



Journalists in St Vincent and The Grenadines Receive Election Training

April 28, 2010 – Journalists from the print and broadcast media of St Vincent and the Grenadines benefited from training in the coverage of elections from an ACM team, the country's ACM Focal Point, Theresa Daniel, and Supervisor of Elections, Sylvia Findlay on April 24, 2010.

The training included areas such as the management of the electoral process, covering elections as a journalistic assignment, the media and democracy and media best practice at election time.

ACM President Wesley Gibbings and veteran Trinidad and Tobago journalists, Lennox Grant and Raoul Pantin led the training sessions. Ms Findlay provided an overview of the requirements of the country's Representation of the People Act.

She also explained some of the key issues that often arise linked to voter requirements on election day, the activities of journalists at polling stations, the jurisdiction of elections officers and what the law says about dual citizenship.

Gibbings admonished participants to remain aware of the role journalists play in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process. He said the media were engaged in a compact with citizens in which, in exchange for recognition of press freedom, the media contribute toward the development of the democratic process and the achievement of social cohesion and peace.

More than 25 journalists benefited from the training. The Election Handbook for Caribbean Journalists published by the ACM and edited by Grant and Gibbings was also launched. It was the latest in a series of such events that have now been staged in Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Similar training and a launch of the Handbook take place in Suriname on April 29 and 30, organised by the Union of Surinamese Journalists.