

News of ABU activities and the broadcasting industry in the Asia-Pacific

ABU news

Quarter 2 2015



Administrative Council Supports new ABU initiatives

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Starts Events Programme Asiavision Member Focus ABU Matters

ABU Services Exclusive Reports

DRR

Technical Legal Sports

Programme Asiavision

Events Member Focus

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he 99th Administrative Council held last May in Xi'an, China reviewed all the activities of the Union and was highly supportive of the proposed new initiatives. We report in this edition on the progress achieved in increasing professional services to ABU members and in expanding our services to members in the Pacific and Central Asia.

"The Creative Power of Radio" was the theme of 2015 ABU RadioAsia Conference recently held in Yangon, Myanmar. This second edition of ABU News for the year presents some highlights of this conference where topics ranging from Content to Digital Radio were discussed. Once again, the ABU Radio Song Festival held every year at the same time as the conference was a great success.

We are also just three months closer to ABU General Assembly scheduled to take place from 24 to 31 October, 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey. The theme chosen this year is: "Serving Audiences – Empowering The Asia-Pacific". Final preparations are underway and over 700 members, guests, speakers and exhibitors are expected to be present in the historic Turkish capital for this Assembly and its Associated Meetings. The next edition of ABU News will feature a full account of what is planned in Istanbul, together with the official programme of events for the General Assembly and related workshops.

As usual, ABU has been very active during the last three months. China was the venue for the ABU Administrative Council in Xi'an and the ABU Sports Group Conference and will host the RadioAsia Conference and Radio Song Festival in 2016. The Union strengthened its relations and partnerships with several countries and organisations like Japan, Fiji, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Arabs States Broadcasting Union and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development.

ABU Members can also look forward to some interesting forthcoming events like the 2015 Tashkent Forum in July in Uzbekistan or Robocon in Indonesia and Pacific Media Partnership Conference in Samoa, in August. Some ABU members will also participate actively in the Public Broadcasting Institute (PBI) scheduled for next September in Germany.

New members are continuously joining bringing the total number of members to 278. These come from 68 different countries. Thus, ABU remains the biggest broadcasting organisation in the world.

Last but not least, ABU pays tribute in this edition to the Nepalese people following the devastating earthquake, which hit the country last April, including an exclusive report on how Kantipur TV journalists worked during and after the earthquake. The Union presents also its condolence to IRIB-Iran and the family of a famous Radio Presenter, Mehran Dousti, following his sudden demise last June in Tehran.

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from the editor

measat

Our Latest Masterpiece



On Points
Wassily Kandinsky

MEASAT-3b: Strengthening Asia's Most Vibrant Video Neighborhood

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52nd ABU General Assembly & Associated Meetings

24 – 31 October 2015 Istanbul, Turkey

COMMITTEES' MEETINGS			OTHER
SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER	Sports Broadcast Rights Committee Meeting	Sports Finance Committee Meeting	
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER	Sports Group Meeting	Programme Bureau Meeting	Planning & Strategy Group Meeting
MONDAY 26 OCTOBER	Sports Group Meeting	Radio Working Party	
	Technical Bureau Meeting	Programme Committee	
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER	Technical Committee	Programme Committee	Meeting of the Presidency
Wednesday 28 OCTOBER	Technical Committee	Women With the Wave Forum Series	Administrative Council (Council Members only)
		Quality Management Workshops	
GALA SHOW OF THE ABU TV SONG FESTIVAL			
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER	Bosphorus Cruise Excursion	President's News Conference	
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER	OFFICIAL OPENING OF 52ND ABU GENERAL ASSEMBLY		
	1st Plenary Session		
	2nd Plenary Session		
	3rd Plenary Session		
	Presentation of ABU Prizes		
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER	Super Panel Session: Serving Audiences – Empowering Society		
	Professional Discussion: The Spectrum Battles – Reclaiming and Retaining the Broadcasters Spectrum		
	Restricted Working Session: (Full and Additional Full Members only)		

Administrative Council supports ABU expanding services to Members

The 99th ABU Administrative Council was held in the historical city of Xi'an, China, on 15 May 2015. Hosted by RTPRC, the Admin Council meeting was chaired by the ABU President, Mr Cho Dae-hyun. In his brief address the ABU President noted that this year had marked the great success of ABU work over 50 years. From a small regional group of broadcasters 50 years ago, ABU has become a global industry leader representing its 275 members.

Welcoming the Councillors, Ms Ma Li, Director-General of International Cooperation Department of RTPRC, suggested three lines of cooperation for ABU members. Firstly, to use the "wireless bridge" to create a favourable cultural environment and build a community of shared benefits and consensus to strengthen the bond between the people of Asia-Pacific. Secondly, to deepen cooperation by taking a more innovative approach. She urged the Councillors to establish and improve bilateral and multilateral communication mechanisms to achieve more in news-gathering and reporting, content production, research and training. Thirdly, to take an open and inclusive approach to achieve a development of all Asia-Pacific countries.

The Councillors observed a minute of silence for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April. The ABU President appealed to the AC members to continue the coverage of Nepal and maintain their efforts to help the Nepalese people to overcome this great adversary.

The meeting approved the report of the Secretary-General, which covered the ABU activities since the last Admin Council in Macau in October 2014. The ABU Councillors received updated information about projects that have been launched in 2014 and



will continue to be implemented from 2016 onwards.

The Councillors reviewed the progress that has been made in increasing professional services to ABU members and expansion of service to ABU members in the Pacific and Central Asia.

The Admin Council was briefed about several new initiatives such as the Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2014 in Jakarta and the World Summit on Media for Children in September 2014 in Kuala Lumpur and the preparations for several upcoming events in 2015.

The Administrative Council members supported the direction in which the Union is going – expanding services to

members and enhancing its standing and influence internationally.

The ABU is becoming a leading force for disaster risk reduction in the Asia – Pacific through its work with UN-ESCAP on Early Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction and the growing partnership with UNISDR as a co-founder of the Film Contest on DRR in Sendai, Japan and leading the Media Stakeholder Group in the region.

ABU is also strengthening its cooperation with other unions, namely EBU and ASBU. They work together on common issues like securing spectrum for broadcasters. There is also expansion of joint activities such as the

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>> *Continued from page 7*

co-production Big Cities with EBU, and comprehensive capacity – building programme with ASBU.

The level and quality of international and regional partnership has been furthered by effective cooperation with ITU, UNESCO, UNEP and other international partners.

The Councillors looked at the future and started to draw the strategy for maintaining the relevance of ABU to its growing membership. The Administrative Council was informed about the increase in ABU membership from 192 in 2010 to 278 in 2015; increase of the AVN membership from 19 in 2010 to 29 in 2015.



The Administrative Council members were briefed about upcoming major events such as Radio Asia Conference and Radio Song Festival in Myanmar, Tashkent Media Forum in August, TV Song Festival and Women With the Wave in Istanbul. They were also informed about the hosting of the future Media Summits on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Phuket, Thailand in 2016 and Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2017, future PMPC in Samoa in 2015, Papua New Guinea in 2016 and Solomon Islands in 2017, ABU

ROBOCON in Indonesia in 2015.

The Councillors also approved the report of the Planning and Strategy Group meeting in Sendai and endorsed the tentative ABU planning and budget for the fiscal year of 2015/2016.

The Administrative Council placed on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to RTPRC and Ms Ma Li and her team for the outstanding hosting and the warm hospitality they have rendered to all ABU Councillors in Xi'an.

2016 ABU mid-year Administrative Council to be held in Fiji

The ABU Secretary-General hosted a meeting with Riyaz Sayed-khaiyum, CEO of FBC, Fiji, Geoffrey Smith, Acting CEO, Fiji TV, Nouzab Fareed, Executive Director, Fiji TV, Jacqueline Speight from FBC and representatives from the Ministry of Information in Fiji on 26 May 2015.

The 101st ABU Administrative Council will be held on 20 May 2016 in the capital of Fiji, Nadi.



Strengthening relations between ABU and CCTV



Mr Nie Chenxi, Vice Minister of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) & President of CCTV met the Secretary-General of the ABU on 8 May 2015 in Beijing. Mr Nie Chenxi and Dr Mottaghi agreed that CCTV and ABU are experiencing an important stage of development and there is a sound foundation for the two organisations to strengthen their partnership.

Mr Nie Chenxi said CCTV is willing to deepen the relation between the two organisations and to increase the participation of CCTV at various ABU events. Dr Mottaghi emphasized that CCTV is an important member of the ABU and plays an active role in international partnership and in supporting ABU's goal of developing media environment in the region. He said that the ABU was looking forward to the continued leadership of members like CCTV for progressive growth in the future.

ABU President discussed Sports with Turkmenistan President

The Korea Broadcasting System President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Cho Dae-hyun, who is also the President of ABU, held discussions with the President of Turkmenistan, Mr Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Seoul last April. They both agreed to expand exchanges and cooperation in broadcasting.

Mr Cho Dae-hyun promised to fully support the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which will be held in Turkmenistan in 2017. He also proposed that KBS World assist in technology transfer in the field of broadcasting in Turkmenistan as the Korean national broadcaster has built up an extensive experience in production and broadcasting of sports events. KBS also promised support through the Gwangju Universiade and World Military Games.



ABU Secretary-General met with H. E. Turkmenistan President in Ashgabat

Discussions focused on Sports and ABU Services

ABU Secretary-General met the President of Turkmenistan, H.E Mr Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Ashgabat on 6 April 2015. Dr Javad Mottaghi took the opportunity to inform the President about the excellent progress that has been made in partnership between ABU and Turkmenistan since 2012 when Radio and TV in Turkmenistan joined the ABU as a Full Member. Dr Mottaghi thanked the President for accepting to host the ABU General Assembly in October 2018 in Ashgabat.

ABU has offered coverage of the 2012 Olympics, the Incheon Asian and Paralympic Games and several other major sports events to Turkmenistan and Ashgabat hosted the ABU Sports Group Meeting in May 2014. However, discussions were focused on the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

in 2017 (AIMAG) in Ashgabat and Dr Mottaghi explained what the ABU can do in making the coverage of the AIMAG 2017 successful and to reach millions of audiences in the Asia-Pacific region through the ABU network.

ABU signed an agreement this March with Turkmenistan in Sendai to join Asiavision. Dr Mottaghi also informed the President that the ABU is prepared to help Turkmenistan in capacity building related to technology, programming, news and sports and support Turkmenistan Radio and TV to go digital.

During his visit to Ashgabat, ABU Secretary-General delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Ashgabat International Conference "Asiada-2017" on the role of Turkmenistan in Development of Sports for Progress and Peace.

Dr Mottaghi also met with other Turkmenistan officials including Mr Toylyev Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Mr Gulgeldiev, Chairman of the Executive Committee for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2017 (AIMAG), Chairman of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinema, senior officials in Radio and TV, Minister of Sports, Secretary-General of the National Olympic Committee, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ms Maysa Yazmuhamedova, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet Ministers of Turkmenistan who leads the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinema. The main topic in all meetings was how the ABU is planning to support and help Turkmenistan in the coverage of the AIMAG 2017 in Ashgabat.



ABU Secretary-General held fruitful talks with NHK President in Tokyo

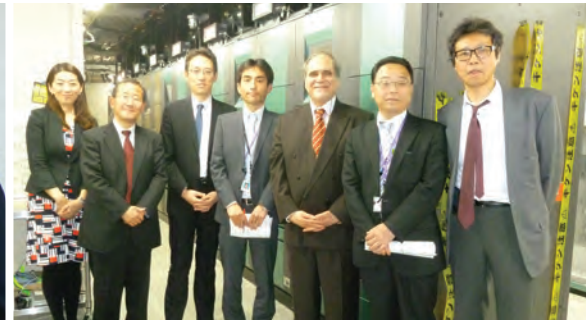
ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi met with Mr Katsuto Momii, the President of NHK in Tokyo, Japan last April and thanked him and the NHK for the support that the Japanese national broadcaster has rendered to the Union since its establishment in 1964.

