**Foreign Correspondence and News Agency Journalism**

**Course Code CMS 304**

**WEEK ONE: Concept. What is Foreign Correspondence?**

Correspondence literally means the exchange of information; news etc. Foreign correspondence therefore, involves the exchange of news, information etc. amongst nations and nationals of different countries and facilitated by international (journalists) correspondents who represent their various media organizations in those nations.

Foreign correspondence entails the processes involved in the coverage, gathering and dissemination of international news and information around the globe. In international correspondence, newsgathering and dissemination goes beyond the particular correspondents house style handed down to him/her. The issue of international relations and diplomacy must be given due consideration for successful operations. In international correspondence, language, culture and other indigenous factors play significant roles in what eventually comes out as world news through such processes.

**WHO IS A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE**

* A journalist who reports and files stories from a foreign country
* Works for a newspaper, television or radio station
* May be freelance journalists who work for a number of different news organisations.
* This type of journalist reports on news of an international significance
* Providing context and a different perspective on the story.

A correspondent is a seasoned, professional reporter who covers a particular beat for his organization.

A correspondent is a beat reporter and is very knowledgeable in his/her area of coverage.

He could also be referred to as a specialist reporter or an expert in his area of coverage or beat.

He/she is contrasted with the generalist or roving reporter.

A correspondent is usually in charge of his/her organization’s news bureau or office in major cities or towns where his organization operates.

He also is called a bureau chief; Head, London bureau etc.

A correspondent may be stationed in a bureau because he knows so much about the place and he can also be sent out to different stations based on the subject of interest, because he is very knowledgeable in such area. For example, CNN’s Berlin correspondent is in Berlin because he/she understands Berlin (culture, 6 language etc.) very well, while the CNN’s war correspondent can be sent to Berlin in an outbreak of war in that area. is a British-Iranian journalist and television host. Amanpour is the Chief International Anchor for CNN and host of CNN International's nightly interview program Amanpour.

A foreign news correspondent is a journalist who is responsible for reporting news from another country. This may mean covering anything from wars to politics to living conditions and attitudes in this country. Foreign correspondents are the public's eyes and ears across the globe. Unlike other journalists, the correspondent's audience is often not near enough to witness the events for themselves. Correspondents may be the public's only source of information about the events in a foreign country. Foreign correspondence is a challenging career with a potential for travel, excitement and a lot of hard work.

**Duties of a Foreign Correspondent**

* Gather and analyze events of international importance, and write news stories for newspapers, magazines, and radio and television broadcasts
* Once the news has been gathered, foreign correspondents prepare reports and review the copy for errors in grammar, punctuation, content, and accuracy
* Interviewing people in a range of different circumstances
* Building contacts to maintain a flow of news, for example, police and emergency services, local council, community groups, health trusts, press officers from a variety of organisations, the general public, etc
* Seeking out and investigating stories via your contacts, press releases and other media
* Attending press conferences and asking questions
* Attending a variety of events, such as council meetings, magistrates' court proceedings, football matches, talent contests, etc
* Reacting to breaking news stories
* Recording interviews and meetings using shorthand or technical equipment
* 'Live' online reporting or real-time blogging when covering important events - a growing area of work

***Some other points to note about Foreign Correspondents***

A foreign correspondent is a journalist who is responsible for reporting news from another country. This may mean covering anything from wars to politics to living conditions and attitudes in this country. "Foreign correspondents do all kinds of work," says Maria Trombly. She's a foreign correspondent living in Shanghai. "They cover politics, business, technology, energy and conflicts -- every kind of beat imaginable."

Foreign correspondents are the public's eyes and ears across the globe. Unlike other journalists, the correspondent's audience is often not near enough to witness the events for themselves. Correspondents may be the public's only source of information about the events in a foreign country.

The correspondent's job is to observe the events as objectively as possible. They record the facts accurately by interviewing people related to the incident, by researching public records or by observing the event as it happens.

They must then convey this information clearly in an article for newspaper or magazine or for broadcast on radio or television news. Sometimes they have to report live on TV! Working hours vary. Trombly says that some journalists work during the day from 9 to 5. She works from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and then again in the evening. "That's because a lot of my sources and all of my editors are in the U.S.," she explains.

