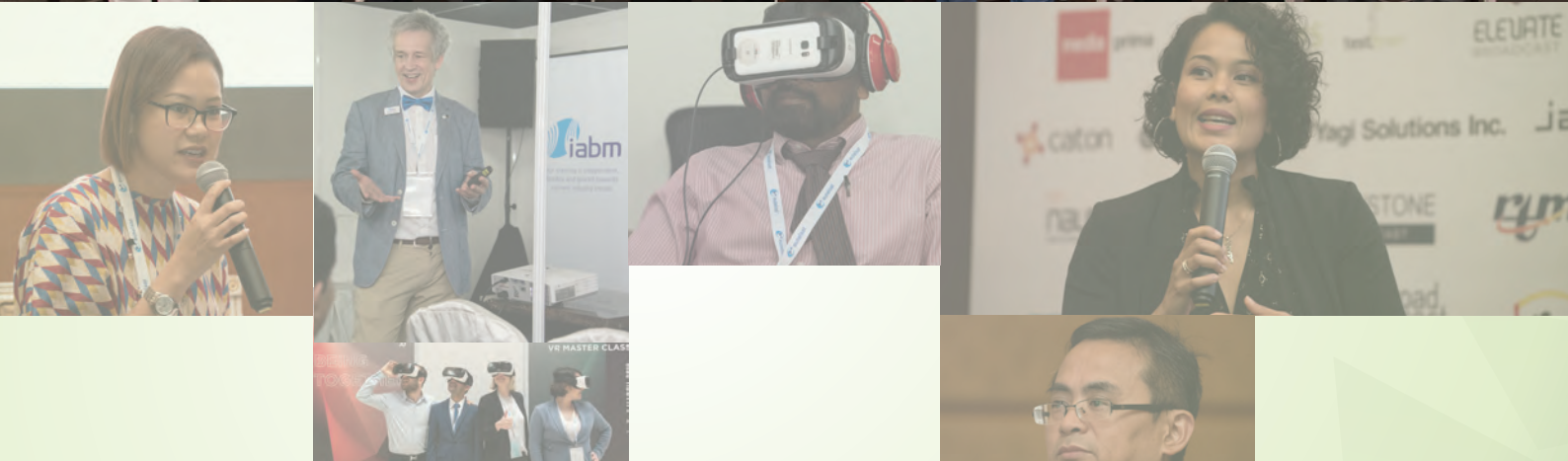


News of ABU activities and the broadcasting industry in the Asia-Pacific

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Greetings from the ABU!

Greetings from the ABU!

Everyone at ABU wishes a warm welcome to this, our Q1 2018 edition of the ABU News. The first quarter of 2018 was a busy one for the ABU and some of its members. Recently the 14th installment of the series of the **ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS)** was staged by the ABU in order to support its members and other radio and television broadcasters and the media industry. This year's event was staged at the Royale Chulan Hotel from March 05-08 in Kuala Lumpur and was a resounding success.

This 15th edition of the DBS, which shares the theme of this issue, was "Enhancing Multiplatform Content", focused on the importance for broadcasters to embrace the new changes impacting the industry.

Over 1000 people attended the event which consisted of an international conference with stimulating and engaging speakers, focused workshops and an industry exhibition showcasing the latest technologies and services from around the world.

Broadcasters, consultants, engineers, content and new media professionals as well as broadcast regulators spoke about a wide array of highly relevant topics concerning the media industry. In conjunction with the symposium, 63 exhibitors showcased their latest products and services in 47 booths. This year, the Best Booth Award was bestowed on Rohde and Schwarz.

Building on the success of the DBS event in 2017, this year's DBS exceeded the number of participants from last year. The next ABU DBS will be held 4-7 March 2019 in Kuala Lumpur.

Another major event for the ABU and its members occurred in the South Pacific. Namely, the **ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction** as well as the 2018 Pacific Media Partnership Conference held in Fiji, from 05-07 February.

The Summit saw participants discuss, engage and learn a wide variety of topics, specifically in the context of media and broadcasting in vulnerable states. The media has a vital role to play in disseminating information about climate change and its effects. More on this summit can be read within this edition. 157 participants from 22 countries attended the media dialogue in Fiji. The conference adopted a series of recommendations in the name of the Fiji Action Plan. The ABU in partnership with regional and international partners will try its best to put the Fiji Action Plan in practice.

The first edition of the **ABU-RAI Days: "Innovation Meets Culture; Digital Media and Cultural Heritage"** was held in Rome on 20- 21 March. The two-day forum, hosted by ABU's Associate Member, the Italian Public Service Broadcaster-RAI, was a chance to see and discuss the very latest in global developments in digitisation and market convergence.

The second quarter of 2018 will also be an eventful one for the ABU and its members with the **ABU Radio Song Festival 2018** to be held on July 11 in Astana, Kazakhstan, as part of RadioAsia which is taking place between July 10 and July 12 at the Kazmedia Center. The East West Media Dialogue under the umbrella of Media 2020 will also be held in Astana after Radio Asia Conference in partnership with Radio Romania and Kazmedia.

In this edition, we showcase the DBS and bring you valuable and up to date content with highlights, photos and material from the event itself. We also bring you news about our members in Asia and the Pacific, introduce our latest members, as well as inform you about other events that are up and coming and of concern to you, our members. We hope you enjoy the latest issue.

-- The Editor

ANNOUNCING THE NEXT ABU DIGITAL BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM 4-7 MARCH 2019 KUALA LUMPUR

A stylized globe graphic in shades of green and blue, showing the continents of Asia and Australia. It is positioned behind the text 'ABU DIGITAL BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM 2019' and has a green circular line passing through it.

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Joan Warner, Chief Executive Officer, Commercial Radio Australia opens DBS 2018



ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi delivering the welcoming address at DBS 2018



ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium 2018

The 2018 ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium was held this year from 05-08 March at the Royale Chulan Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. The three day symposium focused largely on the latest developments in digital broadcast technologies.

Participants from 45 countries and representing over 250 organisations attended workshops, visited industry exhibitor booths, greeted colleagues and networked for over three full days.

Broadcasters, consultants, engineers, content and new media professionals as well as broadcast regulators talked on a wide array of highly relevant topics concerning the media industry.

In conjunction with the symposium, 63 exhibitors showcased their latest

products and services in 47 booths. This year, the Best Booth Award was bestowed on Rohde and Shchwarz.

The 15th edition of the DBS, the theme for which was: "Enhancing Multiplatform Content", focused on the importance for broadcasters to embrace the new changes impacting the industry. The conference was officially opened by Dr Javad Mottaghi and Joan Warner, Vice President, WorldDAB (Asia Pacific) and CEO Commercial Radio Australia.

Dr Javad Mottaghi Secretary-General of the ABU, noted in his welcome address that there had been an "overwhelming response from participants with colleagues from 45 countries representing over 250 organisations" in attendance.



**16 Sponsors • 7 Media Partners
40 Exhibitors • 52 Booths
20 Countries • 72 Speakers
1,212 PARTICIPANTS**



Lindsay Cornell addressing the audience



Bernie O'Neill, Project Director WorldDAB

"Content is still king and remains the key element for success in the new media world," said Dr Mottaghi.

"It has also contributed to new business ideas and generating new revenue streams, in particular for reach and attractive content that could be used to secure new types of advertising opportunities that suits the mobile and multi-screen devices."

In her keynote speech, Ms Warner stated DAB+ allows broadcasters to use the best of broadcast radio and the internet to create hybrid radio and a much richer user experience. She went on to say that regulators in the Asia Pacific can learn from the case studies of the other countries that are rolling out digital platforms such as DAB+ and do it even better in this populous and tech-savvy region.

Representatives from across Asia Pacific and Europe shared best practices and learned from case studies on how broadcasters around the world are growing new audiences and planning for hybrid radio. Speakers included Dave Cameron, General Manager at Southern Cross Austereo in Melbourne, who discussed how a large and successful commercial FM broadcaster has developed DAB+ and is using DAB+ to enhance and expand radio brands.

A Multiplatform World

A WorldDAB-sponsored workshop brought together experts to expand on the progress in the international rollout of digital radio. It featured case studies that highlighted best practices with speakers making the case for transition from analogue to digital.

Joan Warner of WorldDAB (Asia-Pacific) and CEO of Commercial Radio Australia, gave an update on how ASEAN countries can utilise DAB+ to unlock "economies of scale" and how Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Laos are making plans to go ahead with DAB+ technology.

Ms Warner stated that the increasingly competitive market for audiences means that radio continues to provide a valuable service to the community, and that by being free and accessible for all, digital radio preserves the innate ability of radio to provide connection and to share local stories.

WorldDAB's Bernie O'Neill stated that the earlier barriers to digital radio transition had been all but overcome. "Receivers are no longer an issue," she

said, adding that 60 million have been sold world-wide at a starting price of about US\$20.

Lindsay Cornell of the WorldDAB Technical Committee provided a brief technical update and outlined the work undertaken to standardise protocols so that web developers can more easily work on DAB applications, and so that car-manufacturers can send information to the current owner of a vehicle, as well as protocols for traffic information, and further development in the display of non-Latin text.

Nick Piggot, Project Director at RadioDNS said delegates should use each technology for the best use it had been designed for, and stated "our strategic discussion should be about how we cleverly use both technologies to deliver a better experience than one technology on its own."

Australia's Southern Cross Austereo's General Manager Dave Cameron described how his stations had used DAB+ to extend their existing brands. Austereo has moved to create three to four sub-brands and complementing formats from the main FM stations, allowing for more cross-promotion.

Broadcasting Business Needs to Evolve

In the first session of DBS 2018, Dave Cameron, General Manager, Melbourne, Southern Cross Austereo, spoke about content, voice activation for devices and the dynamic radio environment in Australia. He stated the focus of his organisation was to keep their listeners engaged and interacting with content. Through the interaction process and having users logging in to interact, they are able to track and understand who their listeners are and where they live. This in turn, enables them to target their advertising which their clients place importance on.

Taking radio content in shopping centers is now a priority for Austereo's business. Data shows that radio listeners are most usually found at home, in the car, at work or in malls.

Most broadcasters are gearing up for podcasting and Austereo has now teamed up with podcast providers in the USA, Podcast One.

Cheong Yew-jin, Director, Broadcast & Media APAC, Rohde & Schwarz, presented his thoughts on efficiency and value optimization in distribution and monitoring of digital content. He posited that in terms of the amount of content created today as compared to ten years ago it is easily two-four times as much now. He addressed the issue and value of differentiation. He asked: "How do I stand head and shoulders above my competition, how do I keep the lead that I have as a content provider?" He went on to say that Multiplatform and VR were just one of the ways to differentiate oneself in the market.

Mr Jørn Jensen, Principal Advisor, NRK Norway, gave an extensive overview of digital radio and its progress in Norway. He stated his organisation had managed to sell 2 million radios, which in Norway represents about a radio per household in a country of 5 million. He also said that private and government broadcasters as well as technology providers must cooperate.

Left: Cheong Yew-jin makes a point at the podium
Below: Dave Cameron highlighting a slide of importance to the audience



Jørn Jensen explaining digital radio in Norway



Next Generation Audio and Visual

In a panel discussion covering topics ranging from audio, video and to SDR, panel members including Gordon Gu, CEO, Adinno Inc focused on 4K and the flexibility it offers and summarised the need for immediate action by the broadcasting industry. "The technology all the time is moving forward," he said. "The world is changing quickly. If you are ready, get in – or get out." The next generation of customers "just want entertainment or the news" regardless of the platform the broadcast entity has traditionally used. "The future is coming quickly so we have to be ready now."

Jerry Gui, Sr Staff Solutions Engineer at Dolby spoke at length on next generation audio production and focused on object-based audio. A new approach by Dolby, this new immersive and direct audio experience offers a richer sound experience.

Les Sabel, WorldDAB Technical Committee, explained how broadcasters will soon, if they aren't already, be using technology to collect specific data – about what content is popular and engaging, and importantly, demographic data about their audiences. Broadcasters will be able to





promote or supply specific content that a particular audience member might be interested in directly to their devices.

"We're seeing more and more emphasis on the personalisation."

Picture a future where your voice-activated car radio will play your chosen audio or video segment on demand, then continue playing your favourite radio station while displaying a map with real-time traffic information.

"We've got a number of advanced features already defined in the standards. We've got alternatives for high resolution delivery, we can deliver those HD images to cars. We've got categorisation of those images for storage and later use. We've got click-through links, so we can activate links to advertising, to content, to programs, to all sorts of information.

Alexander Zink, Senior Business Development Manager, Fraunhofer,

shared a case study of the implementation of DRM in India, highlight achievements during 2017.

"India is in the process of rolling out DRM on their medium-wave network first. Last year they had the big success of finally finishing the transmitter set-up and now it's all about the content improvement, the service definitions, adding all the benefits of digital radio and finally starting the marketing towards the listeners with an official launch."

In terms of offering more choice for audiences, he stated that "in the old world there was only one program to be transmitted on AM or FM per transmitter and per frequency. In the digital world, on that same frequency in that same bandwidth we can go up to three audio programs plus data.

"The public broadcaster in India has now finished the migration to the new transmissions."

They are now on air with multiple audio and data services. Two of the five biggest metro areas are now on air, with others to follow very soon.

Broadcasters that have made the transition are now able to provide "the rich internet content such as electronic program guides and traffic information that they have in the past only provided on their website – now they are also providing them to the listeners on their radio sets."

"People no longer must depend on internet connectivity or mobile devices, SIM cards or contracts, they can receive all their content in the different languages of the country right in their radio set without any additional cost."

As well as more choice for listeners and multimedia applications, broadcasters that have made the transition are also enjoying excellent audio quality, good coverage area and a robust signal.

Media and the New Reality

Moderated by Mr Paul Jones, VP Sales Asia-Pacific, Megahertz, introduced an engaging series of presentations starting with insights on global trends and latest developments of VR and AR by Aale Raza, Chief Executive Officer, Whiteways Systems Pte. Ltd. He outlined the history of television graphics and highlighted how the technology has advanced since those early days. He showed a video which provided an overview of how VR works during a news broadcast. He then stated another new and interesting development, an engine which can produce objects in 3D. The engine has now been integrated into a graphics system which allows for entire objects and environments into the virtual 'set'.

