

ABU news

Quarter 2 2019



107th ABU Administrative Council Meeting

15 - 16 April 2019 Macau, China



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Minister for Communication and Information Technology of Nepal, Mr Gokul Prasad Baskota (3rd from right) and other senior officials observing one minute silence for the victims of Nepal earthquakes.



From L to R: ABU Vice President Ms Supriya Sahu, ABU President Mr Ryoichi Ueda, ABU Vice President Mr Ibrahim Eren, Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General

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Greetings from the ABU Secretariat!

Everyone at the ABU Secretariat wishes a warm welcome to you for this Q2 2019 edition of the ABU News. The second quarter of 2019 saw a variety of activities and meetings with members and many other newsworthy items to report on. Some of the highlights which happened in our region and beyond are contained here for your reading pleasure and include the following stories.

Producers of the ABU Children's Drama Co-Production, (15th and 16th Series) gathered from 2-4 April in Kuala Lumpur. Participants exhibited programmes both for and about children, which were watched and discussed. Each item produced for the awards contest consisted of stories that detail the plight of children, or were animations that teach and entertain with regard to children in difficult and challenging situations across the globe.

The 5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness was held in the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu. It marked the fourth anniversary of the devastating Gorkha earthquake. Over 9,000 lives were lost, 22,000 people were injured, hundreds of thousands of were made homeless and one third of the economy wiped out.

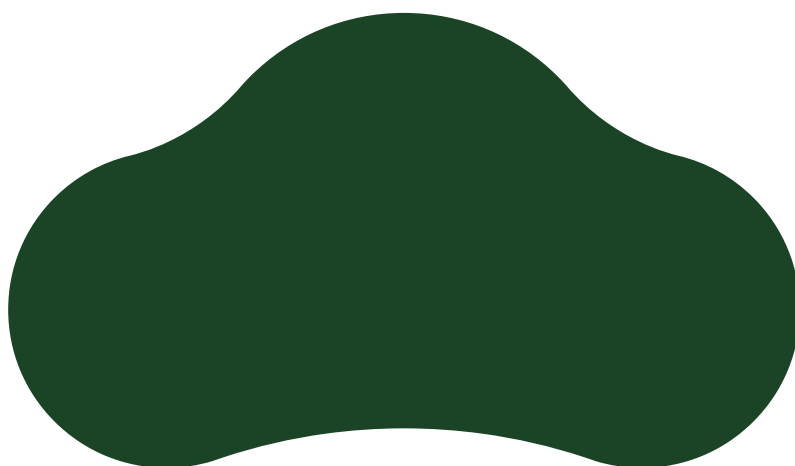
The ABU participated in the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 13-17 May in Geneva. Since the launch of Sendai Framework in 2015, the Broadcasting Union ABU and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) have been active and dedicated UNDRR media partners in promoting disaster risk reduction among their members.

A new generation is emerging across Asia. They are totally distinctive from their parents' generation, keeping themselves away from the traditional values which have been maintained by the parent's generation. This was the theme for The CARE 9 Theme: NEW GENERATION, which was held from 12-14 June 2019 in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. Filmmakers gathered to exchange creativity and share discussions about their work in a collaborative environment.

As always, we 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, introduce to you 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!

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The ABU Administrative Council Charts the Union's Future in Macau Meeting

The 107th ABU Administrative Council Meeting approved the three-year Action Plan, which takes the Union from 2019 to 2021. The Board meeting was held in Macau, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, and hosted by the ABU member TDM Macau

In his opening remarks, the ABU President and President of NHK Mr Ryoichi Ueda emphasised the historic challenges brought by the digitalisation of broadcasting and the growth of the Internet. "We are all tasked with working together to navigate through this environment for the better future of the ABU, fully promoting the diversity of our region with an audience of four billion by mobilizing the wisdom of our members."

The Councillors decided to explore new avenues for increased exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences and capacity building especially for less resourceful members, in order to ease the digital transition in technology and content production.

Attendees of the meeting include media delegations from Asia-Pacific regions, including Doordarshan (DDI), HUM Network Limited (HUM TV), Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), "Khabar Agency" JSC, Japan Broadcasting





Corporation (NHK), Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI), National Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), National Radio and Television Administration, PRC (RTPRC), TDM - Teledifusão de Macau, S. A. (TDM) and Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT).

The meeting agenda included reports on ABU's core work such as development, finance, administration as well as presentations done by the Secretary-General.

KBS Korea and TRT Turkey signed an historic MOU at the meeting in Macau. KBS, the key public service media of Korea, and TRT of Turkey signed the MOU to strengthen their cooperative relationship on the 15th of April. The signing coincides with the 107th Administrative Council Meeting of the

ABU held at the MGM Cotai and hosted by TDM of Macau. Mr. Yang Sung-dong, President & CEO, representing KBS at the Admin Council Meeting, said that the MOU will allow the two institutions to step-up the ties and open the new possibilities. Mr. Ibrahim Eren, President of the Turkey's prestigious broadcaster TRT, added that the exchange of culture and broadcast cooperation will only enrich the audience's choices, emphasizing the popularity of Korean content in Turkey.

KBS and TRT co-produced a documentary, The Ankara School: the Korean War in My Memory, in 2013. TRT also broadcast such hit KBS dramas as Emperor of the Sea, Dream High, and Boys over Flowers. The MOU signed by the two heads will broaden the cooperation from content co-production to personnel exchange.





ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi and Mr Gokul Prasad Baskota (to his left), the Minister of Information and Communications with other Ministry Colleagues

ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness



The 5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, 25 – 26 April 2019. It marked the fourth anniversary of the devastating Gorkha earthquake. Over 9,000 lives were lost, 22,000 people were injured, hundreds of thousands were made homeless and one third of the economy wiped out by the powerful tremors on 25 and 26 April 2015. The ABU is extremely grateful for the generosity and professionalism of the host, the Government of Nepal, the organiser, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, and the ABU members Nepal TV and Nepal Radio.

The ABU flagship initiative was

launched in 2014 in Jakarta to facilitate a broad interaction between key players in climate change adaptation and saving lives and livelihoods. Under the theme *Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities*, over 200 political leaders, representatives of UN agencies and NGOs, climate change and disaster management experts, scientists and media from the region discussed joint practical media solutions for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.

The Summit adopted the Kathmandu Media Action Plan, which lists concrete steps for fully involving media in saving lives and livelihoods. The Plan suggests a comprehensive investment



in broadcasters' networks to make them resilient to hazards, and also recommends capacity building for journalists to be able to prepare their audiences for future disasters.

The Summit finished on a high note with a spectacular Gala Award Ceremony, which announced the winners of the 4th ABU Awards on Climate Change and DRR.

The Kathmandu Summit was preceded on 24 April 2019 by one day workshop to launch the new UNESCO Handbook for Journalists *Getting the Message Across: Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. More than 30 media professionals and media educators from 15 Asia – Pacific countries were introduced to the latest UNESCO tool kit for upgrading journalists' skills in covering the biggest challenge facing humanity today – the climate change.





Kathmandu Summit Award Winners Announced

The winners of the 4th ABU Awards on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness have been announced at a Gala Awards Ceremony in Kathmandu, hosted by the Government of Nepal.

49 programmes from 13 countries competed for the six Awards that recognise and celebrate the best radio and television productions covering climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness. The programmes were submitted by broadcasters from Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal,

Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. There were 25 entries in the two Radio Categories and 24 entries in the two TV Categories.

The winner of the **Best Radio Programme on Climate Change** is *The Coastal Frontiers of India*, All India Radio, India, Producer/Director, Monica Galati.

Two great programmes shared the award for **Best Radio Programme on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction** - *Let's be Aware to Be Safer*, Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh, Producer and Director: Prem Gopal

Halder, and *The Evacuation*, Sichuan Radio and Television, China, Producer and Director: Song Jinyan.

Don't Wait for the Rain, BBC Media Action, Cambodia, Producer/Director Kim Sothea and Alex Baxter won the **Best TV Programme on Climate Change**.