Dr Mottaghi also reported on various ABU activities and initiatives within the framework of the short – term, mid- term and long – term Action Plans. Mr Akinori Hashimoto, Executive Controller, International Relations, General Broadcasting Administration, of NHK kindly organized several meetings



NHK President, Mr Katsuto Momii with ABU SG

and visits during Dr Mottaghi's stay in Tokyo. This included a meeting with Mr Yoshinori Nemoto, Managing Director, NHK World Department and his team, a meeting with ABU Robocon team, Mr Yoshihito Kuroiwa and Ms Megumi. During his meeting with the News Team, Dr Mottagui thanked Mr Kusaba-san and Ms Miho for the excellent work done in hosting the ABU Global News Forum in Sendai last March. ABU Secretary-General also visited the NHK Asivision Center to see colleagues who are circulating daily AVN News and



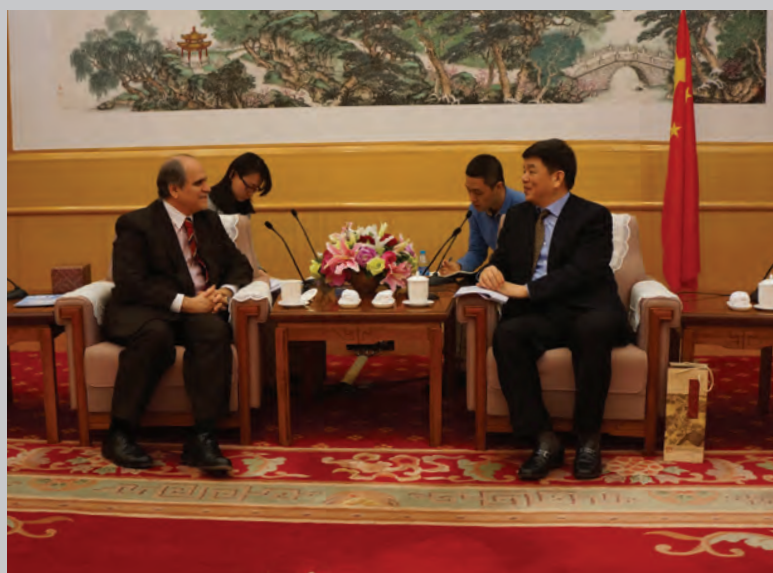
thanked Mr Ogawa-san for his good work and also for his contribution to the WBU ISOG.

During a visit at NHK Digital Archives, Dr Mottaghi was impressed by the work done by NHK in digitizing its archives in Kawaguchi. He finally expressed his special thanks to Mr Hashimoto for providing him with such a unique opportunity to visit NHK and meet with all colleagues who are partnering with ABU activities.

During his short visit in Tokyo, Dr Javad Mottaghi had also a useful meeting with Mr Jun Ogawa and Mr Hiro Usui of TBS.



Mr Yoshinori Nemoto, Managing Director, NHK World Department and his team with ABU SG



ABU-SAPPRFT Meeting

The ABU Secretary-General was in Beijing in May attending the 56th ABU Sports Group Conference. Taking the opportunity of being in the Chinese capital, Dr Javad Mottaghi met with Mr Tong Gang, Vice Minister, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China and thanked him for hosting the Administrative Council meeting in Xi'an.

Mr Tong Gang was happy with the level and quality of partnership between ABU and RTPRC and mentioned its support to enhance and increase the existing partnership.

ABU expressed Condolences and Solidarity after Nepal Earthquake

On 25 April 2015, an earthquake killed more than 8,800 people and injured more than 23,000. It was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since 1934. The earthquake also triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest killing at least 19 people. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes with entire villages flattened across many regions in the country.

On 12 May 2015, three weeks after the earthquake, a major aftershock occurred, 200 people were killed and 2,500 injured.

ABU Secretariat conveyed its deepest condolences to the citizens of Nepal who were affected by the earthquake and who have lost their loved ones, homes and belongings. Dr Javad Mottaghi recalled that the world was shocked and saddened by the devastating earthquake that has caused great damage to the peaceful and beautiful Nepal.

Devastating Earthquake in Nepal

‘The show must go on’ - By Prateebha Tuladhar

While the earth was rumbling in Kathmandu last April, journalists had no other choice but to carry on with their professional activities. No time to think about dangers or family security. Their mission was solely to inform the Nepalese people and the whole world what is happening. ABU News brings you in this edition an exclusive report on how Kantipur Television journalists were working during one of the deadliest earthquakes in the history of Nepal.



On April 25, 2015, Mridula Khanal was seated on her anchoring chair in Kantipur TV studio, at 11:56 am, preparing to present the mid-day news bulletin, when the rattling began.

“First I thought, I was probably just dizzy, then I realized the chair I was seated was shaking, too. I looked up and saw the studio lights sway and make a cracking sound, the monitor fell and the cameraman ran out,” recalls Khanal.

“I still couldn’t gather what it was. There was no command on my ear-piece so I turned around to look at the MCR (master control room) and through the glass, I could see people running.”

The next few seconds, Khanal tried to get up from her chair but she recalls the process being an extremely difficult one. Getting out of the door felt like

an impossible task and by then she realized it was an earthquake, which filled her with fright.

When she got to the MCR, she saw her colleagues huddled under the console. They decided to wait it out together. The minute-long 7.8 magnitude passed, telephone lines went dead.

In another section of the building on the fourth floor, where the daily noon-time newsroom meeting was on, people had been thrown out of their chairs in panic. Some were on the floor, some ducked, and some tried to run down the staircase.

“The first thing that hit me was the frightened faces of my colleagues. We are on the fourth-floor of one of the oldest high-rise buildings in the city. I feared the building might collapse, taking all of us down,” says Dilbhushan Pathak, the chief of Kantipur News.

As the rattling stopped, the occupants of the building managed to run down the stairs.

“Once we were out of the building, realization struck. We were on duty and now we had to deliver. And even though it had been a week since I assumed position as the head of the team, I knew I had a young team and that we needed to get out there, because we always knew Kathmandu is vulnerable,” says Pathak.

As the aftershocks came back within minutes of the first shocker, cameramen climbed up to the fourth floor and got their shooting gear out.





job is all about. We had been thrown out of the station building because of the earthquake and we had limited resources to function with maximum facilities.”

“Technically, setting up an entire studio on the street while going in and out during aftershocks is not an easy task. Besides, controlling all the systems online was our biggest challenge”.

For Saral Gurung, a reporter who made it most of the affected districts, there was no time to think of his cracked home.

“We would work over twelve hours a day then go home with no home to go to. My wife and I stood under the eaves of someone’s cracked building all night as it rained. But the next day, I had stories to cover and I found myself on the go again, traversing spaces between collapsed homes, where people stood helpless, while the stench from rotting bodies terrified the life out of me.”

They were sent to the most vulnerable parts of the city, where buildings had collapsed, burying hundreds of people.

In the MCR, Khanal felt some reassurance when her boss showed up and told her they were going to get rolling. She entered the studio.

“The phone lines were dead and I hadn’t been able to reach my family. But I knew that at a time like this, people needed information and I was prepared to do my duty. So, while on the back of my mind, I worried about my family, I spent the next three hours in the studio, doing live commentary of death and destruction, as we received the most heart-breaking footages from around the world.”

Within 15 minutes of the earthquake, Kantipur TV had gone on the air with coverage on the disaster, becoming the first to broadcast the images of devastation to the world.

The very next day, another major quake measuring 6.8 magnitude struck Nepal again, bringing down already damaged buildings and causing further loss of lives. The Kantipur TV team could no more work from its building under such risky conditions.

“There were too many aftershocks. So, we decided to move out on the streets, just as the rest of the country already was. We got the Outdoor Broadcasting Van out and set up a working space on the street. And we called it the Street Studio,” explains Pathak.

His colleagues’ health was a concern to Pathak, so he made sure the team had access to glucose water and bananas.

“I even had to put them on paracetamol and anti-inflammatory drugs, just so we could go on. But there was no way any one of us was going to stop and my team’s courage gave me energy.”

While the reporters put aside their physical needs as they focused on the need of the country, the administrative section of the station tried to make sure there were chairs to sit on, a plastic above the head and enough water to drink. But the engineering team had one of the greatest challenges to tackle amidst the chaos.

“It just happened and we had to keep going,” says Matrindra Pradhan, the chief of engineering.

“We couldn’t afford to break our transmission because that’s what your





While the nation crumbled with the death of over 8,500 people, with hundreds of others unaccounted for, the media in Nepal had its own share of struggle to cover, despite the heartbreak of losing loved ones to the disaster. But in the face of the crises, the station has stood its ground.

From the streets, it has now moved on to a temporary shelter where the Kantipur Publications press stands. Although basic amenities are lacking, the energy and commitment of the team is still intact.

"If we don't inform during crisis, what use is the media? Media is a watchdog. Our job is to bridge the gap between people and the government so that the authorities can respond. And we've fulfilled that duty as a team," says Pathak.

ABU News expresses its heartiest thanks to Prakash Khadka, Dilbhushan Pathak, Prateebha Tuladhar, Mridula Khanal, Matrindra Pradhan, Saral Gurung and all Kantipur TV staff for their courage, sacrifice and commitment to news development.

ABU and ACORAB – Nepal team up on DRR

On 26 May, one month after the devastating earthquake in Nepal, delegates from ACORAB, the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters in Nepal, who is also an Associate Member of the ABU, paid a visit to ABU Secretariat to discuss further partnership between ACORAB and ABU.

Among the delegates were Mr RC Lamichhane, Executive Director, and Mr Govinda Devkota, Secretary- General of ACORAB. ABU Secretary General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, offered them to implement ABU in- country workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Nepal. ABU Director of Programming,



Mr Tatsuhiko Beniko, also offered them to speak at Radio Working Party Group Meeting and Programme Committee at coming ABU General Assembly in Istanbul of their experience on the disaster coverage and of the role of community radio before, during and after the earthquake.

Saving Lives: Preparing For Disasters

Closing of the ABU/ESCAP DRR Broadcast Media Initiative



Ms Natalia Ilieva
Executive Secretary to
ABU Secretary-General

ABU successfully completed its second co-operation project with UNESCAP – United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on integrating media in national disaster management decision-making and communications. The project was implemented over three years in the targeted countries – India, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The DRR Broadcast Media Initiative engaged over 1,000 broadcast professionals, representatives of Meteorological Offices, National Disaster Management Agencies and community level NGOs. They met, exchanged ideas and planned for future cooperation through in-country consultation meetings, regional workshops and established ABU forums such as the Media Summit on Climate Change and DRR (Jakarta, June 2014) and the 2nd Global News Forum (Sendai, March 2015).

Such cooperation between media and the other stakeholders in disaster management had rarely occurred in the past. In some countries it even would have been impossible without the facilitation of ABU, which is seen as an honest broker.

Thanks to this project, there is a paradigm shift in the targeted countries towards giving broadcast media a greater role in disaster risk reduction and preparedness. The other stakeholders begin to accept media as a partner who can accelerate the process to empower people and build disaster knowledgeable society.

A special focus of the Initiative was building awareness about the needs of the most vulnerable groups – women, children, persons with disabilities and the elders. Our partner organization,

the Global Alliance on Accessible and Inclusive Technologies, produced Guidelines on Communications with Persons with Disabilities in Emergency.

During the implementation of the project we also tested the usefulness of the ABU Radio-in-a-Box (RIB) in emergency situations. This is a small and easy to operate radio station with 10 km radius of coverage. It could be deployed and be on air in a matter of minutes. RIB was recognized by many authorities and broadcasters as a valuable component for disaster preparedness. It could be a backup for normal radio facilities and is extremely useful tool to inform communities in danger when all other communication channels are down.

As part of the project, ABU is publishing a Lessons Learned Report, to be shared on the special website Saving Lives. ABU is also launching a bold strategy for helping ABU members to empower their audiences – the Disaster Literacy campaign.