Mr Shim, Senior Engineer, KBS, presented a case study on the application of special visual effects. He shared his experiences using VR and AR in his production of various programmes at KBS, including those used in the recently-completed 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. He gave an overview of accessing news on mobile in South Korea.

Mr Salar Shahna, Creative Director and CEO, World VR Forum presented his history in working with VR and AR. He went on to explain the new frontier that VR represents in broadcasting.

Aale Raza, Chief Executive Officer, Whiteways Systems Pte. Ltd.



He detailed the latest technology regarding the headsets, in particular coming from China, with headsets with no wires to inhibit movement.

He also presented the latest in content creation with cameras for the audience, comparing and contrasting the types of devices on the market and the pros and cons of using the different types of VR cameras.

Mr Shahna rounded off his presentation with the successful projects his company has done in Shanghai and Beijing.

Immersive VR Masterclass Steals the Show at DBS

At this year's Digital Broadcasting Symposium, ABU partnered with World VR Forum (WVRF) to bring a unique VR Masterclass which showcased state-of-the-art storytelling and content creation in the Virtual Reality domain. The core mission of this Masterclass was to showcase VR as a true form of art to bring an unparalleled experience of storytelling and content creation. With more than 80 participants, it was



Salar Shahna and Aniket Rangnekar conducting informative VR sessions



Immersive VR Masterclass

an instant hit among the visitors to DBS this year.

Throughout DBS 2018, WVRF presented the immersive VR Masterclass in the form of a “classroom”, delivering eight sessions over the course of DBS. Each session lasted about 60 minutes, combining 30-35 minutes of synchronized VR experiences carefully chosen by WVRF, followed by 20 minutes of experience-sharing and questions and answers from participants.

During each session, a group of up to ten participants were guided by WVRF team to experience the most cutting-edge medium of communication. An average of three to five experiences, with a focus on new VR content that emerge around the world, were showcased during each session. Participants learned about the experiences which combine story structure and immersive design that utilize the full potential available with virtual and augmented reality technologies. This marks the first time ABU has showcased immersive VR technology at DBS.

The WVRF team, led by Salar Shahna, Creative Director and CEO of World VR Forum, included Delphine Seitiee, Chief Operating Officer and Ellen Kuo, Director - Market and Partnerships.

World VR Forum is an international, non-profit organisation based in Switzerland dedicated to advancing the virtual reality industry.

Industry Debate – Is content key for multiplatform success?

Always a highlight at previous DBS events, the industry debate at this year's DBS proved highly enlightening and informative. Moderated by Hakim Amir, Assistant Vice President, Content Development & Production Unit, Astro. Mr Hakim kicked off the panel discussion with Joan Warner, Charles Sevier, CTO Data Lake Scale Out Solutions, Dell EMC (APJ Region), Aniket Rangnekar, Ideal Systems, Lindsay Cornell, Principal Systems Architect, BBC Oliver Linow, Operational Engineer, Deutsche Welle and Marini Ramlan, GM, Primeworks Malaysia.

Joan Warner, when asked if broadcasters need to provide new and engaging content for the new platforms available, stated it is necessary for radio content to be adapted for different platforms. Access to social media platforms for example, require good content to be interesting to audiences.

When asked what the BBC was doing in order to engage audiences through multiplatform content, Mr Cornell stated that BBC has been doing multiplatform delivery of content for quite some time. He gave an insightful overview of how the BBC produces the content and with the variety of platforms available, content can be repackaged and re-used. Repackaging and re-using content is key for the BBC as different audiences access the content in different ways.



An engaging Industry Debate featuring Mr Hakim, Joan Warner, Charles Sevier, Aniket Rangnekar, Lindsay Cornell, Oliver Linow, and Marini Ramlan (top photo)



Mr Shim, Senior Engineer, KBS



Oliver Linow, and Lindsay Cornell during the Industry Debate



Kath Brown, Head of Strategic Development, Commercial Radio Australia



Andi Permadi, Head of New Media, Radio Republik Indonesia

Mr Sevier focussed on the peripheral content that attracts audiences and how capitalising on driving audiences across platforms provides further opportunity for revenue generation. Having content on other platforms offers further opportunities to monetise the content. With the technology available to broadcasters now, the ability to do this is easier than ever.

Mr Linow stated DW started looking for new platforms in 2006, adopting multiplatform at that time. He said that keeping a look out for the latest platforms is key and that is why he views the DBS as an important event in this regard.

Mr Rangnekar stated that his organisation uses live sport as prime example of utilising multiplatform delivery of content. He stated that tagging of content allowed for a greater potential audience through social media.

Shifting the discussion towards the challenges broadcasters face in delivering multiplatform content, Ms Warner said the key to being successful with one's multiplatform content, is that broadcasters need to understand who is using the content and on what platform. She went on to state that not only is monetisation of content important but research into whether audiences actually listen to advertisers content is just as important. Sponsors want to know how downloads and hits translate into sales. Another challenge

is in figuring out how all the platforms can work effectively with repackaged content.

The BBC's international and domestic aspects make it unique in that being a public broadcaster at home, it does not monetise content in the UK. However, the BBC does do that for content broadcast on its international service. Cultural differences present a challenge as the BBC's content has to be tailored for a specific international audience.

The daily commute is another topic the panellists discussed and presented a window for broadcasters to engage their audiences.

Also, traditional platforms were mentioned which are still relevant and not all predictions come to pass. TV is still relevant stated Ms Warner.

Much the same was said for radio and the live nature of it, which has stood the test of time.

Multiplatform Broadcasters - OTT & IBB Technologies and Implementation

Chaired by Kath Brown, Head of Strategic Development, Commercial Radio Australia, the panel in this topic discussed topics related to OTT and IBB technologies.

Oliver Linow talked about the technology it employs including satellites and still uses the traditional short wave radio to reach people in less-developed areas of the world. It is becoming more important for DW to provide its online services in multiple languages.

He highlighted for the audience that the social media platforms it uses to broadcast its content. Youtube being useful for 24 hour live streaming, whereas Facebook is best for particular events DW promotes. In his presentation he outlined the proprietary portals DW uses and the third party platforms like Twitter's periscope app.

Tegshgerel Oyuntogtokh, Director, MNB World Channel-Mongolia, talked about MNB's plan to transition to multiplatform. As a public broadcaster it has been entertaining and informing the public in its country for five decades. In addition to TV, broadcaster has radio stations and delivers their programming in five different languages, Russian, Chinese and Japanese among them.

MNB is planning its transition but has found many challenges in enhancing its services. Some of them include mastering search engine optimisation and producing content about Mongolia by Mongolians, as most of the content is produced outside the country.

Tegshgerel Oyuntogtokh, Director, MNB World Channel-Mongolia



Superior master classes in lighting and makeup by trainers from Turkey and Malaysia

Another challenge is launching its three year strategy to develop an English-language channel - called MNB World, which it has no experience in doing.

Charles Sevier, spoke about successful cloud scale of OTT solutions. He noted that there are less and less time being spent watching traditional TV channels. He spoke about how Ericsson being behind the development of 4G and 5G and how this technology can be the next big platform for media companies to leverage upon in order to get their content out.

In the next five years, mobile viewing will increase dramatically and he stated the ration from mobile viewing to what he termed 'sit-down' viewing will be equal at a 50-50 ratio.

Andi Permadi, Head of New Media, Radio Republik Indonesia spoke on multiplatform for public radio. He started his presentation by explaining the multiplatform arena in Indonesia. With a huge population, diverse cultures and languages, the country presents an interesting challenge for a public broadcaster with having to serve all the 'layers' in the country.

He rounded off by detailing the various apps which Indonesians are able to access in the country, which allows them to record their comments and submit to their national radio broadcaster for approval to broadcast. He also explained how DAB is in operation in Jakarta and some other larger metro areas and there is a desire to expand this technology in the country.

Lighting and Make up Masterclass a hit at DBS 2018

An enlightening Master Class Session: "Lighting & Make-up Techniques for HD and beyond", was held during the ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium.

Broadcast technology has progressed significantly and so has lighting and make-up techniques. With advancements in technology, from Standard Definition Television System (SD) to High Definition (HD) and beyond, lighting and make-up have to move along with them.

Experts from Turkey (Mr Ali Dogan & Ms Hülya Yalçiner, TRT-Turkey) and Japan (Mr Taku Atoda, NHK- Japan) and Mr Kenz from Malaysia held Master classes conducted over three days, two sessions in the mornings and two in the afternoon.

The first and third day saw the two experts from TRT-Turkey conducting the sessions. They only had half an hour each to present and some time was allocated for a question and answer period. Mr Ali Dogan's presentation began with technical details of lighting beginning with the Electromagnetic Spectrum.

Ms Hülya Yalçiner conducted make-up techniques with real models used to demonstrate the kind of make-up used for SD and for HD. Participants could actually see the differences immediately.

The make-up session by Malaysian Kenz showed the latest techniques used by make-up artists to provide that sleek and polished look. The Malaysian expert and the Turkish expert both had their preferences in brands of make-up used. But the types of make-up used and of course the techniques were also different for SD and HD. Lighter make-up for HD and heavier make-up for SD.

Both the Turkish and Malaysian make-up experts expressed the need to differentiate make up for news and other types of programs and dramas. Ms Hulia stated "Surely you want the audience to focus on the news and not so much the newsreader. Newsreader make-up should be simple." I totally agree. It creates better credibility too.

The session by the NHK "Types of Lighting", by Mr Atoda started off by going back to basics of the purpose of lighting in TV, namely, gaining appropriate illuminance, controlling contrast, creating shadows and creating the balance of brightness and darkness.

Mr Atoda explained that with the advent of HD TV people's preferences with regard visuals and lighting too seemed to have changed. When expressing a day scene with clear weather in drama, it has become mainstream at NHK to create a softer picture with high contrast ratio by combining high power spotlight and soft light.

Additional content from this article was contributed by Jo Curtin at www.asiaradiotoday.com and Ms Haniffah Mariaty



ABU Secretary-General Javad Mottaghi, with cup bearer Apete Dawai of Narewa performing the traditional welcoming Kava ceremony

4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction – ‘You Have the Power’, PM tells Broadcasters

By Martin Hadlow, Independent Media Consultant



Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Frank Bainimarama

The Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Frank Bainimarama, has called on Asia-Pacific broadcasters to use their skills and resources to more fully inform the world about climate change issues. Fiji currently hosts the Presidency of COP23, the Bonn conference follow-up to the Paris Treaty on Climate Change.

In a prepared keynote speech delivered at the opening ceremony of the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Nadi, Fiji (5th-7th February), the Prime Minister told the radio and television executives, journalists and content makers present that “you have the power, through the camera, keyboard and microphone, to tell stories”.

Mr Bainimarama, who also spoke about *The Talanoa Dialogue*, an inclusive and participatory international conversation on climate change topics, went on to brief the conference on his Government’s efforts to upscale technologies in Fiji so that more citizens could access the benefits of new communication platforms and receive emergency disaster information. The Prime Minister’s speech was delivered by the Attorney-General of Fiji, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Speaking in the first Summit conference session, the Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Fiji’s Minister responsible for both agriculture and national disaster management, called for major new



Attorney General and Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivers the Prime Minister's keynote address at the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.



Minister for Health Rosy Akbar (right) with participants at the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction



Attorney General and Minister Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum speaks during the panel discussion at the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.



Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development and, National Disaster Management and Fiji's High Level Climate Champion



Indian High Commissioner to Fiji His Excellency Vishvas Sapkal



Timoci Naulusala (top), and Shalvi Shakshi (bottom), winners of the Fiji National Climate Change Speech Competition.

ways of thinking across the globe. "We must change from a culture of reaction" he said, "to a culture of prevention".

In the same session, the Attorney-General advised delegates that the recent Cyclone Winston weather disaster had caused about US\$1.3b damage in the country and went on to explain a new InsuResilience disaster insurance programme. Mr Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum also explained how the Government had provided villagers badly affected by the recent cyclone with 'cash cards' which could be used at hardware shops to purchase urgently needed goods, such as roofing materials.

Fiji's Minister of Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Sofia Akbar, briefed

the conference on the major efforts made by the Government to alleviate difficulties resulting from natural disasters, while senior officials from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) both outlined the latest measures being taken in the field.

The opening ceremony of the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction also featured a colourful kava ceremony, a cultural event performed for highly respected visitors and guests. The conference was sponsored and hosted by the Ministry of Communications of the Government of Fiji, with organisational support from the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation, Fiji TV and the ABU.



Winners of the 3rd ABU Awards on Climate Change and DRR



Ms Cok Istri Sri Anggarawati RRI (in the middle) winner of the Best Radio Feature on Disaster Preparedness and DRR.



Mr Kei Oharu and Mr Tomohiro Inoue (NHK) winners of the Best TV Feature on Climate Change

The competition this year had 75 entries from 13 countries in Asia – Pacific and Europe. This is a sign of the growing popularity of the competition and the importance broadcasters put on this topic.

For the Best Radio Feature on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction, the winner is Radio Republic Indonesia for “Mount Agung is my friend” – produced and directed by ANGGIE,

The Best Radio Feature on Climate Change Awards were bestowed on two winners: China National Radio for “The Concert on Wetland”, produced and directed by LIU CHAO, and All India Radio for “Small, small World” – produced and directed by Naveen Gupta.

The Best TV Feature on Climate Change went to Mega Crisis: Forecasting Super Typhoons, NHK, Japan.

China Central TV won the Best TV Feature on Disaster Preparedness and DRR Climate Change Award for - Insight from a Camel, , produced by Jian Feng Wang

There are also two special awards in the competition. The recipient for radio is “The Rose in My Heart” produced and directed by XIAO YUAN of China National Radio.

