

Section III

Networks

Radio networks for exchanging information and programming have been around almost as long as broadcast radio itself. Networks not only offer an economic advantage, since spreading the cost of programme production across several radio stations reduces the cost to each station, but they also permit a better and more complete service for listeners, incorporating, for example, national and international news and providing a distribution channel for third party programs. Until very recently the only infrastructure within the grasp of independent radio stations in less-industrialised countries was the slow and notoriously unreliable postal system. The arrival of the Internet has brought new possibilities with it.



The chapters in this section are case studies of three Internet-enabled radio networking projects: one national, one regional, and one global.

Awakening from the Big Sleep, by Martin Hala and Santoso, tells the story of Radio 68H, a news network that links radio stations in Indonesia, a country that presents a variety of challenges to any communication projects, not least because it is an archipelago made up of 17,000 islands that are home to 200 million people.

Based in Quito, Ecuador, the *Agencia Informativa Púlsar* was the first major initiative to link independent radio stations via the Internet. At its peak, this Latin American service reached 800 radio stations. Bruce Girard's chapter explains how and why the agency was set up.

Moving to the global level, Francesca Silvani's chapter, *InterWorld Radio: The kind of thing that connects you to the world*, describes a free, English language, daily news and audio feature service for radio stations provided by the Panos Institute and OneWorld International.