Foreign correspondents must be curious and inquisitive. They must be interested in world events. Experts say there are a lot of ups and downs in this job. Some of the best things are being able to travel to exciting places, meet new people and experience a new culture. Some of the worst things are culture shock, homesickness, moving away from family and friends, long hours and difficulty establishing contacts. Young journalists face the same challenges as those starting out back home, plus extra ones. "They are usually in way over their heads at their first jobs here," Trombly comments. Cultural differences, learning a new language and customs and being far away from their support systems pose challenges.

Picking up on the rules and mannerisms of a new culture can be essential to getting the right information.

An ability to speak the local language is also helpful, but many correspondents work with interpreters.

There are a number of ways an individual can work in this field. Many correspondents do freelance work. That means they sell articles they have written while they are in a certain country to news organizations like a TV station or newspaper. Some correspondents apply for grants, which pay for them to report from a foreign country. Others are employed as full-time foreign correspondents for news organizations. Trombly suggests starting as a freelance foreign correspondent. "It guarantees that you get to go overseas," she says. "Some start their careers by working for local English-language publications and cover local news," explains Trombly. For example, many new journalists in Shanghai write restaurant reviews and lifestyle pieces for local magazines for foreigners living in Shanghai.

It can take a lot of work to get established as a foreign correspondent. "Foreign correspondent is not an entry-level job, but a very specialized field within journalism," said Martin Regg Cohn, the foreign editor of the Toronto Star. "It's a job you are promoted into after years of service in a newsroom." Foreign correspondence is a challenging career with a potential for travel, excitement and a lot of hard work.

The work can be dangerous. "Some is dangerous. Some isn't," comments Trombly. In the mid-nineties, Trombly was in Chechnya and Afghanistan. "That was pretty dangerous," she remarks.

**Qualification of a Foreign Correspondent**

* A degree in journalism or communications.
* Internships and work on local newspapers or television stations
* Contacts back home to submit stories
* Assignments with editors before moving to a foreign country: its work not fun
* Bilingual and photography skills
* Knowledge of the country of assignments: He must be knowledgeable in international affairs and relations as well as diplomacy
* He must posses all the qualities of a normal reporter: nose for news, at alert, courageous and fearless, keep contact, organised

**Types of News Covered By Foreign Correspondents**

* International news
* New media sources and online blogs.
* Breaking story
* Specialized areas such as health, religion, politics, consumer affairs, science, and entertainment.
* War reporting or disaster reporting
* Work on stories in conjunction with a foreign bureau
* on-the-scene reporting

**WEEK TWO & THREE: Accreditation issues, the cultural environments, Dos and Don’ts, navigating the international scene**.

**Preparations you will make before leaving your home country**

**Immigration requirement**

**Immigration Requirements**

* Accreditation by the home country
* Accreditation by the foreign country
* Residential permit from the host country: the host country is the country the FC is coming to work
* Valid traveling documents
* Pass background check
* Registration at the embassy
* Registration with international press corps

**Survey of the international scene**

* Knowledge of map (a visual representation of an area) reading,
* Reading about the geography of the country of assignment before leaving home country,
* Knowing about the different states in the country of assignment,
* Identifying important landmarks (a recognisable natural or man-made feature used for navigation) in the different states on the map,
* Knowing how to use the map to navigate your way around the country

**Government system**

* Knowledge of government or political science will help in understanding the system of government,
* Knowing the system of government operated by the country of assignment,
* Parliamentary system of government,
* Presidential system of government, Federal, Monarchical, anarchical,
* Studying the local government,
* Studying the state government,
* Studying the federal government

**Political Parties**

* Political history of country of assignment,
* Different political parties,
* Knowing major politicians,
* knowing the parties in power,
* Parties that have ruled the country,
* Electoral system and practices

**Economic system**

* Knowledge of economics will go a long way in helping to know about the economic system of the country of assignment, Capitalist economy, Socialist economy, Welfarist economy, Different economic policies in the country of assignment,
* Different economic programmes, Social security, Unemployment benefits, and disability benefits