The **Best TV Programme on Disaster Preparedness and DRR** went to *MEGA CRISIS: Skyscrapers in Aseismic Danger*, NHK, Japan, Production Team: Makoto Kanamori, Hiroto Oishi, Nobomoto Suzuki, Nozomo Ishida, Tomohiro Inoue, Kenichi Nakamuro.

The **Best Human Story** award was won by *Don't Panic Episode: Alternative Energy, Reduce Global Warming*, ThaiPBS, Thailand, Production Team Darin Kumnetrut, Wottippan Boonrawd.

The **Jury Special Award** went to *Going Home*, Sichuan Radio and Television, China, Producing Team Chen Jun, Zhang Xin, Deng Jie, Wang Jiafeng, Wang Yunyun.

The jury and the ABU congratulates all the winners and hopes that member and non-member broadcasters will produce more stories on humankind's crucial challenge of climate change.

ABU/FBC/UNESCO Regional Workshop, Developing Climate Change and Sustainable Development Content, 30 April - 4 May, 2019, Suva, Fiji



Following the 5th ABU Media Climate Change Summit in Kathmandu, and the launch of the UNESCO Handbook for Journalists Getting the Message Across, this was the first workshop to train broadcasters utilising the suggestions, knowledge and specified targets established during the Nepal meetings.

13 participants representing the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (radio and television), Fiji Television, Radio Vanuatu and Vanuatu Broadcasting and TV Corporation attended the 5 day practical, hands – on training workshop. They were tasked to cover the Inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM), facilitated by the University of South Pacific (USP) with more than 300 participants attending. The organisers kindly cooperated with the ABU to allow the workshop participants to attend the 3-day conference and to collect video and audio materials of the speakers and sessions – all related to Climate Change issues. The conference at USP Campus therefore, became the practical location for the workshop.

The Fiji workshop is part of the ABU Capacity Building for the Pacific Media to Cover Climate Change initiative supported by the UNESCO International Programme for Development of Communications. The second regional workshop of the project will be held 3 – 8 August in Apia, Samoa in conjunction to the Pacific Media Partnership Conference.



ABU Participation in the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction



The United Nations agency leading the global efforts for disaster risk reduction, UNDRR, and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) organized a high - level discussion how to integrate media in emergency warnings for disasters and disaster preparedness.

The meeting was held on 13 May 2019 in Geneva as part of the 6th Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), a world event that is held bi-annually and attracts over 4,000 participants, representing the 192 countries signatories of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The special high - level discussion involved on the media side representatives from the biggest global media associations such as World Broadcasting Unions (represented at the meeting were ABU, EBU and AUB), World Association of Newspapers, World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, Disaster Risk Reduction Network of Africa Journalists and on UN side the international agencies involved in Disaster Risk Reduction – the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Office and International Telecommunication Union.

Since the launch of Sendai Framework in 2015, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) have been active and dedicated UNDRR media

partners to promote disaster risk reduction among their hundreds of Members and the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the global plan of action to reduce disaster losses by 2030. These actions mostly have showed how accurate and timely information through tv, radio and printed media could impact positively populations, better preparing them for disasters and alerting them on increasing disaster risk.

The four-hour media dialogue was chaired by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms Mami Mizutori. She underlined the critical role media has to play in informing the population about disasters “because of their mandate to serve society, public broadcasters are a key partner of the UN agencies in helping communities to survive disasters.” According to Ms Mizutori, vital for achieving this goal are the effective and timely early warning systems through broadcast networks.

The Head of the World Meteorological Office, Prof. Petteri Taalas, said that without media, weather forecasts would be useless. The target now is to reach the largest number of citizens in the shortest possible time.

ABU was represented at the meeting by Mr. Akinori Hashimoto, Executive

Controller, NHK; Ms Darin Kumnertrut from ThaiPBS, Mr. Ahmed Nadeem, Director ABU Technology and Innovation and Ms Natalia Ilieva, Head of Secretary-General's Office.

Mr. Akinori Hashimoto, Executive Controller, NHK, made a compelling presentation of how his organization is putting to practice the recommendations of the Sendai framework and contributing to raising public awareness. “Disaster reporting is one of the main missions of the public broadcaster in Japan and in that way, we meet the expectations of the audience.” Mr. Hashimoto spoke about the three stages of real time disaster information - real time gathering, multimedia dissemination and creating awareness for the future. He explained how NHK creates content that helps the audience to learn lessons from disasters. Part of it is the so called “scoop box” - a mobile app that provides platform for members of the public to share their own experience during disasters. BOSAI (translated as Disaster Prevention) is an internet site for disaster prevention which is a standard of excellence in that sphere.

Ms Darin Kumnertrut from another ABU member - Thai PBS, shared her experience in creating TV programmes on disaster risk reduction which are attracting a big audience. “Presenting



interesting and relevant stories and building trust with the viewers is the secret for keeping long-running regular programme on air.”

The Director of ABU Technology and Innovation, Mr. Ahmed Nadeem, introduced the idea of ABU establishing a certification system for broadcast media. Receiving the certificate for DRR means that the Radio or TV station has a resilient network infrastructure, working Emergency Broadcast Plan and staff well trained on how to act in times of emergency and disasters.

The Head of the ABU SG’s Office of ABU, Ms Natalia Ilieva, shared the outcomes of the 5thABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Prevention recently held in Kathmandu. She emphasized that the messengers are not ready to communicate the information concerning disaster prevention and mitigation. There is an urgent need for a massive capacity-building programme to provide journalists with required knowledge and skills to “translate” the complex climate change and DRR issues into compelling stories that are relevant to ordinary people. She pointed out: “We have to move media from being reactive to being proactive and move

the agenda from crisis reporting to climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness coverage, from counting bodies and loses to educating communities and individuals to save their lives and livelihoods.”

The main ABU Consultant on climate change and disaster prevention, Mr. Russell Isaac summarized the scale of the task ahead: “Media education for DRR is not a sprint but a marathon.” He added that the only way to keep the DRR stories alive in the “quiet” time between disasters is to establish regular programmes on radio and TV.

The Head of Secretary-General’s Office Natalia Ilieva was invited to speak at the regional Asia – Pacific panel as part of the 2019 Global Platform. She reported on the outcomes of the Kathmandu Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness and presented

the ABU strategy to upgrade its broadcast members’ technical networks, policies and protocols of emergency broadcasting and support the establishment of regular environmental programmes to cover climate change and disaster preparedness.

The ABU and EBU led the drafting of the Media Stakeholder Commitment. It was supported by all media representatives at the Global Platform and is included in final statements of the forum. For the full text of the statement please check <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2019/globalplatform/programme/official-statements>

media representatives attending the Global Platform for DRR in Geneva issued a Media Stakeholder Commitment, which is part of the final statement of the forum.

The National Radio and Television Administration of China and Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union sign historic agreement



On 14, May, H.E. Mr. Nie Chenxi Minister of National Radio and Television Administration, People's Republic of China (PRC), as well as H.E. Mr. Fan Weiping, Vice Minister of National Radio and Television Administration, PRC had an official meeting with Dr. Javad Mottaghi, Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union. At this meeting, Mr. Fan Weiping and Dr. Mottaghi signed a Framework Agreement for Cooperation between The National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) and the ABU.

The two organisations agreed to cooperate in a number of important areas including: policy information, news production, programme production, technical exchanges, information sharing, organising of events and human resources development. The two parties also agreed to support radio and television organisations in China in order to conduct co-productions with other ABU members, specifically with regard to documentaries and TV dramas reflecting international cooperation, under such endeavours like the Belt & Road Initiative. They also discussed the planned ABU Song Contest which will be held in Qingdao, Shandong province, China in mid-October 2019.



(L-r) Mr Cai, Madam Ma Li, Javad Mottaghi, H.E. Mr. Nie Chenxi Minister of National Radio and Television Administration, People's Republic of China (PRC), H.E. Mr. Fan Weiping, Vice Minister of National Radio and Television Administration and Dr. Yan Chengsheng.