Probably the biggest outcome of the project is that all stakeholders in the disaster management process (media, government and non-government organisations) are now committed to work together to “walk the last mile” and reach people in danger with timely, accurate and understandable information. However, this is just the beginning. There is a long journey ahead to dismantle the “silos” in which different agencies work and cooperate on every step to build resilient communities.

For the ABU this project was a profound learning journey and a milestone. It marks a clear new vision for the ABU's role in mobilizing its members to be pro-active in saving lives and livelihoods. The new approach is to expand the role of broadcasters from early warnings and covering of disasters

to mainstreaming disaster preparedness in all programmes – from news to entertainment.

Turning information into knowledge and building a disaster literate society is the way the broadcast media can make a difference and save lives. This is a mandate the ABU is committed to carry on.

The support for the DRR Broadcast Media Initiative comes from the ESCAP administered Trust Fund for Tsunami, Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness. The Trust Fund was established after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The disaster, which took the lives of over 230,000 people, was a wakeup call for the media, governments and international organisations to introduce an Early Warning System for tsunami and coastal and other hazards throughout the region.

The ABU Secretariat would like to thank the UNESCAP for its trust and support for the implementation of the project.

The Secretariat also expressed its gratitude all ABU members who made this project possible by providing venues, facilities, conference packages for the meetings and bringing relevant staff to the events at their own cost. Thank you AIR and DDI, India; RTM, Malaysia; PMS, Maldives (formerly MBC); MRTV and Forever Group, Myanmar; PTV and HUM TV, Pakistan; Maharaja Media Group, Sri Lanka; VOV and VTV, Viet Nam. Special thanks go to NHK, Japan. Their journalists and technical experts selflessly shared their vast knowledge and expertise in early warnings and disaster coverage throughout the project.

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan

In our last edition, we mentioned how active ABU is in various activities relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Asia-Pacific region. At the 3rd World conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan, the Union was instrumental in drafting the voluntary Media Stakeholder Commitment to DRR agenda and securing the support for it of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) and the



Javad Mottaghi, Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (right), speaks with Margareta Wahlström, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (centre), as Giacomo Mazzone, Head of Institutional Relations at the European Broadcasting Union (left) looks on. (Photo: UNISDR)

Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU). The Commitment calls for integrating media in the national DRR policies and practices and making media a partner for educating people about climate change and disaster preparedness.

We publish here the complete statement signed by the four broadcasting unions in Sendai in March this year.

Media Stakeholders' Groups Voluntary Commitment Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan

Given its unparalleled reach to wide audiences, the media play a crucial role in promoting disaster risk reduction policies, disseminating early warning messages and advancing regional and national disaster risk reduction agendas. This is even more true in the case of radio, that has proved time after time to be the most resilient and long-lasting reliable source of information in the aftermath of disasters.

In order to fulfil media's immense potential as an information disseminator and powerful behaviour changer, media would like to be accepted not as a mere messenger but a partner in developing and implementing DRR policies at regional, national and local levels and also help dismantling the silos in which most stakeholders work at the moment.

Many media organizations already accept their duty to serve wide audiences (including most vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and elderly) before, during, after disasters. They recognize the need to be pro-actively preparing people during quieter times between disasters and commit to expand coverage of climate change and DRR and educate their audiences on these issues.

They also recognize the huge gap in media knowledge and expertise to do so and that the "messengers" have to be educated themselves about the complex issues of climate change impacts and mitigations and DRR. The formation of functional global, regional and sub-regional networks through which the media can engage with other partners in DRR, peer mentorship can be done and skills improved. Media stakeholders' group strongly recommend the need for a fund to facilitate disaster reporting, especially during the quiet times.

In accepting to play such a crucial role in informing, educating the public and galvanizing action for advancing the DRR agenda throughout the world, the Media Stakeholder Group confirms its support for the HFA 2

process and commits to:

- Work with all stakeholders involved in DRR to facilitate broad partnership in risk prevention and building resilient communities;
- Ensure that the radio and TV organizations' infrastructure and networks are preserved even in the digital future at the terrestrial level, and are better integrated in the early warning disaster communication systems and plans at national and community levels;
- Engage media in the development and implementation of national DRR policies and programmes including national platforms, so the media are comprehensively prepared to inform about risk prevention and DRR;
- Enhance journalists capacity to produce quality programmes on climate change, DRR and sustainable development concepts as part of the same solution for economic growth and social cohesion;
- Create funding opportunities and space for coverage of and discussions on climate change and DRR issues in the form of special regular programmes, editorial columns and mainstreaming DRR in news, current affairs, children programmes and other radio and TV formats. In particular formats for post-disaster and disaster recovery communication need to be implemented based on existing best practices examples. This, of course, will have to happen in the total respect of the editorial independence of each media.
- Permanent dialogue needs to be established between media (using existing regional and worldwide recognized associations) and other initiatives on disaster and emergencies communications existing within WMO, ITU (such as the Focus group on Disaster Relief Systems, Network Resilience and Recovery, and others), UNESCO and so on.



Spectrum Requirements for Future Broadcasting topped the agenda of ABU Technical Bureau mid-year Meeting in Bali

The ABU Technical Bureau Mid-year Meeting was held in Kuta, Bali on 5 to 6 May. The event was hosted by RRI-Indonesia, who has been a long standing supporter of the ABU.

Mr Sunarya Ruslan, Member of Board of Supervisor RRI, mentioned that it was an honour for RRI to host the 2015 mid-year bureau meeting. Twenty Bureau members attended the meeting organised and facilitated by the ABU Technology Department.

"Once again the main focus of the meeting was on spectrum requirements for future broadcasting" said Dr Amal Punchihewa, ABU Director Technology, as the World Radiocommunication Conference WRC-15 will be addressing the vital issue of spectrum for all ABU members.

The Bureau requested two important studies to be carried out and reported at the next meeting, which will be held in Istanbul. The study groups and the Technology Department

have to study Early Warning Systems and Broadcasting in disaster mitigation and character sets required for future radio, television and new media broadcasting.

Dr Punchihewa said: "The ABU Technology Department is reviewing the digitalisation plans of its members as only four members have completely switched off analogue." He also described the ABU Technology Department's activities such as the Digital Broadcasting Symposium and Pacific Media Partnership Conference as "vital guidance to ABU members".

The Chairman, Mr Masakazu Iwaki of NHK-Japan, commended the work done by the ABU Technology Department over the past six months and reviewed issues of strategic interest to ABU members.

A strategic group was formed which comprises of the ABU TC Chairman, the Director ABU Technology, ABU TC Vice-Chairman, Mr Hamid D Nayeri and the chairmen of the four topic area studies.



ABU facilitated capacity building in Myanmar

The Technology department of ABU conducted a training session and a workshop on Networking and Information Technologies for Forever group in Yangon, Myanmar.

This event aimed to provide the information technology and broadcasting staff of Forever Group, a member of ABU and a radio and television broadcaster in Myanmar, some knowledge in the latest information and broadcasting technologies. New media, traditional

media and information technology (IT) departments are working together with the training department to enhance and up skill staff on latest developments in the media industry. Twenty four trainees from IT, new media and broadcasting departments benefitted from the capacity building event held from 11th to 16th May 2015 in Yangon. Trainees were exposed to wide range of topics, including Integrated Broadcast Broadband (IBB), Over-the-top (OTT) and IPTV, understanding the principles of operations, planning and

implementation issues of such digital broadcasting services.

The workshop highlighted the rapid changes taking place in the media and telecommunication industries and their convergences in technology, infrastructure and services. Broadcasting has to compete with mobile operators and telecommunication service providers. They are commencing media services as bundled services and increasing penetration of IPTV.

Dr Amal Punchihewa, the Director of Technology at ABU, who was also the trainer, said that the in-house event at MMDC, the training centre of Forever group, provided a conducive environment to impart both basic and fundamental knowledge as well as practical knowledge in IT, networking, digital radio and television broadcasting, their latest technologies and trends. He also mentioned that such knowledge will guide and provide confidence to both broadcast and IT staff in better use of new technologies and adaptation of appropriate technologies.

Ms Su Mon Htwe, Head of Training and Manager of MMDC thanked ABU for enabling such human capacity building event in a demanding area. She also thanked the resource person for taking time to educate and train their staff.

ABU and DVB joint sessions on DTV at BCA in Singapore



The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) and the Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) on the invitation of the Singapore Exhibition Services (SES) organized and carried out an ABU-DVB Technology Track on "Digital Broadcasting - Standards, Technologies & Implementation". This was held at the Marina Bay Sands, Singapore on Tuesday 2 June 2015, as a part of International BroadcastAsia Conference 2015.

The track provided an opportunity to 35 participants from APAC countries to have better understanding of the various types of digital terrestrial television technologies that are used around the world, future trends of interactive multimedia services in Asia-Pacific, various platforms that media stakeholders could use such as OTT, IPTV, Mobile TV. They also learnt from experiences of the regions and countries such as Europe, Russia, Australia and US.

Dr Amal Punchihewa, the Director of Technology, ABU chaired the sessions for the day in which nine speakers presented in various topics followed by a panel discussion on Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Technologies. He highlighted technology trends and current status of DTT implementations to the attendees while delivering his opening and closing remarks. He also informed the participants about the challenges that broadcasters have to face and how they could benefit from new and appropriate technologies by proper planning and implementation.

Dr Peter Siebert of DVB Project Office in Geneva said that Digital TV in Asia-Pacific is gaining traction. He also mentioned that it will be helpful to have a regulatory framework for digital television that takes into consideration the interest of all stakeholders.



Asia Media Summit returns to Kuala Lumpur

The three-day Asia Media Summit 2015 was held in Kuala Lumpur from May 26-28, with the theme "Transforming broadcasting in the social media era." The summit, jointly organised by the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), Institut Penyiaran dan Penerangan Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR) and the Ministry of Communication and Multimedia of Malaysia, discussed the interaction of broadcasters with the social media and its impact on broadcast operations and business.

The summit was attended by decision makers, media professionals, scholars, and stakeholders of news and programming not only from Asia and the Pacific region, but also from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North America

The Asia Media Summit, launched as an outcome of the 1st Conference of the Ministers of Information and Broadcasting in Asia and the Pacific region in May 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, was for the first time held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004. After the summit was held in Malaysia for five consecutive years, it was taken to other countries and now returns to Malaysia after six years.

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the AIBD with the support from the

Department of Communications, Australian Government, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC-Japan) organized and carried out a Workshop on "Enhancing Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Transition Experience". This was held on Monday 25 May 2015, as a pre-summit workshop of the Asia Media Summit 2015.

The workshop provided an opportunity to 45 participants from 23 countries to learn more about the various types of digital terrestrial television technologies that are used around the world - ATSC, DTMB, ISDB-T, and DVB T/T2, future trends of interactive multimedia services in Asia-Pacific, various platforms that media stakeholders could use such as OTT, IPTV, Mobile TV. They also learnt from experiences of the countries such as Japan, Australia, New Zealand which have already completed Analogue Switch Off (ASO) and having implemented the Digital Terrestrial Television broadcasting transition.

Mr Chang Jin, Director of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) said that events such as this workshop provide an opportunity to share experiences and discuss the challenges faced by the broadcasters in their respective countries. Dr Amal Punchihewa, the Director of Technology at ABU highlighted the



need for television broadcasters to act promptly in planning and implementing the digital transition. Ms Sireerat Bunnag, representing the Regional Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific informed the participants of the contribution made by ITU in assisting countries to commence digital transition. ITU expert Mr Andrew King presented a case study from Pacific as an example to the participants.

Next Generation Broadcasting Technology Course in Korea

The Korea Radio Promotion Association (RAPA) in collaboration with the National IT Industry Promotion Agency (NIPA) organised a five-day Next Generation Broadcasting Technology Course from 1-5 June in Seoul, Korea. The course was hosted by the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) and targeted at engineers and experts who are currently working in broadcasting organisations, government bodies and public enterprises.

