



Media Fellowship Programme

IMAGING OUR MEKONG

www.newsmekong.org

2008

By Wang Ying-Chun



By Pacharin Tonakraku/Thailand

Inter Press Service (IPS) Asia-Pacific and Probe Media Foundation Inc (PMFI) are inviting journalists, photojournalists and television journalists to apply for the seventh round (2008-09) of the Mekong media fellowship programme entitled Imaging Our Mekong. This annual fellowship focuses on the vision of the Mekong region at a time of globalisation, paying special attention to transboundary issues as a result of regional development.

Imaging Our Mekong is open to nationals of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and China. There are 32 fellowship slots in the 2008-09 cycle for 12 writers, six photojournalists and 14 television journalists, men and women who have had at least three years' experience in media.

The Imaging Our Mekong programme (www.newsmekong.org), coordinated by IPS Asia-Pacific and PMFI, is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation (South-east Asia), Bangkok, Thailand.

It encourages the analysis of cross-border issues relevant to the development of countries and communities in the Mekong region, using a regional lens that goes beyond traditional news as well as national and political borders.

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Proposals must focus on the exploration of a cross-border topic (one that links or involves two countries in the region). Priority will be given to proposals that include a variety of sources that give a voice and a face to different sectors and communities, including marginalised groups.

The chosen fellows will have creative room to develop the subjects of their reportage/photojournalistic work and documentary film production, which may range from international relations to health and gender, culture and ethnicity, economics and the environment, and issues linked to economic integration.

The phases of the fellowship are:

- Screening and selection of applications (application forms and proposal forms are available in English and Mekong languages on www.newsmekong.org);
- Interviews, in-depth research and investigation on the fellows' approved topics and project-related travel covering their home countries and one other country;
- Writing and production, undertaken over five months, and for TV professionals, attendance of a three-week training course in documentary and TV production in Manila, Philippines.

At the start and toward the end of each fellowship cycle, fellows are required to take part in two regional workshops—an opening workshop (August/September 2008) and a peer review meeting (February 2009) where fellows discuss their completed work.

Expected Outputs

Print Fellows. The writers are to produce a package of stories, totalling 3,000 words, to be published in their respective publications. Photographers are to produce photo essays composed of 15 quality pictures selected from the shots they take, with an accompanying narrative of up to 900 words.

TV Fellows. TV journalists are to work in groups of two to three to produce a 15-20 minute documentary to be aired on their stations. A two-minute version of these documentaries may also be aired. Documentaries shall be subtitled in English.

Fellowship applications as well as stories produced under Imaging Our Mekong may be submitted in local languages. A basic knowledge of English is needed for the workshops to be held at the start and conclusion of each fellowship cycle.

Submissions Checklist

Applicants need to submit the following:

- Imaging Our Mekong 2008-09 application form, with a proposal of not less than 700 words outlining the proposed cross-border theme to be covered and its different aspects, target subjects to be interviewed, geographic location/s of the assignment, and other details
- Clippings of three published and bylined articles (for journalists), a portfolio of eight published photographs (for photojournalists) or VHS, VCD, DVD or Mini DV copy of at least two aired TV segments written, directed, shot or edited (for TV journalists)
- At least two references, and
- A letter from their editors/supervisors endorsing the application and committing to the fulfillment of the programme requirements



**Deadline for
submission of applications:
15 June 2008**

Please send applications to:
The Regional Director
Imaging Our Mekong c/o
IPS Asia-Pacific
Unit 3A, 3rd Flr KSL Tower,
503 Sri Ayutthaya Road,
Phayathai 10400 Bangkok, Thailand
Tel: (66-2) 246 7877/78
Fax: (66-2) 246 7876
Email:
imagingourmekong@mac.com or
applications@newsmekong.org

IPS Asia-Pacific (www.ipsnewsasia.net) is a non-profit news agency and foundation that focuses on news relevant to the South as part of the IPS international network, and conducts media training and development. PMFI (www.probefound.com) is a non-stock, non-profit organisation committed to improving the quality of media, specifically television, through the training of aspiring and professional media people.

Download application/proposal forms in Mekong languages from www.newsmekong.org.