

ABU news

Quarter 1 2019



Fostering Partnerships Through Events: ABU Dance Festival & ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium



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2nd ABU International Dance Festival in New Delhi, India.

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Publisher

Dr Javad Mottaghi
javad@abu.org.my

Editor in Chief

Larson Moth
larson@abu.org.my

Media Communications Designer

Nadzim Zainal
nadzim@abu.org.my

Contributors

Javad Mottaghi
Natalia Ilieva
Ahmed Nadeem
Cai Yanjiang
Wendy Everett
Olya Booyar
Hanizah Hamzah
Tan Hock Guan
Kesang
Nguyen Thanh Nam
Seemantani Sharma
Hamdhoon Rashad
Shabana Jain
Nisha Parmanadan
Alan Williams
Martin Hadlow
Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Chrissie Tucker
Patricia Edgar
Russell Isaac

Address

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union
2nd Floor, IPPTAR Building,
Angkasapuri,
50614 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +60 3 2282 3592

Fax: +60 3 2282 5292

Website: www.abu.org.my

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Greetings from the ABU!

Everyone at the ABU Secretariat wishes a warm welcome to you for this Q1 2019 edition of the ABU News. The first quarter of 2019 was a busy one for the ABU. Recently, the 15th edition of the series of the **ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS)** was staged in partnerships with our members and other media stakeholders and industry players. This year's event was staged at the Royale Chulan Hotel from 4- 7 March 2019 in Kuala Lumpur.

The theme for this year's symposium was entitled Digital Transition & Transformation. Over 1000 professionals were at the event which consisted of an international conference with stimulating and engaging speakers, hands-on workshops and an industry exhibition showcasing the latest technologies and services from around the Asia Pacific, and indeed, the world.

The conference featured 12 comprehensive sessions, all looking at topics of interest to broadcasters and bringing together expert speakers from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Dozens of top industry speakers took part, with session topics including Broadcasting Strategies for the Future, Cybersecurity and Media, Migrating to IP Infrastructure, and Immersive Technologies and Industry Trends, plus a stimulating industry debate moderated by Mr Akira Negishi, Senior Manager, NHK World.

Broadcasters, consultants, engineers, content producers and new media professionals as well as broadcast regulators spoke about a wide array of highly relevant topics concerning the media industry. This year, the Best Booth Award was bestowed on a new exhibitor, IPSB of Malaysia.

The ever-popular **ABU Documentary Screening and Exchange** held on the side-lines of the symposium proved to be a unique opportunity to provide a platform to interact, discuss with and learn from, peers in the industry. It is a proven platform able to provide an environment to develop, build and nurture concrete projects and productions jointly, with other similar minded producers/organisations. It presents a unique opportunity to develop and hone skills that are unique to the documentary genre.

This first quarter of 2019 also saw the **2nd ABU Dance Festival 2019** held in New Delhi and at the very end of the quarter and the **ABU-RAI Digital Innovation Days** in Venice, Italy. Earlier, ABU worked with IRIB in organising the **14th International Radio Festival** and **6th Radio Forum** in Tehran in April. The **5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness** in Kathmandu, Nepal, also happened on 25 – 26 April, which saw the annual meeting of stakeholders in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management from Asia-Pacific and beyond, gather to mark the fourth anniversary of the devastating 2015 Gorkha earthquake.

As always 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 many events, about our members in Asia and the Pacific -- introducing our latest members, as well as inform you about other industry happenings of concern to you, our valued members. We hope you enjoy the latest issue!

A stylized world map in light blue is overlaid on a dark blue background. The map shows the continents, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The background also features subtle concentric circles and a grid of fine lines.

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YB Mr Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia address the DBS audience.

ABU DIGITAL BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM 2019

The 15th Annual Digital Broadcasting Symposium took place over four days from March 04- 07 at the Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur. In addition to workshops and masterclasses, it featured a three-day exhibition and conference. More than 65 companies took part in the exhibition.

The conference featured 12 sessions, all looking at topics of interest to broadcasters and bringing together expert speakers from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. A highlight of the conference was the Industry Debate on 7 March. Moderated by Akira Negishi of NHK-Japan, it addressed the topic 'Broadcasters & the Connected Generation – Content ideas, Business cases and Serving a Global Audience'.

Many top industry speakers took part and session topics included Broadcasting Strategies for the Future, Cybersecurity and Media, Migrating to IP Infrastructure, and Immersive Technologies and Industry Trends.

The opening of the DBS symposium, the theme for which was Digital Transition & Transformation, saw Malaysia's Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Mr Gobind Singh Deo, address the auditorium, making an announcement as to the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting to be initiated in Malaysia in the near future.

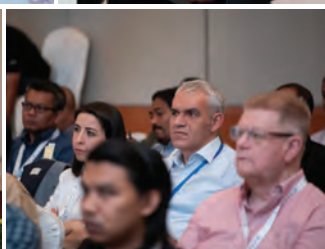
In his opening address, Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary General, addressing the challenges presented by ever-changing technology for broadcasters stated:

"The connected digital environment, while providing ease of use and flexibility also creates new challenges. One such challenge is the importance of being vigilant of Cyber-attacks. We have heard many instances of such attacks on broadcast and media infrastructure, hence it is extremely important that broadcasters take the necessary action to safeguard their operations and valuable content from such attacks."

He also made mention of the launch of 8K through satellite by ABU member NHK which is the first of its kind in the world. NHK is inviting all of ABU's members to visit Tokyo in November this year for the ABU General Assembly.

Ms Joan Warner, World DAB and Chief Executive Officer, Commercial Radio Australia, welcomed the audience and spoke on Seizing the Digital Opportunity. She stressed the important role broadcasters play in informing the world of the biggest events in our lives and expanded upon the advantages of digital broadcasting.

Ms Warner also highlighted that broadcasters need to improve the customer experience across multiple touch points. Voice-activated devices, she told the audience, need to be seamless and effective for optimal customer experience and that voice technology is particularly suited for digital radio broadcasting.



Symposium Highlights

MIGRATING TO IP – STANDARDS, STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES

Moderated by **Dr Fintan Mc Kiernan**, CEO of Ideal Systems Southeast Asia, the panel discussed standards, strategies and challenges posed when migrating to IP.

It was kicked off by **Mr Yew-jin Cheong**, Director of Broadcast and Media at Rohde & Schwarz, who said: "There is a driving need to deliver new and more compelling content quickly and as cost-effectively as possible." He used this jumping point to outline pertinent reasons to switch to IP technology from baseband, which cannot handle the high bandwidth of new content. Highlighting the evolution of IP technology to stress its inevitable adoption, he also outlined Rohde & Schwarz's IP solutions in interoperability, contribution and distribution.

Mr Toshihiro Mitsuyoshi of NHK-Japan's Engineering Administration Department then spoke of NHK's experience in implementing IP for DDT distribution network in SFN

across 2,200 broadcasting stations in the mountainous country. He briefly recounts reasons for switching, and how initial problems of adjusting delay time, synchronisation and packet loss were countered by the development of new equipment that provided broadcast regeneration and error correction.

Mr Torkel Aamodt Thoresen, Senior Solution Architect at Nevion, then spoke on leveraging IP WAN technology for contribution and remote production. Nevion's focus on delivering high quality video and data in real time over any distance is increasingly moving from hardware and software services to IP and cloud technologies. He made a strong case for remote production, which converts data into IP to be sent over IP networks, thus requiring less manpower and less expensive equipment, and is quicker to set up.

Mr Peter Bruce, Director of IABM APAC, provided counterpoint as a representative from the industry's trade association, which conducts

surveys and reviews of technology that is beneficial to the end users. He strongly recommended the transition to IP, citing cost benefit and work flow agility in the bidirectional nature of IP which helps production. He addressed the questions, "What do you need to do to migrate? Can I mix and match? Do I want a hybrid system?" and went on to reassure that the move will increase flexibility within the system. He said, "Rather than buying hardware, we'll be paying for solutions as we use them."

The practical aspect of migrating to IP was expounded on by **Mr Jonathan Triboulet**, Director of APAC Operations for Skyline Communications. He spoke on how to manage the diversity of IP products, recommending an end-to-end approach to integrate all products from multiple vendors into one single management system. He raised the issue of problems caused by synchronisation, and recommended an on-the-go quick overview to check on detail: "A solution that gives you a bird's eye view but also the ability to get into every single KPI."



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION – WORKFLOW ENHANCEMENT, MEDIA MANAGEMENT AND CLOUD INTEGRATION

Mr Charles Sevier, CTO of Unstructured Data Solutions, Dell EMC, steered a stimulating discussion on digital transformation, specifically workflow enhancement, media management and cloud interaction.

First up was **Mr Paul Shutt**, APAC Director of Solutions of VIZRT, who spoke on MAM as a single platform to reduce complexity. He pointed out that the new media landscape involves various factors such as nonlinear work productions, numerous collaborators and different assets distributed in different places: saying that, “What we actually want is an open highway that takes you wherever you want to go instead of a congested road.”

MAM makes it possible to consolidate operations into a single efficient layer, allowing users to focus on producing high value stories.

Mr Aaron Alphonso, CTO of Macquarie Media Limited, advised on integrating DAB+ into contemporary studio technology to increase efficiency in digital radio operations. He recommended choosing systems with simple protocols for ease of scalability and speed of implementation, but with customisation capability. He also talked about systems integration to enable automation for ease of scheduling and reducing producer workload. “Successful DAB+ improves speed and functionality with no expensive hardware, and with open protocols to allow a wide pool of talent to develop solutions.”



Continuing the theme of streamlining operations in OTT and broadcasting, **Mr Johan Vanmarcke**, Managing Director of MEDIAGENIX APAC, focused on the distribution of content and the value of playlists with multiple dimensions. Unlike the linear world of traditional broadcasting, the distribution of digitised content can be made dynamic with algorithms: "We can have a story on a preferred platform at a preferred time." With tight integration and automation of distribution, the workflow of promotion, sales, consumption data and revenue generation flows seamlessly.

Mr Tomas Chen, Assistant Manager of Sony, then spoke about enhancing archiving of HD and UHD production in today's broadcasters. He cited Sony as bringing its 73 years of experience to the new landscape of IP solutions to increase efficiency in customers' workflows. With the increasing sizes of 4k and 8k content, Sony offers high retrieval efficiency and high-speed retrieval, with lower cost and the flexibility of random access. He also highlighted the importance of longevity, with Sony's hardware tested to withstand disaster conditions and programmed for generational compatibility.

Archives are an integral part of broadcasters' workflows, as **Mr Bruno Burtre**, Director of Business Development at NOA-Archive, reiterated by outlining how to make audio-visual archives valuable again. As content moves from linear to OTT, projection needs to be fast, cheap and interactive, and archives move from physical to digital formats. He addressed questions on how to ensure quality control and to upscale and integrate content, saying, "We should digitise content with maximum quality and least compression." He assured that NOA's solutions use an open archive information system that is non-proprietary, ensuring long-term compatibility.

Mr James Taylor, Head of Cloud Services for APAC, Ideal Systems, closed with cloud integration. Listing out the realities of integration platforms, he positioned multi-vendor solutions to deliver targeted and efficient cloud workflows. He emphasised how using the cloud to analyse content quickly and cheaply delivers content to the site: "Virtualised infrastructure removes the need to have transport technologies." This results in huge cost savings as we move from real time playback to pre-rendered playback.

