

Broadcast Media Training Report
Douala, Cameroon
May 6th - 9th, 2019
Trainer: Hamadou Tidiane Sy
RMR: Joseph Katachie



A cross section of participants at the Broadcast Media Training workshop on Investigation Journalism.

Purpose

A journalism workshop for reporters and editors of STV took place in Douala, Cameroon from May 6th to 9th 2019. A total of 14 people was planned to take part in the workshop, but due to the work schedule of some, only about 11 were constant at the training every day. The workshop was on “Investigative Reporting”. and took place at the Spectrum group head office in Douala.

The Program

The trainer, Hamadou Tidiane Sy, lead the participants through key areas in Investigative Journalism. All the participants are involved in reporting on various stories but only 2 had attempted to Investigate on issues by following up a story, this was a good opportunity for the trainer to get the whole pack up to speed on how to properly engage in Investigative reporting. Areas covered include: How to develop story ideas and launching a project, creating an investigated structure, Research options and ethically sourcing information, Essential methods required to research, cross-check, and structure information to reveal authentic sources, Utilizing and understanding financial and funding documents, collaborating with media partners, Interviews sources including digital tools etc.



The sessions were highly interactive. The attendees on the first day spoke a lot about their experiences and their understanding of the subject. Attendees were swept off their feet when the trainer dived deep into the main course. They had realized by the end of the session that they only knew little on the subject and increased their knowledge of investigative reporting. Participants broke into different groups for indoor and outdoor exercises. Participants generated investigative topics for the station, debated on the choices, pertinence of issues to investigate; finally, the best ideas emerged. The groups had a chance to present. The workshop attendees would use the concepts for upcoming investigative reporting for the station.



Suggestions for future training

Participants suggested the following topics for future training needs:

- Reporting in conflict/war zones
- Online or social media Journalism
- Media management and fact-checking techniques
- Documentary production
- Reporting on Elections

Feedback

Participants said the workshop was inspiring, and an experienced trainer was a big plus; also, the practical approach of the trainer and exercises gave to them to help them understand the topic. Attendees said more time on the practical side of the workshop would help in the future.



Meetings

RMR paid a courtesy visit to the most popular and listened to FM station in Douala, Radio Balafon and discovered that the station was not receiving our signal. Due to the relocation plans, Zaou, our technician contractor for Cameroon, preferred to set up the dish for station on new site. As an alternative to keep running VOA programs for their audience, the FM download programs regularly from Direct to broadcast. Station CEO took RMR on a visit to the new site building which is very large. He is very happy about the collaboration between VOA and Radio Balafon for many years now and will be looking forward to working with VOA TV once they launch their TV station in the days to come.



Need Additional Info?

If you have questions or comments on any of the information contained in this travel report, please contact Kathryn Peterson at Kpeterson@usagm.gov or Joseph Katachie at Jkatachie@usagm.gov.