

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP
MALAYSIAN PRESS INSTITUTE
November 15-17, 2011
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Written on November 17, 2011 by journalists from Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Namibia and Brunei attending the one-month International Journalism Fellowship sponsored by the Malaysian Press Institute in Kuala Lumpur.

Preamble:

We, as journalists actively participating in the IJF 2011 program, and fully aware of our public service responsibilities in our respective countries, hereby resolve to carry out our daily work according to best practices of journalism as outlined below.

These principles are written to remind us of the standards of reporting that our communities and profession hold us to.

In declaring our commitment to honest, fair and responsible conduct in gathering news and telling stories with religious implications, we resolve to:

1. Develop our knowledge and broaden our experience of the different faith groups in our respective country.
2. Where appropriate, immerse in different faith communities to enhance our understanding of and sensitivity to their beliefs and values.
3. Emphasise on the commonalities of values and beliefs among different religions.
4. Report notions of 'truth' as understood, interpreted and practised by believers of different faith groups.
5. Inform and be informed on comparative religions.
6. Adhere to the principles of fairness, accuracy, transparency and thoroughness in reporting about religion.
7. Be critically aware of the consequences of angles and frames we choose to apply in writing religion-related stories on different faith groups.
8. Be thoroughly careful with our choice of words when referring to followers of different faiths, and to constantly question if the report may offend or enlighten the public.
9. Avoid mentioning religious affiliation when it is not relevant to the story, for example in criminal cases.
10. Ensure our personal beliefs and faith do not influence our interpretation of other religious events and issues.
11. Be open minded, willing to listen, observe and learn about different religions from the followers and religious leaders so as to be effective in our work.
12. Always remain curious and dig deeper for potential stories.
13. Emphasise on fostering inter-faith relations and dialogue.

ENDS