ADVANCES IN DIGITAL RADIO & TV TECHNOLOGIES

The panel session on advances in digital radio and TV technologies was deftly moderated by **Ms Bernie O'Neill**, Project Director of WorldDAB, who first introduced **Mrs Taeko Hattori** of NHK-Japan. An engineer from the production and engineering department, Mrs Hattori spoke on the design of the 22.2 multichannel sound production system for NHK's newly-launched 8K UHDTV program. To handle huge 8K signals, an IP system was chosen for the 22.2 multichannel audio which avoided the need for many cables. "This is the first time an IP system is used for a production studio." Existing equipment was modified, and new equipment was customised, in order to accommodate the system's myriad needs in a small studio space. "This studio will be used for broadcasting sports programs such as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics."

Dr Kong Bin, Operation Director of NRTA, People's Republic of China, then elaborated on the past, present and future of China Broadcasting. The realities of China's large territory and population poses challenges in reaching rural areas. In addition to providing for its listeners ("We popularise scientific knowledge and spread information on how to improve local civilisations"), NRTA also plays a vital role in emergencies such as natural disasters, public health and social security. To facilitate its large-scale operations and global communications, NRTA conducts stringent tests on UHDTV equipment and transmission conditions.

KBS-Korea's representative, **Mr Jun Ho Cho**, Senior Engineer of the System Construction Department, then gave an overview of KBS's UHD workflow and content management system. Efficient UHD workflows are designed to answer to preferred investment targets, with strict guidelines for production, transmission and distribution. The content management system collects metadata for archiving and future expansion of HDR. "During the Jeju Winter Olympics, this workflow enabled real time broadcasting, highlights, event schedules and ease of access to viewers."

Engineer at IKEGAMI, **Mr Sota Kobayashi**, detailed the required performance for new generation 4K



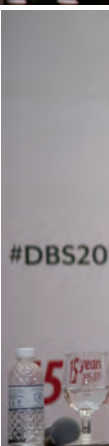


master monitors, which aim to enhance three aspects of video technology: resolution, colour and dynamic range. "This is accomplished not by loading pixels of more information, but by changing the mapping of luminance." The master monitor contains features that ensure luminance and uniformity. He assured: "We will continue to analyse what is required by video handlers all over the world and provide it."

Mrs Rezvaneh Sahba, Manager of Central Monitoring in IRIB-Iran, then presented the application and outline of network management systems (NMS) in IRIB's broadcasting chain. "NMS is an end-to-end solution that centralises and visualises the flow of signal from the chain of production to the contribution." It can be used in different sites, by different vendors in hundreds of devices, concurrently with other chains in IRIB's system.

The important elements in NMS are prevention of abnormalities, monitoring of trends, and the management of accounts, performance and security.

Mr Alexander Zink, Senior Business Development Manager of Fraunhofer IIS's Digital Radio & Streaming Applications, emphasised the important role of DRM's emergency warning functionality in national warning infrastructure. He asked: "Are we already making the most of the prewarning phase? How can digital radio help with maximising the impact and reaching as many people as possible?" DRM sends automatic, full volume, and immediate alarm signals, with visual warnings for the hearing-impaired. Mr Zink concluded by echoing Mr Kong Bin's recommendations: "Make sure your governments are on board."



THE DBS INDUSTRY DEBATE PANEL

This year's industry debate gathered representatives from key global and regional broadcasting players for a lively discussion on how to engage the connected generation and serve a global audience. Moderator **Mr Akira Negishi**, Senior Manager of NHK World Department, introduced the complexity of the issue at hand with several definitions of a connected generation. "The selection of ways to consume video content has expanded more than before. We have bigger competition." He then outlined the three discussion points of the debate: how does traditional broadcasting engage the connected generation; what are the examples of approaches to increase engagement opportunities; and what are the challenges faced by the broadcasters in dealing with new technology?

Ms Hong Young Kyung, ABU's Technical Liaison Officer at KBS-Korea, kicked off the debate by illustrating the rapidly changing media landscape in Korea, in which terrestrial television shows a shrinking market share. She

attributed this to changing trends in consuming content. "Snack culture is a South Korean trend of consuming media in a very short period of time [...] People prefer streaming services because of the nature of 'anywhere, anytime.'" To counter this, three major Korean broadcasters created a joint subscription-based OTT platform, which has continuously maintained its growth. It functions as an end-stream service that can be viewed on multiple devices, with time-streaming function and curation based on AI. According to Ms Hong, the focus on traditional media and linear television limits space and budget to embrace new media. "Broadcasters are not startups; we're stabilised and big, but we're less agile when it comes to really short decision-making." She stressed the importance of securing original content through diversified platforms. "Inundated with many similar services and apps, how do we remain unique?"

Mr Abdul Muis bin Shefii, the Director General of Radio Televisyen Malaysia, brought 30 years of experience in RTM to the panel. Terrestrial television maintains a strong foothold in





Malaysia, but RTM also has an OTT platform, which in 2018 connected 17 million viewers to the World Cup as well as Malaysia's unprecedented 14th general election. "Television is still popular for consumers in Malaysia, but how do we provide content that is interesting to attract more viewers to our channels?" Mr Abdul Muis admitted that the viewing patterns of audiences are changing, and the internet is fast overtaking traditional broadcasting as a source of content and information. At this point in time, RTM has been unable to provide a dedicated channel for its OTT platform, which currently broadcasts the same content as its terrestrial television that nevertheless allows both domestic and overseas audiences to access Malaysian television.

Ms Ruxandra Obreja, Chairman, Digital Radio Mondiale, eloquently endorsed digital radio as a strong contender in the new media landscape. Not merely targeting the single demographic of a connected generation, DRM deals with many countries and cultures. In countries such as China and Africa, radio is still relevant with its tradition of storytelling, whereas in developed countries, consumers are more promiscuous. "There is more competition for eyeballs and ears, and this complicates life for broadcasters." However, the new media is coming full circle with Pandora introducing commentary in its music streams, proving that the radio format still has attraction. No matter the change in consumption, life is still lived linearly. "We don't have to think so complicated [sic]. Digital just enables access to everyone, whether they're millennials or grandmothers."

Mr Oliver Linow, having spent 20 years in Deutsche Welle, brought the engineer's perspective in Distributions Systems. He cited the example of his teenage daughter as the typical German digital native, whose consumption consists of 80% digital services and 20% linear television. Yet in today's multiplatform reality, he reiterated the need to cater to all the different user groups. "Not everybody in the world has the possibility to use all these platforms." Deutsche Welle has its own OTT platform for all on-demand media, but also harnesses social media

and YouTube for live streaming, as it is more difficult to measure international audiences on satellite transmissions. However, third-party platforms pose their own set of problems. "When someone makes a complaint and YouTube switches off the channel, this does not look professional for a professional broadcaster."

Mr Lindsay Cornell of the BBC has been long involved in the design and engineering aspect of digital radio, dealing with technological strategies that keep radio vibrant. He noted that in the UK, terrestrial, traditional broadcast delivery is still the biggest slice of the consumption pie due to its simplicity of use. However, he did not discount alternative services: "Every generation is connected. How connected they are in terms of the balance between traditional broadcasting techniques and IP delivery varies according to age." BBC's multivariied strategies include the ever-evolving and global favourite BBC news website, providing its content as a subscription streaming service in other countries, and creating educational content for children with complementary interactive websites. "It's becoming more important to get content packaged in a way people like to consume it." Challenges include the misuse of the BBC brand on Twitter and Facebook: "One of the difficulties of social media is that it's not the usual environment we're used to controlling; it's a complete wild west."

Mr Peh Beng Yeow, Vice President (Transmission) at Singapore's Mediacorp Pte Ltd, brought a technical angle to the discussion. Having overseen Mediacorp's recent switch from analogue, he reminded the audience to look beyond the connected generation: "Television and radio is still transmitted terrestrially so everyone has access to free services." Mediacorp has spearheaded new strategies of engagement, such as apps for television services, a dedicated news channel for instant updates, and shorter, on-demand content for changing viewer appetites. However, in the race to be on every platform, he offered a balance of perspective: "Consumers nowadays want more control. They are tech-savvy. However, there are also a group of people who are not so connected."

MoJo Masterclass at DBS a Major Hit



Multiple award-winning South African journalist and trainer Viasen Soobramoney took DBS 2019 by storm as he conducted a Mobile Journalism (MoJo) masterclass series, a first-of-its-kind organised by the Programme Department at the ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium.

Delivered over the course of DBS as three individual sessions, participants in each masterclass were taught how to create professional videos and engaging digital content with their smartphone with the ultimate goal to help them transform the communication workflow of their newsrooms. More than 100 participants took part and benefitted from the 3 masterclass sessions conducted from 4-7 March 2019 at Royale Chulan Hotel.

"The sessions I found were neatly tailored to give participants insight into the latest trends regarding mobile journalism. The highlight of course was the practical nature of the sessions that saw all participants going out and trying the new techniques they had learnt. The engagement was high and very encouraging. Wish the sessions could have been longer!" said Viasen.

Divided into four modules that covered Mojo Photography, Mojo Radio, Mojo Video, and Mojo Playbook, participants

learned how to maximize their smartphone's potential when capturing images with tips and tricks and basic smartphone photography principles. They also learned the art of audio broadcast using their smartphones and how to capture audio and the fundamentals of radio storytelling on smartphone.

In addition, participants tried their hands in shooting, editing and packaging broadcast quality video using their smartphones. The biggest attraction of the masterclass was the ultimate guide to tools, apps, tips and tricks to creating content on smartphone shared by the trainer. Participants were delighted to walk away with some quick basic knowledge on mobile journalism that they could apply in their daily work routines.

Based in Cape Town, South Africa, Viasen specialises in the areas of digital convergence and multimedia strategy. He is the founder of Africa's first Mobile Journalism newsroom and a vastly experienced media trainer.



DBS Immersive VR Showcase Offers Delegates a Real Treat in 8K

ABU Programme Department teamed up with HTC Vive Malaysia and Funique VR Studio to present a unique immersive experience showcasing state-of-the-art content creation in the Virtual Reality (VR) domain at DBS 2019. The core mission of this immersive experience was to showcase VR as a true form of art to bring an unparalleled experience of storytelling and content creation. In total, 8 showcase sessions were delivered over three days from 5-7 March 2019.

Thanks to HTC Vive Malaysia, participants were able to experience the latest 8K high quality VR content with latest HMDs from HTC Vive. Each session lasted about 50 minutes, showcasing a selection of VR

experiences chosen by Funique VR Studio which is dedicated to realising 8K per eye Stereoscopic VR in film industry and creating new generation platform for viewers. Participants also explored how each of the VR content was created, what makes them unique and why they are successful. More than 70 participants joined the immersive VR experience at DBS this year.

Some of the highlights from the VR showcase include an award-winning, live-action comedy titled *Your Spiritual Temple Sucks* directed by John Hsu, which explores the full cinematic potential of virtual reality in storytelling. Another VR film showcased includes an 11-minutes VR short film titled *Eyes in the Red Wind* directed by South Korean VR filmmaker Lee Seung-

moo. *Eyes of the Red Wind* tells the story of a family that holds a ritual with a shaman to help the soul of a deceased man who was drowned.

The showcase also offered a series of episodes from Funique VR Studio's *Insect Channel* featuring some fascinating creatures that one participant described as "feels being immersed in National Geographic channel."

This marks the second year that ABU Programme Department has organised a VR showcase at DBS. Last year for the first time, DBS delegates were treated to an immersive VR experience from World VR Forum (WVRF), an international organisation dedicated to advancing the virtual reality industry.



Digital migration a key focus at Technical Bureau meeting

By Alan Williams

The ABU Technical Bureau has reviewed the progress its members are making in the transition to digital broadcasting.

The bureau discussed the issue at its mid-year meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 8 March. Some members have completed their digital migration, while others are in the process of doing so.

Members also gave updates on new projects, future plans and some of the challenges they are facing.

The meeting was chaired by its new Chairman, Mr Hamid D Nayeri of IRIB-Iran. He succeeds Mr Masakazu Iwaki of NHK-Japan.

