The future of journalism council at the World Economic Forum councils meeting in Dubai came up with a compelling statement on how networked journalism is the way forward for the global news media. In previous posts I outlined the debate and the final statement of the group. This post outlines the concrete proposal that the council came up with to do something about it.

We believe that there is already a mind-shift emerging in the way that journalism operates. Journalism is no longer the sole preserve of the news professional but now operates in a networked information ecosystem based on public participation and connectivity. This new paradigm recognises new principles that build on traditional journalism values such as holding power to account and striving for objectivity. Journalism that embraces the power of networking promotes principles of collaboration, constructive debate and public engagement. We believe this is good for the business of journalism and vital for improving the state of the world.

We propose to leverage the council’s network to promote this change and its public purpose.

We will take the Dubai Journalism Council statement on Networked Journalism to a series of news media conferences around the world: Bonn, Abu Dhabi, Beijing, Yaounde, Paolo Alto, Washington DC, Almaty. These sessions will look at the range of gaps that need to be addressed:

- Education: news literacy, skills, training
- Finance: business models, support for innovation
- Legislation: enabling regulation and protection

Each session will seek to:

- inspire creative applied thinking among professional journalists
- encourage new ways of interacting with the public
- recognising new independent sources of networked news in the civil society, government and business sectors

Each session will include citizen and professional media innovators. We will record the discussions including case studies, models, themes and issues that are raised. This will be presented as a report back to WEF Dubai 2010 with a reward for that recognises outstanding examples of how networked journalism can have positive impacts both on the news media and the society it serves.

© Copyright 2014 London School of Economics and Political Science