The objective was to provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the trends of the newest broadcasting technology and related policy in the era of broadcasting and communications convergence. It also aimed to exchange knowledge, experiences, and pave the way to strengthen mutual cooperation. As part of this course, participants visited Korean Broadcasting Services (KBS) and various ICT institutions where they took stock of the latest state-of-the-art technology in person and also strengthened human networks with other ICT experts.

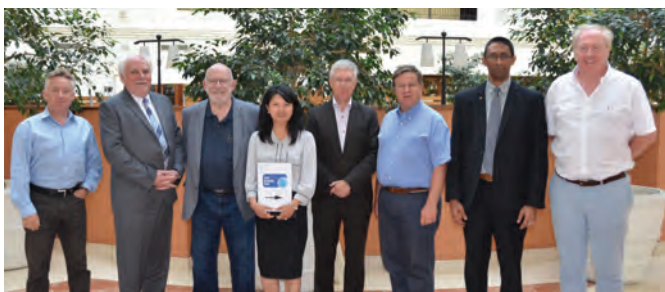
Twenty two participants, coming from nine ABU members and other organisations were from Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri



Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The ABU was represented by its Specialist Engineer, Nguyen Thanh Nam who made a presentation about the Union and its various activities. He also took the opportunity to visit ABU members and industry partners in Korea.

The course included an overview of current state of Korean broadcasting services; policy issues for the future; UHD TV technologies; network production system; IPTV; smart and hybrid broadcasting. All topics were very informative and valuable. Participants are grateful to MSIP, RAPA, NIPA and DreamInno for providing the support and hospitality during the course.

World Broadcasting Union Technical Committee (WBU-TC) meeting discussed Strategies for WRC-15 Spectrum Issues



The executive members of the technical committee of the World Broadcasting Union (WBU-TC) met on June 9, 2015 prior to the European Union Broadcasting Technical Assembly (EBU-TA). WBU-TC comprises of Technical Directors of eight broadcasting Unions and the Chairmen of technical bodies of the eight unions.

The meeting reviewed the progress of current projects undertaken by WBU-TC and prioritised work for the coming year.

The critical issues for the individual unions were shared and it was decided to work in number of areas in which all unions

find it relevant and is of high priority.

Human capacity building was discussed as a critical issue that is common to all unions among spectrum, technology migrations and digitalisation. It was decided to share possible resources and mechanisms in collaboration with IEEE-BTS, IABM, SMPTE and media training institutions such as AIBD and Eurovision Academy.

The executive members also explored all possible opportunities to create awareness and made their concerns known to regulators on spectrum requirements for future broadcasting. In upcoming events, including APG meeting in Seoul, IBC in Amsterdam and just prior to WRC-15 in Geneva, opportunities will be used by all Unions to further reinforce the work that unions have been carrying out individually and collectively at WBU-TC heading to November WRC-15 meetings.

ABU, through the Technology Director informed members of the WBU-TC that it will carry out two surveys to ascertain the needs of early warning signalling and broadcasting in next generation broadcast technologies and character sets for the digital radio.

The Crucial Importance of the Protection of Broadcaster's Signal



By Yan Bo, Deputy Director, Copyright Management Dept. China Central Television; Chair of the Copyright Committee of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union

As Mr Zheng Chengsi – a prominent copyright expert in China – says, communication technology accelerates the development of economy and culture, yet at the same time causes copyright problems which we never faced before. Today, with the development of new media technology, the protection of broadcaster's signal is facing even more severe challenges which demand an urgent solution.

As we all know, 'copyright' is not only a legal term, but also means an entire industry. It is named 'Copyright Industry' in the U.S., 'Creative Industry' in the U.K., 'Content Industry' in Japan, and 'Cultural Industry' in China. Copyright industry is a part of the intellectual economy, where knowledge and creativity must be recognized and rewarded. According to WIPO's classification, 'broadcasting' belongs to the core copyright industry. A WIPO study conducted in 2012 on the economic contribution of the copyright industries found that broadcasting is the third largest of the core copyright sectors, after press/literature and software. Broadcasting's contribution to the economy is more than twice of the music sector, and more than three times of the film industry.

However, rampant piracy severely hinders the development of broadcasting industry in the long run. For example, during 2014 World Cup, the infringements of broadcaster's signal via websites/APPs/OTTs were widespread, causing huge financial losses to the broadcasting industry. Another noteworthy case is HBO Criticizes Periscope Over 'Game of Thrones' Live Streams. This case warns broadcasters that, the 'Apps' over Internet, Mobile, OTT, iPad or any other new media platform, easily allow users to live broadcast the broadcaster's signal to anywhere in the world. And legally there is no effective protection for broadcaster's signal in this circumstance.

Without effective protection, infringements on new media platforms has become more and more severe in China as well as in other Asian countries. And this has been doing harm to broadcasting industry. As broadcasting industry heavily relies on advertising, the size of audience is key to broadcasters. However, with unlimited broadcast capacity, low transmission cost, and more importantly, zero cost piracy content, various new media platforms is attracting more and more audience. As Chinese professor Wang Qian points out, when the simultaneously piracy of broadcaster's signal become rampant, the loss of audience and the decline of advertising revenue will become inevitable for broadcasters. And the sale of audiovisual products will drop as well.

However, in China and many other Asian countries, legislation for the protection of Broadcaster's Signal has been inadequate. In most countries, the regulations regarding the protection for broadcasting organizations originate from the Rome Convention (1961). In which, the copyright law prohibits broadcasters to rebroadcast the signal without licencing. However, in the field of new media, how to regulate the simultaneously rebroadcasting of

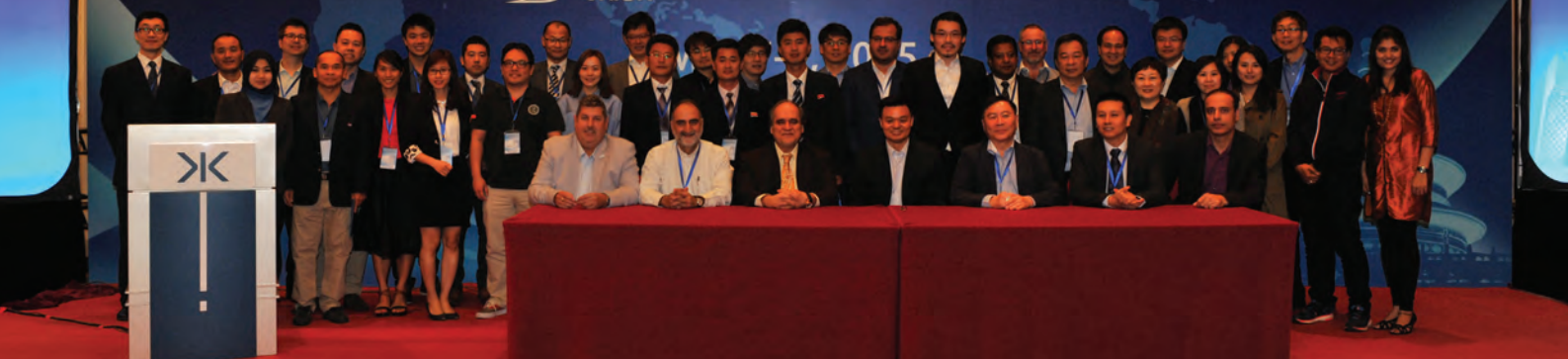
Broadcaster's Signal is still disputative. Based on Rome Convention, 'broadcasting' is defined as transmission by wireless means for public reception of sounds or of images and sounds. Based on Berne Convention, broadcasting and related rights are limited in 'wireless communications, public communication of broadcast by wire or rebroadcast'. Based on WPPT, 'broadcasting' refers to 'the transmission by wireless means for public reception of sounds or of images and sounds or of the representations thereof; such transmission by satellite is also 'broadcasting'; transmission of encrypted signals is 'broadcasting' where the means for decrypting are provided to the public by the broadcasting organization or with its consent'. Based on these treaties or conventions, the protection of Broadcaster's Signal are limited in the transmission by wire or wireless means for public reception, not including internet or other new media platform. This creates a grey area in the copyright protection. While new media operators or users can easily convert the broadcaster's signals into live streamings and 'rebroadcast' them on the web, the traditional broadcasters have no means to stop the infringements by law. In the long run broadcasting industry will suffer heavy losses.

Ultimately, the hope of broadcasting industry lies in the BROADCASTER'S TREATY - the only copyright treaty which may protect the broadcaster's signal on new media platform. The Broadcaster's Treaty may not only provides a stable international legal framework for broadcasters, grants exclusive rights to broadcasters in an effective manner, provides anti-piracy function and protection against signal 'theft', but also protects vast investment of broadcasting. Here we appeal to the broadcasters as well as the governments in Asia-Pacific area, to support the Treaty, and create a level playing field for both traditional and new broadcasting media.

56th ABU Sports Group Conference & Associated Meetings

ABU Asia-Pacific
Broadcasting
Union

CCTV



Sports Broadcasters in Asia: Towards Deepening Cooperation

The Sports Group Conference, May 7-9, 2015 of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union in Beijing, China saw participation by 52 sports broadcasters from across Asia. This comes as broadcasters gear towards one of the most coveted international sporting events, the Rio Summer Olympics in 2016, and several other international events leading to Rio.

The conference looked at issues and challenges faced by broadcasters against the backdrop of increasing rights fee, and technical cost often resulting into broadcasters foregoing the broadcast of important international sporting events. The theme of the 56th ABU Sports conference was "Public Service Broadcasting: Time for Change".

The conference, opened with a keynote address by the Vice Minister of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television & President of CCTV, Mr Nie Chenxi. The Vice Minister said that the ABU plays an active part in promoting the exchange and cooperation among the region's broadcasters. Its contributions have been remarkable in facilitating the dialogue between different cultures.

Mr Nie Chenxi talked about the importance given to sports development in China and quoted the Chinese president "Sports is a sacred cause in China". Sports transcends the mere excellence in competition, and embodies many highly cherished human values, such as solidarity, fellowship, and cooperation among people, Mr Nie said.

The Chairperson of the ABU Sports, and the Controller of CCTV Sports, Mr Jiang Heping reiterated the need for broadcasters in Asia to unify for a larger benefit. In a fragmented and a competitive market, where purchasing power matters more than exposure, it's time to work together towards a win-win situation for all the players in the industry. It's about finding a balance, adapting to the fast changing media market and embracing innovation in programming and presentation, Mr Heping said.

The Secretary-General of ABU Dr Javad Mottaghi, said that ABU is the largest broadcasting union in the world. He echoed the theme of last Sports Group conference in Macau, Unified Asia, and underlined the importance of cooperation among the Asian

broadcasters. Asia is the emerging market with a huge potential and the broadcasters need to tap this potential, said Dr Mottaghi.

Presenting the ABU Sports report, the Director of ABU Sports, Mr Yanjiang Cai, highlighted the current global market scenario. The ever increasing rights fee, fragmenting market and technological development are something the broadcasters will have to deal with, he said. The Director also underscored the importance of regular exchange of information between ABU Sports, and members in order for the ABU to help and facilitate effectively. Mr Cai presented some of the initiatives being undertaken by the ABU Sports. The ABU Production and Transmission Service, the Content Sharing platform and the work towards building a cohesive ABU Pool will help members in the long run, according to the Sports Director. The ABU Sports also emphasized the importance of members support to achieve these initiatives.

The conference saw several other discussions on topics ranging from managing the business of sports to public service broadcasting. The panel on managing the business of sports had speakers with different backgrounds from right holders to government representatives and broadcasters. The discussion focussed on the need to re-strategize and adapt to the fast evolving market, including policy regulations and support of the governments, if required. The panellists shared experiences and provided fresh perspectives on challenges and opportunities in the region.