It saw a high turnout, with bureau members present from RTPRC-China, NHK-Japan, KBS-Korea, DDI-India, RTM-Malaysia, Mediacorp-Singapore, NBT-Thailand, TRT-Turkey, EAP-Sri Lanka, MTV-Sri Lanka and VTV-Vietnam.

Among other issues, the bureau discussed a recommendation on Ku-band satellite issues related to ITU WRC-19. Members agreed to set up a study project on satellite broadcasting systems and to restructure the Training and Services Study Topic Area.



Mr Hamid D Nayeri, IRIB-Iran, ABU Technical Committee Chairman



Dr Kong Bin, RTPRC-China, ABU Technical Committee Vice-Chairman



Mr Masashi Kamei, NHK-Japan, ABU Technical Committee Vice-Chairman



Mr Kenichi Murayama, NHK-Japan, ABU Technical Committee Hon Vice-Chairman

They also discussed arrangements for the Technical Bureau and Technical Committee meetings alongside the ABU General Assembly in Tokyo in November 2019.

The bureau heard progress reports from the chairmen of its study projects in the areas of production, transmission and spectrum. Members also reviewed the ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium 2019, which ended on 7 March.

In addition, the bureau agreed on new selection criteria for ABU Technical Review Prizes, which are announced annually.



TDM Hosts ABU New Media Workshop on Interactive Storytelling

The 3rd edition of the ABU New Media workshop travelled to Macau, China from 19-21 March 2019 and was hosted by Teledifusão de Macau, S. A. (TDM), marking it the first time that the annual regional workshop was staged outside Kuala Lumpur. A total of 30 participants from 6 ABU member organisations joined the workshop to explore interactive content and its impact on digital audiences.

With the theme *Interactive Storytelling: Building Engaging Digital Narratives*, the 3-day workshop focused on the tools and techniques of creating successful interactive content that appeal to audiences. The main target audience for the ABU New Media Workshop was online and digital content creators from ABU member broadcasters. The workshop was facilitated by Alexander Plaum, innovation manager at Germany's International Broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW), and Amie Mills, an expert from New Zealand who specialises in interactive and multi-platform storytelling.

"It is important for broadcasters to keep upgrading our skills in order to satisfy increasing demands of audiences. Through this 3-day workshop, I believe all participants must have been inspired with great ideas and learnt practical techniques, and I am sure the knowledge they gained would be beneficial for their jobs," said Mr John Lai, Director and Member of Executive

Committee of TDM in his closing remarks at the end of the workshop.

Featuring a series of presentations, case studies and hands-on exercises, the workshop covered major topics ranging from interactive storytelling to creating interactive 360-degree content. The workshop kicked off with an overview of interactive storytelling backed by international case studies like these two, which utilise interactive storytelling how interactive storytelling is creating unique and ground-breaking viewer experiences such as the Netflix's interactive Black Mirror film by Charlie Brooker that lets viewers choose up to 5 different endings. Through the examples showcases, participants discovered how interactive storytelling is creating unique and ground-breaking viewer experiences.

"This ABU Interactive Storytelling workshop hosted by TDM has been a wonderful, engaging experience. The participants who attended all came into the workshop with open minds and a passion for storytelling, and it's been delightful to watch them collaborate and come up with fantastic, innovative interactive storytelling concepts," Amie said.

"I have been reminded over these three days of the universal pressures that the media industry is grappling with – and that despite our different backgrounds, countries and cultures – we are all

trying to figure out how to reach younger audiences who are moving away from traditional media towards digital platforms. I hope that these three days have helped the participants think differently about their work and that they will take that knowledge back to their organisations to encourage the use of new media and interactive storytelling," she added.

The biggest attraction of the workshop was the hands-on exercise on creating and publishing interactive stories using Fader, a quick web tool and application to create and publish immersive and interactive online stories, facilitated by Alexander Plaum on Day 2. During the exercise, participants familiarised themselves with the basic features of the Fader editor and platform and tried their hands on creating and publishing their own stories.

"The ABU's Interactive Storytelling Workshop in Macau was a great and inspiring event for many reasons. It managed to bring together media professionals from eight different countries (and three different continents) and successfully fostered exchange between them. It saw participants acquire and refine new storytelling skills within just a couple of hours. Mixed teams eventually went on to create fresh journalistic concepts and compelling content, some of which could actually be published right away," said Alex sharing his impressions about the workshop.

Led by Amie Mills, the final day of the workshop was focused on interactive journalism and reaching younger audiences. Following a presentation on the topic that showcased several inspiring examples from around the world, participants worked on mapping an interactive project. As part of the exercise, they brainstormed in groups on creating a project plan on an interactive story that they can work at their organisations.

The workshop was followed by a tour to the TDM TV Station and a networking dinner hosted by TDM. ABU members who participated in the workshop include VOV-Vietnam, Thai PBS-Thailand, SRT-China, Padamyar FM-Myanmar, NBT-Thailand and TDM-Macau, China.



Showcase of unity and diversity at ABU 2nd International Dance Festival

More than 120 dancers from 12 countries across the Asia-Pacific gave a spectacular display of their art at this year's 2nd ABU International Dance Festival in New Delhi, India.

The dancers lit up the stage at the Taj Palace Hotel, with their performances broadcast live by hosts Doordarshan and streamed onto the Internet. Several national broadcasters around the region took the live feeds and re-broadcast the evening of music and dance.

The footage was also posted on YouTube, All India Radio streamed the event onto their multiplatform digital network and copies of the recording were provided to all the participating organisations for replay in their home countries.

Ms Supriya Sahu, Director General of Host Broadcaster Doordarshan India and Vice President of the ABU said that after all the hard work leading up to the Festival itself, it was especially heart-warming for all involved to see how the teams bonded together over the time they were in New Delhi for rehearsals and the performances.

"The dancers came from across our region and within minutes they were working and socialising together as

if they'd been friends for years," she said. "Their energy, expertise and charm was a marvellous thing to witness and really underscored the ABU motto Unity in Diversity."

ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi called it a great night to remember.

"The 2nd ABU International Dance Festival is a celebration of human spirit. 'United by Dance' the theme of this year's festival signifies the Unity in Diversity. I have no doubt that the festival hosted this year in India, the cradle of civilization, is poised to emerge as one of the most sought after festivals of dance in the world. It will certainly create a bridge between young people from different parts of the world, through dance as an international language."

– Supriya Sahu, Director General of Doordarshan India

"The performances were beautiful and the production itself was of great quality," he said. "Praise must go to Prasar Bharati and all the staff of Doordarshan. The amount of effort they devoted to this event shone through all their production, from preparation through to distribution.

"A very special thank you must also go to Ms Supriya Sahu,

Vice President of the ABU, who has led this initiative from its humble beginning as an idea, to the Festival we have enjoyed last weekend."

The performances were followed by a gala dinner at which Host Broadcaster and Organiser Doordarshan India presented cultural mementos and participation certificates to the groups from RTA Afghanistan; BTV Bangladesh; BBS Bhutan; FBC Fiji; DDI India; RRI Indonesia; TVRI Indonesia; Sarawak Malaysia; PSM Maldives; Radio Tulsipur Nepal; TVTM Turkmenistan and MTRK Uzbekistan.



Mr Rajeev Singh, Member Finance Prasar Bharati



Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO Prasar Bharati



Ms Supriya Sahu, Director General Doordarshan & ABU Vice President



Dr A. Surya Prakash, Chairman Prasar Bharati



India



Malaysia



India



Malaysia



Fiji



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



PSM - Maldives



Malaysia



Bhutan



Uzbekistan



Nepal



Bickram Ghosh



TVTM - Turkmenistan



Indonesia



BBS - Bhutan



Bangladesh



Nepal



Fiji





RAI President Marcello Foa and ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi

ABU-RAI Days: Envisioning the future today

Delegates, hosts and guests all judged the second ABU-RAI Innovation Days conference in Italy a great success.

The conference at the Italian national broadcaster's facilities in Venice had a full and diverse agenda on the theme 'Towards a New Era of Collaboration: Fostering Creativity and Innovation in Broadcasting'.

From sessions on collaboration, diversity, languages and technical advances to a presentation in 8K on the Italian genius Leonardo Da Vinci, the two-day forum had something for everyone amongst the almost 100 delegates and guests from 35 countries across the Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America.

Welcoming delegates to the Radiotelevisione Italiana facilities in

Campo San Geremia, the new President of RAI, Mr Marcello Foa, said the forum was a wonderful example of innovation, co-production and collaboration in practice, in a city that has long been a meeting point between East and West.

"RAI and the ABU brought this forum together despite being 10,000 kilometres apart," he said. "And there is no better place to host it than Venice, a key city in the development of trade routes from the east to Europe – the earliest form of collaboration and cooperation."

And today, when our media faces some of its biggest technological challenges and global competition for our audiences, it is very fitting that we come together in this ancient city to discuss how we can work together to foster creativity and innovation and restore the trust in public service media."



L-R: RAI President Marcello Foa, Sylvain Lafrance of HEC, EBU Director General Noel Curran, in the opening Expert Dialogue session, moderated by ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi.



RAI President Marcello Foa and ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi open the second edition of the ABU-RAI days in Venice.



ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi described the two-day event as “another link in the chain holding global media together”.

The forum kicked off with an Expert Dialogue, between Mr Marcello Foa, President of RAI Dr Mottaghi, ABU Secretary – General, Mr Noel Curran, the Director General of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and Professor Sylvain Lafrance of the HEC Montréal business school in Canada, discussing the challenges presented by new players like Netflix, Google, Amazon and Apple and how different broadcasters were coping with those.

The Radio session discussed how broadcasters are increasingly using and supplementing their audio production across all platforms, from NHK-Japan’s artificial intelligence (AI) news announcers to specialist podcasting channels to KBS-Korea’s visual radio.

ABU Head of Radio Ms Olya Booyar said a highlight was a presentation by Ms Edita Kudláčová of Czech Radio on how they produced a multi-platform commemoration of the 1968 Soviet crushing of the Prague Spring, using

on-air, online and on-site platforms with AI, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) supporting the content. “It was an absolutely phenomenal effort,” Ms Booyar said.

The inclusion session had a number broadcasters such as the BBC-UK, RAI and RRI-Indonesia, as well as the EBU talking about how they conscripted the latest technologies to help less-able people, with examples such as Stretch TV - which slows down the speed slightly - to language learning software embedded in programs, to using AI for subtitling or signing. RRI gave a fascinating presentation on how they cope with their incredible diversity.

On the second day, the Immersive Experience session talked about a range of initiatives from Ahmed Nadeem, Director , ABU Technology and Innovation and RAI’s Roboco program, to the issue of deep fakes in news, to a robot called Voitto, developed by YLE-Finland to write news stories.

The children’s content panel explored what different broadcasters do with technology to involve younger audiences in their programming. A



Continue to next page >>

>> Continued from previous page



particular highlight was the “Don’t Give up Gramps!” show by Mizuto Tanaka, Executive Producer, NHK-Japan, using a VTuber (virtual YouTuber) avatar of an older man who experienced WWII as a child, trying to adjust his storytelling style to attract younger people to learn about the horrors of war. It was a learning experience for both Gramps and the audience who urged him on in his - and their - learning quest.

In the What’s Next session, Toru Imai, Deputy Director, NHK STRL talked about what they’re developing after 8K – ‘Diverse Vision’ that allows anyone to view and experience a variety of content using their favourite devices regardless of time and place.

The session heard that by around 2030 to 2040, in addition to smartphones and tablets, large 8K sheet-type rollable TVs, AR/VR devices, three-dimensional TVs, haptic devices and other devices will be widespread among viewers, with the ways they engage with programs and content becoming even more diverse than at present.

