaries, we informed audiences in Hamburg about the state of press freedom in selected countries.
We would like to express our sincere thanks to Bücherhallen Hamburg, Körber-Stiftung and ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS for their excellent cooperation and organisation.

Coming Up in 2026: Health Journalism in Southeast Asia

Coming up in 2026 is our new program supporting Health Journalism in Southeast Asia. Together with local partners in the region we will enhance quality and quantity of high caliber health reporting that benefits the people with thoroughly researched information on all kinds of health issues. Contact us for more information.

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