

Rwandan journalist speaks about radio broadcast since the genocide

Ottawa, Ontario November 10, 2009 – Radio broadcast played a powerful and destructive tool during the Rwandan genocide, but what of its impact since then?

This Saturday November 14th, Rwandan radio journalist Jean Paul Ntezimana will be presenting in association with Ottawa-based charity Farm Radio International. The session will take place during World University Service of Canada's 63rd Annual General Assembly at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 101 Lyon Street, Ottawa. Jean Paul is an award-winning script writer and partner with Farm Radio International, which works with African broadcasters to deliver agricultural extension information to farmers by the cheap and effective medium of radio.

The session titled, "Radio and Development in Rwanda since the Genocide: A perspective based on experience with Radio Salus," will explore the Ntezimana's personal experiences with Radio Salus, a university station that broadcasts to 90 per cent of Rwanda.

Jean Paul has been involved with Farm Radio International since 2008 when he was the overall winner of a scriptwriting competition on farmers' strategies for adapting to climate change and he continues to write entertaining radio scripts. He also acted as an online facilitator for African broadcasters participating in two distance education courses offered by Farm Radio.

Jean Paul says that because of his farming roots, he is especially grateful for his partnership with Farm Radio International which has allowed him to learn from and interact with other African farmers and broadcasters.

Ntezimana is born and raised in Rwanda and holds a degree from the School of Journalism and Communication at the National University of Rwanda. He began his work with Radio Salus in 2005 when he initiated the agricultural radio program and co-produced the environmental radio program. Currently, he coordinates a radio program for farmers about land conflicts with Search for Common Ground in Rwanda, an NGO that aims to help communities deal with conflicts in a constructive way.

For more information please visit: www.farmradio.org.

About Farm Radio International: Founded in 1979, Farm Radio International is a Canadian charity with the mission of supporting broadcasters to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities in Africa. Farm Radio International researches and produces radio scripts on rural development issues and distributes them to over 320 radio broadcasters who interpret and use the scripts to provide their listeners with practical information about farming, land management, health and other issues. Farm Radio International also develops training opportunities; researches farm radio strategies and facilitates networking among and between broadcasters.

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