The winner of The Best Human Story Award for Television is Vietnam Television for “The Obsession Called Linda”.

The last Award is Most Promising Producer and went to PANA HON TV from the Philippines in recognition of the quality of production, enthusiasm for the environment and dedication to the cause.

Japan's public broadcaster, NHK, has given a fascinating insight into how the use of big data is improving its coverage of disasters.

The data is helping NHK protect lives and properties as it fulfils its designated role in disaster risk reduction.

Akinori Hashimoto, NHK Executive Controller for International Relations, said the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, which claimed thousands of lives, prompted the broadcaster to start using big data for its restoration and disaster risk reduction reporting.

He was addressing the ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Nadi, Fiji in February.

Big data is described as extremely large amounts of data that can be analysed by computers to reveal patterns of human behaviour.

Mr Hashimoto, who covered many disasters in his career as a news reporter, said that from 2011, NHK began using data from Japan's Meteorological Agency and other disaster authorities, police, helicopters and drones, electric companies and other sources.

The broadcaster is directly connected with disaster authorities through an online network and is now accessing about 150 kinds of data around the clock.

"NHK developed its own system and software to handle big data," he said.

"We are now using various big data to provide real-time risk information during disasters."

In one case, NHK mashed up different types of data gathered after a major earthquake in 1995 and, 21 years later, was able to identify the cause of fires that broke out after the quake.

"After the earthquake, when electric power was restored, electric heaters under the rubble were switched on, and caused fires. We found this through big data analysis," Mr Hashimoto said.

After NHK broadcast its findings, heaters featuring automatic circuit breakers with seismic sensors started



Mr Akinori Hashimoto, NHK Executive Controller for International Relations

How big data is protecting lives

by Alan Williams

to become popular, reducing the risk of similar fires in the future.

Two years ago, the broadcaster used aerial pictures from a helicopter to create a 3-D image of an area devastated by a landslide after an earthquake in Kumamoto in southern Japan.

The pictures were taken immediately after the quake. The image showed the damage in detail and helped viewers understand the risk of rescue operations.

Last year, during torrential rain in southern Japan, NHK started a new trial called "real-time risk analysis". Its reporters were able to provide risk evaluation of specific areas based on real-time big data, including rainfall and the water level of rivers.

It used a tool called "Digital Earth", which it developed itself to visualise vast amounts of meteorological data sent from disaster authorities in real time.

Using the data, NHK was able to let people know which areas were threatened by floods and landslides, and to call for the early evacuation of some communities.

After the 2011 disaster, NHK struggled initially to obtain and analyse large amounts of big data. But after seven years it is now using huge amounts of big data in real time.

The system it has developed for data journalism is called "NMAPS", which stands for "NHK data Mash up and Analytic Probe System".

It is used to analyse not only meteorological data but other types including trade statistics, economic indices and demographic statistics.

"NHK will continue to improve its data journalism to protect more lives and livelihoods in order to meet the expectation of viewers," Mr Hashimoto said.

Broadcasting For All: Gender and Diversity in the Media Initiative

Contributed by: Chrissie Tucker



Chrissie Tucker addressing the audience at the PMPC

BROADCASTING FOR ALL: GENDER AND DIVERSITY IN THE MEDIA INITIATIVE is one of the suite of projects from the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union.

The ABU, through the leadership and commitment of the Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, is a strong advocate and driver of gender, diversity and inclusion in the media in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Our work in this important area aims to provide leadership for the media to engage with gender and diversity within organisations and across communities and countries.

The ABU has participated in a range of long-term activities that have set the agenda and maintained a consistent approach for advancing gender and diversity—aimed at highlighting the need to include women and girls and broader diversity groups across content and services.

The ABU strives to make a difference by promoting a diversity of faces, voices, perspectives and issues through working in the media, coverage, and telling the stories of all members of

societies and communities. Gender and Diversity covers gender, disability, race/ethnicity/cultural, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, location, socio-economic, work/life balance and a positive workplace environment. It is recognised that diversity representation and issues vary across regions, countries, communities and organisations.

The Gender and Diversity Initiative, in conjunction with valued partners, delivers large and small-scale forums, strategic planning consultation, tailored workshops, employment and content learning opportunities, group and individual networking facilitation and a range of resources – working with stakeholders to build on gender and diversity across the media to make a difference and tell all the stories....

CONSULTATION

The ABU provides a range of services for media organisations to advance their Gender and Diversity planning, strategic implementation, policy development and training needs.

Professional and experienced media diversity resources are available to: advise on Gender and Diversity best

practice; provide a checklist for where the media organisation's Gender and Diversity policies and representation are at; work together to devise a tailored business case, communication strategy and framework for Gender and Diversity planning and objectives; and outline the types of forums, workshops, training and resources available to support Gender and Diversity activity.

FORUMS, NETWORKING AND RESOURCES

The ABU has participated in, and arranged, conferences, masterclasses, workshops, working parties and networking events for a number of years, to influence and promote awareness of gender and diversity principles, highlight best practice and to share policies, activities and content in media and communication organisations globally.

This work has been undertaken hand-in-hand with dedicated partners and reflects the international instruments, declarations, studies and recommendations relevant to the media, over time, in regard to the important role it plays in addressing equality in participation

and representation in news and content for all citizens. Such international drivers include the UN Beijing Platform for Action, the Global Media Monitoring reports and the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media.

The forums play a role, in raising the issues of the media being a leader and innovative force in the provision of inclusive workplaces, fostering creative and balanced workforces and producing output that reflects and includes all members of communities.

As part of the ABU's General Assembly and associated activities, the ABU conducted its first Women with the Wave Conference (WWWC) in 2012, at Seoul, Korea and has held this forum (1-2 days) each year since then. The WWWC brings together key facilitators and speakers to provide updates on the work of global, regional and host country officials and agencies in the area of gender and diversity in the media. The sessions showcase the work of ABU member broadcasters, guest organisations, champions and technical experts.

From the original emphasis on women's issues the agenda has evolved to embrace the broader term of gender and the other diversity and minority groups recognised in anti-discrimination and equal employment opportunity legislation and policies around the world.

Sessions have been dedicated to workplace culture and policies and to showcasing content and services. Disability (including accessible services) and cultural/race/ethnicity speakers and topics have featured as well as specific issues of safety, harassment and bullying in the work space.

Showcase sessions on content have demonstrated how programs, campaigns, segments and advertising have made a difference to: raising human rights issues; providing opportunities for women in presentation, reporting and non-traditional roles; spreading health and safety messages; including remote groups in storytelling; highlighting the individual stories of people with disabilities; and providing information and entertainment in different languages for non-native speakers.

As well as the stand-alone WWW Conferences the ABU has integrated gender and diversity sessions and topics into the mainstream activities of the General Assembly forums and committee proceedings and in other ABU conferences held across the Asia-Pacific region.

Networking and group activities include: networking forums that include celebrating or launching diversity-related services and activities while promoting contact and networking amongst participants; working groups which have a particular focus, such as developing guidelines; and participating in established and emerging networking groups such as the UN Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG).

Resources are available to support organisations to maximise their Gender and Diversity initiatives, including guidelines, templates and training materials and online resources.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY PLANNING WORKSHOP

The ABU has worked with member organisations within Asia-Pacific and across regions to develop and initiate formal Gender and Diversity Plans. This development work acknowledges progress to date and sets up a process to devise relevant practical strategies to achieve targets within a reasonable timeframe and with designated accountability.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The Workshop is a 1.5 to 2-day session, usually delivered in-house with senior management and key stakeholders. It is a practical, hands-on forum which progresses through a series of steps, using a range of templates and resources, resulting in a tailored, draft Gender and Diversity Plan, for sign off and implementation. The steps include the context, a detailed case study and an array of examples of ideas and solutions that have been implemented in media and other industry organisations.

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

Gender and Diversity Plans cover leadership, the workplace culture, employee representation across all roles, and content & services that will reflect the faces, voices, stories, issues and perspectives of the broad range of audiences and consumers across communities and countries.

Objectives of the workshop are to:

- engage with leaders and stakeholders regarding the concept and background of gender and diversity in the media
- determine the current organisational progress
- understand the business case
- work out the start-up process and communication strategy
- put together a detailed Gender and Diversity Plan under four groups: Leadership, Representation, Content & Services, and Positive Work Environment

CONTACT

The Broadcasting for All: Gender and Diversity in the Media Initiative is managed and coordinated by the ABU Secretary-General's office. Contact Ms Natalia Ilieva, Head of SG Office, ABU: natalia@abu.org.my

The Broadcasting for All: Gender and Diversity in the Media Initiative developer and conference/workshop facilitator is Ms Chrissie Tucker, Media Diversity Specialist, former Manager Diversity for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation since 1995.

9th ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference - Human Friendly Broadcasting

By Martin Hadlow, Independent Media Consultant



In opening the PMPC 2018 conference, the PMPC Chairperson, Ms Faieseai Lei Sam-Matafeo, CEO of Samoa Quality Broadcasting Corporation Ltd., Apia, Samoa, called for a sharing of knowledge as Pacific broadcasters were keen to learn from their “big brothers”. The following session fed directly into that request, with ABU member NHK, Japan offering an insight into the new generation ‘smart production’ possibilities afforded by Artificial Intelligence. “Broadcasting is about to change” a senior NHK expert told the gathering. He then demonstrated software for “human friendly broadcasting” which provides special programme possibilities, such as converting audio to on-screen messaging for the hearing impaired, and for computer-generated sign-language.

Technical issues which will affect Pacific broadcasting organisations as they face the move from analogue to digital technologies were highlighted by an engineering specialist from RFS Ltd. (Australia), a conversation which led to an overview, by a Singapore-based firm, Whiteways, of how smaller broadcasters could access a digital dividend in delivering production outcomes. The CEO of Samoa TV took the discussion into the practical sphere with an explanation of how a TV station with only limited resources in a small viewing market could still make a

difference and provide a community with the services it needs.

The first day of the PMPC concluded with a panel discussion of speakers, chaired by Dr Amal Punchihewa - the ABU Technology Director, from Fiji, Singapore, Samoa and Australia which called for Pacific broadcasters to work together in furthering radio and TV services and suggested ‘soft loans’ from banks to assist with the financial challenges being faced. The session also provided tangible potential solutions in areas such as programme purchasing, a particularly cogent issue in a geographical region where funding is rarely available to buy top-rating international programmes or the rights to overseas sporting events. However, within the plethora of topics on modern technologies, a call was made to ensure that Pacific broadcasters continued to provide “a voice for the voiceless” in relevant local languages, especially for women and disadvantaged communities living on remote islands and still relying, primarily, on shortwave or AM radio for news, information, education and entertainment.

‘What do broadcasters need and what is available to assist them’, was the key theme of the opening session of the second day of the PMPC, with delegates from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and France all making interventions to emphasise their specific situations. Common calls to the ABU were for the provision of television programmes and ‘live’ sporting content, access to the Asia-Pacific ASIAVISION News exchange, and in-country training in a range of fields (such as scripting and producing TV drama). The ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, assured the conference that the organisation stands ready to provide exactly this assistance to all members on request.



Given the range of cultures pertaining in the broader region, the word ‘diversity’ has no direct translation in many local languages of the Pacific. Existing societal mores, familial structures and traditional practices all provide challenges for broadcasters in ensuring diversity in both programme content and in internal organisational staffing. A range of inclusion and human rights specialists from Fiji, New Zealand and Australia provided the conference with the current ‘best practices’ and knowledge in the field, while recommendations were also made for model frameworks which could be instituted. In insisting that, after decades of discussion, it was now “time to walk the talk”, one speaker noted that this was important “because evidence shows there is positive growth when gender diversity is part of the corporate management mix”.

The PMPC 2018 reached out strongly to young people through various relevant sessions, including a presentation on the ABU’s ROBOCON competition for students (to be held in Fiji in the year 2020), and a major showcase devoted to the video production work of students through

PACIFIC ISLANDS HIGHER OR LOWER?

Just how far above sea level is the land on small Pacific islands and atolls? That was one of the intriguing questions raised by a scientist at the recent 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nadi, Fiji.

Dr Ben Strauss, Vice-President for Sea Level and Climate Change Impacts at the *Climate Central* organisation in the USA, said that most Pacific islands had not been mapped accurately for elevation. He noted that the majority of current calculations of the sea level of Pacific islands (especially in particularly remote areas) had been made from satellite data. However, this data might often not be accurately analysed, as satellite pictures accessed by scientists and geographers could be distorted by tree tops (such as tall coconut palms), hills and small mountains which may be covered in large areas of vegetation.

In a session devoted to the communication of scientific data by broadcasting organisations to their radio and TV audiences, Mr Ravind Kumar, Director of Meteorology of

the Fiji Government, Mr Matthew Park, CEO of EMTV in Papua New Guinea, and Ms Tantri Relatami of the Board of Supervisors, Radio Republik Indonesia, all provided practical examples of how their institutions made available understandable and vital scientific information to their listeners and viewers.

Session speaker, Dr Gretchen Kalonji, former UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and now Dean of the Sichuan University-Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction in China, called for more positive collaboration between university schools of journalism and science departments. She said that this would better enable people from both bodies to understand how best to simplify complex messages and more accurately communicate scientific information on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Dr Kalonji reminded the conference that journalists and scientists have the same professional ethos, namely "to uncover the truth and reject falsehood".



a regional project known as ePOP, a Pacific youth dialogue on climate change. With representatives present from France, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa, video presentations showed young people interviewing their elders from various Pacific nations. With climate change now affecting the sea levels of many countries, causing land inundation and sweeping away fresh water and food sources, one elder plaintively contemplated the immediate future with the query "Will we be able to live in this environment?"

In concluding the conference with the adoption of a *Fiji Action Plan*, the PMPC 2018 delegates undertook to return to their countries and carry forward the spirit of the conference through the ongoing production of informative and high-quality radio/TV programmes and social media postings, thus bringing the challenges of climate change, environmental pollution and disaster mitigation to the urgent attention of wider national audiences. With the prospect of shards of floating plastic outnumbering fish in the oceans of the world by the year 2050, there is not a moment to lose.