**Entertainment**

* Knowing the history of entertainment in the country of assignment, Nollywood in case of Nigeria, Hollywood in case of USA, Bollywood, Ghollywood,
* The center of entertainment in the country of assignment, Lagos in case of Nigeria, California in case USA knowing the beat you are reporting well,
* Knowing the celebrities,
* Knowing different entertainment activities

**Cultural Environments**

* Geography of the country of assignment,
* Different seasons,
* Seasonal Dressings,
* Language and usage,
* Courtesy among the people,
* the law of the land

**Dos and Don’ts**

* Taking safety precautions
* What to say
* What not to say
* How to say it
* Driving culture
* Walking culture
* Dressing culture

**Navigating the International Scene**

* Reading the map
* Understanding the transportation systems
* Road, sea, railway and air
* Different weather in the country
* Different mode of dressing
* Where to go
* Where not to go
* When to go there

**WEEK FIVE: Challenges of foreign correspondents: Language barrier cost of operation, cultural issues, political problems, wars and ripples**.

* **Language Barrier**

Language spoken in the country of assignment will definitely pose challenge. Foreign correspondents must therefore have at least a working knowledge of the language of the country of assignment. It is advisable that those seeking career as foreign correspondents know international languages. This can be acquired while in school or working as a curb reporter

* **Cost of Operation**

Several media organisations have shut down foreign bureaus and recalled their international correspondents because of the economic circumstances. With the advent of social media and envious contributions by citizen journalists, bloggers and local stringers, the coverage of foreign news in the western media has not come to a total end. The glorious institution of foreign correspondence is losing the battle for its survival to economic meltdown. Citizen journalism now made it easy without foreign correspondents

* **Cultural Issues**

Understanding the culture of the people of the country of assignment is very paramount. This can be acquired through extensive reading about the country of assignment. It can also be acquired by living in the country of assignment. These cultural issues may include ways of life of the people, the food they eat, dos and don’ts. A foreign correspondent will do better in a familiar cultural environment

* **Political Problems**

Political instability will definitely affect the operations of foreign correspondence. In a stable polity, foreign correspondence will definitely thrive. But where there is political upheaval, operation of foreign correspondence will be affected. While in a peaceful society, foreign correspondents will operate freely. Foreign correspondents are always at a very great risk during political problems. They can be arrested, detained or asked to leave the country of assignment during political problem

* **Wars and Ripples**

Ripples and wars can prevent the operation of foreign correspondents. Foreign correspondents do take the risk of covering war zones and ripples but they must be knowledgeable in war reporting. It is advisable that foreign correspondents take caution while covering wars and ripples in the country of assignment. Many news bureaus are often closed during wars for the safety of the foreign correspondents. But the news must be reported regardless of whether there is war or ripples

**WEEK SIX: News Agency Journalism: What is News agency Journalism? News agency in the Global North, News Agency in the global south?**

For any media organization, It is practically impossible, whether local, national or international, to have enough staffs, who cover the nook and cranny of the chosen markets. That is one of the reasons why media depend on other sources of news such as news agency. News can be bought or exchanged based on the agreement between the parties involved. Since a medium cannot effectively function independently, it requires that such medium rely on news agency to fulfill all righteousness.

Simply, a news agency is an organization of journalists established to supply news reports to news organizations: newspapers, magazines, radio and television broadcasters. Such an agency may also be referred to as a wire service, newswire, or news service. The oldest news agency is Agence France-Presse (AFP). It was founded in 1835 by a Parisian translator and advertising agent, Charles-Louis Havas as Agence Havas. Two of his employees, Paul Julius Reuter and Bernhard Wolff, later set up rival news agencies in London and Berlin respectively. In 1865, Reuter and Wolff signed agreements with Havas's sons, forming a cartel designating exclusive reporting zones for each of their agencies within Europe. Reuters, founded in 1851, continues to operate as a major international news agency today. Guglielmo Stefani founded the Agenzia Stefani, which became the most important press agency in Italy from the mid-19th century to World War II, in Turin in 1853. In 1924, Benito Mussolini placed Agenzia Stefani under the direction of Manlio Morgagni, who expanded the agency's reach significantly both within Italy and abroad. Agenzia Stefani was dissolved in 1945, and its technical structure and organization were transferred to the new Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA).