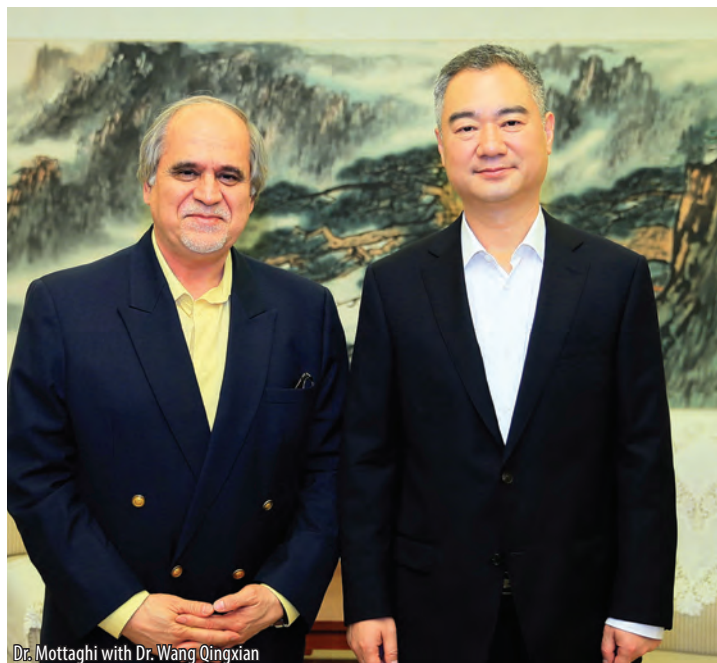
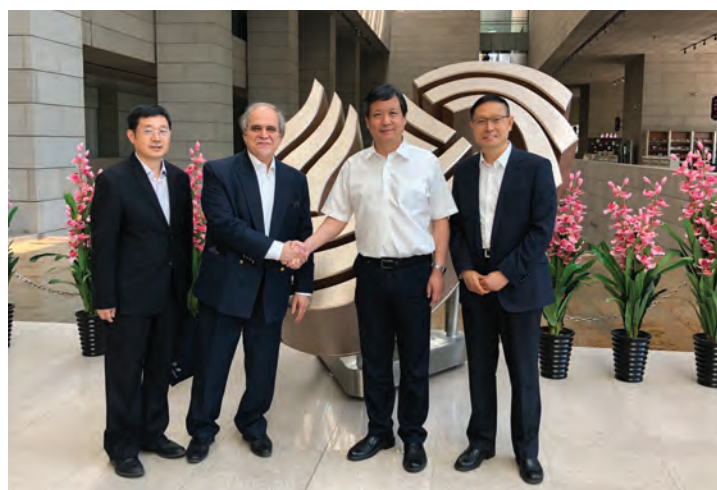
Dr Javad Mottaghi signing agreement with Mr. Fan Weiping, Vice Minister of National Radio and Television Administration

Secretary General Meets officials from Standing Committee of CPC Shandong Provincial Committee and CPC Qingdao Committee

During his visit to Qingdao, Dr. Mottaghi met Dr. Wang Qingxian Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Shandong Provincial Committee, Secretary of CPC Qingdao Committee in China and discussed matters related to ABU Song Contest and other future partnerships with Qingdao. Dr. Wang expressed that he wanted to promote Qingdao as an open and modern metropolis. Other participants in this meeting were Mr Sun Lijie, Dr. Yan Chengsheng Mr Jiang Jianchao, Mr Li Ming, Mr Cai Yanjiang and Mr Li Xianrui.

Dr. Mottaghi also met with Mr Li Ming, who will act as Head of the host organizing committee for the ABU Song Contest. Mr Li Ming is mainly responsible for the upcoming ABU Song Contest in Qingdao. The ABU team consisting of the SG and Director, ABU Sports had several meetings with Mr Li Ming and went through the details of the said contest, its venue, rules and regulation. Mr Okumura, Director ABU programming who is responsible for the ABU Song Contest was not able to join this meeting in Qingdao as he had to attend Eurovision on the same days.

The ABU SG expresses his gratitude to Dr. Yan Chengsheng, Deputy Director-General, NRTA of China who kindly arranged and joined all the meetings in Qingdao and Jinan. Mr Li Xianrui also joined from International Cooperation Department of NRTA.



Dr. Mottaghi with Dr. Wang Qingxian



Dr Yan Chengsheng, Deputy Director General, NRTA, Dr Javad Mottaghi, and Mr Lyu Peng, Director-General of Shandong Radio



ABU Secretary General with Mr Cao Yin, Director – General CCTV Channel 6 China

ABU Secretary General meets with Minister of Information of Bangladesh Dr. Hasan Mahmud during the DRR Summit in Nepal

ABU SG Dr Javad Mottaghi met Dr Hasan Mahmud on the sidelines of the event where Mr Mahmud agreed to host the 2019 editions of the Radio Asia Conference as well as the Radio Song Festival in Dhaka in October 2019.



ABU, PMA, UNESCO Jakarta, EJM and IPPTAR Malaysia deliver a 3-day workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



UNESCO, in partnership with the Public Media Alliance (PMA) and with support from the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN) and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) held a timely and informative workshop and webinar to discuss a set of Guidelines for Reporting Terrorism & Countering Hate Speech in the Asia Region at the ABU Secretariat March 29-31st.

Dr Chandra Muzaffar, political scientist, and an Islamic reformist and activist gave the opening speech and participated in panel discussions.

Journalists and media professionals face increasing difficulties when covering terror attacks. The new

dynamics of terrorism accompanied by the rapid growth of digital social media platforms, poses serious challenges to professionals reporting issues of terrorism.

Journalists have a responsibility to provide accurate and comprehensive information about acts of terror and potential threats.

Standards of media freedom vary greatly between ASEAN countries. To enable them to effectively fulfil their professional role, the rights of journalists must be protected in all territories, including both their right to access information in the public interest and the right not to disclose their sources.

ABU News spoke to Dr Chandra Muzaffar on these topics on the sidelines of the workshop and asked him to elaborate upon the guidelines.

Dr Chandra, why are having these guidelines important?

Guidelines serve to tell journalists there are certain boundaries to be observed. Boundaries of this sort tell the journalist what is permissible to be reported on.

Are the guidelines timely in light of recent events and how so?

Guidelines have always been useful from even 50 years ago but recent trends have made them even more of an imperative. Social Media is one example of such a trend. Citizen journalism should be encouraged, but guidelines ought still to be followed.

How do the guidelines help broadcasters and journalists?

If they know the boundaries then they can be aware of the larger sensitivities in their society. It promotes the respect of the 'other' and counters hate speech and respects religion and culture.

What do you hope the participants have gained from participating in this workshop?

One hopes they would be more empowered and knowledgeable on the reporting of hate crimes and terrorism. This would be highly beneficial to all in the trade. The challenges that confront us in the form of hate speech, need to be countered with guidelines to avoid insult to 'the other' in society.



Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Chairperson of Board of Trustees and Executive Director of COAST Trust & AHM Bazlur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) received the two UN WSIS champion certificate from Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Community Radio related two Initiatives recognized as Champions in UN World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS) Prizes 2019

Two Initiatives of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) have been recognized as Champions in UN World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS) Prizes, 2019

Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Chairperson of Board of Trustees of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) and Executive Director of COAST Trust & AHM Bazlur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of BNNRC received the two UN WSIS champion certificates from Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at a ceremony at Geneva International Conference Centre, Switzerland as part of the annual UN WSIS Forum 2019.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) announced 90 Champions of the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes contest while the 18 Winners, out of these 90 Champions.

H. E. Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology and Chairman of the 10th UN WSIS Forum,

Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary for Information and Communication Technology Division, Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), H.E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador & PR of Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Geneva, Mr. T I M Nurul Kabir, Mr. Reza Salim, Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor of A2I, were present on the occasion.

