

MAPPING DIGITAL MEDIA: ***Broadcasting, Journalism, and Activism in India*** a Public Consultation

Recently, India decided to make digitalize distribution of television signals across India in a phased manner. The phenomenon of digitalization is now common across the world, from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe, where citizens are entering the fully digital broadcast world.

While there may be perceived benefits of the 'digital switchover' in terms of freeing up spectrum, increase in quality of signals and so on, the full impact of digitalization on plurality, diversity, ownership of media and content is yet to be comprehended fully.

The Mapping Digital Media project examines the progress of digitization and its impact on the values and principles that underpins the Open Society Foundations' work on media and communications. It is so far, the most extensive investigation of today's media landscapes undertaken by any nongovernmental organization.

The project includes analysis and research from around the world on how digitization is changing media output, media freedom and citizen's access to quality news and information. The India report is available for free download at <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/mapping-digital-media-india> and contains key assessments on the impact of digitization on the Indian media landscapes.

As organizations closely involved in contributing to this report, Alternative Law Forum, Maraa and the Centre for Internet and Society are organizing a **public consultation on Mapping Digital Media in India, on October 27th 2013, at the Bangalore International Centre**. The consultation will specifically focus on three sections of the India report, i.e. impact of digitization on media with respect to laws, policies and regulators; activism and journalism.

While the report itself is quite comprehensive, this one-day public consultation will focus specifically on journalism, cable operators, television and radio (excluding public broadcasters). We are inviting reputed media lawyers, researchers, journalists, activists and other media professionals to respond to the India report. A short note and tentative agenda is enclosed with this background note.

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