News agency, also called press agency, press association, wire service, or news service, organization that gathers, writes, and distributes news from around a nation or the world to newspapers, periodicals, radio and television broadcasters, government agencies, and other users. It does not generally publish news itself but supplies news to its subscribers, who, by sharing costs, obtain services they could not otherwise afford. All the mass media depend upon the agencies for the bulk of the news, even including those few that have extensive news-gathering resources of their own.

A news agency is an organization of journalists established to supply news reports to organizations in the news trade: newspapers, magazines, and radio and television broadcasters. They are also known as wire services or news services. A news agency can also mean an organization of journalists established to supply news reports to news organizations: newspapers, magazines, and radio and television broadcasters. Such an agency may also be referred to as a wire service, newswire or news service.

A news agency is an organization aimed at distributing news for customers, generally media outlets, and not to the public. It is up to their clients - newspapers, broadcasters, magazines, websites - to edit and publish these news in their final form to the general public. A news agency gathers news (mainly from other media in the countries where they have offices), sends them to their central newsroom, and only then redirects them to their subscribers. Many news agencies also provide news to corporate and individual subscribers such as banks, insurance companies, consulting firms and alike. Most news agencies in the world are state-owned, and the vast majority of them are unprofitable.

You often notice abbreviations such as PTI, AP, AFP, DPA in news reports. Have you ever wondered what these abbreviations stand for or why newspapers publish them?

It will probably surprise you that these are some of the most powerful and trusted names in news business. Some of them like Reuters have been in existence since the nineteenth century. However, few are aware of their reach or existence. The media knows them as news agencies, wire services or news wires. They do not own physical properties such as newspapers or television channels. But they generate news for all forms of media. Their subscribers include newspapers, magazines, radio stations, television networks and now news sites. In fact, their subscribers exist beyond the news industry. The government buys news services; so do several academic institutions. The reason for this: news agencies are the best, fastest and most accurate source of news. They have been under pressure recently, especially in the west where several newspapers have either shut down or have gone in for cost cutting. But they still have some of the best journalists on their rolls. Their subscriber list and their range of stories is still very impressive.

**Features of news agencies**

The news agencies have a very rigorous work ethic, and ensure that their reporters and editors follow the rules religiously. The reason for this is not hard to understand. The news agency reports are used by hundreds of subscribers across the world. They cannot make mistakes.

Unlike a newspaper where a correction can be carried the next morning, the news agencies have to send corrections to hundreds of subscribers. Imagine the disruption one mistake can cause. Hundreds of papers, radio stations and TV channels will be required to amend the error. They will surely not be kind to the news agency that has put them to such pain.

The following are some of the characteristics that are common to all news agencies or wire services:

* **Speed**: The news agencies work against the clock. Each minute is a deadline for them. Some newspaper somewhere in the world is being put to bed; some TV channel is getting ready to air its next bulletin. The news agencies can’t wait. They must transmit their report at the earliest.
* **Neutral and fact-based**: The news agencies don’t take sides. Their reports are factual, and free of bias. Even the news analysis has to be based on concrete evidence. There is no kite flying, insinuations or ambiguities in their reports.
* **Sourcing**: The news agency reporter is taught from day one that every report must be sourced. The news must be attributed to an individual, an official or an organisation. Reports that are not sourced have to go through the wringer. Senior editors check and cross-check each point before they allow such reports to be transmitted.
* **Nonstop flow of information** ("real time")
* **Centralizing structure** (no local offices have any autonomy, but depend on the headquarters newsroom)
* **Mediation** (they serve as intermediaries between the media organization and masses and sell news to media, not directly to audiences)
* **Client-orientation** (they model their services after what their subscribers expect, even when it means bias or bypassing journalistic values)
* **They translate their news** (or translation, because news agencies translate news from other languages into their own clients' language all the time)
* **They are global in nature (Globality/anti-locality)** (most news agencies run only what they feel to have an interest to global audiences, not news concerning just local issues; they avoid sticking to neighbourhood topics)
* **Dependence on external sources** (most correspondents for news agencies cannot manage to gather all news in the area they cover, so they regularly resort to news already carried by their local media, sometimes to the point of copying and pasting the original text)
* **Contents complementarity** (news agencies provide not only 'news' per se, but also feature stories, interviews, background articles, opinion pieces, analysis, lists, tables, raw data, ratings, charts, transcriptions and many other material which might be useful for journalists in their respective newsrooms)
* **Textuality** (or "monomodality", meaning that the vast majority of news agencies work only with text, not pictures nor sound)