The same broadcast content can be adapted to be played on devices with

different specifications and in different viewing environments, not only in the living room at home but also in self-driving cars and public viewing venues. In the interim, research is ongoing into portable, table-top and conventional 3D viewing devices that can be watched without special glasses.

Mr Antonio Arcidiacono, EBU Director of Technology, made a strong argument for why broadcasters should work together, with key growth sectors being 5G, the Internet of the Objects (IoT) AI, VR, Robotics and Media Technology. He said public service media needed scale and courage to innovate and build together.

“It is time to work together innovating in content production and content delivery, in new forms of collaboration, joining resources and experience and generating new excellence”, he said.

Day two concluded with an Immersive Experiences Showcase on Innovations at the Very Edge and the special ‘Avant Premiere’ presentation filmed entirely in 8K on the genius of Leonardo Da Vinci and his masterpieces, 500 years after his death.



Historical Documentary Workshop for Radio Television Afghanistan

It was a pleasure to welcome 10 participants from RADIO TELEVISION AFGHANISTAN (RTA) for a three day Historical Documentary Workshop in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop was co-hosted between Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) and The Malaysian Documentary Association (MyDocs) and received a special visit from the Afghanistan Ambassador to Malaysia, His Excellency Atiqullah Atifmal who presented the delegation with certificates of participation.

The workshop was carried out by various local trainers with differing backgrounds in the documentary industry. Each trainers lead different segments of the workshop according to their specialised skill sets.

Lara Ariffin, a producer from Nuvista Media talked about storytelling – how it can impact, surprise, engage and be entertaining. Through various examples of her own work and current historical documentaries, she unravelled how the story is a journey that has a beginning, middle and end and must have the legs to run a marathon with various twists and turns. She discussed great characters, anti-protagonists, exclusive access, revelations and climaxes. Most

importantly how viewers are triggered by emotions – to cry, to flinch or cheer, to get mad, fall in love or to change something that is wrong.

Lara shared with the participants different ways that stories can be told – through observation, narration, from the filmmakers viewpoint, re-enactment and reconstruction, animation or a combination of the various approaches and styles.

“The participants were very enthusiastic to learn, which showed through the constant back and forth discussions we had throughout the day,” said Lara Ariffin.

Justin Ong, a renowned Malaysian Documentary Director shared his latest film ‘Bangkit’ made for Iflix, which was a documentary that relied heavily on the usage of readily available archival footage. He shared how people’s footage from their handphones can also be used to tell a story providing it is treated in a creative editing style.

On the final day, the participants were introduced to VR360 by trainer Naveendran Jayabalan. They had the chance to view existing 360

documentaries and try out the different camera equipment available for this medium. Naveen spoke about utilising this immersive technology for an impactful way of presenting historical stories.

To wrap up the workshop, participants had to use the knowledge they had gained over the three days and pitch their story ideas to the trainers, where they were given constructive commentaries on their presentation.

“This workshop was very eye-opening and I am looking forward to bring everything I have learned here and teach it to my colleagues back in Afghanistan,” said Abdul Aziz Saim, a participant.

The workshop was a very educational cross-cultural exchange of ideas and found to be highly beneficial for all parties involved. A participant by the name of Dost Mohammad said he was intrigued to learn about the differences between filmmaking style in Malaysia and Afghanistan.

“I learned many new techniques and I am excited to try it on my own productions back home,” he said.

ABU Documentary Screening and Exchange Meeting



The ABU Documentary Screening and Exchange held on the sidelines of the ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium 2019 was an opportunity to provide a platform to interact, discuss with and learn from peers in the industry, to provide an environment to develop, build and nurture concrete projects / productions jointly with other similar minded producers/organisations and to provide an opportunity to develop and hone skills that are unique to the documentary genre.

ABU member organisations sent their TV producers of documentary programmes to the screening and exchange.

Participants watched gripping, entertaining and informative documentaries and engaged in group discussions on the films they watched. The meeting was moderated by a panel of experts in Harun Rahman, MyDOCs, Malaysia, Ms Liu Changying, Executive Producer, CGTN (formerly CCTV News), China and Ms. Asako Kume, NHK, Japan.



The screenings were followed by active discussions, Q&A sessions and many practical suggestions were offered during a workshop on Making Impactful Documentary conducted by the moderators, led by Ms Asako Kume of NHK and assisted by Ms Liu Changying of CGTN, relating to how they can make their stories more appealing and engaging for global audiences.

The highlight of the annual meeting was the Producers' Choice Award. This year, the award went to CGTN-China.

In *The Gift of Life*, producer director Ms Wang Fan presented the new look and challenges facing China's organ transplant reform while the country strives to shake off its decades-long reliance on organs taken from death-row prisoners to feed the booming industry. The documentary tells of the riveting human-interest stories inside hospitals across China, showing how families of organ donors struggle to make the final decision, how recipients wait long for one shot of rebirth, and how doctors are making every effort to kindle the hope of life.



Below is the list of this year's participants:

Org/Country	Producer	Theme / Genre/ Duration	Title
RTB Brunei	Ms Hajah Roziah Haji Mumin Ms. Khairunnisa Yakub	Environment Slice of Life 23 Min 33S	Hidup untuk Berbakti
CGTN China	Ms Wang Fan	Social Issue 60 Min	The Gift of Life
URTI	Mr Alexandre Pletser	Travelogue 60 Min	My Earth: The secrets of the abbeys
RTHK Hong Kong	Mr Ken Cho	Death Education 21 Min 30S	Questioning the God of Death- How can I tell her?
RTHK Hong Kong	Mr Dennis Ng Ngok Tai	Human Rights 21 Min 5S	Offspring of Refugees
NHK Japan	Ms Ai Nagashima Ms Itsumura Satoko Ms Tomoko Matsuda	Human 50 Min	A World of Boisterous Silence
KBS Korea	Mr Kim Hanseok on behalf of Mr Lee Jungsoo Mr Hyunsoo Kim Schroeter	Nature 53 Min	UHD UNESCO World Heritage <The Time Capsule of Nature> Episode 6 "Walking on Dragon's Palace"
RTM Malaysia	Mrs Jubaida Abd Hamid Mrs Nur Hazlenda Md Yasin Mr Ahmad Muies Abdul Gapar	30 Min	BADANG KAPIT
CAN Singapore	Ms Pearl Maria Forss	International Affairs & Economics 48 Min	The New Silk Road: Dragon at the Doorstep
NBT Thailand	Ms Naowarat Kaewsangtham Ms Nisakon Intrarasoot	Sufficiency Economy Agriculture 25 Min	Sufficiency Happiness of Once a Loser
ThaiPBS Thailand	Ms. Nattaya Weawverakub Mr. Thanaphon Learttanapon Ms. Jiraporn Sricham Ms. Phattraporn Tanngam Ms. Wassana Saiprasert Ms. Jnani Pongpakatien	Human Interests 60 Min	Thai Cave Rescue

Moderators

Ms Asako Kume - NHK
Ms Liu Changying - CGTN
Mr Harun Rahman - MyDocs

Observers

Ms Sari Wisudawati - RRI
Ms Nur Syamsulbahariah bt Hussein - Happy Campers
Ms Indrani Kopal - Taylor's University
Dr Nurul Nadiyah Sahimi - NS Aspire Venture
Mr Mohd Firdaus Ibnil Hajar-NS Aspire Venture



Interview with Ai Nagashima, Program Director, NHK, on the ABU Documentary Screening and Exchange Meeting 2019

ABU conducted an interview with Program Director--NHK, Ms Ai Nagashima. Ms Nagashima works on programs about education at schools and on programs about social welfare. She participated in the ABU Documentary and exchange meeting and entered her documentary:

A World of Boisterous Silence A year with children who let their hands do the talking

With twinkling eyes, the children read their textbooks "aloud," their animated little hands evocative and expressive. In the past, most schools for the deaf in Japan prioritize learning oral speech and lip reading, while banning sign language. But one school in Tokyo is treading a different path.

What are your thoughts on the ABU Documentary and Exchange Meeting?

It was great! It made me realize our candid response to programs, such as "interesting" or "boring", are the same, no matter which country you are from or where programs are made. As I continued to view programs in languages that are not my own one after the other, I could clearly see just how much explanatory narrations and explanatory shots take the charm away from programs. I became, once again, convinced of the basic significance of telling stories visually in television programs.

How would you describe the benefits to the participants in sharing and discussing the documentaries?

I felt it was very beneficial. Hearing

behind-the-scenes stories of coverage and reporting directly from producers proved to be very valuable. Since we were all directors, our shared common interests such as "how did you find your source?" or "why did you edit in this way?" led to interesting discussions.

In addition, various ideas put forth by directors to improve our programs were so interesting and all helped to widen my perspective. I found this to be far more beneficial compared to our Japanese method of referring to viewers' feedback and views through monitor reports.

What is the most valuable aspect of the meeting in your opinion?

I found interactions with other directors most valuable. In the course of our discussions, I discovered that we share a common issue of young people refraining from viewing feature-lengths documentaries. I also discovered that there is a difference in our production environment from an example from Thailand where governmental authorization is required to interview parents of children who were involved in an incident. I gained encouragement and aspiration knowing there are rivals and peers around the world who are aiming for the same goal of seeking ways to make interesting programs.

What advice/ lessons did you receive from the other participants that helped you?

Somebody mentioned that in the course of producing a program, we draw in viewers by creating a story and that was very impressive to me. While it is called structure in Japan, if we regard it as a story, then it can have all sort of ending, happy or tragic, and it can have any goal. And what is important is for it to be a story. It was a simple statement but it broadened my horizon.

Moreover, it was truly helpful to be given honest feedback from directors such as "it was very difficult" and "I cannot come up with any answer when I think about them leaving school and going out into the world" to my program that featured coexistence as its theme. I am glad to learn that my program offered certain impact and I was also given a hint for my next theme about what can be done to create a bright future together.

Would you recommend other member organizations participate in the meeting and why?

I highly recommend their participation. Getting to know programs from other countries enabled me to objectively see my programs and programs made in my country. My participation also gave me the idea that it will be great to go beyond the boundaries of television stations in Japan and for NHK and commercial television stations to organize similar ABU-like conferences together.



Preparations in full swing for ABU Robocon 2019 & 2020

Article and photos by ABU Robocon Tokyo Secretariat

ABU Robocon is an annual international competition of robots made by university students in the Asia-Pacific region. Launched in 2002 in Tokyo, the contest has been hosted by ABU member broadcasters in various parts of the world. Under a set of common rules, students formulate their ideas into shape taking 6-10 months in preparation for the contest.

This year's ABU Robocon will be hosted by MNB (Mongolian National Broadcaster) in for the first time. In spite of the freezing temperature of minus 30 degrees outside in Ulaanbaatar in January, MNB staff and university professors were working enthusiastically towards domestic contest which will be held in 3 phases this year to prepare themselves for the upcoming international contest.

The 18th ABU Robocon will be held in Ulaanbaatar on August 25.

In 2020, the Robocon venue will travel further south to the tropical islands of Fiji. Fiji TV and USP (University of the South Pacific) will be jointly hosting the contest in their capital city of Suva. The ABU Robocon in the pacific islands will be a groundbreaking event in the Robocon history.



ABU Celebrates Two Successful Years of Webinars

Overview

ABU 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.

In total, 22 webinars on a variety of topics ranging from social media storytelling to fake news were conducted since its launch in 2016. A total of 322 participants joined the webinar series and benefited from this initiative in 2018. In 2017, this number stood at 192 and this year the Webinar Series enjoyed an impressive 67 per cent increase in growth of participants bringing the total number of participants who joined the webinar to 517.