The main discussion and the theme of the conference "Public Service

Left: Delegates at the 56th ABU Sports Group Conference and Associated Meetings

Right: Vice Minister of SAPPRFT & the President of CCTV, Mr NIE Chenxi delivering the keynote address at Kerry Hotel in Beijing, China

Below: Panellists discussing Managing the Business of Sports



ABU and the International University Sports Federation FISU, enters into new partnership



Broadcasting: Time for Change" was moderated by the Chairperson of the ABU Sports Group, and Controller of CCTV Sports, Mr Jiang Heping. The panel explored challenges facing public service broadcasters against the backdrop of rapidly transforming media environment. "Mobile and social media are becoming ubiquitous, and rights fee and technical costs continue to rise," said the ABU Sports Group Chairperson.

Amidst these changes, what is the best way for the public service broadcasters to leverage the power of sports, fulfil its mandate and ensure its limited resources are effectively utilised. The panellists comprising of successful PSB's, the KBS Korea and CCTV China, underscored that PSBs must blend new media exposure with traditional coverage.

The conference also saw several presentations by different organisations and agencies. These include new technological developments to marketing strategies. Presentations were also made by

the host broadcasters of upcoming international sporting events like the IAAF in Beijing, and the Gwangju Universiade in South Korea.

The host of the 56th ABU Sports Group conference organised a tour for the delegates at the new CCTV broadcast centre. The imposing structure, dubbed as the new landmark of Beijing is the nerve centre of the CCTV's operations broadcasting 24/7.

Most delegates expressed satisfaction with the conference saying relevant challenges faced by broadcasters were on the agenda. Delegates said, the conference, also provided an appropriate forum for broadcasters to network, share ideas and experiences.

The Conference at the Kerry Hotel in Beijing May, 7-9, 2015, acknowledged that the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union is on the right track working towards a vibrant Asia-Pacific broadcasting environment based on consensus, solidarity and cooperation among members.

The Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union - ABU, and FISU signed an international broadcast rights agreement, on the sidelines of the ABU Sports Conference in Beijing. Under the agreement, FISU grants the international broadcast rights to the ABU for 2015-2017 period of FISU events.

Some of the major sporting events in the next two years include the Summer Universiade, Gwangju 2015, Winter Universiade Almaty 2017, and the Summer Universiade Taipei 2017.

The agreement was signed by the Secretary General of the ABU, Dr Javad Mottaghi and the Secretary General of FISU, Eric Saintrond.

The ABU with a membership of 278 throughout the Asia and the Pacific reaches to almost four billion audience. FISU, is responsible for the governance of worldwide competitions for student-athletes and the university games.



2015 ABU Children's Drama Co-production Series: High Quality Production noted

After three years Tokyo welcomed back all producers and colleagues concerned with the production of the 12th series of ABU Children Drama Co-production. The 1st Producers' meeting, hosted by NHK-Japan was held from 13 to 15 April 2015.

Participating broadcasters were from: BTV-Bangladesh, EBS-Korea, IRIB-Iran, MNB-Mongolia, NHK-Japan, RTB-Brunei, RTHK-Hong Kong, RTM-Malaysia, SLRC-Sri Lanka, Thai-PBS and TVRI-Indonesia. The common theme of the series still stay, 'Children's Mental Growth'. The duration of each episode is 15 minutes featuring child actors aged 7 to 9 and the story has to be unique with a universal message.

The meeting began by screening of episodes from the 11th series. Out of all the great efforts, particularly noteworthy was the film from Thailand which drew a spontaneous cheer from its audience. Executive Producer Yoshinori Komiyama, from NHK – Japan, said that having visited Thailand himself to offer on-site suggestions during the 10th series, he was deeply delighted as that they came up with such high quality programme two years later.

Looking back, he considered a major improvement of programme production skills by broadcasters from Thailand, Brunei and Malaysia as the achievements gained from past 3 years. Meanwhile, programmes from Mongolia, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan had always been equipped with sense of stability.

For her part, Executive Producer in charge of EBU Children's Drama Series, Beryl Richard said that she noticed significant

improvement in the quality of ABU Children's Drama programmes over recent periods. "While we need to continue to raise the level of overall quality, there is no doubt that programme production capability of ABU is increasing", she added.



Yoshinori Komiyama underlined that his work as Executive Producer at ABU commenced with the meeting in Tokyo 3 years ago and it has now come to its completion with the meeting in the Japanese capital this April. He hopes that the drama production know-how that the participating broadcasters have acquired in the past 3 years will continue to be of value to them in their programme production.

On the 2nd day, the role of Executive Producer was succeeded by Mr Yoichiro Takahashi, who is an experienced and award winning drama producer/director at NHK. All participating organizations pitched their new story ideas for 12th series. There were active discussions among producers/directors, who were able to have a lot of input from both the Executive Producer and the participating colleagues.

ABU Programme Department would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to Mr Yoshinori Komiyama, the Executive Producer for 9th, 10th and 11th series, for his huge dedication and contribution to our members.

The second meeting for the current series is scheduled in Kuala Lumpur in July 2015. Production is expected to end by February 2016 and the exchange of episodes among the participating countries will be done by April next year.

ABU's Music Exchange Takes Off

With agreements on the scope and the methodology of operation of the Music Exchange of the ABU (MEA), this new activity of the Union is now poised to take off.

The agreements were reached at a get-together of the key radio members of the ABU in Yangon on 27 May. Meeting on the sidelines of the 2015 RadioAsia Conference, ABU Radio members Radio Thailand, Turkish Radio and Television, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, Myanmar Radio and Television, Radio Romania, All India Radio, Radio Republik Indonesia and the sister broadcasting union, the Arab States Broadcasting Union reached an agreement to initiate the radio music exchange and decided upon some operational norms. The members witnessed the functioning of an Internet-based platform for music exchange, developed by the ABU Secretariat. This system makes use of meta-data for easy access to the content.

Under this dispensation, the ABU will identify the members' major needs in the genre of music and what music they could offer on a rights free basis. A flexible framework for this activity will be set up for providing contributions and making use of the music. Radio Romania was nominated by members to play an important role in the music exchange project.

Expressing positive sentiments on the success of the Music Exchange,

Mr Ovidiu Miculescu, President Director General, Radio Romania said, "Music exchange is like an exchange of national culture. Music is part of common language of radio as we are separated by barriers of language".

Additionally, the participants decided to initiate a new project to set up a CD dedicated to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage, by collecting from each interested member one music item per country part of this world heritage.



EBU Pre-School Item Exchange: Need to Offer High Quality Programmes

Ms Sakura Ono, Senior Producer at NHK Educational Corporation, Japan and Vice Chairperson of the ABU Children TV Item Exchange was among the 21 delegates from eleven countries who participated in the EBU Pre-school Item Exchange held from April 20 to 22 in Erfurt, Germany.

Producers and editors were invited from different countries such as Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia and UK and Kenya. KBS- Korea, independently sent a delegate. The number of items ABU submitted was twenty-nine, which accounts for almost a quarter of all items in five categories; HOW THINGS ARE MADE, NATURE AND ANIMALS, DOCUMENTARY STYLE STORIES including animation, DRAMA-FICTION ANIMATION and OPEN CATEGORY.

Ms Sakura Ono said, "All the items presented at Erfurt Exchange were of a very high standard. We need to offer high quality ABU items more than ever to play an important role at this exchange meeting."

For the past 30 years, producers of magazines for pre-school audiences have met in Saarbrücken to exchange their work.



Since 2005, the exchange has been hosted by KiKA, in Erfurt, Germany. It is an occasion to enrich children's programmes with input, ideas and savoir-faire from other countries and other cultures. Programmes/items are presented and offered for free to participants on an 'offer one-take all' principle.

The exchange is enriched by the participation and programmes of Asian, Latin American and African broadcasters.



ABU CARE 5 Meeting held at the KBS headquarters in Seoul

The 2nd producers meeting of the ABU documentary co-production project CARE 5 was held at the KBS headquarters in Seoul from 29 April to 1 May 2015. A total of 11 documentary producers from 10 ABU members joined the meeting to screen and discuss their films for CARE 5 project under the theme, "The Future: Road to School" with a special focus on the importance of education. This was a follow-up meeting after the 1st producers' meeting held in Kuala Lumpur last December.

"We will learn from one another, strengthen our understanding of the needs facing our children's education, and make Asian documentaries stronger in the global community," said Mr Jaeheon Song, Executive Director of KBS Content Business and ABU Programme Committee Chair. Ms Sophia Seungjoo Hong, Head & Executive Director of KBS International Relations, said in her welcome remarks that she has great appreciation for the producers' devotion and commitment to creating a better environment for a brighter future of our children. ABU Programme Director, Mr Tatsuhiko Beniko and Executive Producer of CARE 5, Mr. Hongseon Yang, also

emphasized the importance of this project's potential effect on the future generation.

During the 3-day meeting, rough cuts were screened one by one followed by discussions. All participants had a chance to strengthen their documentaries by listening to constructive criticism and suggestions. The films portrayed different cultural perspectives covering a variety of educational concerns.

CARE project was initiated by KBS in 2009 with aims to inform the public about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and to promote the social responsibilities of the media to make our society a better place for all. Now in its 5th series, 14 broadcasters from 13 different countries are participating in CARE 5: BBS-Bhutan, CCTV-China, FBC-Fiji, RTHK-Hong Kong, Phoenix TV-Hong Kong, Metro TV-Indonesia, KBS-Korea, PBC KR-Kyrgyzstan, RTM-Malaysia, NTV-Nepal, PBC-Palestine, SLRC-Sri-Lanka, TRT-Turkey, and VTV-Vietnam.

The productions are expected to be finished soon and the participating broadcasters will have access to broadcast the documentaries to their home audiences.

Highly enriching and creative ABU-IPPTAR-RTM Reality Show workshop conducted in Malaysia

ABU in collaboration with RTM-Malaysia and IPPTAR ran a two-day workshop from 9-10 June 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 31 participants mostly from RTM, Astro, Media Prima, Malaysia, MediaCorp Singapore, RTB Brunei and Forever Group Myanmar attended the workshop conducted by two Korean experts – Mr Kim Kwangsoo, Chief Producer of Entertainment at KBS and Mr Yu Sung Chan, Independent Writer of reality and entertainment programme. In his opening speeches, Mr Beniko Tatsuhiro, ABU Director of Programming and Ms Ramlah Jalee, Head of International Relations at RTM talked about the importance of Reality Show in TV programming. Mr Beniko said that reality shows are becoming more and more “killer” content in our region. They have huge audiences and also they make quite a lot of money as a result. For Ms Jalee, today several programmes are produced in the reality realm, not only musical or gameshows, but also programmes promoting information and education. “Everything is more fun when we feel it and we absorb information when it is fun”, she added.

The participants who were mainly producers, script writers and content developers of their respective organisations got a clear idea about the conception and production of Reality Shows. Different topics were discussed including: What



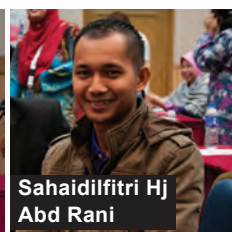
Mr Kim Kwangsoo, Chief Producer of Entertainment, KBS



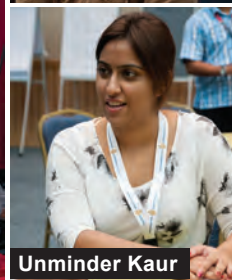
Dato' Adilah Shek Omar, Director General, IPPTAR



Ms Ramlah Jalee, Head of International Relations, RTM



Sahaidilfitri Hj Abd Rani



Unminder Kaur



Mr Yu Sung Chan, Independent Writer

makes people excited about Reality Show? How to make Reality Show? and Why Korea Reality Shows fascinate the world?

The two trainers said they were impressed by the level of all participants who contributed a lot to the workshop. For both of them, Reality Show is becoming so important in today's TV programming content since “it shares a common ground between people, celebrities and the audience.” One of the participants RTB Brunei Script Writer, Sahaidilfitri Hj Abd Rani, said that the workshop was very enriching and he will propose as soon as possible new Reality Show programmes to his organisation. Another participant, Unminder Kaur, Content Developer/Researcher at ASTRO said she will use all what she acquired during the workshop to promote Small and Medium Enterprises among women in Malaysia.