**Revenue model**

Today, the cost of news generation is prohibitive. News agencies need trained and experienced reporters in all state capitals, and in several world capitals too. They have to pay small fortunes to telecom companies to transmit news. There is also overheads like rentals, calling costs and several other sundry expenses. So, how do they make money?

News agencies use two models to generate revenue.

**Model 1**: The subscription amount is based on the circulation of the newspaper. The subscription fee paid by small and medium newspapers is much less as compared to the subscription fee paid by large and multi-edition newspapers. This way the costs are spread, and the news agencies can build a large subscriber base.

**Model 2**: The news agencies have introduced several categories of news services. The base service is priced at a minimal rate. However, only a limited number of stories are sold under this head.

The full service is priced much higher but then the range of stories is much more. Separate fees are charged for photographs and infographics. Here too, the news agencies use slab rates. The more you pay the more photographs you get.

The arrival of news websites has opened one more revenue source for news services. They now charge a separate fee for use of wire service reports or photographs on the net. News services like AP, AFP, ANI and Reuters also have a multimedia service where news videos are also provided.

**International wire services**

The news service business is dominated by three news agencies – Associated Press (AP), which is based in the US, Agence France Presse (AFP), which is based in France, and Thomson Reuters (earlier Reuters), whose headquarters have now shifted to Canada.

Besides this, almost every nation has its own wire service. These are not powerful outside their parent countries. Some of these news services that are available in India are: Tass (Russia), Xinhua (Chinese), DPA (Germany) and Kyodo News (Japan).

**Advantages of news agencies**

* extensive global network
* fast circulation
* easier circulation
* assist the media, help to journalist: also many newspapers that can't send their journalists around the world manage to get coverage with a subscription.
* versatile
* not bound by location,
* they are highly economical.
* Wider reach

**Disadvantages of news agencies**

* Same news
* Over dependence
* unfortunately eyewitness journalism dies little by little
* some journalist blindly accept whatever they are spoonfed and forget to investigate further to relay accurate news to readers.

**Ownership and Control of News Agencies**

News agencies can be corporations that sell news (e.g. Reuters and Agence FrancePress (AFP)), cooperatives composed of newspapers that share their articles with each other (e.g. AP), or commercial newswire services which charge organizations to distribute their news (e.g. Business Wire, CSRWire Canada, uff Strategy, the Hugin Group, Market Wire and PR Newswire). Governments may also control news agencies, particularly in authoritarian states, like China (Xinhua). Australia, Britain, Canada, Russia (ITAR-TASS) and many other countries also have government-funded news agencies. A recent rise in internet- based alternative news agencies as a component of the larger alternative media have emphasized a "non-corporate view" that is independent of the pressures of business media. Other agencies work cooperatively with large media companies, generating their news centrally and sharing local news stories the major news agencies may chose to pick up and redistribute (i.e. AP, Agence France-Presse (AFP) or American Press Agency (APA)). Commercial newswire services charge businesses to distribute their news (e.g. Business Wire, the Hugin Group, Globe Newswire, Marketwire, PR Newswire, PR Web, PR NewsChannel, CisionWire, and ABN Newswire).