Aale Raza, CEO, Whiteways Systems Pte Ltd



Tan Hock Guan, Senior Editor, Asiavision (AVN)



Media Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Sheraton Fiji Resort, Nadi, Fiji | 5-7 February 2018



Media Faces Climate Change: Building Resilient Communities
4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction

Pacific Voices, Pacific Stories: Engaging Audiences in making Content
9th ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference

Fiji Action Plan

PREAMBLE

We, the delegates to the 4th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (*Media Faces Climate Change: Building Resilient Societies*), and the 9th ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference (*Pacific Voices, Pacific Stories: Engaging Audiences in Making Content*) consecutively held from 5 to 7 February, 2018 sincerely thank the host country and sponsors, the Government of the Republic of Fiji, Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited, Fiji Television Limited, and the ABU, for initiating this important international joint event.

We recognise the outcomes of previous ABU Media Summits (Indonesia 2014, Japan 2015, Thailand 2016, Bangladesh 2017), as well as the 3 global commitments (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 2015 Paris Agreement), the AMCDRR (2016) declarations and the outcomes of UNFCCC 23rd Convention of the Parties (COP23) in November 2017.

We also recall earlier ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conferences (Tonga 2011, Samoa 2012, Vanuatu 2013, Fiji 2014, Samoa 2015, Papua New Guinea 2016, Solomon Islands 2017) and their important contributions to supporting the development of broadcasting in the Pacific.

BACKGROUND

Climate change poses a threat to all 7.5 billion people on earth and especially those in vulnerable nations, including many in the Asia Pacific region that are on the front line of the climate struggle. Encroaching sea levels threaten the very existence of some low-lying nations and, in many others, are forcing communities to relocate. The global community is facing a complex legal and strategic challenge in dealing with climate-displaced peoples, or "climate refugees", who have been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere, sometimes in neighbouring countries. These climate-displaced peoples not only leave behind their homes and communities; they also lose irreplaceable ties to their land, their culture and their way of life.

In the Pacific, as elsewhere, climate effects are also dramatically increasing soil salinity and degrading coral reefs, threatening food security throughout the region. Rural and maritime communities are especially vulnerable, as they face dwindling resources, production losses, and reduced income opportunities. This threatens the livelihoods of farmers, fishermen, and, by extension, their families and communities. Pacific communities are experiencing more frequent and more severe weather events, with projections that these events—such as cyclones, floods and droughts—will get worse in the years ahead. Escalating storms have already brought disastrous floods and winds, resulting in record loss of life, injury, and the unprecedented destruction to homes, public infrastructure and the environment.

The media, all over the world has a vital role to play in disseminating information about climate change and its effects. In the Pacific regional context, radio and television broadcasting organisations are critical

to the task of providing communities with timely and accurate disaster-related information that can save lives and property, especially in rural and maritime areas. The ABU can play a vital role in building the capacity of national broadcasting institutions.

Pacific nations have been powerful advocates on the global stage for urgent action and higher ambition in the fight against climate change. They continue to press for innovative projects and programmes, and funding including within the media sector, and continue to seek support for disaster risk reduction measures. With the support of its Pacific partners, the Fijian Government is leading the global campaign for decisive climate action as President of COP23 - the ongoing UN climate negotiations. Fiji is presiding over the UNFCCC negotiations and Action Agenda until December 2018 and will partner with Poland – the COP24 President – in the Talanoa Dialogue of 2018.

COMMITMENT

International events, such as the ABU Media Summits and the ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conferences, provide a valuable space for professional broadcasters to educate their peers on new techniques, training opportunities, networking and new technologies that help deliver timely programming to assist listeners, viewers and online recipients to better prepare for major natural disasters.

The Pacific Media Partnership Conference is not only a platform for information transfer but also encourages an appreciation of new global broadcasting practices in areas such as gender and diversity, thus enabling the reflection by national broadcasters of a greater range of voices and communities.

Following three days of rich, meaningful and collegial dialogue in Nadi, Fiji:

- We call upon fellow broadcasting colleagues, especially in the Pacific region, to reinforce their commitment to disseminating news and information relevant to the agenda of the UNFCCC and to stay up-to-date

on the subject by following UNFCCC and Fijian Government social media channels, including on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and through relevant hashtags for different events;

- We will highlight the vital need for the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the 2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement's most ambitious target: limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This means stressing the urgency of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions within the next few decades, and communicating the regional opportunities of transitioning to net-zero emission economies;
- We will continue our work to ensure that our individual organisations produce compelling, educational, and informational radio and television programmes and develop a proactive online presence to continually highlight best practices and address new and emerging issues in the areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- We will advocate for effective non-broadcast, electronic communication resources (such as mobile phone technology applications) to be developed within our national jurisdictions to enable all citizens to receive timely and accurate news and information relating to emergencies and natural disasters;
- We undertake to establish a Gender and Diversity Plan in our home broadcasting organisations, based on the principles enunciated at the 6th Women With the Wave High-Level Conference held as part of the ABU General Assembly in Chengdu, China in 2017;
- We recognise the need for the most vulnerable citizens in our societies, especially women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, farmers, fishers and others in rural areas, and those with low socioeconomic status, to be provided with news, information, and programming tailored to their distinct media consumption needs, and to help them adapt to the effects of climate change as it relates to their food security and livelihoods;
- We request that the ABU develop and implement, with donor funding from the UN, multilateral, bilateral, and national government sources, a region-wide training project to enable broadcasters in the Pacific to gain greater knowledge of climate change, disaster risk reduction and other relevant issues. This information exchange will better enable senior media managers, producers, and journalists to address relevant matters in their daily working environment;
- We will review and implement support and training for media employees, especially women, to promote a positive work environment and enhance safety provisions and career development; and
- We will encourage a 'whole of society' approach that ensures that governments, civil society groups, research institutions, international agencies and other parties develop partnerships with broadcasting organisations to ensure that professional, accurate and cogent messages on a range of issues are available in a timely manner for public information, education, action and the broader global conversation.

We invite the host of this joint Media Summit and Pacific Media Partnership Conference and the members of the ABU to place the **Fiji Action Plan** before relevant United Nations bodies, conferences and donor agencies, thus ensuring that the voices of the people of the island nations of the Pacific are heard by those international institutions. We especially ask that the proposal for a regional, high-level training project be funded and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

To conclude, we invite all broadcasters, stakeholders and fellow interested parties to gather in 2019 for the 5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, and in Samoa for the 10th ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference.

Agreed by parties to this joint Media Summit and Pacific Media Partnership Conference. Nadi, Fiji.

7 February, 2018



ABU's Dr Amal Punchihewa, Director, Technology & Innovation, with attendees

14th Global Shortwave Coordination Conference

22nd - 26th January 2018, Kuala Lumpur



The High Frequency Coordination Conference (HFCC), the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU-HFC) jointly held the 14th Global Shortwave Co-ordination Conference at Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur from 22nd to 26th January 2018. The conference was hosted by the ABU. 85 participants from the three coordination groups, representing global shortwave broadcasters and related stakeholders from all over the world from 84 countries coordinated schedules for the upcoming transmission season and to coordinate shortwave frequency schedules.

Dr Amal Punchihewa, Director Technology and Innovation welcomed delegates to Kuala Lumpur, the city that hosts the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and expressed delight in attending and speaking at the conference once again.

Shortwave broadcasting has a unique position in that the radio channels used by international stations are not assigned, but regularly coordinated for two seasons each year. The frequency channel situation for shortwave radio is always changing because of the 11 year solar cycle and seasonal effects, as well as because of new or changed frequencies of shortwave broadcasters around the globe. Co-ordination methods were started by broadcasters with support from the broadcasting unions. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) set up a special task group that studied the emerging co-ordination procedures in the 1990s and concluded that the system should become an integral part of shortwave spectrum management. The principles were incorporated in Article 12 of the International Radio Regulations in 1997.



At present, a single global seasonal database of frequency requirements is kept by the secretariat of the High Frequency Co-ordination Conference for each of the two seasons of the year. There is an on-line upload process available and all participants are requested to update any frequency changes between seasonal conferences. The automatic processing software notifies all participants, not only on the entered changes, but also on the possible collisions or incompatibilities that may have resulted from the submissions.

The Coordination Conference provides delegates and their organisations with a valuable opportunity to coordinate their frequencies directly with the frequency managers of other broadcasters and prevent interference occurring in your radio services. In the ABU-HFC meeting, ABU members raised concerns that if short wave broadcast organisations are not present at this conference, elimination of interference in shortwave

services and preservation of shortwave frequencies cannot be ensured. In light of this, it was recommended that ABU member organisations consider participating in this conference on representing their organisation and broadcast. 37 ABU members attended the event from ten organisations. ABU is delighted to have recorded the positive feedback of the delegates who participated in the conference.

A focus of interest at the conference is the noticeable reduction in shortwave transmissions in many countries. This raises an alarm over the future of international shortwave broadcasting and the role it plays in serving listeners in sparsely populated areas and its importance as a warning system and source of information for people in such areas.

One of the reasons for switching off short wave transmission is the budgetary constraints that short wave broadcasters are faced with, and also the

high maintenance costs of such facilities. As technology advances, narrowband services cannot offer similar high fidelity audio quality to listeners.

However, traditional sound radio broadcasting from terrestrial shortwave transmitters still remains available and viable for many more years to come. The emergence of new transmission technologies has not yet fully replaced older technologies, allowing some to co-exist. It is therefore important to coordinate the transmission mechanisms of short wave to mitigate unintended interference.

The conference came up with a coordination scheme and a number of proposals to enable acceptable short wave reception where receivers can be tuned to signals with minimal interference.

The delegates enjoyed their time in Kuala Lumpur while working to agree on a coordination plan.



Mr Chang Jin, Director of AIBD pictured at middle of first row, to his left is Dr Amal Punchihewa, Director Technology and Innovation, ABU and Mr Utpal, Programme Manager and Senior Broadcast Engineer of AIBD on his right.

Basic Courses for Young Engineers

The ABU Technology and Innovation Department held its annual workshop for young engineers from 4-8 December 2017 at IPPTAR in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

37 participants from 10 countries attended the workshop which aimed to provide basic engineering fundamentals for broadcast engineers and technologists who are at the beginning of their career. The workshop allowed participants to learn about the current trends and advancements in broadcast technologies. It also focused on fundamentals of IT, audio and video systems, engineering techniques and applications. The knowledge gained will help participants to build confidence in operating in an evolving media value chain.

Various concepts were explained to the young engineers, including: Basics of Audio and Video, Concepts of analogue to digital signal conversion, Signal processing in the media value chain, Multiplatform delivery and Quality of Experience, Converged media-IT-broadcast environment, Radio and TV transmission concepts and Evolving media and Delivery Platforms.

Participants were from: Myanmar, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Macau, Brunei, Pakistan, Turkey, Singapore and Thailand.



ABU-ASBU Capacity Building Workshop

This year's training programme, in partnership with ASBU, was held at ASBU Academy in Tunis from 12th to 17th March. The themes of the training were IPTV, IBB and OTT as digital media distribution platforms.

Ten participants, from Algeria, Oman, Palestine and Tunis, attended the five day training course, which addressed a number of critical learning areas for broadcast and IT engineers in the media field. Among the topics were the latest Integrated Broadcast Broadband (IBB) technologies and services based on media engines such as HbbTV, increasing use of IP in broadcast operations, including production and evolving workflows based on IP, AI and cyber security.

All participants and other stakeholders were pleased with the outcomes of the training course. Participants mentioned in their feedback that they were looking forward to applying what they had learned in the course at their work places.

ABU Sports Production & Transmission Service Launched



Since 2015, ABU Sport has been planning to offer a new service for its members. After two years of preparation, ABU Sport has established a core system, a reliable partnership and operational procedure.

In December 2017, ABU's Sports Director, Cai Yanjiang drove the meetings and discussions with CCTV-China to start providing the production and transmission functions. The ABU Production & Transmission service team has already provided the necessary services in order to meet the first two assignment requests, which shall serve as showcases to demonstrate this new high-quality service which ABU Sport is providing.

This new service will complete ABU Sport's service matrix and help drive the sport department forward in terms of self-funding and sustainability.

The service will not only be restricted to sports events. Members of ABU shall enjoy better rates, assistance from both the Union and the partner provider—which improves upon both reliability and quality, and a new option for when they have requested for the production and transmission of their programming in various fields such as sports events, entertainment shows, gatherings, etc.



This marks the first PB meeting under the new leadership of PB/PC chairperson, Mr Chang-Rok Han (seated in the middle, front row)

Lively Discussion on ABU Programme Bureau



The 7th ABU Programme Bureau (PB) meeting was held on 5 March 2018 in conjunction with Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS) in Kuala Lumpur. This was the first PB meeting under the new leadership of PB/PC chairperson, Mr Chang-Rok Han. In opening remarks, Mr Han thanked Mr Tatsuhiko Beniko, former Director of ABU Programming for his hard work and dedication to Programming activities.

After the brief report of past programme activities, there was lively discussion on many on-going projects

including "Beautiful Minds" Girls' Education Co-production Project and "Golden Ribbon" Short Documentaries Co-production. PB members also brainstormed on 4 issues of Programming activities from a strategic point of view. "How can we activate ABU Music Exchange (AMX)?" "For or against holding Radio Working Party conference twice a year?" Constructive suggestions were made on each issue.

Participating members at the meeting were: KBS-Korea, NHK-Japan, RTM-Malaysia and RRI-Indonesia, CCTV-China joined the meeting via WeChat.

CARE8 Producers' Meeting Kicks Off in Vietnam



Photos by Jenny Hyunkyung WOO

Nearly 30 producers from 14 organisations participated in the first producers' meeting of CARE, Change Asia Rescue the Earth documentary co-production, in Hanoi (9-11 January). Hosted by VTV, Vietnam Television, with the theme of "Green Warriors", the 2018 edition of the CARE sees MBC-Mauritius, PSM-Maldives and VOV-Vietnam as newcomers to the series.