ABU WEBINAR SERIES SAW A 67 PER CENT INCREASE IN GROWTH OF PARTICIPANTS FROM 2017 TO 2018

Where we are today

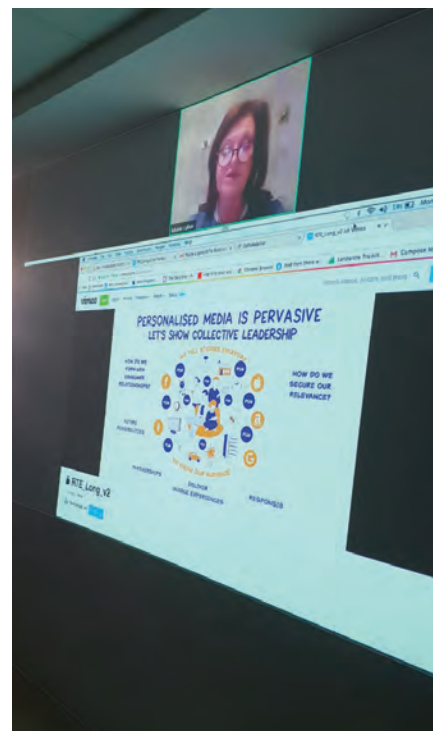
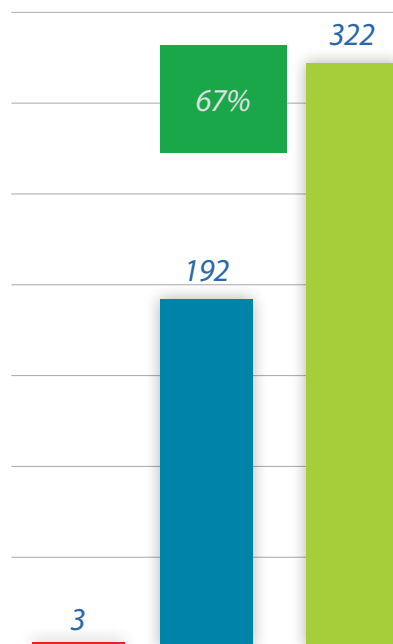
With only 3 participants in the first edition of the ABU Webinar Series in December 2016, ABU Webinar Series have now grown a database of a total number of 517 participants, a result of ABU Webinar Series seeing a 67 percent increase from 2017 to 2018.

Innovative Learning

2018 was a successful year for ABU Webinar Series. The number of participants has increased from 192 in 2017 to 322 in 2018. ABU has accumulated a database of more than 500 participants to date. This database includes anyone who has ever joined a webinar session over the past two years, including participants from African continent for the first time. Behind the success of the webinar series remains a simple factor: the enthusiasm of participants to gain knowledge through online learning. ABU members are finding

WEBINAR OF THE YEAR 2018

Based on participants' response and feedback, the most popular webinar of 2018 was '**How to create videos that grab attention on social media?**' delivered by Arthur Sokolov, Head of Special Projects on Social Media at Russia Today. ABU received **137 registrations** for the webinar which featured a presentation on the fundamentals of producing video content designed specifically for social media. A total of **92 participants** from **22 organisations** joined the webinar making it the session that attracted the highest number of participants to date.



innovative ways to engage their staff in the monthly webinar series. Some members like Le Defi Media Group in Mauritius organise group sessions to attend the webinars together and others encourage discussions among colleagues after the sessions. Some members like VOV in Vietnam also translate the webinar presentations to their local languages and make them available to participants who wish to understand the concepts more thoroughly - in their mother tongue.



Participants of Le Defi Media Group in Mauritius attending the Nov 2018 webinar session. This has become an effective way to engage and stimulate discussions among large groups of participants

Copyrights Webinar Series for Pacific Island Members

ABU's Programme Department in collaboration with its Legal Department organised a webinar series on copyrights issues for ABU members in the Pacific. The webinar series took place in three sessions between 12 December 2018 and 23 January 2019. The first two sessions of the webinar series was conducted on 12 December and 18 December 2018 respectively.

The final session took place on 23 January 2019. The series of webinars facilitated by Seemantani Sharma, ABU's Legal and IP Services Officer, covered subjects ranging from Fundamentals of Copyright Law and International Copyright Legal Framework to Copyright Issues in the Digital Era. In total, 14 participants from FBC-Fiji and VBTC-Vanuatu benefitted from the copyrights webinar series. This marks the first such online programme on copyrights issues conducted for the Pacific Island members of ABU.

Asiavision Coordinators focus on professional development at workshop in Jakarta hosted by TVRI



They came from Turkmenistan and Fiji, from Samoa and Turkey, along with China and Brunei, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia itself ... 31 coordinators headed to Jakarta from all points of Asia and the Pacific in mid-March to take part in the 2019 Asiavision Coordinators Workshop, hosted by TVRI, Indonesia.

They joined four members of ABU's News Department, three specialist trainers and representatives from sister unions EBU and ASBU, with the aim of exchanging ideas about innovative news coverage while strengthening the relationship between Asiavision Members.

Twenty-four participants were at their first-ever AVN Coordinators Workshop and they left with an enhanced understanding of the type of news that other Members want, along with increased skills to improve the quality of uploads on Brightcove.

They also left with an appreciation of Indonesian hospitality from generous



associated with Asiavision, we want them to think about what's now and what's coming next."

There was a focus on having participants who were involved in daily Asiavision operations and AVN Members were asked to nominate the coordinator or desk producer who was most regularly involved in uploading to the Asiavision platform. It meant that all 31 participants were able to benefit from the Workshop sessions and so help improve the service.

It was an approach that was appreciated by AVN NewsGroup chairman, Indra Singh from FBC in Fiji: "This year we managed to rope in all the people who are actually involved in AVN activities on a daily basis back in their countries. Unlike in the past, we used to have people from different departments who were present and really didn't understand what AVN was doing and what our plans were - so that's been fruitful."

So what did the participants think? Bryant Macale from ABS-CBN in the Philippines arrived knowing no one and left with many friends: "Most of the people in this workshop are actually first timers, like me, and I think it allows us to know we're all in this together - we're not just here to talk about serious topics about journalism, about the future of Asian journalism, but we're here also as a family. So I think that's what makes this activity more entertaining and more relevant for me."

From the Pacific, Stella Morisio from Fiji-TV also enjoyed the lighter side to learning: "Unlike other workshops, this one was fun. The icebreakers were totally different, we used emojis - I've never seen that before and also the dancing part - I've never seen other journalists in a room dancing and also having fun, which is a highlight of my trip to Indonesia."



hosts TVRI. The Workshop was expertly coordinated by Mohamad Nur Zakaria from the International Relations Department and News Executive Producer, Muhammad Yusuf Ghazali. The TVRI hierarchy ensured the participants enjoyed the warmest Welcome Dinner with President-Director, Helmy Yahya, leading the singing and Director of Programs and News, Apni Jaya Putra, joining in.

While professional development was the focus, making friends and having fun was part of format as the Coordinators learned about creating content for multi-platform audiences, Mojo (mobile journalism) and how to counter Fake News, among the many topics.

"What we're talking about is innovative news coverage and looking at beyond the Broadcast Age," said Director AVN News, Wendy Everett. "The Broadcast Age is what we know but now it's digital, now it's many platforms and we want our Coordinators and people





The Arab States and Asia have long had a valuable exchange of news items and this relationship was reinforced when ABU's Director News, Wendy Everett, spoke at ASBU's Exchange Center Annual Meetings in Algiers in February.

She detailed how the contribution by the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) to Asiavision (AVN) keeps increasing – from 285 items in 2015 to 552 the next year, 811 in 2017 and 820 last year.

The relationship between ASBU and AVN goes back more than 20 years but due to of satellite issues, the half-hour daily transmission was one way because AVN couldn't download ASBU news stories. Then came the internet and digital file transfer and by 2015, the stories flowed both ways.

Ms Everett detailed how AVN Members welcome the important coverage out of Syria, Yemen, Iraw and Palestine that



Long-term relationship with ASBU strengthened by Asiavision Director's visit

ASBU offers. She said AVN Members say they value feature and cultural stories that aren't available from the international wire agencies. They also want footage and scripts that can be turned into digital content so Members value footage for short-form videos plus a still picture for a standout thumbnail.

Ms Everett made a presentation on behalf of the ABU Sports Department

after ASBU joined the ABU Sports and Entertainment Network in January. She also attended a workshop on the ASBU-Cloud platform – the radio and television news exchange that ASBU engineers developed in-house.

Another focus was a quadrilateral meeting to enhance cooperation between ASBU, ABU, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB).

Mediacorp in Singapore and ABS-CBN in the Philippines a focus for Asiavision



As part of the continuing initiative to develop Asiavision and respond to Members' requirements, Director News Wendy Everett, held meetings with editorial leaders and AVN Coordinators in both Singapore and Manila.

At Mediacorp, she held discussions with a range of senior managers and producers, focusing on clarity of rights and digital development.

At ABS-CBN, Ms Everett spent two days embedded in all aspects of the news operation, hosted by Senior Vice President and head of News and Current Affairs Ging Reyes. ABS-CBN is the Philippines' largest entertainment and media conglomerate, based in Quezon City. Again, digital development was a focus, along with ABS-CBN's unique radio-television initiative, DZMM Teleradyo.



Asiavision Monthly Award Winners

The latest winners of the monthly Asiavision award are VTV (Vietnam) in February, IRIB (Iran) in January, TVRI (Indonesia) in December, and SLRC (Sri Lanka) together with EMTV (Papua New Guinea) in November.

VTV earned the February award for its comprehensive coverage of the second US-North Korea summit in Hanoi. VTV was exemplary in providing coverage of the main events and side stories when US President Donald Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the Vietnamese capital on February 27 and 28. Although the summit ended without an agreement, its successful hosting earned praise for Vietnam.



IRIB won the January award for its coverage of the cargo plane crash at an airport near the Iranian capital Tehran on January 14. The plane ran out of runway while attempting to land and hit a residential area. IRIB provided dramatic pictures of the rescue teams battling the fires of the wreckage.



Of the 16 people on board, only a flight engineer survived.

The December award went to TVRI for its coverage of the deadly tsunami that hit the coastal regions of western Java and southern Sumatra islands. The



tsunami on December 22 was triggered when the Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait erupted.

Indonesian authorities said at least 430 lives were lost and some 1500 people were injured.

There were two winners in November - SLRC and EMTV.



SLRC earned the award for its coverage of the power struggle in Sri Lanka that crippled the government for more than a month. The political crisis began when President Maithripala Sirisena sacked the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on October 26 and replaced him with former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The president's move to dissolve parliament was nullified in the Supreme Court while Rajapaksa lost a confidence vote in parliament. The crisis of nearly two months eased somewhat on December 16 when the Sri Lankan president reappointed Wickremesinghe as the prime minister.

EMTV won the award for its coverage of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit and the incident when security forces stormed parliament in a protest over allowance payments.



The Summit, on November 17-18, was a gathering of leaders to promote free trade among the 21 Pacific Rim member economies.

On November 20, a group of soldiers and policemen stormed parliament to demand payment of their APEC allowances, but no one was reported hurt in the fracas.



ABU campaign Saving Lives gathers momentum

5th ABU MEDIA SUMMIT ON CLIMATE
CHANGE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
25-26 April 2019, Hotel Radisson,
Kathmandu, Nepal

The ABU flagship initiative moves to Nepal for its fifth edition of facilitating broad interaction between key players in climate change adaptation and saving lives and livelihoods. There is a widely shared sentiment that governments, international organisation and NGOs should actively support putting the media on the frontline of climate change adaptation and saving lives. That is the most efficient and cost-effective way of making climate action and disaster preparedness everybody's business.