The champions projects are Climate justice and resilience through Community Radio at coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh, Supported by the COAST Trust, Bangladesh and Creating Awareness on Right to Information (RTI) through Community Radio, Supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF).

UN WSIS Prizes is a unique international contest developed in response to requests from the WSIS stakeholders to create an effective mechanism to evaluate and recognize individuals, governments, civil society, local, regional and international agencies, research institutions and private-sector companies for

outstanding success in implementing development-oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs as an enabler of the development. WSIS Prizes has been recognizing remarkable efforts made by entities and organizations from around the globe that focus on accelerating the socio-economic progress of the whole world as a community. The contest was held for the first time in 2012 and rapidly gained attention and popularity within the ICT for Development (ICT4D) community.

Building upon the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly Overall Review on WSIS as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the WSIS Prizes 2016 reflect close linkages with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The WSIS Prizes contest serves as the platform for identifying and showcasing the success stories across the WSIS Action Lines defined in the Geneva Plan of Action and SDGs.

It also provides models that can be replicated in the interests of empowering the community at the local level, providing everyone with an opportunity to participate in the contest and, most importantly, recognizing the efforts made by stakeholders to contribute to the development of society and their commitment to achievement of both the WSIS goals and SDGs.

BNNRC is of Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) of the United Nations. BNNRC's approach to media development is both knowledge-driven and context-sensitive, and it takes into account the challenges and opportunities created by the rapidly changing media environment in Bangladesh including community radio development giving voices for the voiceless.

The BNNRC won the WSIS Award in 2016 as the winner and champion of 2017. BNNRC has been chosen for this award on account of its creative thinking, critical analysis, strong leadership and exceptional innovation of community media sector contributing towards voices of the voiceless people in rural Bangladesh.

Stronger ties with ITV Azerbaijan

The ABU Secretary – General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, met Mr Balakishi Gasimov, Director – General, ITV Azerbaijan in Baku on 12 June 2019. Both parties agreed to strengthen partnership in all possible areas. The SG also met senior colleagues in the ITV News, Content, Technical, Sports and Administrative departments.

Mr Gasimov confirmed his participation at the upcoming ABU General Assembly in Tokyo. ITV will also join other associated meetings and Dr. Mottaghi invited ITV to consider joining Asiavision, ABU ROBOCON, ABU Co-Production and ABU Song Contest to name a few. As a Full Member of the ABU, ITV will be actively involved with ABU going ahead.



Simona Martorelli Promoted as Director of RAI's International Relations

Simona Martorelli has more than 35 years-experience in the audiovisual sector, starting at Hearst ABC in New York in 1981 and then in RAI since 1984, as responsible for monitoring European and International legislation on licence fee and for national and international contracts (co-productions, pre-acquisitions, pre-sales contracts for all RAI's TV channels and departments).

ABU's very own Nitesh Chand from Fiji participates in Federation of International Touch Rugby World Championships in Malaysia



Nitesh Chand, Finance & Administration Officer at the ABU Secretariat was a participant in the Touch Rugby World Cup held in Malaysia and scored against some of the top teams in the tournament including the USA.

Nitesh proved himself to be a valuable member of the team and for his country. Players from all over the world descended on Malaysia to battle it out for top honours in the scorching heat.

More Partnerships with Khabar Agency



ABU Secretary General with Mr Alan Azhibayev Chairman, JSC Khabar Agency, Republic of Kazakhstan and colleagues

In a meeting Mr Alan Azhibayev Chairman, JSC Khabar Agency, Republic of Kazakhstan, and his senior colleagues including Mr. Yeldos Nashirali Managing Director and Ms Dinara Abakayeva, Head of Development and International Relations Department of Khabar Agency, both parties agreed in principal on the following:

Khabar Agency will join the 2019 GA at a high level while the ABU invited Khabar Agency to join the ABU Song Festival in Tokyo in November 2019 and ABU Song Contest in China in April 2020.

Khabar Agency agreed to host the Admin Council in 2022 with the venue to be decided at a later date.

The ABU has invited Khabar Agency to consider hosting the 2029 GA. Khabar Agency agreed in principle to consider this while Khabar Agency is most willing to host the GA even earlier in 2022 or 2025, subject to further discussions between the ABU Secretariat and the host organisations in 2022 and 2025.

The ABU has invited Khabar to join AVN.

RRI to host three key ABU events in 2020

Radio Republik Indonesia paid a high-level planning visit to the ABU HQ in Kuala Lumpur, after securing the hosting of three major Union events in Bali in June next year – the RadioAsia Conference, the Radio Song Festival and the Media2020 East-West Dialogue. ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi said RRI was showing great friendship and leadership and that the Union and its members are very much looking forward to joining the events in Bali. Pictured (above) at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur of the ABU Planning Committee for the triple events are (L-R) Ms Wenny Zulanty, ABU LO, RRI Pro2 FM, Mr Soleman Yusuf, Prog Director, Dr Javad Mottaghi, Ms Dwi Hernuningih, member of Board of Governors, Mr Agung Susatyo, Voice of Indonesian, and Mr Ariza Dinga, International Relations.



ABU bids a fond farewell to a valued colleague

Specialist Engineer Mr Nguyen Thanh Nam has gone back to work at VOV, Vietnam. He has returned and joined VOV from 1-April.

The ABU would like to express its sincere appreciation for the support and contributions Mr. Nam made to the ABU both professionally and personally during the past six years. He has been a great asset to the TD and the ABU.

We are sad to see him leave us but he will remain in touch with us and hopefully will continue to play a key role in future partnerships with VOV. The ABU wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.



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2019

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For outstanding contributions in broadcasting engineering and related disciplines.

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For outstanding engineering contributions made by an individual to the broadcasting industry.

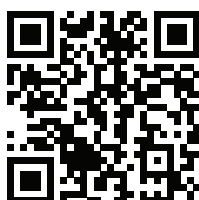
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For contributions of an outstanding nature in broadcast engineering made by an individual in a developing broadcasting organisation

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April 2019 – Call for nominations

31 July 2019 – Deadline to submit your entry

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ABU Technical Committee Meeting, Tokyo

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On the morning of the major-industry event in Singapore, the multi-speaker, multi topic seminars featuring speakers from the top levels within the industry, presented on various topics.

Insight and experiences on the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting were given and on how organisations can build skills on making a smooth transition from Analogue to Digital Radio broadcasting.

In the afternoon, topics from managing, preserving and archiving audio and video were presented. On Digital Archiving Servicing, it was outlined why it is important for archiving specialists to envision and endeavour to achieve an infinite archiving future.

The seminar was informative and interactive, giving audience members the chance to pose technical questions to speakers and giving them the chance to learn the latest techniques on preserving their content and in what form.

ABU presents Seminar on Management and Digitisation of Audio Video Archives at Broadcast Asia 2019



5th Annual Media2020 Dialogue

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Sports broadcasters gathered in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan for ABU Sports Group Conference



The first Deputy Chairman of the Board of QAZSPORTS, Mr Kurmanbek Zhumagali at the ABU Sports Conference in Nur-Sultan

The 64th ABU Sports Group Conference and Associated meetings saw renewed calls from broadcasters to enhance further cooperation. The conference acknowledged that sports broadcasting continues to evolve, often posing serious challenges to broadcasters in terms of increasing rights fee especially, the premium sports and events.

The meeting called for the need to work closely with the union, share information and enhance communications. The conference also highlighted the relevance of national and even regional pool to help address the challenges and concerns.

Delivering the opening remarks, the new Chairman of ABU Sports, Mr Kimoon Lee of KBS Korea, shared the recent developments in the Korean Sports market. He said it is time for broadcasters to reflect upon and, plan well ahead of time.

