

IMS works to strengthen the ability of Myanmar media to inform and support the democratic transition process and national reconciliation efforts. We focus on:

- » Media law reform that supports a stable media environment and independent media
- » Building the skills and capacity of media
- » Expanding media outreach and access to information
- » Support to the peace process through conflict sensitive journalism and media dialogue
- » Coordination and harmonisation of international media support efforts in Myanmar



Newspapers for sale on the streets of Yangon. Photo: IMS

HIGHLIGHTS

- » IMS has supported the drafting of and consultation around new media laws, including the public service media law and broadcast law.
- » IMS was closely involved in the establishment of Myanmar's first independent interim press council in 2012 in a move to build a self-regulatory system for media.
- » Close collaboration between the interim Press Council, journalist associations and IMS resulted in a nationwide Code of Conduct for media in Myanmar in 2014.
- » Myanmar Journalist Network and Myanmar Journalist Association, established with support from IMS, now work to defend media rights.
- » A network of media lawyers was created in 2014, which strengthens the capacity to protect rights of media professionals in Myanmar
- » The Myanmar Journalism Institute opened in Yangon in July 2014 with IMS supporting a viable organisational structure, a three-year strategic plan and input to the curriculum.
- » The Myanmar Media Library, a training facility and media library governed by the two journalist associations MJA and MJN opened in October 2012.
- » In 2014, IMS published the first Myanmar Handbook for Conflict Sensitive Journalism (CSJ) following training of 450 journalists in CSJ in areas such as Kachin and Rakhine state.
- » IMS with the Ministry of Information and UNESCO has organised three annual conferences to promote a coordinated approach to media development.
- » IMS and UNESCO are carrying out a Media Development Indicator assessment of the media landscape to provide policy makers and stakeholders with evidence-based recommendations on media development priorities.

MEDIA OVERVIEW

- » Since 2011, significant reforms in the media sector have taken place in Myanmar as part of its transition from authoritarian rule to democracy.
- » In August 2012 the Ministry of Information announced that pre-publication censorship was abolished with immediate effect.
- » An interim Press Council was established in August 2012. The Press Council and journalist associations introduced the first nationwide Code of Conduct for media in Myanmar in 2014.
- » In April 2013, private daily newspapers were available in the streets for the first time in 50 years.
- » In May 2014, the Media Bill and the Printers and Publishers Regulation Bill were passed by Parliament.
- » As a result of years of restrictions on media, there is a strong need for further professionalisation and higher ethical standards in Myanmar media.