All participants were awarded a Certificate of Participation handed over to them by Dato' Adilah Shek Omar, Director General of IPPTAR. In her closing remarks, she expressed her satisfaction that the workshop gave the opportunity to not only Malaysian RTM participants but also to other broadcast producers and script writers from other neighbouring countries to benefit from the new skills acquired in reality show production. Dato' Adilah also expressed her hope that such kind of training would help RTM one day to win an Award at the ABU Prize Award Ceremony.

Radio Romania released the list of winners of the 3rd Grand Prix Nova International Radio Drama Festival held during the first week of June in Bucharest. Czech Radio won the Gold award for the drama PESCHO directed by Petr Mančal and written by Marek Epstein.

Radio Drama entries were received from 50 producers in 28 countries for this Festival which flagged off on June 1 in Bucharest. The six-day Festival, organised by Radio Romania, took place under the High Patronage of Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess, Margarita of Romania. Entries were received this year from radio production creators including three from new participants in Malaysia, Myanmar and New Zealand.

The Grand Prix Nova Festival is unique given that the entries were received from countries in the West and the East. What is unique is that the creative approach and the production style employed were distinctly different in entries from different regions. In that way, Grand Prix Nova was a bridge between the radio dramas in the East and the West.

Covering a wide range of themes which included emotional values that people have, reality of life, people's aspirations and hopes, and futuristic themes, these exhibit the challenges and



Winners Chosen at Grand Prix Nova International Radio Drama Festival

opportunities of radio drama and the core-strength of the Grand Prix Nova.

The five members of the jury comprised Mr Reto Ott, Board member of the EBU Radio Drama Group, Ms Vijay Sadhu, ABU's Senior Executive Radio Programming, Mr Silvain Gire, Editor-in-chief, ARTE Radio, Mr Eberhard Petschinka, Radio plays author, producer and painter, and Mr Mihai Lungeanu, Artistic Director of Radio Romania Theatre Department.

On conclusion, the jury voted for top 5 entries in two categories, Radio Drama and Short Form. From this, 3 winners were chosen for each of the

two categories by vote debate. The Silver award went to TO MOSCOW! from Radio Russia / Radio Kultura, written and directed by David Zane Mairowitz. Deutschlandradio won the Bronze award for the drama DRY HAZE-THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER written and directed by Werner Cee.

The Top 5 winners are France Culture for THE HEADLESS SOLDIER / BACK TO THE FUTURE, ARTE Radio for YES and for the Short Forms, the Gold Award went to CALL OF DATING by WireTap from CBC Radio. THE MOTHER by Radio Romania won the Silver award and METRO. AUDITORY by HALLUCINATIONS from Radio Russia got the Bronze award.

ABU Prizes Backpack Workshop attracts 70 programmers in Turkey



The ABU Prizes Backpack workshop took place from 13-15 April in Ankara, Turkey.

The event was officially opened by TRT Director General Mr Şenol Göka along with other senior management officials. Vijay Sadhu, Senior Executive Radio, ABU facilitated the workshop in collaboration with Ben Williams, Director of Beyond Broadcasting, UK.

Over 70 programmers, Channel Heads, and Radio DJs of TRT National Radio

took part in the three-day workshop. The main objective was to use the annual prize process to demonstrate the very best principles of public service broadcasting across a broad range of genres and formats of programming and to share knowledge between broadcasters across the region. Sessions were extremely well focused on the art and craft of programme creation.

Participants showed a high interest during the detailed listening sessions of the winning programmes. Discussions were very open and honest and there were several occasions when the debate became extremely lively. The Q&A sessions that followed were challenging and the outcome derived from this exercise will be used in the final presentation.

New Projects discussed at ABU Programme Bureau Meeting

The 1st ABU Programme Bureau (PB) for this year met on 31 May in Yangon, Myanmar, back to back with RadioAsia 2015 Conference and associated meetings. The PB is a consultation body to Programme Committee (PC) and Programme Department, and its establishment was first proposed and approved at last PC in Macau in October 2014.

The meeting started with opening remarks by the PB/PC chair, Mr Song Jaeheon from KBS, Korea, followed by welcome remarks by ABU Secretary General, Dr Javad Mottaghi. The Director of ABU Programme Department (PD), Mr Tatsuhiko Beniko, briefed on the programming activities which PD organised after Macau GA

and also reported on the interim result of the Programme Activities Survey. According to Mr Beniko, most of the activities PD had organised for the past year were evaluated "good" or "very good" by members.

Then participating PB members exchanged their views and ideas on how PD should do to involve more members to current programming activities.

In the afternoon session, discussion focused on new innovative ideas and proposals put forward by members. Among these proposals/suggestions are: NHK's withdrawal from Digista teens secretariat from 2016 onwards and proposal of anti-bullying projects.

Prasar Bharati/DD's proposal to host 1st ABU Dance Festival/Contest to be held in November 2016. CCTV's suggestion to form Task Group to look into the possibility of launching ABU Content Market. Also PB members discussed various suggestions/new initiative ideas from KBS, MNB, Prasar Bharati and RTM.

Participating PB members to the meeting were; AIR-India, EBS-Korea, NHK-Japan, KBS-Korea and MRTV-Myanmar attended the meeting as an observer. CCTV-China, MNB-Mongolia and RTM-Malaysia joined the discussion via Skype.

The second Programme Bureau meeting is expected to be held during Istanbul GA, this October.



China National Radio will be hosting the 2016 RAC & RSF in Beijing

China National Radio - CNR has agreed to host the 2016 ABU Radio Asia Conference and

Radio Song Festival in Beijing. This will be the first major ABU event to be hosted by CNR.

Taking the opportunity of being in Beijing last May, ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi met with Mr Wang Qui, Director-General, China National Radio. Were also present at the meeting, the President and Vice President of CNR. The discussions focused on the organisation of RadioAsia Conference and Radio Song Festival.



2015 RadioAsia Conference in Yangon

Creative Power of Radio and Coping with the Social media Age



The 2015 RadioAsia Conference got off to a glittering start on 28 May 2015 in Yangon, Myanmar with the participation of more than 160 high level professionals and dignitaries. The Union Minister for the Ministry of Information, Govt. of Myanmar, Mr U Ye Htut, opened the conference. He said, "In our country we closed the doors for many years, so when we make reforms and policy I want to learn, so I spent a lot of time listening and participating," he said.

Among the new developments in Myanmar's evolving media environment is the introduction of new commercial and community stations. Already six new FM stations have started in collaboration with the public broadcaster, and more are expected to

open this year when the law is changed to allow private companies to own broadcasting stations.

The Minister added, "After the new broadcasting laws are passed this year, we will have three types of broadcasters, public, private and community stations." He acknowledged the challenge that smart phones and the Internet brings to the broadcasters, so he is keen to help broadcasters "cope with the social media age."

Earlier, while welcoming the participants, ABU's Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi told delegates that this 10th Radio Asia Conference is "a landmark event," being in Myanmar in the tenth successful year. "Radio is in the process of transformation" he added.



ABU Secretary-General with Minister U Ye Htut, The Union Minister for the Ministry of Information, Govt. of Myanmar



Creativity Workshop at RadioAsia gets Interactive



Activities were kicked off with a workshop dedicated to “unlocking the creativity” of all the journalists in the room. The session was led by Neil Curry and Mick Slatter, both Directors of “Beyond Broadcasting”, an international media consultancy firm based in London and very active throughout Asia. They were helped by Fiona Ledger, Executive Editor of Drama for BBC Media Action in Myanmar. The session was opened by Vijay Sadhu of the ABU.

There was a packed crowd of about 80 people, made up of local journalists and delegates to the conference from across Asia-Pacific. The idea of the workshop was to treat it as a giant free-flowing brainstorming session, generating the maximum possible number of ideas and demonstrating ways in which a creative environment

can be created in any workplace. The session started with a quick fire brainstorm of ideas about how to do follow-up coverage of the Nepal earthquake story and this quickly generated ideas but the pace rapidly built as the workshop went on.

Neil and Mick both prowled around the floor, drawing ideas out of participants and then completely re-arranged the layout of the room to try to create a less formal feel to the environment. There were very lively exchanges about “the elements of a creative environment”, “where ideas come from” and “what stops people being creative” with numerous ideas coming from the floor, particularly from the local participants.

There was also much discussion of “story spotting” with the facilitators showing pictures of several things they had spotted during the few hours they had been in the country. This sparked ideas from the crowd, who, by now were in full-flow.

An important take away from the workshop was that there needs to be an open atmosphere and culture in any organization in order for every individual to feel free to put forward their ideas. There was a particular focus on encouraging Editors and senior staff to avoid too much “nay-saying” when it comes to responding to ideas from

their teams. It is important that there are as many ideas as possible in the air so that Editors can then figure out how to select and execute the most creative ones BUT the focus of brainstorming needs to be on the generation of the maximum possible number of ideas, in the initial phases. This means, avoiding using the words “no” and “but” and preferring to use the word “and” instead, in the spirit of building on ideas rather than knocking them down.

It was pointed out that truly creative brainstorming usually has some structure and format to it, as follows;

1. Have a strict time-limit
2. Choose a facilitator to drive, guide and collect ideas
3. Ensure one person talks at a time
4. Ban the words “NO” and “BUT”
5. Encourage the use for the word “AND”
6. Avoid “debating” ideas at this first stage
7. Generate quantity

Using these techniques, the session concluded with a further brainstorm on ideas for the coverage of the Nepal Earthquake, using the rules above. This time it was also made sure that the ideas were framed as “questions” rather than just broad ideas. This final session was only 5 minutes long but led to about 60 questions being generated from the 6 groups.

5th ABU Digista Teens helps animation in Bhutan



The 1st Producers' Meeting for ABU Digista Teens 2015 was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, hosted by VTV, from 22 to 23 April. Digista Teens is an ABU's unique educational platform for young creators in the Asia-Pacific region to showcase their talent through various digital artworks including 2D/3D animation and stop-motion.

Seven organisations - BBS-Bhutan, NHK-Japan, RTB-Brunei, RTM-Malaysia, NBT Thailand, TVK-Cambodia and VTV-Vietnam took part in the meeting. MNM Mongolia did not take part in the meeting but will participate in the event. This year BBS-Bhutan has joined this co-production for the first time.

After screening last year's programmes by NHK and NBT, participating producers exchanged their ideas and thoughts to make this year's event more engaging to the young audience, followed by presentation of the event plan of this year by the host organisation, RTB, Brunei. The theme of the artworks for this year is "Happiness". The Digista Teens 2015 will be held in late November.

Sangye Choiphel, a young producer from Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) has kindly accepted to share with us his experience of participating in Digista Teens. He was so excited to find out that the project involved other Asian Countries where the youth can interact in meaningful conversation within the common interest of digital media. Digista Teens is an ultimate platform for young people to learn from each other, not only sharing ideas and gaining

different skills but learning about the unique and different cultures.

In 2013, excited to get Bhutan involved in the project so that the youth of Bhutan had an opportunity to express their ideas through animation, a field of media that is almost non-existent within the country, Sangye spoke to his managers to get BBS to be part of the Digista Teens family. Unfortunately due to financial restraints, the station dropped the project. This year Sangye will make it. Digista Teens 2015 will be the first time Bhutan will be a part of the project and he expects it to be just as successful as the previous editions held in NHK Tokyo, Japan and NBT Bangkok, Thailand.

For his youth Challengers, this will be an opportunity of a life time as they have never been outside of the country let alone be on an airplane. The learning and sharing experience that the challengers will attain through the Digista Teens 2015 in Brunei will be life changing for them. To find other youth from other countries sharing similar ideas and interest will surely encourage them to pursue their passion in this field with a positive attitude.