The first Deputy Chairman of the Board of QAZSPORTS, Mr Kurmanbek Zhumagali said the conference is



The ABU Secretary General, Dr Javad Mottagh delivering the opening remarks



The Chairman of ABU Sports Group and the Head of KBS Sports, Mr Kimoon Lee delivering the opening remarks



The ABU Sports Director, Mr Cai Yanjiang, presenting his report on the 1st day of the conference in Nur-Sultan

ABU Sports Group elects a New Chairperson:

The Head of the Sports of KBS Korea, Mr Kimoon Lee is the new Chairman of the ABU Sports Group. Mr Lee was elected unanimously at an election during the Sports Group conference in Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan, June 14-16, 2019. Mr Lee, who replaced Mr Jiang Heping, the Controller of the China Global Television Network will serve for a two-year term.

Mr. Lee said, he will strive to help strengthen solidarity, enhance co-operation, and pursue common goals among ABU members in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr Lee is a Ph.D candidate of Seoul National University majored in Sports Media. He entered KBS in 1991 and worked over 20 years for KBS Sports as a Senior Producer. Among others Mr Lee served as the Director of several big mega and multi-sporting events, including the 2004 Athens Olympics Archery team. He invented the famous "arrow shot" now accepted as a standard.

Mr Lee comes with multiple skills and years of experience in international affairs and coordination to magazine show production. Mr Lee replaces Mr Jiang Heping who served as the Chairperson of the ABU Sports Group since 2013.

The ABU Sports Group is open to ABU members interested in sports broadcasting. The group meets twice a year to discuss sports rights management, production and transmission and trends in sports broadcasting.

timely, as countries in the central Asia are struggling and planning for the up-coming sporting events, including Tokyo 2020.

The Secretary General of ABU, Dr Javad Mottaghi said negotiating for rights is one of the most arduous and demanding tasks confronting members not just in Central Asia but everywhere in an increasingly unpredictable and hostile market often dominated by commercial interests.

The Director of ABU Sports, Mr Cai Yanjiang, informed the conference of the status of media rights management of various sports and sporting events by the ABU Sports on behalf of members.

Mr Cai said sports broadcasting saw tremendous changes in the past decade due to rapid technological developments and the emergence new platforms. He highlighted the need to expand broadcast rights to a whole range of media including the future media, which may take shape in 5G era.

The two-day conference in Nur-Sultan also saw presentations by experts in the relevant fields. Some of these include the Asian Electronic Sports Federation

to Match Poker, The World Karate Federation, the Paralympic, Pixellot and the Kazakhstan Ethnosports Association.

The delegates also witnessed the sports events organized by the Kazakhstan national sport federation and the Kazakhstan open international karate tournament.

The 64th conference also elected new members to the sports committees. TVB Hong Kong and DD India have been elected to the Finance Committee. The two replaces NHK Japan and TVNZ New Zealand.

Meanwhile, RTM Malaysia and TPT Thailand have been re-elected to the Broadcast Rights Committee for another two year term. The conference also elected three new members QAZSPORTS Kazakhstan, CCTV China and All India Radio (AIR) to the Broadcast Rights Committee.

The three day conference attended by over 50 delegates was hosted by the QAZSPORTS. The 65th Sports Group Conference and Associated meetings will take place in Tokyo Japan in November 2019.



ABU & International University Sports Federation sign a 3-year Distribution Agreement.



ABU Secretary General, Dr Javad Mottaghi & the Secretary General of FISU Mr Eric Saintrond signing the agreement.

One of the major highlights of the 64th ABU Sports Group and Associated conference in Nur-Sultan, in Kazakhstan was the signing of the ABU/FISU distribution agreement. The three-year contract was signed by the ABU Secretary General, Dr Javad Mottaghi and the Secretary General of the University Sports Federation (FISU) Mr Eric Saintrond.

The contract allows for ABU Sports to distribute content from FISU sports events to its members throughout the Asia-Pacific. As the global governing body of international university sports, FISU has an impressive collection of international sports events including the Winter and Summer Universiade and, the University World Cups in 3x3 Basketball and Football.

The ABU Secretary General, Dr. Javad Mottaghi, welcomed the latest move by FISU and said it reflected the trust and confidence FISU has in the ABU.

The FISU Secretary General and the CEO Eric Saintrond noted the need for strong broadcast partnerships to expand the role and the reach of university sport worldwide.

According to the ABU Director of Sport, Mr Cai Yanjiang Cai signing with FISU allows the Asia-Pacific region to benefit from richer, more diverse and vibrant television programming.

The ABU and the governing body of International University Sports signed the first such distribution agreement in 2015 in Beijing.



Mr. Takuya Tsuji from NHK, Ms. Junko Morinaga from NHK, Ms. Ae-Young Kim from KBS, Ms. Seemantani Sharma from ABU, Mr. Syed Emamian from IRIB and Mr. Suranga Jayalath from MaharajaTV and ABU IPLC Chairperson.

SCCR 38 makes progress on Broadcasters Treaty

The Thirty-Eighth Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR38) took place from April 1st till April 5th, 2019 at the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The first two days of the week discussed the proposed treaty for the protection of rights of broadcasting organizations while the other days of the week discussed the treaty on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives and limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities. Other matters such as Copyright in the Digital Environment, Artist Resale Royalty Rate and a Proposal for Strengthening the Protection of Theatre Directors' Rights" was also discussed.

The Thirty-Eighth Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights ("SCCR" or "Committee") was opened by Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General. Mr. Daren Tang Heng Shim acted as Chair and Mr. Abdoul Aziz Dieng and Mr. Peter Labody served as Vice-Chairs. Ms. Michele Woods (WIPO) acted as Secretary.

The documents related to this agenda item were SCCR/27/2 REV., SCCR/27/6, SCCR/30/5, SCCR/31/3, SCCR/32/3, SCCR/33/3, SCCR/33/5, SCCR/34/3, SCCR/34/4, SCCR/35/10, SCCR/35/12, SCCR/36/5, SCCR/36/6, SCCR/37/2, SCCR/37/7, and SCCR/37/8, as well as informal charts and non-papers prepared during previous meetings.

The Committee considered document SCCR/37/8 prepared by the Chair, entitled Revised Consolidated Text on

Definitions, Object of Protection, and Rights to be Granted and Other Issues. The Committee also considered previously considered documents SCCR/37/2, entitled Proposal from Argentina, from the Delegation of Argentina and SCCR/37/7, entitled Proposal of the United States of America on the Scope and Implementation of Rights, WIPO Draft Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, from the Delegation of the United States of America, as well as new textual proposals presented by several delegations during the deliberations.

Discussions were held in informal sessions of the Committee. The Committee continued discussions on definitions, object of protection, rights to be granted and other issues, with a view to further clarifying various technical issues and delegations' positions. Following these discussions, the Chair prepared a revised version of document SCCR/37/8 to reflect his understanding of the state of discussions (document SCCR/38/10).

Throughout the meeting week, the ABU delegation reached out to the WIPO member states to seek their support for the Broadcasters Treaty. The ABU delegation was comprised of Ms. Seemantani Sharma (the ABU Legal & IP Services Officer), Mr. Suranga Jayalath (ABU IPLC Chairperson), Ms. Junko Morinaga (Senior Manager, Copyright & Contracts Division, NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Mr. Takuya Tsuji (Manager, Copyright & Contracts Division, NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Ms. Ae-young Kim (Project Manager, Intellectual Property Office, Korean Broadcasting System) and Mr. Seyed Mohammad Sadegh Emamian (IRIB Vice-President).

An agreement was reached on the following Recommendation to the WIPO General Assembly (WIPO/GA/59): In view of the steady progress made in recent SCCR sessions, the GA invites the SCCR to continue its work towards convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, aiming for the 2020/2021 biennium, subject to Member States reaching consensus in the SCCR on the fundamental issues, including specific scope, object of protection and rights to be granted.

This item will be maintained on the agenda of the thirty-ninth session of the SCCR which will take place from October 21-25, 2019.



ABU and IPPTAR host ABU Prizes Programming Workshop

By Hazlinda Hamzah from Bernama News Channel.



Another year of collaboration as ABU and IPPTAR organized ABU Prizes Programming Workshop for Malaysian colleagues, in Kuala Lumpur.

