



The First Jordanian Conference “The Role of Radio in Development & Democratization”

Dead Sea – Jordan
3 – 4 of February 2014

Introduction

Currently, Jordan has 32 radio stations and many rebroadcast stations, which are of three types: public and government radio stations, commercial radio stations and community radio stations.

The Audiovisual Media Law No. 71 of 2002 was passed to create the Audiovisual Media Commission, thus opening the door for the private sector to establish radio and television stations. This law put an end to the monopoly on public sector broadcasts.

One decade after liberating radio and television broadcasting, radio stations are thriving in Jordan, despite self-imposed and professional obstacles and challenges limiting their role, as well as others related to the legislative environment and political circumstances. It was thus important to convene this conference to review the Jordanian radio experience.

Conference Objectives

1. Review the Jordanian radio experience one decade after the promulgation of the law.
2. Provide a platform for free and pluralistic discourse on the strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities facing Jordanian radio stations.
3. Review local radio success stories and the experiences of radio professionals in effecting change in their communities.
4. Identify the potential roles and capacities of radio stations in democratic transformation and promoting a positive culture of democratic values.
5. Identify the priorities for the Jordanian radio sector in the legislative, professional and training areas and develop human resources.
6. Identify the roles and capacities of radio stations in local community development and engagement, specifically in the governorates.

Conference Themes

First theme: Good Radio Standards and Practices.

- International radio broadcast standards.
- Regional and international experiences.
- Radio public service standards.

Second theme: Jordanian Radio Experiences: Legislation and Environment

- Review of Audiovisual Media Law.
- Mapping Jordanian radio stations.

Third theme: Jordanian Community Radio Experiences

- Amman Net.
- Voice of the South.
- Voice of Karak.
- Voice of Yarmouk.

Fourth theme: Radios and Change

- Radios and local democracy.
- Radios and local development.
- Radios and gender.
- Radios and social and cultural change.

Fifth theme: Testimonies from Jordanian radio professionals

Sixth theme: Focus groups: participants are divided into four groups, with each working a specific topic to produce specific recommendations on the following subjects:

- Professional code of ethics for interactive radio service programs.
- Amendments to the Audiovisual Media Law.
- Analysis of Jordanian radio needs and priorities.
- Code for media accountability rules and principles for radio stations.
- Radios and media accountability.