The field of Animation in Bhutan is at its infancy with very limited expertise. As a result this is one of the biggest challenges that they will face, but the interest in animation within the youth in Bhutan is extraordinary, some have grown up watching Japanese Animation. Therefore through the Digista Teens project, the experience and learning opportunity could possibly develop and further enhance the field of Animation in Bhutan.



Radio Song Festival – A Wonderful Evening in Yangon

Myanmar and Yangon have proven to be worthy venues of the ABU Radio Song Festival held on 29 May 2015 in conjunction with RadioAsia Conference. It was undoubtedly a wonderful evening of entertainment put on by the host broadcaster Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) and retransmitted live on one of its channels.

The ABU Radio Song Festival is a musical showcase from across Asia-Pacific. The Festival embraces and recognizes the diverse musical talents of nations within the region represented by the best original and unsigned musicians.

This is the third edition of the ABU Radio Song Festival. The inaugural Festival was held in Seoul in 2012 and the second edition in Colombo in 2014.

ABU Radio members provided the songs for the Festival. The best entrants were determined by an international selection committee and the selected artists performed at the Gala Event at the National Theatre of Yangon. There were 15 finalists coming from Brunei, India, Indonesia, Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The guest artists gave a special touch to the evening. They were vocalists Zaw Paing, Ah Moon, Ni Ni khin zaw and the traditional dancers from the Ministry of Culture.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Ms Rosarita Niken Widiastuti, the President and Director of RRI-Indonesia who is also a famous singer in her country performed for the ABU at the gala night. She also invited the participants to attend the ABU General Assembly 2016 in Jakarta.



AVN Hands-on Training for TVTM



The ABU News Director Mr Chae Il and Asiavision Senior Editor Tan Hockguan were in Turkmenistan at the end of April at the invitation of the Turkmenistan government. The invitation was in conjunction with the festive events held on the occasion of the Turkmen Horse Festival from the 22-26 of April in the capital Ashgabat.

Mr Chae and Tan, representatives of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) at the festival, were also able to schedule a visit to Television Turkmenistan (TVTM), one of the television stations of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography. TVTM is a new member of Asiavision (AVN), the daily TV news exchange programme of the ABU.



Mr Chae and Tan met with the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography Deputy Chairman Mr Annasahet Kakayev and other senior officials of TVTM. After a briefing by both sides, Mr Chae Il and Tan conducted a training session for staff of TVTM. The training was to enable TVTM staff to familiarise themselves with the AVN news exchange programme's file-based/online platform and includes hands-on procedures on accessing the AVN Akamai platform and accessing the scripts available on the ABU website.

Latest AVN Monthly Award Winners

The monthly Asiavision Award for May goes to MCOT of Thailand, with DDI of India winning in April and IRIB of Iran taking the award in March.

MCOT earned the May award for its comprehensive coverage of the Thai authorities crackdown on human traffickers.

The Thai broadcaster was been quick to provide visuals since the crackdown began in early May and it continued to provide almost daily updates on the still developing story.



The Thai crackdown began following the discovery of graves at temporary holding camps in the jungle near the border with Malaysia.

The crackdown led to the human traffickers then abandoning thousands of migrants at sea in boats. Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have since agreed to provide temporary shelter to the migrants rescued at sea.

A massive earthquake with the epicentre in Nepal struck on 25 April and DDI's coverage of affected areas in the northern part of India earned it the April award.



Global News Forum to be held every year as from 2017

ABU is exploring the possibility to hold the Global News Forum (GNF) every year instead of every two years. The idea was discussed in May at ABU Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur during a meeting chaired by the Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi in the presence of Mr Joao Francisco Pinto, ABU News Group Chair, Mr Chae Il, News Director and Mr Tan Hock Guan, Senior Editor.

The first-ever ABU GNF which is a high-level summit for news media leaders was held in September 2013 in Seoul on the theme 'Breaking the News in the Media 3.0 Era' and hosted by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS). NHK-Japan hosted the second edition this year in March in Sendai, Japan with the theme of "Informing People, Saving Lives: Broadcasting During Disasters". The next GNF is scheduled to be held in Singapore in 2017.

Dr Mottaghi said that as from 2017, the GNF could be held every year so as to create more awareness of ABU news activities in the region and that it is important for the forum to have a trademark otherwise it could be forgotten.

Other decisions and ideas came out of this meeting. Kazakhstan (Khabar Agency and Kazmedia) have been invited to join the Asiavision (AVN) membership. More training will be given to AVN members and non AVN members, and ABC Australia will host the News Group Meeting next year.

The massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck just before noon with the epicentre near Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.



Aftershocks and tremors were also felt across the eastern and northern parts of India. The disaster claimed around 8,000 lives in Nepal.

IRIB took the March award for its coverage of the Iraqi army intensifying its fight against the Takfiri terrorists in Tikrit, capital of Iraq's Salahuddin province.

The Iraqi army and popular forces were continuing their operations to take back control of Tikrit on three fronts.

Thousands of government troops, Shiite and Sunni popular forces have



liberated several strategic villages located between Samarra and Tikrit after breaking ISIL's fortified defensive positions.

High Expectation for ROBOCON 2015 in Indonesia



Preparations are in full swing in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for the ABU Robocon 2015 to be held there on August 23. Mr Yoshihito Kuroiwa, ABU Robocon Deputy Secretariat- Chief Executive Producer at NHK-Japan and his team had a meeting in May with TVRI-Indonesia and the Contest Committee members.

Various issues were discussed concerning overall contest management and run of the competition which were all well prepared by TVRI in advance. The committee will meet again in June to confirm the day-to-day schedule of the participants and finalize every little details of the contest.

The contest theme this year is 'ROBOMINTON' and as at now 19 teams from 18 countries have confirmed their participation. Hosted by the Indonesian public broadcaster, the contest will take place on Sunday 23 August 2015 at the Muhammadiyah University in Yogyakarta and will be broadcast Live on TVRI.

Meanwhile, the venues for four next editions of Robocon have been confirmed as follows:
2016: Chiangmai, Thailand
2017: Tokyo, Japan
2018: Vietnam
2020: Pune, India

MNB-Mongolia has been approached to host the Robocon contest in 2019.

Pacific Media Partnership Conference 2015 in Samoa



PACMAS

Pacific Media Assistance Scheme

The Samoa Broadcasting Commission (SBC) will host the PMPC-2015 this year from 25 to 27 August at the Government Convention Centre in Apia, Samoa with the theme "Partnering for Broadcasting". In collaboration with ITU, two days of technical workshop will be conducted as a pre-runner to the conference on the 3rd day.

PACMAS –The Pacific Media Assistance Scheme which supports better governance in the Pacific region by contributing to the development of a diverse, independent and professional Pacific media system will conduct a workshop in media reporting. NHK International and other partners will support ABU organizing parallel workshop sessions on journalistic and technical aspects of media.

The PMP event provides a platform for the broadcasters and media personnel

in the Pacific to share knowledge and expertise to improve and promote broadcasting in the region. The conference will also address a number of challenges in content production and new technologies including their plan to go digital with their national terrestrial television broadcasting services for delivery.

Since the PMPC event is held in a Pacific country, the conference will provide an affordable, still valuable, opportunity for broadcasters and other media professionals to understand new concepts and mechanisms that can enhance their capacity in various aspects of broadcasting and media delivery.



ABU 2015 Tashkent Forum

ABU will be organising the next Central Asia Media Forum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan under the name "ABU 2015 TASHKENT FORUM". The Forum will take place from the 23-24 July 2015 and will be hosted by NTRC of Uzbekistan.

The Forum aims to gather broadcasters and industry players in Central Asia and other media stakeholders around the region. The objective of the Forum is to establish a platform for media organisations in and around this region to network and initiate mutual cooperation and collaboration in the media space. Another objective is to support our members in Central Asia to build up capacities and to prepare themselves for the future and upcoming challenges.

It will be an opportunity for Members to share the expertise of their organisation with the broadcasters in Central Asia. The forum will have expert speakers from around the world presenting on a wide ranging topics which includes Technology, News, Content, New Media applications and other specific areas of interest to broadcasters.

Tashkent is the capital and largest city of Uzbekistan and has a population of about 2.5 million people. The city has several television and cable television facilities, including Tashkent Tower, the tallest structure in Central Asia. The National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan launched two new television channels in 2013 which created high quality cultural, educational, artistic, youth and sports TV programs for its audiences.



Media 2020 – Bringing Media to the Future



ABU is actively collaborating with its member Radio Romania for the Media 2020 Conference to be held in Bucharest from 30 June to 1 July 2015. Eminent media professionals of Asia and Europe will meet for a high-level conference which will focus on how media and specially the radio industry will evolve during the next five years.

It will an opportunity for participants to observe how media broadcasters both in the Asia-Pacific and Europe are addressing the substantive transformations currently underway in the media industry and what will be the next future challenges. The Bucharest conference organised for the first time by ABU and Radio Romania will enable participants to analyse and foresee the development of their respective media industry.

The one and a half day conference will consist of various sessions with a diverse range of topics already identified to the satisfaction of participants. These include: Media landscape of 2020 – Trends in Media Development; Engaging 2020 Radio Audiences through Good Music; Radio Drama; Looking at UHDTV Production in 2020 and Media For Children.

ABU-ASBU team up on technological issues



WORLD



Defining the future of digital radio

From 10-14 August 2015, a joint activity of ABU and ASBU is scheduled in Kuala Lumpur on DAB+ Technology. In November or December 2015, another joint activity of ABU and ASBU will be conducted in Tunis on Hybrid Broadcasting; OTT and Integrated Broadcast Broadband (IBB) media for both radio and television.

ABU-ASBU Technology week will be held in the month of May annually starting 2016. The technology week is organised in conjunction with broadcast exhibition held in Tunis annually, which is equivalent to ABU Digital Broadcast Symposium (DBS).

Kalang Advertising Limited – Papua New Guinea joins ABU as Additional Full Member

Kalang Advertising Limited is a subsidiary of Telikom PNG Ltd. Since its incorporation in 1987, it has strived to provide news, information and music to the entire nation and is continuing to meet its challenges from today's technological changes and commercial competitiveness.

It has nearly 95% radio broadcasting coverage of the entire nation and strategically committed to cover 100% of the entire nation through radio in the years ahead. Kalang Advertising recently introduced a new radio station known as Hot97FM. This is to cater for the teenage to young adults who like music from the 90's to the current hits. This new station is considered to be the hottest music station in PNG.

The management of Kalang Advertising Limited ensures that the people of Papua New Guinea receive up to date news, information, music and current events every day through radio broadcasting. They have also worked on new projects to support the music industry in recording of songs on cassettes and compact discs for local artists which will be available in the near future.

John Mong (pix), a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) is Chief Executive Officer of Kalang Advertising Limited (trading as FM100 & HOT97FM) and he is the serving interim committee Chairman of RMCN Micro Credit Scheme.

John is also a Board member of Media Council Papua New Guinea (MCPNG) and the National Management Team Chairman of Reformation Ministries & Churches Network (PNG) INC.



The Radio studio with Senior Announcer Samvic Namaduk who is blind but very familiar with all the consoles. He has over ten years of experience in his work.



Management Team L to R – Dominic Appi (Radio Manager), Sharain Hiram (Director Of Media), Bronson Kamtaura (Chief Technician). Front: L to R – Johannah Akubor (Chief Reporter), Kaelyn Dekarube (Assistant Director Of Media)

Nauru Media joins ABU as Additional Full Member

Nauru is an island country in Micronesia. With about 9,500 residents only in a 21-square-kilometre area, Nauru is the smallest state in the South Pacific and third smallest state by area in the world. The country is a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Asian Development Bank and the Pacific Islands Forum. Nauru also participates in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Nauru Media of the Department of Telecommunication & Media of Nauru Island has recently joined ABU as an Additional Full member. Its offices are located in Yaren district. Nauru Media was first established in 1991 as Nauru Television. In 1998 both the TV station and radio station were combined together under one department and established as Nauru Media. Then in 2009 the local newspaper (Mwinen KO) roughly translated "Let's Talk about It" was introduced and is now up to its 55th Edition. It also holds an archive

library of old radio vinyl record and audio cassettes dated as far back as 1968, year where the island became independent.