The warnings from the scientific community can't be more alarming. "The world is heading in the wrong direction to slow climate change after another year of near-record temperatures" - World Meteorological Organisation, 29 November 2018. This existential threat is confirmed by the UN Secretary General Guterres: "Climate change is moving faster than we are. It is a global issue we are all failing."

Undoubtedly, the media's potential to accelerate climate action and disaster preparedness hasn't been fully utilised. There is so much more the media can do in reaching and educating wide audiences about how climate change affects their lives,





what their governments and scores of intergovernmental organisations such as UNISDR, UNDP, UNESCO are doing to address threats to lives, health, food, water and national security.

The reasons why media hasn't fulfilled this vital role are many but two are standing apart. Firstly, the media should be accepted as a partner, not just a "microphone" for disseminating other stakeholders' messages. Secondly, media professionals are not prepared themselves for "translating" complex data and scientific language and government actions into engaging relevant stories.

The aim of the Nepal Summit is to address these issues and link climate action and disaster preparedness stakeholders to media professionals for collaboration and joint practical projects. At the same time the Summit is an opportunity for media

practitioners to learn first-hand of other stakeholders' work.

The ABU is grateful to the Government of Nepal for hosting the Summit. It is co-organised by the ABU members Nepal TV and Nepal Radio. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies leads the local preparations with input and support from several other government ministries such as Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Environment etc.

The 5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness will mark the fourth anniversary of the devastating Gorkha Earthquake in April 2015, which claimed nearly 10,000 lives. It will take stock of the work done for rebuilding the country and communities and will set up projects to engage them through media for actions to combat climate change and prepare them for future disasters.

FROM ATOLLS TO ALPS GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

By Martin Hadlow



At first glance, it would seem the small, remote islands and coral atolls of the tropical South Pacific have little in common with the high valleys and snow-capped peaks of the majestic Himalayas. In reality, they are closely linked through a common existential threat, namely an increasing, human-induced carbon footprint which is contributing to global warming and climate change.

Long recognising an issue which reaches across national and regional boundaries, the ABU has been an early leader in ensuring that media professionals and journalists in Asia and the Pacific are fully briefed on how to communicate complex scientific information on climate change and disaster risk reduction to their radio and television audiences. Gathering last year in Fiji to specifically discuss Pacific environmental issues, this year the ABU calls its members to Kathmandu, Nepal where natural disasters, such as earthquakes, have too often stalked the land.

In the Pacific, climate change is evidenced by increasingly erratic and inclement weather patterns which are causing cyclones, storms and flooding of greater intensity. In addition,

warming of the Antarctic continental ice-sheet, not to mention human activities in countries surrounding the ocean's rim, are bringing about higher sea levels which are threatening to completely overwhelm the shorelines of many small, low-lying island nations.

Far from the sea in the uplands of Asia, receding glaciers and diminishing snowfields on the mountains of the continent are also ushering in an era of unprecedented environmental concern. Without regular snowfalls to replenish the icy conditions on the world's highest ranges, there will be decreased seasonal water flow from melting snow feeding the upstream tributaries of the great river systems of South and East Asia. Less snow means less water, and less water inevitably brings major problems for downstream populations, especially farmers tending their livestock and crops, and citizens living in the major cities lining the banks of the rivers. Dams holding back vital supplies of daily drinking water are also affected, as are important power generation systems, such as hydro-electric plants.

The UN Secretary-General has said that "the decisions we make today [on climate change and disaster risk

management] will affect not only us, but those who come after." Mr. Antonio Guterres further notes that "history will not forgive us" if we hand over to the next generation a planet with an uncertain future. Given this prognosis, the UN has made climate change a key cross-cutting issue through all its platforms and programmes, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Last year in Nadi, Fiji, the ABU's 4th Media Summit on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction again proactively answered the Secretary-General's call for action, as have three earlier ABU initiatives in Jakarta (Indonesia), Krabi (Thailand) and Dhaka (Bangladesh). At each Summit location, specific threats were addressed, whether environmental despoliation, tsunami awareness or river flooding.

In Fiji, the Summit took participants to the frontline of the problem of rising sea levels in a country which was concurrently President of the COP23 UN Global Climate Change Conference. Already, the Pacific has seen its first climate change 'refugees', people who have been forced to flee after sea water has swamped their food gardens and invaded homes and villages located close to the ocean. With the abandonment of villages, there is a loss of societies, cultures, languages, traditions, historical ties to the land and, most importantly, hope. Human despair is the outcome.

This year, the ABU's 5th Media Summit on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (25-26 April) is hosted in Kathmandu, Nepal. Apart from an array of sessions highlighting state-of-the-art, practical measures currently being undertaken by ABU member organisations in providing life-saving climate change and DRR information to their audiences, this year's event will also see a special pre-Summit workshop to launch UNESCO's new *Handbook on Reporting on Climate Change*. This one-day practical activity, designed specifically for journalists, media professionals and journalism trainers/educators, will initiate tangible measures to assist in providing specialist subject matter advice and training opportunities to both working journalists and students undertaking tertiary education media studies.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF PACIFIC MEDIA TO COVER CLIMATE CHANGE

By Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum



"The Pacific countries are already living with climate change. We experience more and more cyclones and they are getting stronger due to climate change. FBC is glad to host the workshop. Getting media more involved in education about climate change effects and disasters is close to our hearts. Fiji, because of its geographical location, relatively large economy and connectivity to other Pacific nations, is glad to be part of this project, which will benefit all Pacific media."

The second workshop would be held in August in Apia, Samoa in connection with the ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference.

The legacy of the project goes beyond its completion in December. The ABU and Pacific partners consider it as the first step in establishing environmental units in several ABU Pacific members and regular programmes devoted to educate audiences about climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as disaster risk management.

ABU and UNESCO are partnering to upgrade the knowledge and skills of Pacific media to report on the complex issues of climate change adaptation and prepare their vulnerable communities for future devastating natural disasters.

The first workshop of the project, supported by the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communications, will be held in Suva, Fiji, 1 – 4 May 2019, by Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC).

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5TH ABU MEDIA SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Media Solutions for Sustainable Future -
Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities

25-26 April 2019 | Kathmandu, Nepal



3rd ABU Intellectual Property & Legal Committee concludes in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The 3rd ABU Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC) took place on March 11th and March 12th, 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was hosted by ABU's Additional Full member - MTV Channel (Pvt) Limited. This year's meeting was the third 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 **"Broadcast Piracy & Intellectual Property Rights in this Era of Convergence"**.

Day One of the IPLC was the customary meeting which was a closed session for ABU's Full, Additional Full and Associate members though non-members were permitted as observers upon request. It was attended

by twenty delegates from eleven countries. During the course of the meeting, the revised consolidated text on the Broadcasters Treaty to be discussed at the 38th Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), regional perspectives on broadcasters rights and the country report outlining recent legal developments in the Asia-Pacific region were discussed.

Mr. Suranga Jayalath (Group Director – Legal, Maharaja TV) was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the IPLC while Mr. Bülent Hüsnü Orhun (Advocate – TRT Turkey) and Mr. Zhang Zhao (Section Chief & Senior Professor, CCTV Copyright and Legal Affairs Office) were elected as the Vice-Chairpersons. All the office bearers have been elected for a two year term i.e. till 2021.

Day Two of the IPLC was the forum which was an open session attended by seventy-five delegates from eleven countries. During the course of the day, pertinent presentations on legal topics were made by academicians, lawyers representing broadcasters and other relevant experts. The forum consisted of the following three sessions:

Session 1: Broadcasting and Intellectual Property Rights.

Session 2: New Age Technologies in Media.

Session 3: Members Forum.

The presentations were succeeded by an enlivening question and answer session. The venue for next IPLC is yet to be finalized.



PINA/PMN CEO SUMMIT EMBRACES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and Pacific Media Network held the inaugural Pacific Media Leader's Summit in Auckland, New Zealand, on 12-13 February 2019. Over 60 participants, including representatives of nine ABU members, attended the forum. 30 media CEOs and 20 official international observers represented 11 countries, including Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Under the umbrella title *Words to Action: The Pacific Media Reset*, the inaugural Pacific Media CEO summit aimed to create a Pacific media leadership space for smarter coordination, resourcing and media partnerships for engaged, informed Pacific communities. The space focuses on decision makers across media, forum ministers, Telco and ICT partners working for informed and empowered Pacific communities. The summit invited a more informed decision making from the top on the approaches to convergence and technology for current newsrooms and news reporting. It ensures an audience focus mindful of the evolving legislative and social/cultural context of

the inevitable wave of change already shaping the digital Pacific.

One of the sessions of the summit, presented by Chrissie Tucker, the ABU's Asia-Pacific Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, was a Masterclass – *Resetting from within – keeping your best workers means Diversity and Inclusion*. The one-hour session for Pacific Island leaders, outlined:

- gender and diversity global issues and influences
- the work of the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Media Initiative
- case studies of diversity plans by regional broadcasters
- the business case for media diversity plans – for organisations, employees, audiences and communities, and
- a *Leading the Way* summary of what guidelines and workshops can provide on how to set up and develop a diversity and inclusion plan and the framework and content of a tailored and relevant plan.

As part of the solution-focused actions to be endorsed at the post-summit partners dialogue, participants at the Diversity and Inclusion Masterclass were presented with a two-page

proposal for PINA to approve the development of draft diversity guidelines for the Pacific region for adoption at PINA 2020. The draft guidelines will consist of the background, steps and content of tailored Diversity and Inclusion Plans for media organisations in the region.

The Head of Secretary-General's Office Natalia Ilieva briefed the Pacific Media CEOs forum on the ABU regional campaign *Saving Lives and Livelihoods: Climate Action and Disasters Literacy campaign*. She invited them to nominate participants in the first workshop of the UNESCO supported initiative "*Building the Capacity of Pacific Media to Cover Climate Change*" to be held in Suva, Fiji, 1 – 4 May 2019.

Natalia Ilieva also participated in a panel discussion with representatives of UNESCO and Australian and New Zealand governments to identify priorities for the development of the Pacific media. For the ABU members these were archiving to save recordings representing their countries cultural and historical heritage, gender and diversity in and through the media and capacity building to report climate change and disaster risk reduction.

ABU President Mr Ryochi Ueda greets ABU Team



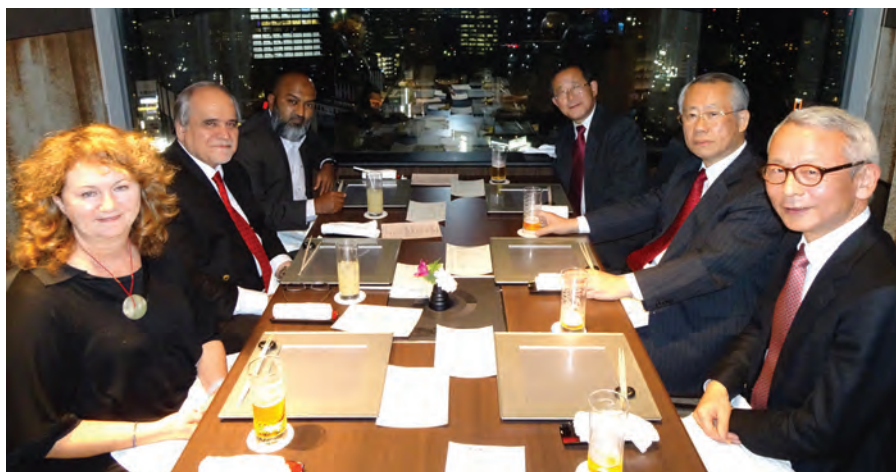
ABU President Mr Ryochi Ueda and ABU Secretary General Dr Mottaghi



Mr Takashi Sasaki, President Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings, INC.



Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and CEO of KBS Korea, and ABU Secretary General



preparations of the 56th ABU General Assembly & Associated Meetings. The 56th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings would be held from 17th to 22nd November 2019.

The ABU team met the ABU President in order to present a brief progress report covering the work of the Union since his visit to ABU HQ last November. The meeting was attended also by Mr Hiroshi Araki, Senior Director, Board Member, Mr Keiichi Imamura, Managing Director, NHK World Department, Mr Akinori Hashimoto, Executive Controller, General Broadcasting Administration, Mr Tatsuhiko Beniko, Senior Manager, Global Strategy Division, Mr Yutaka Matsutani, Senior Manager, Secretary to the President.

ABU Secretary General Mottaghi also met Mr Takashi Sasaki, President,

An ABU team consisting of the Secretary – General, Ahmed Nadeem, Director Technology and Innovation and Natalia Ilieva, Head of SG's Office was in Tokyo for the



TVRI President, Mr Helmy Yahya with ABU Secretary General

Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings, Inc. and discussed further expansion and strengthening of the ABU/ TBS partnership., with Mr Sasaki to host a dinner for all ABU members during the upcoming 2019 GA in Tokyo. Mr Masahiro Nambu, President's Office Executive Director and Mr Jun Otomo Division President, Media Strategy and Planning Office, Mr Hirotsuke Usui, Office of Media Strategy, TBS and Mr Akinori Hashimoto, Executive Controller, General Broadcasting Admin., Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) were also present at this meeting.

The Secretary General also had the pleasure of meeting Mr Yang Sung-dong , President and CEO of KBS at his office in Seoul. He presented a brief progress report on the ABU activities and discussed ways and means of strengthening the future KBS partnership with ABU. We also discussed potential partnership between ABU, KBS and KRT in North Korea.

In addition to travelling to Japan, the ABU Secretary General paid a one day visit to Jakarta and met Mr Rudiantara , Honourable Minister of Communication and Informatics , MCIT-Indonesia as well as Mr Helmy Yahya, President Director , TVRI – Indonesia.

In a follow up meeting with the TVRI President, Mr Helmy Yahya kindly agreed to strengthen ABU/ TVRI 's partnership in several areas including his participation at the 2019 General Assembly in Tokyo, TVRI's participation at the upcoming ABU Dance Festival and ABU/ Rai Forum as well as the ABU Song Contest in China.

ABU and Prasar Bharati partnership Strengthened



The preparations for the 2nd ABU International Dance Festival hosted by DoorDarshan India presented an opportunity for the ABU Secretary – General to meet Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Prasar Bharati, India at his office in Monday House, New Delhi. The ABU Secretary – General thanked Mr Vempati for hosting the Dance Festival for the second time in India. The SG also expressed his eagerness to further strengthen partnership with Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati welcomed more partnership with ABU and informed that All India Radio would be hosting the 2019 ABU RadioAsia and ABU Song Festival in India. Mr Vempati also agreed to join the ABU at its General Assembly to be held in Tokyo



in November 2019. Making the most of this opportunity, the ABU Secretary – General invited Mr Vempati to speak at the upcoming ABU Global News Forum on 30 and 31st July 2019 in Istanbul.



All India Radio and ABU to Collaborate on Festival

Taking the opportunity to do so at the ABU Dance Festival, ABU Secretary General met Mr Fayyaz Sheheryar, Director- General All India Radio who will be hosting the ABU Radio Asia and Song Festival in India in July 2019.

The two discussed details of this major ABU event with Mr Sheheryar agreeing to discuss with Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Prasar Bharati, India, to explore the possibility of releasing one of his engineers to be seconded to the ABU Secretariat for a period of two years.

ABU bids a fond farewell to long-serving colleague, Mr Hock Guan Tan

A good friend, workmate and dedicated colleague of the ABU, Mr Hock Guan Tan is retiring later this year after a wonderful 18-year career.

Mr Tan started as a Coordinator on July 2, 2001 when Alan Williams was managing editor. Five years later when Humayun Choudhry retired as Senior Officer, Tan was promoted and has run the day-to-day operations of Asiavision with distinction ever since.

Mr Tan remembers working in the original old IPPATR building when

items being sent across Asia and the Pacific were monitored via a microwave dish connected to RTM's satellite operations. Mr Tan had been recruited from the Bernama news agency where he started as a reporter in 1980.

As well as being an excellent journalist, Mr Tan is a first-class networker, known in newsrooms from Tehran to Tokyo, Algiers to Apia. He has done a fair bit of travel in his time and says his career at the ABU has been fantastic. Tan is looking forward to taking things easy



with his wife Elayne, children Ivan and Caryssa, grandson Gareth and his extended family and friends.



ABU STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD

The 2018 ABU Staff of the Year Awards goes to Mr Shanmugam, Administrative Assistant of the ABU.

Shan joined the ABU in October 1998 and has been serving the Union for the past almost 20 years. Shan is a team player and has been extremely helpful in assisting ABU Staff as well as members in administrative matters. His quiet, pleasant manner is most appreciated by colleagues. He never says No to any

requests and conducts his duties with a smile. For many years, Shan has been exceptional in securing the cargo for the GA goes on time and was delivered on time. The last GA in Ashgabat was probably the most testing for all of the staff but Shan overcame difficulties with great commitment and additionally to secure the timely delivery and customs clearing for the ABU cargo, helped NHK colleagues to deliver their stuff for the NHK reception.

ABU/ ASBU Annual Partnership Committee held in Tunis as part of the ASBU General Assembly

At a meeting in Tunis, the ASBU and ABU agreed that the ASBU will join the ABU Sports Content Exchange Network and will operate through its News Centre in Algeria. Additionally, ABU/ASBU will continue their partnership with ASBU News Centre in Algeria. ASBU will also join the ABU News Group and Global News Forum in Istanbul, Turkey on 29- 31 July 2019 and attend #ABUdigital; 3- 4 July 2019 in Kuala Lumpur.

This was an opportunity for the Heads of ASBU, ABU, EBU and AUB at the ASBU GA to meet and exchange their views on all matters related to their partnership. Four Heads of Secretariats looked at the outcome of various WBU initiatives, such as Broadcast Treaty meeting in Geneva, Challenges and



Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman, ASBU DG with ABU Secretary General

opportunities on Sports rights Acquisition, recent meetings related to the environment and climate change meeting in Geneva and forthcoming AUB GA in Morocco, EBU GA in Oslo and the ABU GA in Tokyo among other matters.

It was also understood that the ABU/ ASBU/ AUB Sports Workshop will be held in Tunis in March 2019 with ABU being able to nominate 8 participants. The two organisations acknowledged that ASBU will actively participate at 2019 ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings from 17 - 22 November in Tokyo and that the ABU will nominate a consultant to run a workshop for ASBU on Social Media Strategy for Broadcasters in December 2019 in Tunis



Mr Mohammad Zarin Anzor



Mr Ismail Miakhail

Radio Television Afghanistan- RTA Welcomes a new Director General and says Farewell to another

RTA has appointed a new Director General to helm its organization and to direct the services it offers its audience. Mr Mohammad Zarin Anzor has been replaced by Mr Ismail Miakhail. Mr Anzor has been an exceptional partner of the ABU and has worked closely with the organisation in bringing the ABU-RTA partnership closer than ever.

Dr Javad Mottaghi, Director-General of the ABU stated: "The ABU wishes Mr Zarin Anzor well on his new path and warmly welcomes and congratulates Mr Ismail on his new appointment."

The Turkmen State Committee for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography



In efforts to inform our readers about our diverse members and where they are from, ABU has asked TVTM- the Turkmen State Committee for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography, Turkmenistan, which recently hosted the ABU General Assembly, to tell us more about itself, and the country that it represents.

Answers were given by Mr Kakayev Annasahet Seyitnazarovich, Deputy Chairman, TVTM

Q1) Could you please tell our readers more about TVTM?

The Turkmen State Committee for Television, Radio Broadcasting and cinematography includes seven active channels. Channel: "Altyn Asyr: Turkmenistan" mainly announces political events and the latest news of the country.

Under the wise leadership of the Esteemed President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, a great transformation has taken place, the lives of the Turkmen people are now broadcast in different genres of TV programs: "Altyn Asyr: Turkmenistan" TV channel does this and also our "Watan" radio channel, which broadcasts 24 hours a day.

The channel "Yashlyk" prepares animated films, movies and TV programs about the life of children, teenagers, students and youth which in different parts of our country. This also includes "Char tarapdan" radio channel. The "Ashgabat TV" channel produces TV programs about our white marble city, the capital of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat.

The TV channel "Turkmen Sporty" broadcasts sports 24 hours a day. It prepares interesting programs about professional Turkmen coaches, about the success of our athletes in the international arena, world-famous sportsmen their biography and sports competition which is held at the international level.

Q2) What do you think will be the future opportunities for TVTM?

Our president creates great opportunities and conditions for carrying out large-scale work in all areas of the country. In addition, we should note the great opportunities and conditions created by the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography, as an example of all this. In 2011, the television and radio center of Turkmenistan was opened on the Gingdivar mountain ranges in southern Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. The building is equipped with modern technologies and equipment to create all the possibilities for the preparation and presentation of new television and radio programs, as well as modernized studios.



Mr Kakayev Annasahet Seyitnazarovich, Deputy Chairman, TVTM

As an example, in 2017, Our “Olympic town” was built to hold the 5th AIMAG and in order to give live programs of the games International television and radiobroadcasting center was built. Due to the effectiveness of the center, the members of ABU gave programs in their channels showing the games of the 5th AIMAG.

Q3) What do you think would help TVTM in the professional development of its staff?

In the State committee for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography Turkmenistan, great significance is placed on the preparation and delivery of modern broadcasts to the population.

Telecasts prepared by workers of the State committee for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography Turkmenistan are aimed at the development of a person, improving the high moral and spiritual characteristics of the citizens of Turkmenistan. With the goals of managers and producers, partnerships with foreign TV-channels, the State committee for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography Turkmenistan plans to send creative workers, editors, producers and

camerapersons to professional training lessons organized by foreign TV-companies.

In this context, we think that it would be appropriate to ask the member-countries of ABU to prepare broadcasts on such themes as peace, the unity of nations, human health and its role in the society and show them in future ABU forums. We suggest the heads and administration commission of ABU to consider the results of these ideas.

Q4) How do you see TVTM cooperating and working with ABU/other broadcasters in future?

At present, modern cooperation is successfully maintained between Turkmenistan and world states. Possibilities have opened in carrying out works jointly with the world.

When souls, hearts, and ideas are united, the peaceful, friendly and brotherly ties strengthen in the world. We witnessed this at the 55th session of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union held in Turkmenistan in a well-organized way. If cultures communicate, ideas, suggestions, and thoughts on raising the world

community to new frontiers are improved.

Q5) You recently hosted the ABU General Assembly. The first time ever for Turkmenistan. How did you see TVTM and others benefiting?

Our leadership pays great attention to the activities held by ABU and creates conditions for ensuring the high organizational level of the events in combination with our efforts.

With the aim of showing the significance of fundamental transformations realized in Turkmenistan, further strengthening of friendships, the State Committee on Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography of Turkmenistan jointly with ABU, we hosted the 55th session of ABU's General Assembly and the song festival and award ceremonies from September 30th to October 5th.

This conference opened the possibility for learning many useful things about TV and radio broadcastings in Central Asia. This was of great benefit to us, as speakers and professionals from all over the world came to Central Asia.



ADDRESSING NEWS ISSUES IN KAZAKHSTAN

Contributed by Russel Isaac

In a joint venture between the ABU and Khabar Agency, a week-long workshop and consultancy was held at the Kazmedia Centre, Astana. Project consultant Russell Isaac was joined by journalists, reporters and producers from various Kazakh media outlets to discuss and develop the news and factual programme agenda in Kazakhstan.