25 attendees were from Radio Television Malaysia/RTM's headquarters and regional stations including 5 colleagues from Bernama (National News Agency) News Channel, attended the two day workshop on 27 & 28 March 2019.

On the 1st day, Mr Hakim Amir, Assistant Vice President, Content Development, Strategy & Insights Unit under Malay Business Unit, Content Group ASTRO shared his experience on Work Culture & Ideation Process - Popularising Your Content on Both Old and New Media.



In the afternoon, Ms Nurashikin Zaharuddin, Executive Producer, Happy Campers Production Sdn Bhd.

Nurashikin spoke about Exploring Others' Production / Technical Aspects / Promoting/Marketing Your Work. She has been in the broadcasting industry for more than 15 years and has extensive experience working with various production houses where they produced various types of programmes for RTM, Astro and Media Prima, in addition to corporate videos for corporate clients.



On the second day, Ms Kudsia Kahar, CEO & Co-Founder, Kudsia+Co had participants involved in group assignment on Current Approach & Content Style on all platforms.

Kudsia was the Vice President at Astro Radio, and then as the Chief Operations Officer at Star Media Radio Group. In 2015, she co-founded Kudsia+Co, a company that provides individualized or small group public speaking training and coaching, communications training, media management services, content,

training and development for radio broadcasters around the Asian region.

"I found the ABU Prizes Workshop indeed an eye opener; beneficial to content producers and their young production team. This two day exposure where participants share interesting moments in their various States of origin and dwelling, provide extra insights to the untapped 'subjects/ topics' of interest within Malaysia and among their locals, for others to indulge in as new content. I hope to participate in workshops of this nature in the near future as it allows ideas to be further explored differently.

We from BNC would like to look into the prospect of future opportunities with ABU and its members in the good name of material sharing and exchange; to benefit all in the long term. We really enjoyed moments with Puan Kudsia Kahar as well as the viewing of micro documentaries produced by the wife and husband team of Happy Campers Production. Thumbs up for ABU as workshop organisers!"





Producers of the ABU Children's Drama Co-Production (15/16 Series) meet in KL



Over 25 years ago, the world made a promise to children: that we would do everything in our power to protect and promote their rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential. However, there are many children who have fallen even further behind. Old challenges have combined with new problems to deprive many children of their rights and the benefits of development.

To highlight these challenges, Producers of the ABU Children's Drama Co-Production, (15th and 16th Series) gathered from 2nd-4th April in Kuala Lumpur. Participants exhibited programmes both for and about children, which were watched and discussed. Each item produced for the awards contest consisted of stories that detail the plight of children, or were animations that teach and entertain with regard to children in difficult and challenging situations across the globe.

Below is an interview given by the winning team:

1) How does it feel to be the winner?

I am glad and proud for that. However, films could not be made by the director only so the award reflects the unity and quality of the team.

2) What value do the workshops have for you?

It's a space for exchange of various different knowledge and perspective. Each time, we would always gain new ways of looking at things and get to see diverse styles of works that can be used to improve our own work.

3) What are the benefits of meeting with other producers from Asia-Pacific Region?

I think this is a great opportunity for those producers with different backgrounds, cultures, religions to share and exchange creativity and various different perspectives.

4) What did you hope to convey/communicate with your production?

The film 'Smart Boy' taught its audience that being brave enough to face and embrace the truth is always the best approach, because it will eventually bring the best solution to problems.

5) Would you recommend these workshops to other producers and why?

Yes, if they are willing to exchange and learn from others' diverse perspectives which would help expanding the creative potential.

Thank you
Anek S., Thai PBS



ABU Children's Drama 2019 Producers' Choice-ThaiPBS

ABU Children's Drama 2019 Producers' Second Choice-NHK

Below is an interview given by the second-place team:

1) How does it feel to be the runner up?

I am very honoured to be chosen for the second prize. I was worried whether the drama I made could be considered interesting by others, because my drama has more indoor scenes compared to dramas from other countries, which have more beautiful location scenes. In addition, this drama was produced by the members who had little drama production experience including myself, and it was produced while discussing on how for it to look interesting. Therefore, not only myself but also many staff were pleased that the work was evaluated positively.

2) What value do the workshops have for you?

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the workshops held in Thai PBS at work. However, when I asked the participants in the past, I think that the experience of creating a drama while overcoming the language barrier and the production environment is very meaningful for the participants.

3) What are the benefits of meeting with other producers from the Asia Pacific region?

There were a lot of issues arising from

cultural differences. The project was the story of a girl falling in love with the Buddha statue, but in receiving opinions from many countries, I learned that there are so many opinions about the Buddha statue. After all, after receiving many opinions, I reconsidered the project, and changed it to something completely different from the original story.

I think the significance of the meeting is not only to make what we want to create, but also to learn the culture and way of thinking by exchanging ideas with people in each country. The resulting drama is very unique in each country, and it is very different from the content of the drama that we usually see in our own country (in particular Japan). It is an idea of a story, how to make a scenario, a way of editing ...I got a lot of discoveries from the meeting that I could not get by making drama in my country.

4) What did you hope to convey/communicate with your production?

Basically, I want to leave the feeling that a person could see himself and feel the drama.

The story is very simple. In addition, I aimed to stir up various imaginations by quoting expressions (dance, puppet show, confetti, etc.) used in

old Japanese TV dramas and movies like mosaics. I referred to the story of "Alice in Wonderland," but there are also influences from other film directors I like, such as Jacques Rivette, Albert Lamorisse and David Lynch. By doing so, I wanted to tell the children that visual expression could do various things and is interesting. I wanted children to know that there are many unknown worlds in this world.

5) Would you recommend these workshops to other producers and why?

I would like to recommend this workshop to producers. The experience of making a drama together from planning to the screening of works while exchanging opinions with participants from other countries is valuable more than any other experience. Especially in the case of a production system that tends to complete only in domestic market, like in Japan, the visual expression is also limited, and no new expression is born. From now on, I think it would be fun if more people would know about these workshops and not only set up the meeting but also places to show off our productions born at the meeting.

Thank you.
Yuta Oshida, NHK, Japan



Twenty journalists and program-makers from around Indonesia gathered in Malang, East Java, to learn the latest storytelling and production techniques that could put them in the winner's circle for ABU Prizes.

The two-day workshop - on the eve of Indonesia's Presidential election - covered all genres of programs in the ABU Prizes Radio categories and explored different techniques for enriching content and production that would stand out among the region's best programming.

Head of the Radio Republik Indonesia Supervisory Board Mr Mistam was delighted to see such a good turnout.

"This bodes well for RRI's target of winning an ABU Prize," he told participants.

RRI Director of Programme Production Mr Soleman Yusuf encouraged the participants to work hard, learn and share their knowledge with colleagues.

"This will bring continuous improvement to the quality of RRI's programming output," he said.

Head of ABU Radio, Olya Booyar, felt a highlight of the workshop was bringing together Radio program makers from 14 different RRI centres and seeing them work together as a team, encouraging



ABU Prizes workshop shares excellence in Indonesia

each other to learn and apply new skills.

"Each participant came with not only a program idea but an actual produced segment," she said. "After listening to some of the past winning programs in the ABU Prizes, we were able to work through those ideas and together come up with suggestions for better programs."

Trainer Kartini Ariffin took the participants through an ideation process that harnessed their creativity and got them thinking outside the

square to generate new and innovative programming ideas.

"The participants were very enthusiastic and passionate about their work," he said. "They brought with them great ideas and the workshop gave them more clarity on how to craft those ideas into outstanding programs."

RRI centres that participated in the workshop were: Manokwari, Manado, Surabaya, Surakarta, Cirebon, Jakarta, Papua, Bogor, Yogyakarta, Denpasar, Aceh, Malang, Semarang and Bandung.



Bhutan broadcasters reach new heights in storytelling

The ABU worked with 20 producers from Bhutan media at a four-day intensive workshop on how to become more effective storytellers across all platforms.

The producers from BBS Radio and TV as well as Kuzoo FM worked together at the BBS Headquarters in Thimphu from 14-17 as part of the ABU Prizes Workshop scheme.