**Conclusion and some points to note**

News agency is a make-easy avenue through which news and information are garnered and sold or shared across interested media for easier circulation. It is a media-assist industry and its functions are much felt in the media industry, both national and international. National news agencies are as many as nation-states but those that are of international weight are few and belong to the first world countries. They are strong with wider network perhaps because of their long histories

* The oldest news agency is Agence France-Presse (AFP). It was founded in 1835 by a Parisian translator and advertising agent, Charles-Louis Havas as Agence Havas.
* Two of his employees, Paul Julius Reuter and Bernhard Wolff, later set up rival news agencies in London and Berlin respectively.
* In 1865, Reuter and Wolff signed agreements with Havas's sons, forming a cartel designating exclusive reporting zones for each of their agencies within Europe.
* Reuters, founded in 1851, continues to operate as a major international news agency today.
* Guglielmo Stefani founded the Agenzia Stefani, which became the most important press agency in Italy from the mid-19th century to World War II, in Turin in 1853.
* In 1924, Benito Mussolini placed Agenzia Stefani under the direction of Manlio Morgagni, who expanded the agency's reach significantly both within Italy and abroad.
* Agenzia Stefani was dissolved in 1945, and its technical structure and organization were transferred to the new Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA).

Reference

AGUIAR & REGO, 2009.

**WEEK SEVEN:** Role and scope of news agency: Up to date news delivery, types of news agency-local and international

**Role of news agencies**

**To deliver up-to-date, impartial and well written news.**

This requires continuous revision of stories. To keep intact as much of each original story as possible, so that material already set in type may be retained. The result is that a basic story will be revised many times in bits ranging from an inserted phrase to a few paragraphs. Generally, only the most timeless features and insignificant sidebars are moved in single neat packages that “stand” for an entire transmission cycle. The stories are revised several times in order to correct errors, add the latest information and improve emphasis, readability and brightness.

News agency has its own sources of news including its separate reporting section and foreign based correspondents. A separate newsroom performs the selection and editing process under the supervision of desk in charge and shift in charge. News agency’s writers and editors usually work under time pressure. News agencies have main trunk distribution circuits running across the country. In the present situation, where electronic media is on top the role and scope of news agencies is increasing. The print and electronic media is also increasing their reporters, but for the international news, they rely on news agencies. Foreign and local news agencies are increasing their sources and appointing professionals to explore the world of news.

**The major news agencies generally prepare hard news stories and feature articles** that can be used by other news organizations with little or no modification, and then sell them to other news organizations. **They provide these articles in bulk electronically through wire services** (originally they used telegraphy; today they frequently use the Internet). Corporations, individuals, analysts and intelligence agencies may also subscribe. Internet-based alternative news agencies as a component of the larger alternative media emphasizes a "non-corporate view" that is independent of the pressures of corporate media, business media and government-generated news and releases. As the news agencies are the first source of news in the early days of life of newspaper and with the passage of time, the print and electronic media is growing faster, however the reliance on the news agencies are somehow still there.

News agencies are working on quantitative policy; they have agreement with the newspaper’s management against each news or bulk news.

In some cases the authenticity of the news is doubtful. But still, news agencies play a vital role in the modern media.

On the other hand, to get a news from the government department, the role of news agency which is government owned agency is very important. For the international news, they play a major role.

**How News Agencies Operate**

News agencies generally prepare hard news stories and feature articles that can be used by other news organizations with little or no modification, and then sell them to other news organizations. They provide these articles in bulk electronically through wire services (originally they used telegraphy; today they frequently use the Internet). Corporations, individuals, analysts and intelligence agencies may also subscribe. The business need for wire services to produce reports acceptable to the largest number of clients possible is largely credited for the move away from an openly partisan press toward more objectivity in journalism.

**Forms of News Agency**

There are three major forms of news agency:

a. National News Agencies

b. Regional News Agencies

c. International News Agencies

**a. National News Agencies**

There are numerous news agencies that operate on national level. Some are established and funded by the governments of the country involved while some others are established and funded by corporate bodies. Many governments establish news agencies not only to aid the media system and performance but also to have certain control of the media and monitor media activities. Examples of National News