News and stories for the News Bulletin are pre-recorded and played on air four times a day on a daily basis for both TV and radio. Nauru Television has only one available channel which is airing the Free to Air (FTA) programme, Australia Plus. TV and Radio coverage is transmitted and received island wide.

There are currently 33 staff/employees throughout the three arms of Media – newspaper, radio and television and it is the only Media outlet on the island which is government owned. The department will be moving to a new location situated on the Western side of the island soon. The vision of Nauru Media is to be fair and to provide independent television, radio and newspaper information and services to the general community as well as the Government of Nauru.

ABU Calendar of Events

July

1-3	Children Drama Co-Production Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
6-10	Children Item Exchange Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
13-14	In-country Training	Sri Lanka
18-24	International Champions Cup in Asia-Pacific	Melbourne, Australia
20-23	Workshop on Role of Community Radio in Disaster Preparedness	Kathmandu, Nepal
23-24	ABU 2015 Tashkent Forum	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
24-9 August	16th FINA World Championship	Kazan, Russia
25-2 August	Special World Olympics	Los Angeles, USA
26-29	Saving Lives: Media and ICTs Solutions for DRR Workshop	Tehran, Iran

August

10-14	ABU-ASBU-WorldDMB DAB + Technology Workshop	Kuala Lumpur
22-30	15th IAAF World Championship	Beijing, China
23	14th ABU Robocon	Jakarta, Indonesia
25-27	Pacific Media Partnership Conference	Apia, Samoa

September

5-11	Commonwealth Youth Games	Apia, Samoa
10-15	International Broadcasting Convention - IBC 2015	Amsterdam
14-16	ABU Prizes 2015 Final Judging	Kuala Lumpur
17-18	AVN Coordinators Meeting	Phuket , Thailand

October

2-11	6th CISM Military World Games	Mung Myeong , South Korea
23-1 Nov	Gymnastics World Championship	Glasgow, United Kingdom
25-31	ABU General Assembly & Associated Meetings	Istanbul, Turkey
28	4th ABU TV Song Festival	Istanbul, Turkey
30	ABU Prizes Award Ceremony	Istanbul, Turkey

ABU and OIC explore avenues for Cooperation

The Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr Iyad Ameen Madani paid a visit in April to the ABU Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The OIC is an international organisation founded in 1969 and consists of 57 member states. Known as “the collective voice of the Muslim world”, the OIC works to safeguard and protect the interests of its members in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony. Based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, it has permanent representatives to the United Nations and the European Union.

Dr Madani was in Kuala Lumpur to hold official bilateral talks with the Malaysian government.

The ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, through a video presentation briefed Mr Madani on the operations and activities of the ABU. The two Secretary-Generals recalled that nearly 30 countries are members of both ABU and OIC. ABU Directors of Technology, Sports and News also gave a brief overview of the main responsibilities of their respective department.

Dr Madani stated that broadcasting is very important for the OIC and would like to collaborate with the ABU in sectors like Sports, Youth-oriented events, Children and Women Programmes and Climate Change.



ABU and UNI-APRO Singapore: Cooperation strengthened

Mr Christopher Ng, Regional Secretary UNI-APRO Singapore paid a visit in Kuala Lumpur to ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi in April and discussed different areas of cooperation.

UNI-APRO will conduct a workshop on “Safety of Journalists” and a session about Gender Equality or Women Empowerment in the forthcoming ABU Pacific Media partnership Conference that will be held from 25-27 August 2015 in Samoa.

The organisation based in Singapore will also be present at ABU General Assembly and will participate in the session “Women With the Wave” on 28 October 2015 in Istanbul. Mr Christopher Ng will confirm its participation in two other ABU activities namely, the Tashkent Media Forum for Central Asia scheduled from 23-25 July 2015 in Uzbekistan and the ABU Media Summit on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held from 12-13 May 2016 in Phuket.

ABU and UNI-APRO will consider establishing a joint venture Annual Media Forum in partnership with IJF on safety of Journalists for ASEAN Sub-region starting from 2016 onwards.





ABU – ASBU: Expanding Partnership

Partnership between the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) and the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) is going from strength to strength in all areas including technical, news, sports and programming.

A fruitful meeting took place on 25 May 2015, at ABU Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur between the two Unions. ASBU Director General, Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman was accompanied by his Training Centre Director, Mr Taleb Kadhi Amin and his Executive Assistant, Ms

Moufida Limam. ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi had by his side all his senior colleagues.

Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman and Dr Javad Mottaghi expressed their satisfaction concerning the cooperation between the two unions and agreed that such mutual collaboration could be furthermore strengthened on areas of mutual interest. Both Unions have agreed to beef up their partnership at different levels.

Maldives Broadcasting Corporation renamed Public Service Media: Ibrahim Khaleel appointed new MD

Following a new legislation enacted by Maldives Parliament, Maldives Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) has been renamed as Public Service Media (PSM) since April 2015.

Ibrahim Khaleel who has over 28 years of experience in media and broadcasting is the new Managing Director of PSM. He began his career in 1987 as a Reporter at Haveeru Daily. Two years later, he joined Television Maldives as News and Current Affairs Assistant Editor and in 2006, Khaleel was promoted Assistant Director General in the same department.

In 2012, he joined VMEDIA Group as CEO where he succeeded in branding the Media channel and introducing online news and print media.

Ibrahim Khaleel also served as Vice President of Maldives Media Association in 2007 and as President of the Maldives Media Council from 2012 to 2014.



Several ABU Members will join the Public Broadcasters International conference this year in Germany



Mr Toshiyuki Sato Special Controller, NHK International Inc. is the Secretary-General of PBI–Public Broadcasters International which was established in 1991 by the Japanese national broadcaster, TV Ontario – Canada and other major public broadcasters in the world. ABU members like KBS, NHK, RTM and TDM are expected to participate.

The main objective of the association is to exchange views and experiences accumulated through the experiences of public service broadcasters. It is a friendly union of public broadcasters and aims to give opportunities for top executives and professionals to meet once a year face to face. The merit of the periodical gathering is not only in exchanging practical knowledge of broadcasters but also connecting Presidents, CEOs and professionals of different fields in person. Each year about 150 members of 30 to 50 major public broadcasters attend

the annual conference. Networking top managements and connecting professionals of world broadcasters are the greatest opportunities that PBI can offer.

This year, the PBI will meet in Munich, Germany from September 9 to 11. The hosts are ARD, the German public broadcasters' network and one of its member organizations BR, Public Broadcasting for Bavaria. Most of the topics of this year's assembly will be on the various challenges and impacts on public broadcasting by digital technology. It will also explore how public broadcasters attract young audience. Public Media Alliance (former Commonwealth Broadcasters Association) will participate and collaborate with PBI this year.

Like ABU has the Administrative Council, PBI has the Steering Committee which also meets in between the annual conferences. This year the meeting was

held in Munich in the late April. The committee discussed how the PBI this year will be conducted. Many familiar figures like Ulrich Wilhelm (DG, BR), Paula Kerger (President, PBS), Katsuto Momii (President, NHK) have confirmed their attendances as speakers.

In the history of a quarter of a century, ABU members hosted six PBIs: RTM (1996), RTHK (2002), TDM (2004), KBS (2007), NHK (2009) and MediaCorp (2011). Mr Toshiyuki Sato was elected as the fourth Secretary-General of the organization (first from Asia- Pacific region) in the Steering Committee meeting in December last year in Rio de Janeiro as a successor of Mr Charles Greber from France Television for the term of three years.

The PBI next year will be held in Montreal, Canada hosted by CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) in September. RTM Malaysia will host the conference in 2017.

Strengthening ties between ABU and AIBD



Mr Chang Jin, the new Director, AIBD visited the ABU Secretariat on 20 May at the invitation of the ABU Secretary-General. ABU and AIBD decided to further strengthen their partnership in capacity building. The ABU invited AIBD to not only partner but also shoulder together training activities to meet members' need. Both organisations agreed to meet on a monthly basis and develop as many joint venture projects as possible.

IRIB Top Radio Presenter Dies



Mehran Dousti, a veteran radio presenter, died after a heart attack in a hospital in Tehran last May.

Born in 1957 in a coastal city in Northern Iran, Mr Dousti graduated in Mechanics and Water Purification Engineering. He became a radio presenter in 1981 when a regular presenter of IRIB's Gilan Provincial Radio was late for work and was replaced by Mr Dousti who at that time was working at the network as a production executive.

In the years of Iran-Iraq war, he was a presenter of Radio Jebhe (Frontline Radio). Mr Dousti was the presenter of the program Radio Café which was

MEMBERS' STORIES: 30 October 2015 in Istanbul

“MEMBERS' STORIES” is a 10 minutes session which will feature selected short video/audio segments showcasing unique approaches or production techniques realized by ABU members.

This year's Members Stories Theme is: “Looking Beyond Boundaries & Empowering Asia-Pacific”. In line with the ABU General Assembly theme in Istanbul this session will provide space for members to share the best of their innovative and creative television/radio programming and technical skills that have looked beyond not just the physical boundaries of their local audiences but also any other restricted boundaries of technology, programming and distribution.

To take part in this unique platform, Members must send us a short (i.e. 1-2 minute) audio or video clip of the programme or presentation they wish to showcase. The stories can be from news,

sport, current affairs, documentaries, human interest, science, economics or any other field your station and network has done in a way that has seen beyond the boundaries.

ABU is looking for stories that are courageous, unique and involved some risk in breaking beyond the boundaries that either worked or taught you something important. A senior colleague in your organization will make a short introduction to the excerpt.

Please, submit your proposal to the ABU Secretariat by 10 August 2015 at the latest. Please provide a brief summary of your proposed story, identifying a key lesson that you think your colleagues could learn from your experience. This can be the same information your senior colleague will give in their introduction to it at the GA itself.

For more information please contact Ms Premila Manvi at premila@abu.org.my

broadcast at working days for many years.

He was acclaimed as a senior radio presenter for the above mentioned production of IRIB and winner of ABU Prizes 2013 in the On-air Personality Category. He was a member of the ABU

Prizes pre-selection board of juries for two years as well as a final jury in Ulaanbaatar in 2008.

The ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi expressed his deep condolences and sympathy to the family of Mehran Dousti and to IRIB.

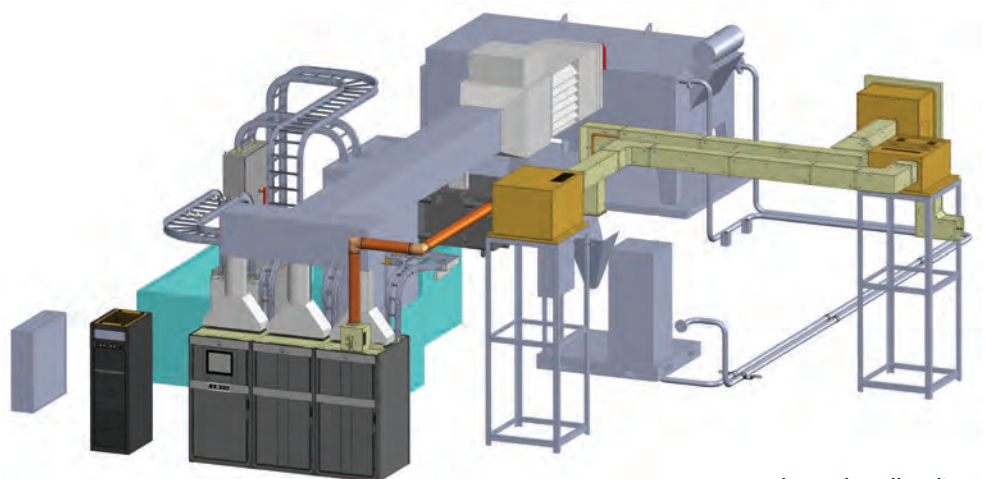


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