ABU Head of Radio Olya Booyar together with Akim Mogaji from New Media Networks worked with the producers on making a range of factual, structured and fictional formats to create compelling content with award-winning potential.

"After introductions through storytelling, we critiqued pieces from Bhutan and around the world, sharing examples of previous winners from the various prize categories," Olya said.

These became their frames of reference and they agreed their ambition was

to make this a practical workshop, exploring how to best make the creative space in order for fresh ideas to occur.

They explored audience segmentation and trends, the difference between urban and rural audiences, addressing multiple audiences and allowing for plural access points.

The 20 Producers were split into five teams and by the end of the week they had made five distinct and excellent programmes, ready for broadcast.

Akim Mogaji calls this process 'Fast Faction' and it is achieved through establishing a trusting and supportive environment in which to consider, through practical application and open discussion, key stages of the creative journey.

"These are inspiration (idea), rationale (considering needs, audiences and platforms), distillation and evaluation (the commissioning process), perspiration (both production

and post-production), exhibition (broadcast) and reflection (research)," Akim said.

The groups explored Imaginative space to reflect on past & present, imagine other futures and space for empathy. They also explored ways to interweave facts with fiction and vice-versa.

Akim said the five pieces produced were all distinctive, original and impactful, with high production values achieved through superb team work within the context of a supportive environment.

"[They ranged from] an audio drama which achieved top class perspectives and empathy, a visual documentary with imaginative use of archive, a beautifully shot social commentary on screenaholics, a moving true story represented as docudrama, to a ground-breaking PSA celebrating Love in all forms.

On the afternoon of the last day, the five groups took turns presenting their finished segments and were awarded prizes for Best Technical Production, Best Use of Medium, Best Cross-Platform production, Best Storytelling and Most Innovative Production. All participants then voted for the Producer's Choice prize, which was awarded to the Audio and Online production 'Love is Love'.

"It was a lively and productive workshop," Olya said. "Bhutan is a beautiful country, its people are wonderful and the participants produced great work - breathtaking in every way."



Street food scenes of Xi'an

THE FILMING OF THE FOOD MAWLA IN XI'AN

As part of Golden Ribbon 2019 Series – New Silk Road In My Eyes. ABU member Happy Campers were recently in Xian-China for filming from 8-15 May with a team of 4 people from Malaysia. Below is an account of their adventure filming in China

By Nur Hussein of Happy Campers Productions

The documentary filming of The Food Mawla was held in the ancient city of Xi'an, China. Our story angle is to look for the traces and influences of the ancient Silk Road in the Hui people's food cultures. We arrived into Xian in the evening of May 7th, where we met with our local fixer, Ann Zou, who's arrived a few hours earlier from her hometown province, Yunnan. Ann was pleasant and sweet, and she brought us to meet Mr Jan, our driver for our entire stay there.

The next three days we were scheduled to look for our story and recce. We

were unsure if the restaurants will be closed during the day since it was in the month of Ramadhan. It was pretty daunting as we are there only with our thesis statement in mind, but yet to know our story and our characters for this documentary. We were brought to Lao Sun Jia Pao Mo to look at their Muslim Cultural Exhibition there, to get a grasp about their history, unfortunately although they have wonderful potteries and porcelains exhibit, it was hard to get much out of it due to the limitation of language barriers. Ann was trying to help, but she couldn't translate word by word of

everything the guide was saying, which is to be our other challenge, which I will elaborate further on.

Next stop our driver took us through the Ancient Xi'an Walls to the ancient part of the city. To our surprise, the Muslim Street was vibrant from morning till night despite the Ramadhan day. The entire street was filled with amazing colorful sights, cacophony of sounds and delightful range of smell that were scintillating to our every sense, which indeed were making us salivating to fill up the keronchong-singing stomachs. By berbuka (break-fast time) time we tried some amazing Xi'an signature dishes, the Pao Mo – Pita soaked in Lamb Stew, the Palace Beef Pie, some cold noodles, even took-away their famous Chinese Burger from the Muslim Street stalls. Needless to say, they have interesting blend of spices to season their dishes, most used are the chilli powder and the Chinese peppers.

Over the next couple of days of recce, we've visited the Xi'an Grand Mosque, which was such an amazing experience. Built 1,200 years ago, this mosque is one of the oldest mosques in China. One needs to walk down the stretch of lush garden through a few amazing and intricately sculpted



gateways to get to the main prayer hall. Amazing detailing on every part of their complexes, on their pillars, on their roofs and walls.

Unlike any other in the world, this mosque is uniquely theirs, maintaining their Eastern philosophies and their identity and yet beautifully syncretized in harmony. We recorded their Azan, and as people are coming in for the next prayers, we saw the imams walking in with their amazing turbans, much like any other Muslim turbans but theirs are glittering and colorful head pieces, suggesting they are the prominent Islamic figures in their community.

Our experience filming there is a very memorable one and full of surprises. For some of us who are first timers, this experience changed our perception of China. Being a communist country, we were warned against putting too much religious content in our story, but our own experience, China is far from being daunting, it is quite the opposite. Xi'an showed us that this country puts



so much effort into preserving cultural heritage and historical monuments that even the ritual of changing of guards from the days of their past emperors and dynasties, are kept and performed daily at the Wall.

Their Silk Route influence is still vibrant despite the time gap in between. Every now and then we'd hear some Arabic songs being played in the background along the alleys. Their Wayang Kulit (puppet shows) are being played every hour in some theaters in some alleys. As Ann corrected me one day, that to the people here, Xi'an is the Beginning of the Silk Route, not the end. Such pride is the result of their strong connection to their history



and heritage, even though Ann has forgotten much things she was taught in school, the ancient monuments instills pride in their minds. The restoration works of their historical buildings are truly amazing.

A city that clearly shows off her glorious ancient past of great civilization amidst the mix of their uber-trendy urban lifestyle malls and imposing buildings with a bold superpower statement. A city where the people are moving forward without losing their sights on their glorious history and traditions. And all this, wrapped up in small bite-sized pieces that are scintillating to the taste buds, that is to be our story, The Food Mawla.



Asiavision's esteemed Senior Editor Tan retires

Friendly farewells have been a feature of mid-2019 as ABU colleagues marked the retirement of Asiavision's dedicated Senior Editor Hock Guan Tan who left at the end of June after an 18-year career.

Tan started as a News Department 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.

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

As well as being an excellent journalist, 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.

In retirement, Tan is looking forward to taking things easy with his wife Elayne, children Ivan and Caryssa, grandson Gareth and his extended family and friends.

Although Tan will be greatly missed, his colleagues wish him well in this eagerly anticipated new chapter of his life.

Meanwhile the News Department will be recruiting Ahmed Afruh Rasheed as Senior Editor, Asiavision.

During his varied career as a journalist and program maker, Afruh has headed a team of more than 60 reporters, crew and administrative staff as Editor of the News Department at Television Maldives (TVM). He has also worked as Executive Producer of TVM programming, overseeing the infotainment and entertainment units of Maldives' public broadcaster.

One of Afruh's projects at TVM was a series of programs on bio-diversity

called Yours Naturally, while a film he wrote and directed - Your Joy, My Suffering - was an official selection for the Nordic Youth Film Festival in Tromso, Norway in 2007 and the Mediterranean Environment Awards in Barcelona, Spain in 2008.

For the past three years, Afruh has run training workshops at the Asiavision Coordinators Meetings, first in Male, then Kathmandu and this year, in Jakarta. He is currently finishing an honours degree in Mass Communication (Broadcasting) in Kuala Lumpur.

"Mr Tan retires with large shoes to be filled! The expertise he has gained and the relationships he has forged over the last 18 years are irreplaceable," Afruh said.

"I hope to fill this void with the best of my abilities and expertise to lead AVN to greater heights, in this new age of convergence broadcasting.

"The biggest challenge faced by traditional broadcasters today is the migration of audiences to newer platforms.