Into its eighth year, the meeting started with welcome remarks by Mr Ho Kien, Director General of International Relations Department, VTV, followed by Executive Producer from KBS-Korea, Mr Chung Yong Park's masterclass on documentary production. Over the following two days, participants presented their story ideas based on the

theme of "Green Warriors", which ranged from conserving endangered species of Parakeet in Mauritius, to saving reefs in the Maldives archipelago.

To show a strong commitment to the series, KBS has kindly agreed to host a four to five day Intensive Production Course (IPC) for two CARE8 producers, who will be invited to Seoul, Korea, free of charge, as a new capacity building element of the CARE series.

The second Producers' Meeting where participating producers are expected to bring their rough cuts will take place from 30-31st July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ABU Seals Agreement with HEC Montreal

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in January 2018 in Montreal between the ABU and HEC Montreal which is one of the top management schools in the world.

In its century-long history, the school has established an enduring tradition of innovative thinking in fields ranging from teaching, research and international initiatives to executive programs for middle and top managers.

In pursuit of common interests in media advisory activities, management

capacity building activities, and learning and applied research activities, the two organisations have agreed to act as partners and facilitate interactions between them.

The ABU and HEC Montreal will partner with Asia-Pacific management schools to co-develop training programs for the ABU and its members. Both organisations will discuss strategic challenges that media organizations are facing, and therefore jointly investigate potential themes of applied research.



HEC Montreal may provide expertise to ABU's learning activities such as its conferences, seminars and workshops.

The MOU was signed by ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, Professor Michel Patry, Director of HEC Montreal, Mr. Hassan Taghvaai, Director of International Activities and Student Mobility and Mr. Sylvain Lafrance, Director of the Media Management Hub of HEC Montreal.

iM4U FM got up close and personal with their listeners for World Radio Day!



Kuala Lumpur, 13 February 2018 – In the vast industry of technology, radio is something held dear to each individual. To commemorate World Radio Day 2018 and to celebrate various sporting events across the world, iM4U fm got up close and personal with their listeners in a day filled with sports, games and fitness.

iM4U fm is a youth volunteering radio station that promotes community well – being alongside engaging and inspiring their listeners to challenge gender stereotypes in sports events which is in line with World Radio Day 2018's theme of Radio & Sports. iM4U fm and the announcers headed to several locations in the Klang Valley.

"Radio and sports have coexisted for a long time. As our token of appreciation and gratitude towards our listeners and the industry, iM4U fm celebrates the remarkable advancement of sports and radio with this OB Challenge together with the public," stated Kartini Ariffin, Director, iM4U fm.

World Radio Day 2017 marked a personally history for iM4U fm as iM4U fm's Bangkit Squad broadcasted live in a hot air balloon from Putrajaya to Cyberjaya. In line with the station's identity, last year's celebration was to embrace and empower their listeners to push boundaries and achieve their goals.

"It's so wonderful to see two powerful medium that plays such important role in igniting peace, unity and the human spirit coming in this year's WRD theme," added Ariffin,

"We're excited to get up close and personal with our listeners throughout the day. World Radio Day is about celebrating the advancements in radio and what better way to do so than with sports and games," stated Anas, iM4U fm Bangkit Squad announcer.

"Thank you to iM4U fm for allowing me to be a part of something great and exciting. As announcers, we usually communicate with our listeners through our radio station. To be face to face with them is pure joy," stated Zariad, iM4U fm Goodnite All Starz announcer.

ABU CHILDREN'S DRAMA CO-PRODUCTION

14th instalment of the series conducted by the ABU with two productions coming to fruition as a result.



Photos courtesy of Yoichiro Takahashi

Participating ABU members are entitled to receive drama episodes produced by other ABU members of the same co-production year or series for broadcast. ABU Children's TV Drama Co-production is conducted under the principle of 'Make one episode and take all others'.

All episodes with minimum dialogue are easily understood by children from different cultural backgrounds. The project started as an ambitious project that grew out of the annual ABU Children's TV Programme Item Exchange Meeting, where six pioneering members formed the pilot group creating their own brand of wholesome and culturally-rich content for children in the Asia-Pacific region.

Each member produces at their own cost, a 15 minute drama episode targeted at 7 – 9 year olds based on the common theme, Mental Growth of Children in Different Situations. Some episodes are exchanged between the ABU and the EBU.

The project has a strong training element as the Executive Producer is always on hand to provide regular online feedback from story development to final script. EP will also make an on-site visit to provide one-on-one training to the producer.

For three days between December 23rd to 25th, on-site guidance for the ABU Children's Drama Co-production series occurred with PSM in Maldives.

This drama features a relationship between a rich child and a poor child who reside side by side and it is made without any dialogue. Separated by a grilled window, two boys display toys to one another but the rich child ends up hurting the poor child. The drama ends with his sense of guilt apparent, with the audience not shown a final ending and what happened to the two boys. Instead, it is left up to viewers' imagination.

For three days between November 13th to 15th, on-site guidance for the ABU Children's Drama Co-production series happened at TVRI in Jakarta.

The drama "Water", is a story of an urban girl who visits her grandfather at his village during her holiday and comes to realize importance of water as she witnesses villagers' hardship due to water shortage. A workshop for more than 10 on-site staff members was conducted for TVRI.



RAI President Monica Maggioni



ABU-Rai Days link ancient with modern

A new joint initiative by the ABU and Italy's national public broadcaster RAI integrating ancient cultures and cutting-edge modern technologies was a great success.

The ABU-RAI Days conference in Rome on the theme "Innovation Meets Culture" was so successful, planning began immediately for a follow-up event next year, hosted in the Asia-Pacific.

RAI President Monica Maggioni said that connecting people and cultures through digital technology was one of the challenges all broadcasters face in modern times. She hoped the symposium, through the connections made and circulation of ideas, demonstrated that in these hyper-technological times, using tools such as artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) can connect people and the digital dots.

Welcoming delegates to the new initiative, the ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, spoke about the importance of such inter-

continental partnerships in promoting understanding of culture and diversity as well as exchanging knowledge and expertise among broadcasters.

"On the one hand we have cultural heritage spanning at least two-hundred-thousand years of human history," he said. "[On the other hand], the digital revolution has changed the face of humanity in less than a lifetime. Both in one place at one time, here at this conference, today."

More than 80 delegates from 27 countries came together for the inaugural event at the RAI Headquarters in Rome, including some 40 ABU members from 12 countries.

After an opening presentation by NHK's Research Labs about what they are working on over the horizon beyond 8K, the first day continued with practical demonstrations, showcases and take-aways about digitisation and market convergence, content innovation, big data projects and immersive multi-platform experiences.



Day Two focused on the intersection between arts, culture and digital technologies. It showcased how broadcasters are experimenting with digital tools and technologies to revitalise their cultural identities and heritage.

The practical part of the two days included virtual reality tours of some of Rome's unique and ancient archaeological sites, Le Domus Romane of the Palazzo Valentini and Domus Aurea, or Nero's palace. The VR demonstrations brought to life the possibilities of using new technology to re-imagine the archaeological sites as they were when first built, preserving them for future generations.

Dr Mottaghi said the ABU and RAI have cooperated on important projects in the past but the conference in Rome was a new step forward in the partnership, which he was sure would strengthen links between both organisations and between broadcasters in the Asia-Pacific and Europe.

In the 21st century, with all the technological tools that the digital revolution can offer and will continue to offer, he said discussions had to ask how do we continue to preserve, protect and cherish our cultures into the future.

"As the generations that have been given these wonderful tools, how can we ensure that our children and their children and generations to come into the distant future can enjoy, nourish and pass-on our cultures as our forebears have for hundreds of thousands of years in the past?"

For Head of Radio Olya Booyar, who led the ABU members of the organising team, the success of the inaugural event was welcome.

"We knew it would take a lot of organising in a relatively short timeframe," she said. "We were communicating between continents and across multiple time zones to achieve something that had really never happened before – an international broadcasting conference combining cultural antiquity with bleeding-edge digital technologies.

"The fact it worked so well was practical proof of the solutions we were there to share. Now we know it can work, we expect bigger and even better next year when we host it in the Asia-Pacific."

ABU and CITVC Launches Golden Ribbon Short Documentary Co-production Initiative



ABU, in collaboration with China International Television Corporation (CITVC) has launched a co-production project under the Belt and Road Initiative entitled 'Golden Ribbon Short Documentary Co-production'. The Golden Ribbon Short Documentary Co-production project aims to showcase the customs and culture of Asia, facilitate international creative communication and promote mutual understanding among countries along the Belt and Road through the filming and production of short documentaries.

Following initial talks in Beijing at the Belt and Road Media Community Summit Forum on 14-15 December 2017, ABU has worked out the details of the initiative with CITVC and sent out a call for participation to ABU members in February 2018.

The themes of the initiative for 2018 are **"Homeland Flavor"**, **"Craftsman Asia-Pacific"**, and **"Urban Vibrant"**. All participating broadcasters will need to produce at least one short film (5-minutes long) on each theme. The films shall be produced generally as Cinema Vérité. The co-production initiative does not accept fiction, animation, video game, immense picture and video, advertising and branded film.

The co-production initiative offers fund for filmmaking. The fund for each film is no more than \$3,000 and is variable according to the proposal, synopsis, budget and country/region. Broadcasters shall provide reasons for requiring funding when applying for the co-production initiative.

ABU and CITVC will be organising the first creative workshop on 19-20 April in Beijing to determine filming plans, budgets, supporting funds and other related matters.

ABU Harnessing the Power of Academia

The ABU has signed a new partnership agreement with one of the region's leading universities to offer members enhanced help in digital development and multiplatform storytelling.

The agreement with the University of Wollongong in Australia will help the Union and its members to harness the university's media expertise, beginning with a joint project on podcasting and audio storytelling.

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed on behalf of the ABU by Head of Radio Olya Booyar, will open up opportunities in training and research in an increasing number of broadcasting and related fields.

She said the partnership would benefit both organisations, their staff, students and members at a number of levels beyond the initial area of storytelling.

"The University Of Wollongong has expertise in several areas of 21st century journalism that broadcasters throughout the Asia-Pacific can tap into," Ms Booyar said. "For large advanced regional broadcasters this expertise will be additional input to them growing and refining their programming. For our smaller and less well-resourced members it could mean major help in building their capacities.

"A working partnership with the University of Wollongong will be of great practical value to the organisations and to many millions of listeners and viewers."

ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi welcomed the partnership between the University and the Union as "an excellent fit".

"Both the University and the ABU – through our 270-plus members – are



ABU Programming Department, Head of Radio Olya Booyar (left) with Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Strategy) Brett Lovegrove

deeply culturally diverse, both believe in excellence and both are committed to advancing media in the Asia-Pacific through mutual assistance," he said.

"These shared philosophies and focus on practical outcomes bode well for the success of this partnership. On behalf of all our members, I congratulate the University of Wollongong on their vision and thank them for their involvement."

Ms Booyar explained that initial offerings on podcasting will be led by internationally renowned oral historian and podcaster Associate Professor Siobhan McHugh, working with broadcasters to capture new and diverse audiences through this intimate form of storytelling.

Professor McHugh said that while large parts of the Western world had fallen in love with podcasting during the past

decade, for many nations it remained a misunderstood or underused art form.

After delivering a keynote presentation to the ABU Programming Committee in China in November, Professor McHugh saw overwhelming interest among ABU members for delving into the world of podcasting.

"Podcasting and audio storytelling often combines serious, investigative journalism with compelling personal narratives," she said. "And they need a host who is companionable and offers a sense of connection, not just a professional broadcaster."

Under the partnership, academics from UOW will conduct workshops on audio storytelling with broadcasters throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The ABU and the University also plan to explore multidisciplinary research collaborations that bring in academics from across UOW.

The University's Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Strategy) Brett Lovegrove said the partnership was a fantastic opportunity to bring the University's knowledge capacity to the world.

"UOW is happy to partner with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and help share our unparalleled expertise in audio storytelling with billions of listeners throughout the world," Mr Lovegrove said.

"The MOU will boost UOW's international networks, increase research and teaching partnerships and provide our students with the opportunities, through internships, to become citizens of the world. The partnership will benefit the University as a whole and further establish UOW as a strong presence in the Asia-Pacific region."

Changes to ABU Prizes unveiled for 2018



Changes to the ABU Prizes for 2018 have been unveiled, including a new category for new media content and the reintroduction of a prize for an on-air radio personality.

The changes were among a number approved by the ABU Prizes Working Party.

Other changes include dropping the Radio Innovative Programme Category, shortening and splitting radio drama into fictional and docudrama and dropping the interactive category to make way for the on-air personality prize.

In the TV Prizes area, the maximum documentary length will fall from 90 minutes to 60 minutes and the criteria for the sports prize will be expanded to include a wider range of program formats.

But the introduction of a new media prize – to be called the 'Digital Content Award' – was probably the most significant addition this year.

Ms Jace Au, RTHK, Hong Kong, as the chairperson stated: "With the active participation and discussion of RWP members we had a very constructive meeting and I am sure we made a significant step forward for the ABU Prizes."

The new media award is for "online media content developed as an extension of existing TV or Radio programmes and/or stand-alone original productions that are tailor-made using a wide range of available digital tools".

The Reform Working Party will finalise the exact terms and conditions to guide the judges and all entrants in their submissions for the 2018 ABU Prizes, which will be for programs first broadcast – or posted online – between 6 May 2017 and 18 May 2018, except for the TV Sports category, which extends back two years to May 2016.

Two other Radio Working Party recommendations included setting the theme for the ABU Perspective Awards for 2018 as "Gift" and restructuring the total prize pool. It has been decided to reduce the cash prize for winners from USD 2,000 to USD 1,000 and instead allocate the remaining budget for "capacity building opportunities such as inviting winners to member organisations for ABU Prizes Workshops to share their experiences so that not only the winners but also ABU members will benefit more from the sponsorship money".