Given the on-going nature of work at the numerous news outlets operating from the Kazmedia Centre (including News 24, and the Website), a flexible workshop itinerary allowed participants to join certain sessions whilst allowing them to continue with many of their daily duties. Early sessions offered view of news coverage in Kazakhstan and identified areas that required improvement. In general the news that is provided to their audience concentrates on political and economic content and it was widely agreed that a wider social agenda could be pursued if editorial policy were to support such a move. Participants were aware that research is conducted into audience reaction but that policies are mainly based on quantitative results rather than qualitative comments and feedback. In-depth analysis of audience interests and worries is needed if Kazakh news output is to reflect the concerns and main interests of the audience. However, it was established that the target audience of the majority of services available was the business and politically-aware sector.

As a high percentage of news sources comes from Government and official outlets it was a point of concern for the participants that it was difficult to keep the interest of the audience as “press releases” or “handouts” were

difficult to transform into visually interesting features or items. The main suggestion was that the underlying themes and topics of the information should be approached from a human angle i.e. that political decisions and economic policies inevitably effect people and therefore a “people’s” perspective could be taken in the preparation of news stories. Making “official news” interesting is a difficult task for any journalist but by taking a “human- angle” approach, the likelihood of appealing to a wider audience is increased.

There was also a concern regarding the use of “info-graphics” and how statistics and figures become confusing to a large percentage of viewers. Examples were shown depicting complex graphic screens which only lead to further confusion. Simple, effective use of graphics, concentrating on one or two main statistics indicate a better way of informing an audience rather than attempting to explain a story by cluttering the screen.

The topic of News Selection and International coverage of News was covered by discussing the imperatives of certain stories covered by the International news Agencies – including CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, and Russia Today – and how perspectives on story coverage varied from broadcaster to broadcaster.

Analysis was offered on one in-depth story regarding the Russian-Ukrainian naval incident that occurred during the week of the Consultancy. The discussion centred on how difficult it is for “neutral” organisations to offer their audiences a balanced view of international stories unless they have their own

correspondents reporting from the scene. The dependency on agency materials (Reuters/AP/ etc) dictates the possible content that is shown.

“Fake news” – its origins and its recent developments were discussed and analysed with international examples shown. Ways and means of countering false news and propaganda on Social Media were reviewed and agreement was supported that Kazakhstan broadcast journalism needed to be accepted as a credible and trustworthy source of information that the audience would turn to.

Credible sources and the principles of journalistic ethics were highlighted and discussed with relevant examples. Journalists have to maintain their professional standards to establish a trust and connection with their audience in the face of a deluge of digital platform information. The difficulty facing users of digital information platforms is distinguishing between various sources, thus allowing the current growth in disinformation. Objective, accurate and truthful journalism is becoming harder to identify but this should be the aim of all professional journalists.

The International News unit of the News24 Channel offers a disciplined and professional approach to gathering and selecting relevant stories. Their editorial guidelines are robust and relevant to the target Kazakh audience given their reliance on the incoming sources available. Further examination of news agendas and editorial decisions regarding International News and new trends such as covering Global Warming and Environmental Issues were discussed. Participants from the website



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2019: HOW THE MEDIA CONTRIBUTES

team were particularly interested in providing their users with more information and guidance. There was also substantial interest and enthusiasm shown to the possible establishment of an Environmental Unit which could service all the required news outlets.

The creation of watchdog / consumer / social affairs investigations were discussed at length and the plethora of possible issues that could be investigated (on behalf of the audience) were noted. There was widespread agreement that a lack of stories where working "with" the audience was required, is an element that can be developed in building a better broadcaster- audience relationship.

To enable the news output to offer a more Asian perspective on world events, perhaps becoming part of Asia-Vision would enhance their daily news agenda and allow a greater focus on their neighbours to the East of Kazakhstan.

Another suggestion, given the enthusiasm of the participants, would be the establishment of an Environmental Unit where members of different sections could contribute to the overall increase in awareness of Global issues. In a meeting with the Managing Director of the Kazakh broadcast organisation, interest was shown in the possible development of this suggestion. Despite the fact that "green" issues are not high on the current news-priority list, President Nazarbayev has given support to creating a more "green" environment within the country and therefore the initiative (along with ABU support) could be viable in the near future as these issues grow in importance within the public sphere.

Every year the awareness, acknowledgment and celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) grows around the globe. The interest and activities have a substantial focus in nearly all countries and across regions. The media plays a crucial role in its coverage of this important UN Theme Day. ABU members continue to contribute to the recognition of these special days and in particular the IWD this year, held on Friday 8 March. The participants in the ABU Gender and Diversity Champions for Media initiative play a particular role in championing IWD in their workplaces and in their content and programming.

The theme for the 2019 International Women's Day was Women in the Digital Sphere. Media organisations across the globe took a closer look at women in the digital space, highlighting the opportunities and challenges they face.

Innovation and technology provide unprecedented opportunities, yet trends indicate a growing gender digital divide and women are under-represented in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and design. It prevents them from developing and influencing gender-responsive innovations to achieve transformative gains for society. From mobile banking to artificial intelligence and the internet of things, it is vital that women's ideas and experiences equally influence the design and implementation of the innovations that shape our future societies.

Read more about women in media and the digital sphere <https://en.unesco.org/node/304607>

Get Involved

The #WIKI4WOMEN initiative calls everyone around the world to take a few minutes of their time to create, enrich or translate, in as many languages as possible, Wikipedia profiles of women committed in the fields of education, science, culture, social and human sciences, or communication and information. To learn more about #WIKI4WOMEN, <https://en.unesco.org/feedback/wiki4women-world-contributory-movement>

Women are often under-represented in the media and their content tends to favour men as experts and sources. The Women Make the News - Thailand database is an online resource that helps journalists identify women experts to include in their stories as a means of forwarding gender equality in the media and society.

Find out more on the dedicated platform here – <http://www.wmnthailand.org/>

Activities at UNESCO Headquarters on 8 March included.

Debate: Women Online: Challenges for Gender Equality in the Digital Space (Paris)

<https://en.unesco.org/events/women-online-challenges-gender-equality-digital-space>

Contributory movement: Wiki4Women

<https://en.unesco.org/feedback/wiki4women-world-contributory-movement>

Exhibition: Remarkable Women in Technology (Paris, 1-31 March)

<https://en.unesco.org/events/remarkable-women-technology>

Here is the link to the 2019 International Women's Day background and activities.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/IWD2019>

Here is the link to the upcoming International Girls in ICT Day to be held on 25 April 2019

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Portal.aspx>

ABU Welcomes New Additional Full Member

Kiribati Adventist Hope RADIO- Kiribati

Kiribati Adventist Hope RADIO is free-to-air service broadcasting to more than half the Kiribati population living in South Tarawa and Betio and plus those in the outer islands and abroad via internet sharing through informative, educational and entertaining programs and uplifting music. Ninety-five percent of the programs will be targeting the local audience. The rest of the time slots will be filled with English programs. KAH Radio will accomplice this with a 600-watt transmitter and antenna affixed onto a 50-meter tower, fully equipped FM quality studio, the financial support of listeners, and a dedicated team on the ground.



Radio Tarana

Radio Tarana is a New Zealand radio network, broadcasting in Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington. It broadcasts a mixture of music, information, news, sports, culture, events coverage and lifestyle features. The station was the first commercial full-time New Zealand radio station targeting migrant communities.

The station was set up in 1996 for Auckland's Indian and Hindi-speaking community. It now targets a broad range of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan and Fijian migrants around New Zealand. The network aims to foster mutual understanding between different migrant groups with diverse interests, religions and ethnic origins.



ABU Welcomes New Affiliate Members in 1st Quarter of 2019

INFOTECH SOLUTIONS Indonesia

Infotech address the needs of television, radio, print, internet, mobile, pay TV, cinema, digital signage and telecom media as well as advertisers, content creators and associated service providers in an integrated manner. Infotech also provides e-Commerce, mobile and social media applications and support.

Over 18 years, Infotech's Gen21-BMS manage processes for broadcast, advertising and content for well over 250 channels in some of the largest Media Groups around Asia.



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING Inc.-Japan

Japan International Broadcasting Inc. (JIB) was established in 2010 under the Broadcast Law of Japan to support the operations of NHK World-Japan and to take initiative as a 'private sector' in transmitting Japan news to the rest of the world.

For the founding objectives, it was set up as a subsidiary of Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) and NHK is the largest shareholder of JIB. JIB is however, also supported by a variety of private subscribing companies, such as private-owned television stations, trading companies, banks, and telecommunications companies.



THE RIGHTS EXCHANGE -TRX -Singapore

TRX is the world's first online marketplace where licensing deals can be processed securely online – from discovering and screening programmes, checking avails to negotiating rights and price through TRX's unique deal grid all the way through to signing a contract.

TRX currently lists over 70,000 hours of high quality programming previously either difficult or impossible for many broadcasters to access in a traditional way.

As a free service for TV acquisitions executives, TRX is an invaluable tool to access multiple television catalogues in one place 24/7 whilst maintaining direct contact with the individual



5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness

25-26 April 2019

This ABU flagship initiative moves to Nepal for its fifth edition of facilitating broad interaction between key players in climate change adaptation and saving lives and livelihoods. There is a widely shared sentiment that governments, international organisation and NGOs should actively support putting the media on the frontline of climate change adaptation and saving lives. That is the most efficient and cost-effective way of making climate action and disaster preparedness everybody's business. The warnings from the scientific community can't be more alarming. "The world is heading in the wrong direction to slow climate change after another year of near-record temperatures" – World Meteorological Organisation, 29 November 2018. This existential threat is confirmed by the UN Secretary General Guterres: "Climate change is moving faster than we are. It is a global issue we are all failing."

64th ABU Sports Group Conference & Associated Meetings

14-16 June 2019

The ABU Sports Department will be organising the 64th ABU Sports Group Conference and Associated Meetings which will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan from 14 to 16 June 2019 and hosted by Qazsport Qazaqstan.

This Conference brings together the Head of Sports, senior sports representatives and executives across the Asia-Pacific region. This conference gives delegates the opportunity to network and discuss the challenges affecting sports right market and sports broadcasting today.

ABU Digital

3-4 July 2019

At the event, participants will be able to learn and share inspiring case studies on digital trends and tools and walk away with a plan of action from specialized workshops and masterclasses. They will be able to network with top industry experts, fellow broadcasters and other stakeholders. The main target audience of the event is creative storytellers, online and web content creators and producers of audio, video and digital content among ABU members in addition to top industry experts in the digital field.

Global News Forum

30-31 July 2019

Invitations have been sent to all ABU Members to attend the 2019 Global News Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 30 and 31. Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT) will host the event, along with the ABU News Group Meeting on July 29. The fifth GNF for news decision-makers will discuss and deliberate on a range of issues under the theme Trust and Truth in Journalism.

Please visit our website at www.abu.org.my for more details on these events!

ABU Calendar of Events

APRIL

2 – 4	Children TV Drama Co-production 1st Producers' Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
25 – 26	5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness	Kathmandu
TBC	ABU/ RT/VOV 360° Content Production Workshop	Hanoi

MAY

7 – 8	Video Exchange Asia	Bangkok
14 – 18	ABU Prizes In-country Workshop for Radio & Documentary	Bhutan

JUNE

June – August	ABU Prizes 2019 Pre-selection	By correspondence
12 – 14	CARE9 2nd Producers' Meeting	Vietnam
14 – 16	64th ABU Sports Group Conference & Associated Meetings	Astana
25 – 27	Children TV Drama Co-production 2nd Producers' Meeting	Hong Kong

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