Low-cost Broadcasting Solutions, Consultancy, Training

In a Box Innovations

Low-cost Broadcasting Solutions for All

The designer* of the now world renowned Radio-in-a-Box (which is in use in 8 countries in the African Continent, Jamaica, India and Bhutan) is now offering new and improved versions of the Radio-in-a-Box and fixed stations for low cost FM broadcasting.

Radio-in-a-Box being exhibited in Malaysia

Radio-in-a-Box in **Benin, Africa**

The latest version of the fixed station console

The latest version of the Radio-in-a-Box

Radio-in-a-Box

Portable, fast set up Radio-in-a-Box versions in 30, 100, 300W FM transmitter options, with programme production capabilities. These units can easily be deployed in disaster ravaged areas to introduce an FM radio service rapidly. Needing no technical knowledge, all it takes is to install the antenna at a suitable height and connect the unit to a power source,(e.g. portable generator) and switch on.

The unit operates with a notebook computer for audio editing and playout of playlists for transmission. The included audio mixer makes it possible for prorgamme production which subsequently can be edited using the notebook (digital audio workstation).

The Radio-in-a-Box is ideal for low-cost radio broadcasting (community broadcasting) as well as establishing broadcasting in a disaster ravaged areas. The unit can be setup in just an half hour and its operation can be learned in a few hours.

Fixed Station Solutions

The low-cost fixed station solutions with production capabilities and quick setup needs no technical knowhow to setup and operation is easy to learn. The FM transmitter options include 100W, 300W and 1KW versions. The fixed station includes a production console. The console furniture will be made by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. 300W versions are already in operation in the African Continent.

For requirments in Solomon Islands:

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Background

Rukmin Wijemanne* was the designer of the Radio-in-a-Box for UNESCO, which was marketed by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union. UNESCO requested Rukmin Wijemanne to design a low-cost portable radio station for the use of community broadcasters and to establish first level communications to disaster affected populations. This designer now offers many other options and improved versions.

Training and Consultancy

In a Box Innovations also offers training in various aspects of broadcasting as well as the setup and operation of its products, and consultancy.

The Role of Participatory Radio in Socio Economic Development

Radio can be a very powerful tool for community and socio-economic development as it has the power to reach a wide audience and deliver content in accessible formats, for instance using local languages. Community-based radio takes this concept further, through the involvement of the community in the management of the facility and the production of radio programmes. Communities hosting such facilities can partner with organisations to produce educational and informative radio content that supports priority development themes, for instance youth and women's development, farming and livelihoods, civic education, environment and conservation, and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters.

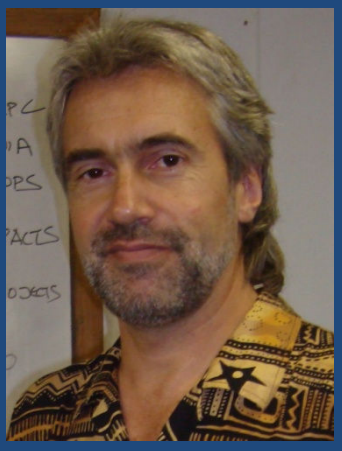
When genuine participatory community radio is married with networking and digital content sharing, the impacts and their reach and alignment with provincial and national development priorities can be amplified further. The new digital media marries very well with radio. Content can be recorded and edited locally and shared easily with a wide variety of means including mobile and other networks.

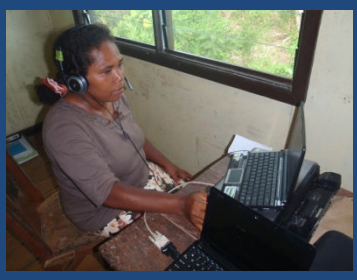
The Radio-In-A-Box solution designed by **Rukmin Wijemanne (see over)** and developed through UNESCO is the latest evolution in low-cost, user-friendly FM broadcast technology designed specifically with these development-oriented applications in mind.

In order to leverage this technology towards specific development objectives, training and capacity building for all partners involved is essential. In the Solomon Islands, Leeming Consulting can provide a complete supply and support solution for organisations and programmes wishing to put into action the power of community radio, including supply and support of Radio-In-A-Box technology, training for participatory content development and digital audio production, networking, partner coordination and project management. The company also have expertise in innovative rural power solutions to support the broadcast facilities.

David Leeming, Principal Consultant of Leeming Consulting (also trading as Solomon Islands Rural Link) has 15 years of development experience in the Solomon Islands and region. Specialising in **ICT for Development and Education**, David has played a leading role in digital divide and MDG-related rural networking initiatives since 1999, including the People First Network, Distance Learning Centres Project, Marovo and Isabel learning networks and the regional One Laptop per Child programme. He has consulted and collaborated with agencies such as UNDP, UNESCO, ITU, Commonwealth of Learning, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the European Union.

(pictured right) Since 2009, Leeming Consulting has been partnering with Commonwealth of Learning, Isabel Province, and others including the Ministry of Health, to develop youth and health learning programmes using networked community FM radio. This model can be applied to many other sectors and issues. (The low-cost RICS VSAT solution, pictured, is an ideal match).





David Leeming

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