Entries for the ABU Prizes can be submitted until May 18, 2018 and more information and entry forms will be available from the ABU website.

INTRODUCING ABU DIGITAL CONTENT AWARD

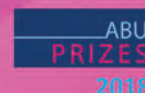
This year, we are launching a new media award for **ABU Prizes!**
Enter and stand a chance to win the first-ever online-based
ABU award for innovative content.

Eligibility

Entries submitted for the ABU Digital Content Award must be online media contents developed as an extension of existing TV or Radio programmes and/or stand-alone original productions that are tailor-made using a wide range of available digital tools.

Entry Deadline
Friday, 18 May 2018

For more information on submission guidelines, drop a note to abuprizes@abu.org.my



Generation What? Asia-Pacific Moves Forward with More Participants from ABU



Photos courtesy of UNESCO Bangkok

Broadcasters from throughout the Asia-Pacific region gathered in Bangkok to prepare for this year's launch of the youth-driven global transmedia program, Generation What? Asia-Pacific. The third Steering Group meeting for Generation What? Asia-Pacific was convened on 1 February 2018 at the Asian Side of the Doc held in Bangkok from 30 January – 2 February.

Broadcasters from Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Japan, Kazakhstan and Vietnam joined ABU, Yami2, and UNESCO for a one-day technical workshop on transmedia programming in which they learned the production aspects including casting, filming and editing of the video modules featured in the website. The participating broadcasters were also informed of the next steps involved in the project, including the production schedule.

The production teams from Yami2 and Upian will be visiting participating broadcasters in their home countries to train them to produce the video modules and manage the website as follow-up to the Bangkok meeting.

Generation What? is moving forward in the Asia-Pacific with participation from 14 ABU broadcasters in 11 countries. ABU is planning to engage more broadcasters, including ABU members in the Pacific Islands, to join the global transmedia campaign in the coming months.

Meanwhile, NHK-Japan has started the production of the campaign ahead of the others and is gearing up for the launch of Generation What? Japan in April.

The Generation What? campaign centers around a fun and interactive online 150-question survey that invites young people to share their values and attitudes on a range of topics, from identity, employment and education to family, relationships and love.

Broadcasters will launch the survey and then use the data and video interviews with participants to produce documentaries, short films, games shows and radio broadcasts that can help spark a national and regional dialogue on youth issues.

Participating ABU Members:

NHK-Japan
ACORAB-Nepal
RRI-Indonesia
TVK-Cambodia
BB-Bangladesh
BBS-Bhutan
TVNZ-New Zealand
Thai PBS-Thailand
ETV-Mongolia
NTV-Mongolia
ONTV- Mongolia
UBS-Mongolia
RTA-Afghanistan
Kazmedia-Kazakhstan

"Too often, we label young people 'millennial' or 'Gen Y,'" said Generation What? Founder and renowned French producer Christophe Nick. "What makes Generation What? different is it asks young people to share how they self-identify. That's why young people loved the campaign in Europe, and we're sure they will love it in Asia, in the Arab States and the rest of the world. Young people are really crying out for this opportunity."

The program was originally launched in France in 2013 by France Television and founders Yami2 and Upian. It then expanded throughout Europe with support from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). One million young people participated in the survey, creating a massive data portrait encompassing 900,000 answers. The results were shared with youth ministers on the floor of the European Union in Brussels.

Generation What? Asia-Pacific is set to launch in September 2018.

ABU New Media Workshop Shines a Spotlight on Tech-Enabled Content



The 2nd ABU New Media Workshop was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur from 23-25 January with 32 participants from 10 ABU member organisations. In a first-of-its-kind organised by ABU Programme Department, this three-day regional workshop focused on emerging new digital and tech-enabled content with a special focus on 360 and VR storytelling.

The workshop was facilitated by Keiko Bang, CEO and Founder of Bang Media and Eduard Chizhikov, Head of RT360 at Russia Today TV. They were supported by Chris Gomez, Vice President, XR Alliance and VRAR Association and Seemantani Sharma, ABU's Legal and IP Officer as guest speakers. The main target audience for the new media workshop was online and digital content creators in ABU member organisations.

"The workshop was terrific. We had a fantastic group of participants from Russia to Iran, Mauritius to Japan, adding different perspectives to the discussions," said workshop facilitator Keiko Bang. "The participants were extremely inspired as they learned about the theoretical aspects as well as how things are done in the real world. It is evident that the

participants want to move to the next level. They responded well to theory and now want to do more hands-on."

Divided into six sessions, participants explored the latest new media trends including innovative formats of storytelling and content creation with practical exercises on transmedia storytelling and 360 degree content making. Participants also learned how to deliver their content to new age audiences through an engaging panel discussion in addition to a presentation on legal issues related to digital content.

"After attending this workshop, now I would love to have a more hands-on experience with VR and AR. I would love a more in-depth view concerning storytelling in the digital space. All in all, I love everything about this workshop," said Sofeya Suhaimi, a participant from iM4U-Malaysia.

Participating ABU organisations include VOV-Vietnam, MRTV-Myanmar, Radio Plus-Mauritius, NHK-Japan, Thai PBS-Thailand, NBT-Thailand, TDM-Macau, RTM-Malaysia, Astro-Malaysia and iM4U-Malaysia. In addition, Malaysian Institute of Broadcasting and Information Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR) also participated in the workshop.

ABU Webinar Series Continues to Grow in Popularity

ABU's Programme Department launched its monthly webinar series in December 2016 with the aim to share knowledge and best practices on evolving media trends relevant to the fast-changing broadcasting industry. With continued support from ABU members, the Webinar Series has successfully completed one year and has now entered its second year.

In total, 12 monthly sessions on a variety of topics ranging from transmedia storytelling to cybersecurity were conducted in the past year. More than 200 participants from 40 ABU member organisations have participated and benefitted from this initiative in its first year. In addition to the monthly webinars, two on-demand webinars were organised for RTA-Afghanistan and African Union of Broadcasters (AUB). With support from ABU member broadcasters, the webinar series continues to grow in popularity.

Webinars or Web-based seminars are entirely run on an online platform. Every month, ABU invite an expert speaker to share their experiences on different topics and participants will have to log on to the designated online platform either on a computer or a mobile device. For each webinar, the log in link will be provided and participants will have to register their personal details to connect. ABU periodically publishes upcoming and past webinars on its website: <http://www.abu.org.my/Programme-at-webinars.aspx>

Webinar of the Year 2017

Based on participants' response and feedback, the most popular webinar of 2017 was 'How to combat fake news' delivered by Michael Wegener, Head of Content Center at ARD News Germany. ABU received 64 registrations for the webinar which featured a case study from Germany's leading news broadcaster ARD on how they are combatting the issue of fake news and shared some useful tips on fact-checking and how to spot fake news.

At a Glance: ABU Webinar Series (Dec 2016 – Dec 2017)

Date	Topic
15 December 2016	360 Degree Content: From Buzzword to Reality
17 January 2017	Social Media Ethics for Broadcasters
22 February 2017	Engaging Audiences in the Digital Media Landscape
29 March 2017	Redefining Media Content Through Transmedia Storytelling
27 April 2017	Exploring Multimedia Narratives – How to Build a Compelling Investigative Story
24 May 2017	Copyright Issues Related to Content
15 June 2017	Generating Successful Data-Driven Multimedia Content
27 July 2017	Digital Storytelling Using Multimedia Tools: Empowering the Voiceless in the Digital World
20 September 2017	How to combat Fake News
11 October 2017	Mobile Journalism
27 November 2017	Social Media Policy for Broadcasters
11 December 2017	Cybersecurity for Broadcasters

Request a Webinar

In the past year, ABU has also organised on-demand webinars for some of its members. These webinars are tailor-made to meet ABU member organisation's specific needs and requirements.

You can request to organise a webinar based on a topic you suggest. To arrange a webinar for your organisation, contact Mr Hamdhoon Rashad, ABU New Media Project Manager hamdhoon@abu.org.my



AVN Members Advised to Provide Clearance for UGC

AsiaVision members are advised to provide clearance for user-generated content (UGC) in their news items that are contributed to the AVN news exchange.

This clearance has to be clearly stated in the scripts provided by the members to accompany the news items that do contain user-generated content.

This matter was raised in the 2018 AVN Coordinators meeting which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from the 19-21 Mac.

The AVN Centre would further discuss this matter in the upcoming 2018 ABU News Group meeting to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in late July.

Clearance from the UGC provider has to be clearly stated so as to avoid "monetary claims" coming from the UGC provider. It was suggested that AVN members provide the clearance

obtained by mentioning at the start of the script: "Courtesy of --- (the UGC provider)".

Nepal Television (NTV) hosted the 2018 AVN) News Coordinators meeting.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Mahesh Raj Dahal, the Executive Chairman of Nepal Television.

The annual meeting is a platform for the news coordinators to review and to look for ways on taking AVN forward.

In the Nepal meeting, there was a session where members shared their experience with others on their daily AVN operations.

Two partners of AVN in news exchange, the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) also made presentations in the meeting.

ASBU and the EBU spoke about their organisation's respective collaboration and partnership activities with AVN.

AVN has separate agreements with the EBU and ASBU in the mutual exchange of news items.

AVN is a daily TV news exchange activity of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) that is conducted solely via the online platform.

AVN, which was founded in 1984, currently has 35 members.

A full-day workshop on covering breaking news and special events was held on the second day of the meeting.

The workshop focused on topics such as understanding the characteristics of breaking news and the roles of the various departments in the production of breaking events.

TVRI Re-joins Asiavision

Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI), the public television broadcaster of Indonesia, has re-joined Asiavision (AVN). The TVRI AVN membership became official in February this year.

MetroTV, the existing AVN member in Indonesia, had given its approval back in September 2016 for TVRI to re-join. TVRI left AVN in 2004. AVN is the daily TV news exchange programme run by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

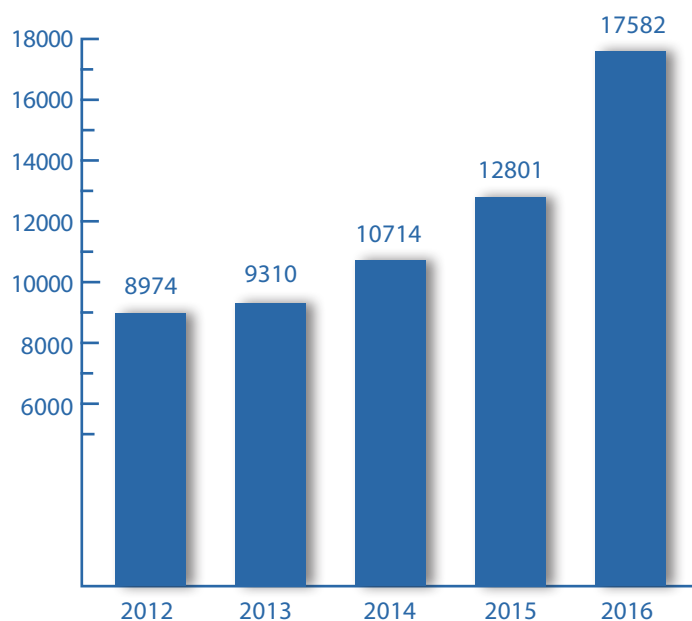
With TVRI back in, the AVN family has grown to 35 members today. The number of news items exchanged in AVN has increased tremendously over the last six years.

The annual total reached 18078 news items in 2017. This was the highest total recorded in AVN's history, since it was founded in 1984. The total number shot up following the termination of the AVN satellite feed by the end of June 2015.

The AVN news exchange was conducted solely online from 1 July 2015. The platform enabled members to upload as many news items and at any time to the AVN news exchange. The satellite feed was costly for members while the exchange of news items could be only be carried out at the specified time of the satellite booking.

The total number of news items exchanged in AVN has doubled in a short five years (see accompanying chart).

In 2012, the total was 8974 news items and rose gradually to reach 12801 news items in 2015. The total then reached 17582 in 2016.



AVN Looks to Strengthen Partnership with ASBU



Asiavision (AVN) seeks to further enhance its partnership with the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) in the exchange of news.

The AVN Senior Editor Tan Hock Guan had the opportunity to discuss such cooperation during the ASBU News, Sports and Program Coordinators meeting in Algiers, Algeria from the 24-27 Feb 2018. The Head of ASBU News Unit Ahmad al Achkar wished to receive live transmission of major Islamic conferences and events held in AVN member countries.

Tan informed Ahmad that AVN will help out by checking with its members if they do carry live transmissions of such events. If the AVN members agreed to

share these live transmissions, the AVN Centre would then pass on to ASBU the satellite parameters and timings of such events.

AVN is a daily TV news exchange program run by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) conducted solely via the online platform. The ASBU News Center in Algiers and the AVN Centre in Kuala Lumpur have a mutual agreement in the exchange of news items with each other.

One of the topics of the ASBU meeting focused on the newly established ASBU Cloud service, an extension of the ASBU MENOS system. (MENOS stands for Multi-media Exchange Network Over Satellite).

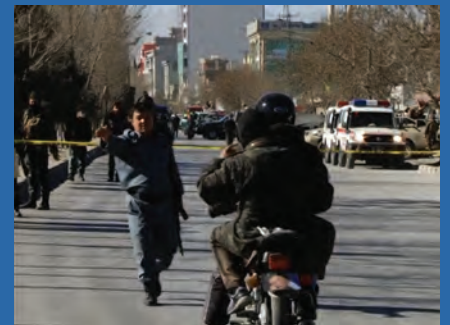
The Asiavision monthly award winners are CCTV-China for February, KBS-Korea for January and RTA-Afghanistan for December.

CCTV won the February award for its coverage of the 6.5-magnitude earthquake that hit the Taiwan county of Hualien. The powerful quake hit Hualien, on Taiwan's east coast, late at night on 6 February. It damaged buildings and claimed the lives of 10 people while more than a hundred others were injured and several missing. Search and rescue efforts were hampered by aftershocks which threatened to further destabilize the heavily damaged buildings in the area.