Agencies are:

i. News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)

ii.Ghana News Agency

**National news agencies perform the following functions:**

1. Sell both national and international news and photo news to the mass media in the country in which they operate.

2. Represent the media of the country at international level or events

3. Exchange news and information with other mass media

4. Sometimes act as intermediary between government or its policies and other mass media

5. Acts as archive of national historical news and information where new media can source for historical news

**b. Regional News Agency**

Regional news agency occurs when some country within a region of a particular continent come together to establish news agency to cater for the interest of the region in term of information and communication advantage. If a news agency care for the interest of West African countries, such news agency is regional in function. Besides national news agencies which are on country bases, majority of others are regional news agency. Some of the regional news agencies are so big that they are regarded as international news agencies. Examples of regional news agencies are:

i. Pan-African News Agency (PANA)

ii. MENA

**Regional news agencies perform similar functions with national news agencies such as:**

1. Sell both regional and international news and photo news to the mass media of the countries within the region.

2. Represent the mass media in the region at international level or events

3. Exchange news and information with the mass media within the region

4. Sometimes act as intermediary between governments of the country within the region

5. Acts as archive of international historical news upon which national news agencies depend.

**c. International News Agencies**

International news agencies are those whose operations are not limited by national or regional boundaries. Although some of them are sponsored and influenced by the governments of the world power, their operations are made to believe free of political influences and economic dictates. International news agencies are not responsible to media of a particular region, they serve all base on transaction agreement.

In the realm of international news, US/UK –based media organizations produced and distribute much of the world‘s news and current affairs output. From international news agencies to global newspapers and radio stations, from providers of television news footage to 24- hour news and documentary channels, the US/UK presence seems to be overwhelming.

**International news agencies perform the following functions:**

1. Cover and sell local, regional and international news including photos news of interest to international audience to international and regional media.

2. Exchange news and information with the mass media all over the world

3. Acts as archive of international historical news upon which national news agencies depend.

**Evaluation of the dominant transnational news agencies from the Global North and assess the role of tri-continental news agency in fostering cooperation and development in Global South.**

There are broadly two economic worlds that cut across the globe, these are the Global North and the Global South. **The Global North represent** the economically developed societies of Europe, North America, Australia, Israel, South Africa, amongst others while **the Global South represents** the economically backward countries of Africa, India, China, Brazil, Mexico amongst others. While Global North countries are wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable and aging as their societies tend towards zero population growth the opposite is the case with Global South countries. While Global South countries are agrarian based, dependent economically and politically on the Global North, the Global North has continued to dominate and direct the global south in international trade and politics.

'Global North' and 'global South' came into the vocabulary of comparative study on development among nations in the early 1990s. The distinguishing indicators between North and South are politics, technology, wealth and demography (Odeh, 2010). According to the author, the global North refers to developed societies of Europe and North America, which are characterised by established democracy, wealth, technological advancement, political stability, aging population, zero population growth and dominance of world trade and politics. ...

... According to the author, the global North refers to developed societies of Europe and North America, which are characterised by established democracy, wealth, technological advancement, political stability, aging population, zero population growth and dominance of world trade and politics. The global South represents mainly agrarian economies in Africa, India, China, Latin America and others that are not as economically sound and politically stable as their global North counterparts and tend to be characterised by turmoil, war, conflict, poverty, anarchy and tyranny (Odeh, 2010). In short, the global North is synonymous with development, while the global South is associated with underdevelopment. ...

There are three types of news agencies – the transnational or world news agency, the continental or regional news agency and the national news agency. The transnational news agencies function on world wide scale. They have a strong communication network and they maintain correspondents in all the major cities of the world. Example of transnational agencies are AP, AFP and Reuters. The continental or regional news agencies function within a continent or a region. These news agencies are not as rich as the transnational news agencies. Few examples are PTI, PANA etc. The National news agencies refer to the news agencies of an individual country. Every country in the world has at least one news agency. Examples are NAN, GNA etc.

Working from the premise of how the transnational news agencies from the Global North have contributed to the inequality and imbalance in the quality and quantity of news between these two regions, the paper argues that since the respective news agencies of the developing countries that make up the Global South do not possess the financial and technological resources as well as manpower to withstand the dominant transnational news agencies from the Global North, it becomes imperative for the Global South to pool their resources together and set up a mega and vibrant pan-Global South news agency that will not only amplify her voice in the international arena, but will also accelerate cooperation and development in the region.

Most of these roles have some consequences undesirable to the Third World Nations. Instead of facilitating the development of the poor nations of the world, studies reveal that the major news agencies by their worldwide operations are impeding the development of the under-developed counties.