"My aim at AVN is to curate content for traditional and new media, so that our diverse Members get the best News content that can be used on all platforms".

Remembering 18 years of excellence

Senior Editor, Hock Guan Tan

I have had a wonderful time working for the ABU.

I joined in July 2001 as a news coordinator at Asiavision (AVN), the ABU's daily TV news exchange programme.

I was previously a print journalist with the Malaysian national news agency (Bernama).

For a journalist, whether in print or broadcasting, work is always hectic and unpredictable.

The only difference for me in moving from Bernama to the ABU is that I am now desk-bound.

Looking back, I dare say I made the right move.

There are always new things to learn and also the need to keep up with the ever evolving media industry.

And, AVN has seen a lot of changes over the years.

The AVN news exchange was started with a transmission via satellite.

When I joined in 2001, contributing members in the satellite transmission would uplink in a pre-arranged order daily starting at 16.30 hrs KL time (08.30 GMT) for 30 minutes and followed by a 10-minute contribution from the EBU, our European partner.

As AVN grew, a second feed was added in 2005, starting at 20.15 KL time (12.15 GMT) for 20 minutes and without the EBU contribution.

More changes came and in 2009, the exchange of news via file transfer protocol (ftp) was introduced.

While satellite transmission was costly, the exchange of news clips via file was considerably lower and offers greater



flexibility whereby news items could be uploaded anytime, anywhere.

The file project was upgraded with a much bigger storage capacity in 2012.

The ease of using file transfer led to many members to switch from contributing via satellite to using file transfer.

This led to the termination of the second feed via satellite in 2014.

The 08.30 GMT satellite transmission also came to end in June 2015 and from 1 July onwards, the AVN news exchange is conducted solely via file transfer.

I guess we have to keep up with the changes in order to remain relevant.

My best wishes to everyone!

Asiavision Monthly Award Winners

The latest winners of the monthly Asiavision award are CCTV (China) and TVRI (Indonesia) in May, SLRC (Sri Lanka) in April and IRIB (Iran) in March.



CCTV won the May award for its up to date coverage and reaction from the Chinese side on the multi-round trade talks between China and the US.

The last round of talks in Washington had ended without a deal and since then the US had increased tariffs on the import of Chinese goods with Beijing retaliating likewise.

The May award also went to TVRI for its coverage of the rioting in central Jakarta following the release of the Indonesian presidential election official result which was won by the incumbent Joko Widodo.



The announcement was made a day earlier than planned but crowds still gathered to protest which later turned violent, leaving a total of eight people dead.



The full commitment of SLRC in covering the Easter Sunday terror attacks has earned it the April award.

The Indian Ocean island nation was rocked by a series of coordinated bomb blasts targeting high-end hotels and churches holding Easter services on 21 April.

The explosions occurred in three cities – Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa - with the death toll reported to be at least 253 and more than 500 people injured.

The March award went to IRIB for the dramatic pictures of vehicles being swept away during flash floods in the Iranian city of Shiraz.



The city in the southern province of Fars usually sees little rainfall but it was hit by a bout of heavy rains late in March.

At least 11 people were killed and 45 others injured in the flash floods.

A stylized world map in a light blue color, centered on the Asia-Pacific region, set against a dark blue background with a subtle grid pattern.

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ABU welcomes Australia's ABC back into the fold as Full Member

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

After a period of absence, ABC rejoins the ABU family. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is Australia's national broadcaster founded in 1929. It is currently principally funded by direct grants from the Australian government, but is expressly independent of government and partisan politics. The ABC plays a leading role in journalistic independence and is fundamental in the history of broadcasting in Australia. The ABC is a founding member of the ABU when it was established in 1964.



ABU Welcomes New Associate Member

Walesi Limited

Walesi Limited is a state-owned entity which is responsible for the deployment of Digital Television Broadcasting platform in Fiji together with other initiatives in line with the Fijian Government's digital IFIJ strategies.

Fiji is officially transitioning to digital TV, in an exciting move to ensure the future will be brighter for Fiji. Walesi is a new digital TV service that will be available to everyone. From 20 December 2017 digital TV will be available to everyone in Fiji via aerial or satellite.



A promotional poster for the 'Radio Asia 2019' event. The main title 'Radio Asia' is in large, bold, blue letters, with '2019' in smaller blue letters. Below it, the text 'Radio All Around Us: More than just a medium' is written in red and blue. To the right, the dates '29-31 October, 2019' and the location 'Dhaka, Bangladesh' are listed. The background shows a cityscape at night. In the bottom right corner, the ABU logo is displayed, along with the text 'Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union', 'Hosted by:', and a logo for the host organization. Below this, it says 'For more information contact: yan@abu.org.my'.

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.



10th ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference

Apia, Samoa, 5-7 August 2019

There is nothing as predictable as change. The era of gradual change in environments, societies and societal structures is long gone. We now live in a world of exponential transformation, and it is getting faster and faster.

Nowhere is this more evident or challenging than in the Pacific Islands region where modern pressures are overlaid on traditional cultures and lifestyles, exacerbated by diversity and distance.

For more information or enquiries, please contact:
Olya Booyar, ABU Head of Radio
olya@abu.org.my



Crossing borders in the digital world

5th Annual Media2020 Dialogue

3-4 October 2019, Bucharest, Romania

The 5th in our series of intercontinental Media Dialogues will look at the digital media world from several perspectives – geographic, economic, technical, cultural and program content – to discover what unites us and what divides us in the new digital age. While some borders will always exist, how can public media cross the borders that hold us back while sustaining those that make us safe?

On the eve of its target year, Media2020 will bring together experts and practitioners from East and West to examine the digital media world as it has evolved to today and how public service media are adapting for the future.

East, west or in-between, what have we learned from each other, what can we share into the future?

Do visit <https://media2020.srr.ro/> for more information.



ABU RadioAsia Conference

29-31 October, 2019

The 2019 edition of ABU's premier Radio content conference will be staged for the first time in Bangladesh this year, hosted by ABU Member Bangladesh Betar. With the theme of 'Radio all Around Us: More than just a medium', this year's RadioAsia will dig deep into Radio's continuing appeal. The three-day conference will bring together leading radio professionals, policy makers, communication specialists, manufacturers, suppliers and academics from across the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere in the world. There will be many must-attend sessions and discussions, together with demonstrations, workshops and information booths to provide delegates with specialist knowledge and resources to play a part in the development of the radio industry in the years to come.



ABU Radio Song Festival

30 October, 2019

The 2019 ABU Radio Song Festival will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, during the ABU RadioAsia2019 Conference. Hosted this year by ABU Member Bangladesh TV, the ABU Radio Song Festival is a chance for ABU members to seek out their best exciting young new musical talent and place them on a world stage. The Gala Performance will take place on 30 October and will provide television, radio and multiplatform media coverage to the compositions and performances from within ABU member countries and share them with the region's fellow broadcasters to reach audiences across our region and around the world.



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

ABU Calendar of Events

JULY

3 – 4	#ABUdigital	Kuala Lumpur
5	5th ABU New Media Task Group Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
8 – 12	ABU-ASBU-AIBD WorldDAB Digital Radio Workshop	Kuala Lumpur
17 – 19	2nd Podcasting Workshop at CRI	Beijing
22 – 25	ABU KIDS	Bangkok
29 – 31	News Group Meeting / Global News Forum 2019	Istanbul

AUGUST

TBC	E-workshop on Data Science	Online
TBC	Workshop on IT Infrastructure for Broadcasters	TBA
Aug – Sep	ABU Technology Webinar Series	Online
5 – 6	ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference	Samoa
24 – 26	18th ABU Robocon	Ulaanbaatar

SEPTEMBER

TBC	Regional Workshop on OTT and IBB Technologies & Services	Kuala Lumpur
TBC	New Silk Road in My Eyes Final Selection	China
12 – 16	International Broadcasting Convention 2019	Amsterdam
24 – 26	ABU Prizes 2019 Final Judging	Kuala Lumpur

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