AVN Monthly Award Winners

The January award went to KBS for its coverage of the blaze that engulfed a hospital in the south-eastern South Korean city of Miryang. At least 37 people were killed and more than 40 others were injured in the early morning fire on January 26. The fire at the Sejong hospital was believed to have started at around 7:30am in the emergency room on the first floor of the main building.



The coverage of a suicide attack on the Kabul Cultural Centre earned RTA of Afghanistan the December 2017 award. The attack on the Tebyan social and cultural activity centre in Kabul on 28 December claimed the lives of at least 40 people. Afghan officials said women, children and journalists were among the dead in the attack which no group has claimed responsibility for.



GLOBAL NEWS FORUM

24-25 JULY 2018
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



News In The Digital Age

Session 1

The End of Monopoly on Information : Social Media – Disruptive or Constructive

Session 2

Fake News : Threat or opportunity?

Session 3

Media Ethics in Digital World

Session 4

Keeping Audiences : Building Trust and Credibility

Session 5

Winning New Audiences : News for Young Generation

Session 6

Members Success / Failure Stories

Session 7

Is Your Newsroom Ready for the Climate Change

For more info: contact shabana@asiavision.org or visit www.abu.org.my



2nd ABU Intellectual Property & Legal Committee concludes in Tehran, Iran

The 2nd ABU Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC) meeting took place on February 26th and February 27th, 2018 in Tehran, Iran. It was hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and was the second meeting of the copyright committee since the change of its name to "Intellectual Property & Legal Committee" in 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The theme for this year's meeting was "Contemporary Legal Challenges of Broadcasting Organizations in Digital Era & Multi-Platform Broadcasting".

Day 1 of the IPLC was the customary meeting which was a closed session for ABU's Full, Additional Full and Associate Members although non-members were permitted as observers upon request. It was attended by 20 delegates from 10 countries. During the course of the day, both the revised consolidated text on the Broadcasters Treaty to be discussed at the 36th Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) and the country report on recent legal developments in the Asia-Pacific region were discussed.

Day 2 of the IPLC was the forum, an open session attended by 57 delegates from 10 countries. During the day, pertinent presentations on legal topics were made by academicians, lawyers representing broadcasters and other relevant experts. The presentations made were: Legal Perspective on Broadcasting Sector in Iran, Broadcasters' Challenges in Omni-media and Broadcasting & Intellectual Property Rights.

The presentations were followed by an enlivening question and answer session.

The next IPLC is slated to take place in Macau.



(Top) From left: Dr Mehdi Yousefi Sadeghlou - Professor at Islamic Azad University, Dr Mehrab Darabpour - Professor at Shahid Beheshti University, Ms Bianca Roosaert - Managing Director of FRAPA, Seemantani - ABU Legal & IP Services Officer, and Dr Yan Bo - IPLC Chairperson.

(Bottom) From left: Dr Gholamreza Rafiei - IRIB Legal Advisor, Dr Yan Bo, Dr Mohammad Hassan Kiani - Head of IP Centre for Registration of Deeds & Properties, and Dr Siahkali - Head of IRIB Cyberspace.



From left: Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman, ASBU DG, Mr Gregoire Ndjaka AUB DG, and Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General

Establishment of the ABU/AUB/ ASBU Partnership Committee Formed

The ABU/AUB/ASBU Partnership Committee was formed during the recent AUB Conference in Kigali held on 12th to 16th March.

The three parties decided to strengthen their international partnership in news, sports, technology and content. They agreed in particular to work on a number of venture projects. ASBU will be hosting a Sports Workshop in Tunis for participants from ASBU, AUB and ABU.

The ABU Secretary-General moderated a session on "Copyright and Contribution to Content Financing" at the 11th Ordinary Session of the AUB General Assembly which took place on 15th and 16th March, 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. The panel comprised of - Ms. Carole Croella, Senior Counsellor, Copyright Law Division, WIPO (Switzerland), Ms Seemantani Sharma, ABU Legal & IP Services Officer (Malaysia), Mrs Keiterele Mathapi, CEO of DBS (Botswana), Mr Aziz Dieng, Vice-president of SCCR (Senegal) and Mr Zakaria HACHLAF, SNRT (Maroc).



Ms Seemantani Sharma, ABU Legal & IP Services Officer acted as a panelist and highlighted the importance of the Broadcasters Treaty in combating signal piracy - a global issue. Dr Mottaghi urged the African broadcasters to leverage copyright to their advantage and to actively contribute to the negotiations on the Broadcasters Treaty at the 36th Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) scheduled to take place from May 28th, 2018 till June 1st, 2018 at the WIPO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He also emphasised on the importance of copyright in content financing. Panellists also urged the African broadcasters to be actively involved in the negotiations on the Broadcasters Treaty. They also highlighted the importance of copyright for the broadcasting industry.



Preparation underway for 2018 ABU General Assembly in Ashgabat



The 55th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings will be held from 30 September to 05 October 2018 in Ashgabat. The ABU Secretariat is preparing well in advance this most important event of the Union. A delegation comprising of the Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, the Head of Production Technologies, Mr Nadeem Ahmed and Ms Zhanara Shalbayaeva made an official visit to Ashgabat from 05-10 January 2018 and had various working sessions with the Turkmenistan authorities and members of the TVTM organizing committee.

Turkmenistan is in Central Asia and is bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and the Caspian Sea. It has a population of seven million people. The country has made a huge progress in the recent years under the leadership of its President, H. E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

The ABU delegation had fruitful negotiations with H.E. Mr Annageldi Garajayev Vice Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Mr Nurmammet Garlyyev, Chairman of the State Committee for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography (TVTM) as well as Mr Annasahet Kakayev, Deputy Chairman, State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography, Turkmenistan. Mr Annasahet is also Head of the Host Organising Committee for the 2018 ABU GA and Associated Meetings



The Ylydyz Hotel will be the main venue where the ABU General Assembly and all Associated Meetings will be held. Ashgabat Hotel is for delegates and is five minutes from Ylydyz hotel. The Arcabil Hotel is 15 minutes away from Ylydyz hotel and is where producers, artists and singers will be accommodated. TVTM has confirmed that high speed internet and all social media networks will be available in all three hotels. The ABU delegation visited all corners of the hotel and made sure that everything will be in order such as: The President's News Conference, Opening Ceremony, Exhibition, Lunch and Coffee breaks, Registration Desks, ABU Secretariat, Balloting Area, TV Song

Festival, ABU Prizes and all Associated Meetings.

Two venues have been identified for the TV Song Festival: The Cultural Centre with a capacity of 7000 seats and the Ice Palace which can accommodate 10,000 people. KBS-Korea is assisting TVTM in the organization of the TV Song Festival which will be broadcast live and available to members as well as to non-members.

Discussions are on-going on other issues such as the Excursion in Turkmenistan, the NHK Reception, Visa and Customs Arrangements and transportation facilities.



Mr Ko Dae-young stepped down as President and CEO of KBS - Korea

Mr Ko Dae-young, who was unanimously elected as the President of the ABU at the General Assembly in Bali, Indonesia in October 2016, stepped down from his position of President and CEO of the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) on 24th January 2018. As a result, Mr Ko regrettably can no longer serve as President of the ABU.

"In the face of pending issues, it is with heavy heart that I am leaving the office of ABU President. I trust the Union will be in the capable hands of vice Presidents, Ms Supriya Sahu, Mr Sun Yusheng and Mr Ryoichi Ueda, together with the Secretary-General until a new President is elected at the ABU GA in Ashgabat" said Mr Ko.

KBS remains fully committed to the work and mission of the ABU and will work with the ABU and the Union members for the development of broadcasting, Mr Ko added.

On behalf of the ABU and all members, the ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr Ko Dae-young for his leadership, dedication and support to the ABU during his term as the ABU President and to wished him all good wishes in his future professional career and personal life in the years ahead.

In accordance with Article 9 Clause 5 of the ABU Statutes, the current ABU Vice President, Ms Supriya Sahu who is also Director- General Doordarshan-India will assume the role of ABU Acting President with effect from 24th January 2018 until the forthcoming ABU General Assembly in Ashgabat in October 2018 where members will have the opportunity to elect a new ABU President.

Dr Javad Mottaghi emphasized that the ABU Secretariat is committed to ensuring that the Union continues to function effectively and efficiently in the interests of all ABU members.

Partnership strengthened between ABU and TRT-Turkey

Mr Ibrahim Eren, Director General, Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT) has expressed his desire to strengthen his organisation's partnership with the ABU.

During a meeting in Ankara, Turkey in January 2018, Mr Eren and the Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General have explored new areas of cooperation between the two organisations.

One TRT expert, most likely an engineer, will be seconded to the ABU Secretariat for a period of three years. The Turkish national broadcaster will also host the 2019 ABU AVN News Group Meeting and the Global News Forum. TRT will attend the GNF in Vietnam and will make a presentation.

TRT has also agreed to host an annual ABU- TRT Master Class in the field of technology. A Turkish singer will perform at the ABU Radio Song Festival in Astana in July and another singer will participate in the ABU TV Song Festival next October in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Mr Eren will also speak at the 2018 ABU General Assembly in Ashgabat.



ABU Forging cooperation with Qatar Media Corporation

The ABU Secretary-General met Mr Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Chief Executive Officer Qatar Media Corporation and his team in Doha. QMC is a Full Member of the ABU. Mr Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Thani, CEO of QMC and ABU Secretary-General agreed to strengthen the ABU/QMC partnership in the next few years.

QMC agreed to join the following activities, such as the ABU Radio Song Festival and Radio Asia Conference and Media 2020 from 10-12 July 2018 in Astana Kazakhstan, ABU TV Song Festival; 2nd October 2018 Ashgabat – Turkmenistan, ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings in Ashgabat from 30th September to 5th October and the Global News Forum in July 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, plus The ABU Sport Content Network (ASN) and Music Exchange Network.

QMC is also willing to explore the possibility of partnership with ABU on the following major initiatives:

1. Hosting certain ABU meetings in Doha
2. ABU/QMC Regional TV Co-Production
3. Qatar/ABU Road Show in several countries in Asia and Pacific.



HE Sheikh Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Thani - CEO, and Dr Javad Mottaghi - ABU SG



From left: Mr Abdulla Sadiq - Director of Planning and Quality Department, Mr Abdulrahman Al-Obaidan - Media Advisor in the Chairman Office, HE Sheikh Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Thani - CEO, Dr Javad Mottaghi - ABU SG, Mr Ghanim Al-Ali - Director of Marketing Department, and Ms Maryam Al-Darwish - Head of Project Follow-Up

New Chairman at Mediacorp-Singapore

Mediacorp has appointed Mr Niam Chiang Meng as Chairman with effect from 21 April 2018. Mr Niam, 59, was appointed as a director of the Mediacorp Board in November 2016. He chairs the company's Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) Board Committee and is a member of its Executive Committee and its Nomination and Remuneration Committee.

On his appointment Mr Niam said, "I've worked with Mediacorp in various capacities over the years and it never ceases to amaze me how talented, passionate and dedicated its people are. I look forward to working with the team and our partners in the ecosystem to ensure that Mediacorp delivers

great content to our consumers and harnesses the opportunities created by digital disruption and new consumer trends. As we do this, Mediacorp will remain committed to its public service broadcasting responsibilities, a commitment underscored by the establishment of the new PSB Board Committee that I chair."

Mr Wong, 72, will complete his two-year term with the Mediacorp Board on 20 April 2018. During his term as Chairman, he was tasked to prepare the company for a digital future. A veteran banker, Mr Wong was United Overseas Bank Group President from 1990 to 2000 when he left to join Mediacorp as its Group CEO, a role he held for five years.



ABU teamed up with AIBD on Election Coverage Workshop

ABU, in collaboration with the AIBD, held a stimulating and engaging workshop aimed at enhancing the skills of journalists and reporters tasked with covering elections and to train both reporters and producers on elections operations and protocols during elections. Trainees were instructed on how to multi-task effectively in order to increase their work output without compromising the quality of work done during election coverage.

26 participants from six countries participated in the workshop from 16-18 January 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They included producers, editors and managers involved in content production as well as social media content producers from broadcast organizations in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

The workshop was conducted by Ms



Poonam Sharma, Director, MediaGuru, Singapore. The ABU was represented by Mr Tan Hock Guan, Senior Editor at Asiavision.

The three day workshop concluded with very positive outcomes. Participants indicated their satisfaction with the workshop content and stated they intend to implement it in their programmes in

the future. They also indicated that extending the workshop would allow them to gain more knowledge and fine-tune their practical skill.

Many participants also indicated that they would like to experience similar workshops with other consultants in order to experience different methodologies and to exchange a variety of ideas.

NABA and EBU Release Joint World Broadcasting Unions' Cyber Security Recommendations

For several months, the North American Broadcasters Association (NABA) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) have jointly worked to develop the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) Cyber Security Recommendations for Media Vendors, Systems Software and Services, a set of cyber security recommendations intended to create a dialogue with media vendors and broadcast organizations to achieve more consistent and effective compliance with cyber security requirements. For more information and to view the document, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2GDf0OU>.

Based on the original work by the EBU and NABA Member cyber security

groups, these recommendations reflect the performance aspirations of both organizations with respect to cyber security. The WBU recommends that its union members and media companies in general, apply these cyber security recommendations when designing, procuring and implementing their systems, software and services.

Commenting on the document, the WBU Technical Committee Chairman Simon Fell, states that "it is important that broadcasters reinforce the need for cyber security with their vendors. By working together through the WBU we can achieve a global reach and present common recommendations to industry partners."



The WBU Cyber Security Recommendations document is supported by NABA, the EBU and sister unions including the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), and the International Association of Broadcasting (IAB/AIR). The document will be circulated to the unions' members, as well as posted online on their corresponding websites.



Photos courtesy of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC) organised a conference on Digital Broadcasting on 12 December 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The conference aimed at sharing knowledge and experience of the work jointly achieved by ITU and NBTC on Digital Broadcasting including Digital Terrestrial TV Broadcasting, Digital Radio Broadcasting, and Community TV broadcasting. Broadcasting practitioners and policy makers from APAC and ASEAN Member States attended the conference and exchanged their views including their experiences in digital broadcasting deployment.

One hundred and twenty participants from Asia-Pacific countries representing a wide range of broadcast related organisations shared information based on their experiences. ITU, NBTC and ABU highlighted outcomes from various studies they have carried out. The ABU presented in updates on technological and global trends.

ITU/NBTC Conference on Digital Broadcasting



ABU Planning and Strategy Group (PSG) meets to discuss pertinent topics

The ABU Planning and Strategy Group mid-year meeting was held on 5th March with its main focus being on strengthening the Union's actions in the next two to three years.

As part of its efforts to improve communications between members and its operational body- the Secretariat, the Union is planning to upgrade the ABU website to enable more interaction between members

and to better reflect its annual activities. The PSG also assessed the effectiveness of reducing the duration of the General Assembly and Associated Meetings from 7 ½ days to 6 days. It found that this change would be more productive and useful to ABU members and the host organization.

The PSG will further discuss the recommendations accumulated in the two days-worth of brainstorming

sessions conducted for the ABU Secretariat's staff and the PSG members and will propose a concrete plan of action at its next meeting in September 2018.

The PSG is an advisory body to the ABU Secretariat and the Administrative Council. It meets twice a year to help the Secretariat to recommend actions and projects and advise on future ABU strategy.

ABU Planning and Strategy Group (PSG) and ABU Secretariat brainstorming sessions

ABU Secretariat clearly enjoying the session



PSG members brainstorming



Two groups of committed ABU Secretariat and PSG members enjoyed discussing and planning the future of ABU and related topics in an engaging training session which took place on the sidelines of the ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium.

New ideas were shared, new directions planned and fun was had by all.



Session participants interacting and enjoying the session

ABU Secretariat sharing light-hearted moments



Dr Amal Punchihewa began his professional career in Sri Lanka, with the national broadcaster SLRC, then was senior lecturer

in Engineering at the University of Moratuwa and returned to SLRC as Deputy Director General Engineering. He has been integral to the Technology Department at ABU in his capacity as Director, Technology & Innovation.



Jo Hae-dal joined ABU in April 2016 as Senior Producer in the Sports Department. As Chief Producer & Director at KBS-Korea. He is now

on his way back to his homeland and ABU wishes him well in his future endeavours.



Zhanara Shalbayaeva joined ABU in September 2016. She previously worked as International Relations Manager for the National

Broadcaster "Khabar Agency", JSC and "Kazmedia" National TV and Radio

New staff arrivals and departures at ABU

Complex. She was highly valued in her role as Assistant to the Secretary-General at ABU and will be missed.



Larson Moth appointed as the new PA & Communications Manager at the ABU

Larson Moth is the new Public Affairs & Communications Manager as of February 2018.

Larson holds a Masters in Applied Linguistics from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia and a Post Graduate Diploma in Communications Management from the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.

He has worked in communications for the United Nations, where he wrote key messages and speeches on behalf of Ms. Helen Clarke, former UNDP Administrator and former Prime Minister of New Zealand. He has experience working with the Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN

Secretariat. Larson has significant experience in journalism and corporate communications in both the Asia Pacific and the Middle East. He has lived in Malaysia since 2000.



Nanda Armoogum completes his 3-year term at the ABU.

In a message to all ABU staff, Secretary-General Dr Javad

Mottaghi said "I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nanda for his outstanding achievement over the past three years. I highly appreciate his dedication, humbleness, professionalism, contributions and the sense of teamwork in serving the ABU membership. When he returns to Mauritius he will continue working in media and will continue staying in touch with us as a member of the ABU family."

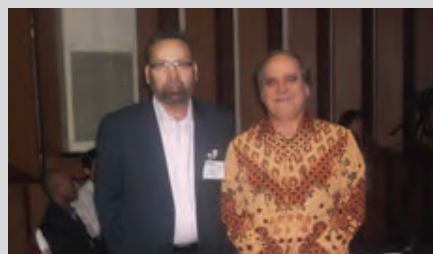
Nanda Armoogum joined the ABU as Public Affairs and Communications Manager in February 2015.

ABU pays tribute to Mr Sheikh Zaahid, Iqbal CEO-BIZ Broadcasting (Pvt.) Ltd.

Sheikh Zaahid Iqbal was a renowned Media Personality of Islamabad and a Joint Secretary of Radio Broadcaster Association Pakistan (RBA). He was a Member of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry & also an Associate Member of National Press Club, Islamabad.

He was the Founder and Chief Executive

of Biz Broadcasting (Pvt.) Ltd in Private Sector which is running Radio FM Sunrise Pakistan Network in four cities i.e., FM 97 Islamabad, FM 96 Sargodha, FM 96 Sahiwal & FM 95 Jhelum with 24 Hours Transmission in different Languages including English, Urdu, Punjabi and Pashto. BIZ Broadcasting (Pvt.) Ltd was given the status of Additional Full Member of ABU in 2011.



Javad Mottaghi, Secretary-General of the ABU and the late Sheikh Zaahid Iqbal on his visit to Pakistan

It is with fondness that ABU's Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi remembers having met Sheikh Zaahid several ABU meetings including meeting him at his office in Islamabad in January 2016.

"He had a passion for media and broadcasting and for his family. We will miss this member of our ABU family and though sad, remain happy that his son is now taking over the legacy of his father at BIZ Broadcasting."

ABU welcomes three new Additional Full Members

TVLAO-Laos

TVLAO is a television channel based in Laos. Founded in 2012, its broadcasts entertainment programmes, Sports, News and Business News. Its vision is to be a leader in television broadcasting in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and ASEAN within five years and establish itself as a public listed television station in the future.

TVLAO aims at producing quality TV contents and believes in variety in presentations and fast delivery. It airs up-to-date information to the public on socio-economic developments and promotes the national culture and traditions using state-of-the-art technology.



Radio Sagarmatha - Nepal

Established in 1997, Radio Sagarmatha is the first independent community radio in entire South Asia. Ever since, it has evolved as a truly independent and highly credible community radio in Nepal. It was founded following steadfast efforts which had come from leading journalists who had associated themselves under Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) in 1986.

Radio Sagarmatha has a very wide reach. It is available in 14 districts of the country with viewers adding up to over 2.5 million regular listeners. At times it has nearly 10 million listeners when its programs are relayed and re-broadcast by local community radio stations throughout the country.

This radio channel is very popular in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kavre, Makwanpur, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot districts.



MUST TECHNOLOGY – Mongolia

MUST TECHNOLOGY is a very young TV news channel which is called NEWS CHANNEL HD and is based in Mongolia.



Founded in August 2017, its main mission is to deliver and present current hard-breaking national and international news with the best source to viewers. NEWS CHANNEL HD broadcasts across the whole country and so far, it has 400,000 subscribers.

MUST TECHNOLOGY is a Free to Air channel and broadcasts through Cable TV -Univision, Skymedia and MNBC nationwide.. They are not on satellite and they can easily reach Ulaanbaatar City where the majority of Mongolians live.

They have currently 15 employees and intend to recruit more once they start getting additional revenue from advertising.

AXON from Netherlands joined ABU as Affiliate Member

AXON is a global leader in broadcast network infrastructure products and solutions. For more than 30 years, major broadcasters, network and service providers worldwide have trusted its pioneering and enabling technology to control and monitor operations, delivering at the highest level.



Headquartered in The Netherlands, AXON has offices in other parts of Europe, Africa, India, China, Singapore, Baltic States, Latin America and Canada.

With the widest and most advanced range of ultra-compact modular systems and equipment for audio and video signals processing available today, Axon's award-winning solutions are at the heart of broadcast. Their portfolio includes: Interfacing and Conversion, Master Control, Routers, 4K and IP Multiviewer, (IP) Control and Monitoring System, DVB Monitoring, 4K Solutions, IP Solutions, SCTE 104 insertion, Compliance Recording.

RadioAsia Conference 2018, Media2020 Conference and ABU Radio Song Festival

10 -12 July

RadioAsia Conference

Radio – Unity and Diversity is the title of this year's RadioAsia Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan.



The conference will address in very practical ways one of the greatest challenges facing Radio broadcasters in the Second Digital Age (New Media and evolution of Web 3.0) Broadcasters around the world are venturing deeper and deeper into areas where new technologies, platforms and production methods become increasingly flexible and volatile, where convergence one minute becomes divergence the next.

RadioAsia 2018 will bring together experts and practitioners from across the region and around the world to help us chart paths through this increasingly complex landscape. The conference typically attracts more than 300 radio, technology and new media industry professionals to share our challenges, seek solutions and witness what actually works in everyday broadcasting.

This year's conference will address the key issues of Radio – Unity and Diversity from a number of perspectives to engage everyone involved in radio production and dissemination. Whether you are leading an organisation or working directly in areas such as news and content production, engineering, online technologies, new media, audience relations, media regulation or government, the conference will have sessions that speak directly to your needs.

RadioAsia 2018 is fortunate to have KAZMEDIA as its host. For the first time, this key Radio event will be held in Central Asia, where Europe meets the Asia-Pacific and where ancient trade routes meet 21st Century communications technology.

Media2020

The Kazmedia Center in Astana, Kazakhstan, will also host the 4th edition of the Media2020 series of Asia-Europe dialogues. Launched in 2015, Media2020 aims to prepare broadcasters across all platforms for the challenges they will need to confront by 2020 and beyond.



Entitled "Looking beyond the horizon", this year's conference will examine today's broadcasting from three perspectives: Are digital media developing in the way predicted earlier in the Second Digital Age? What has proved successful and what is failing? What is coming over the horizon to hit us as we get closer to 2020?

Co-partnered by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and Radio Romania, the Media2020 series brings together industry experts from Europe and the Asia-Pacific able to present well-researched and thought-out analysis together with actual, real-time practical examples.

Our presenters and panellists will be some of the leading experts in their fields representing some of the world's major media and communications organisations.

ABU Radio Song Festival 2018

The ABU Radio Song Festival 2018 aims to showcase and recognize the diverse, undiscovered musical talents of nations within Asia and the Pacific regions. By doing so, the Festival is purposed to foster understanding, awareness and appreciation of the cultural diversity that exists across the region. With this in mind, the ABU Radio Song Festival will focus on discovering, encouraging, introducing and promoting new song compositions by unknown artists among ABU member countries. To provide an international gateway for the winning composers and artists to have their music heard through a pan-Asia/Pacific Song Festival. Another objective is to promote greater collaboration and team work among broadcasters in the ABU.



The ABU Radio Song Festival will showcase some of the best of the best unsigned local talent to an International audience by reflecting contemporary Asian and Pacific society as well as celebrating music and artistic diversity across borders.

Global News Forum 2018 in Vietnam 23 - 25 July

The theme for the 2018 GNF will be “News In The Digital Age” hosted by VTV-Vietnam.

This will be the fourth Global News Forum in which News directors, producers reporters and decision-makers in Asia-Pacific will get together with news leaders from across the globe to grapple with mutual challenges with the advent of the digital wave. We believe that decision makers in Newsrooms including Heads of News will benefit from this major news dialogue.



We are expecting over 150 international news leaders, decision-makers and senior journalists to get together in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to discuss about “News In The Digital Age”.

The Global News Forum is open to ABU members, partners and all other news state holders. This is a unique opportunity for participants to explore the minds of newsroom decision-makers as it gathers mainly news leaders and executives as well as broadcast news professionals. The Forum also allows participants to deliberate, exchange ideas and address new challenges in the media industry.

The News Group Meeting will also be held alongside with the GNF.

For more info please contact shabana@asiavision.org or visit www.abu.org.my

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ABU Calendar of Events

APRIL

2 – 15	Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games	Gold Coast
4 – 6	Children TV Drama Co-production 1st Producers’ Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
5	Generation What? Japan starts	Online
16 – 20	Training of Trainers Workshop	Kuala Lumpur
19 – 20	Golden Ribbon International Short Documentary Co-production Creative Workshop	Beijing

MAY

May-July	ABU Prizes 2018 Pre-selection	
1 – 2	ABU Technical Bureau Mid-Year Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
7 – 9	62nd ABU Sports Group Conference & Associated Meetings	Jakarta
TBC	Cross Union Sports Training Workshop	Tunis

JUNE

26 – 28	Children TV Drama Co-production 2nd Producers’ Meeting	TBA
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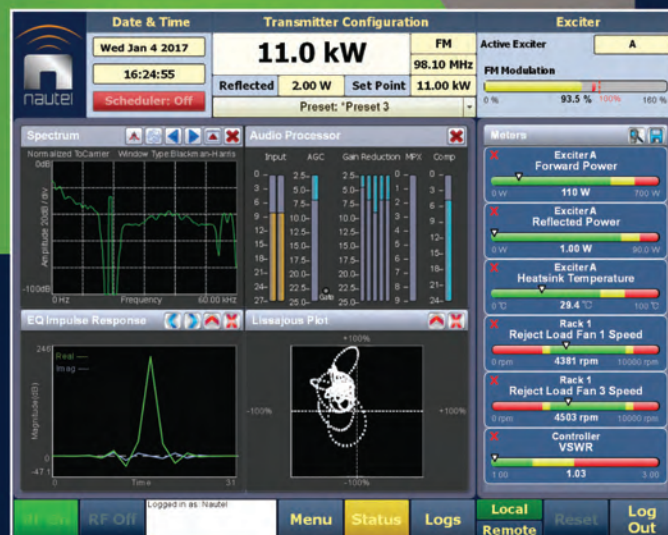


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Nautel is a leader in digital radio with robust, easy-to-deploy, digital-capable transmitters and components. Our major transmitter families – VS, GV and NX – are designed from the ground-up for DRM and HD Radio transmission.



MONITORING AND CONTROL

Nautel transmitters offer comprehensive monitoring and control instrumentation via touch screen or web, outstanding reliability, compact footprints, high efficiency, easy maintenance, and 24/7 support.



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