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Quarter 4 2020



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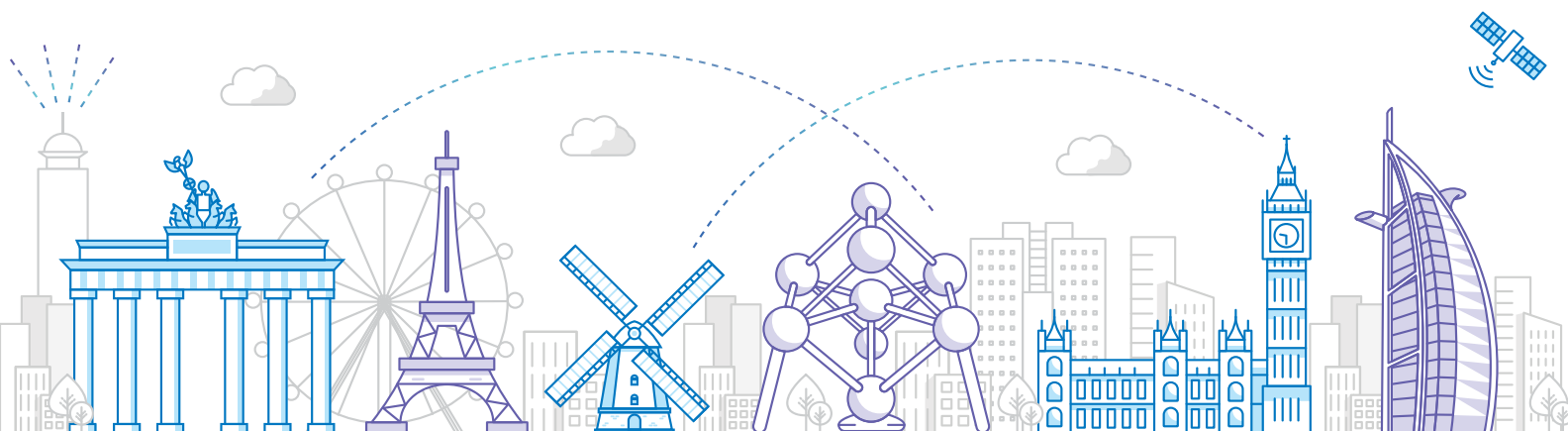
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Clockwise from top left: ABU President Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT-Turkey Chairman and Director General; Mr Yang Sung-dong, ABU Vice-President and President and CEO of KBS Korea; Mr Satoru Masagaki, ABU Vice-President and Executive Vice-President NHK-Japan; and Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, ABU Vice-President and CEO of Prasar Bharati, India.

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Welcome to the last edition of the ABU News for 2020! In this edition we brief you about the 57th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings – our first ever GA held entirely via online platforms.

2020 was dominated by the COVID 19 global pandemic, which changed the ways of working and interacting never before experienced or anticipated. Like for the rest of the world, it has been a challenging year for the ABU and for our family of members. The ABU Secretariat would like to extend its appreciation to all members for their incredible commitment, creativity and bravery in continuing services to their audiences. We are grateful for the spirit of solidarity and cooperation shown during the pandemic. The ABU members worked together and faced together this unprecedented challenge. The pandemic showed the ABU unity in diversity in a categorical way.

The theme of this year's GA "MEDIA IN A TIME OF CRISIS: CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION FOR MULTIPLE PLATFORMS" highlighted the common interests of members to exchange experiences and lessons learned throughout the crisis. With the global pandemic evolving daily, media world-wide was looking to find new, ingenuine ways to get live saving information to all citizens, while keeping their frontline staff safe. ABU members had to change their modus operandi, overnight put in place emergency operational procedures to secure protection for employees and interviewees. Remote production and working from home is now the norm in most of our member organisations.

This new set up brought an added urgency to explore new ways to serve the public. In many of our members' countries, the broadcasters became the trusted providers of school and university education to hundreds of millions of children and young people, who cannot attend school because of the lockdown in many countries. The crisis elevated to new heights the respect for and the standing of media, especially the public service media. We saw the ratings of our members climb high.

Like most of the ABU activities during the year, the 2020 GA and Associated Meetings were put online. In this edition, we capture the first ever virtual GA, which you would normally experience in person, and feature all events, including the amazing ABU Prizes and ABU TV Song Festival that proved more popular than ever.

From the 66th Sports Group Conference, a virtual gathering focused on the upcoming Olympic Games and future sports broadcasting events in 2021 and 2022, to the ABU's platform for advancing diversity and inclusion in and through the media, Women With the Wave, sessions saw a larger and broader geographical participation from members and delegates. All governance meetings had record participation and engagement.

In this edition we also bring insights and forecasts by several members to keep you connected with what happens in the ABU family.

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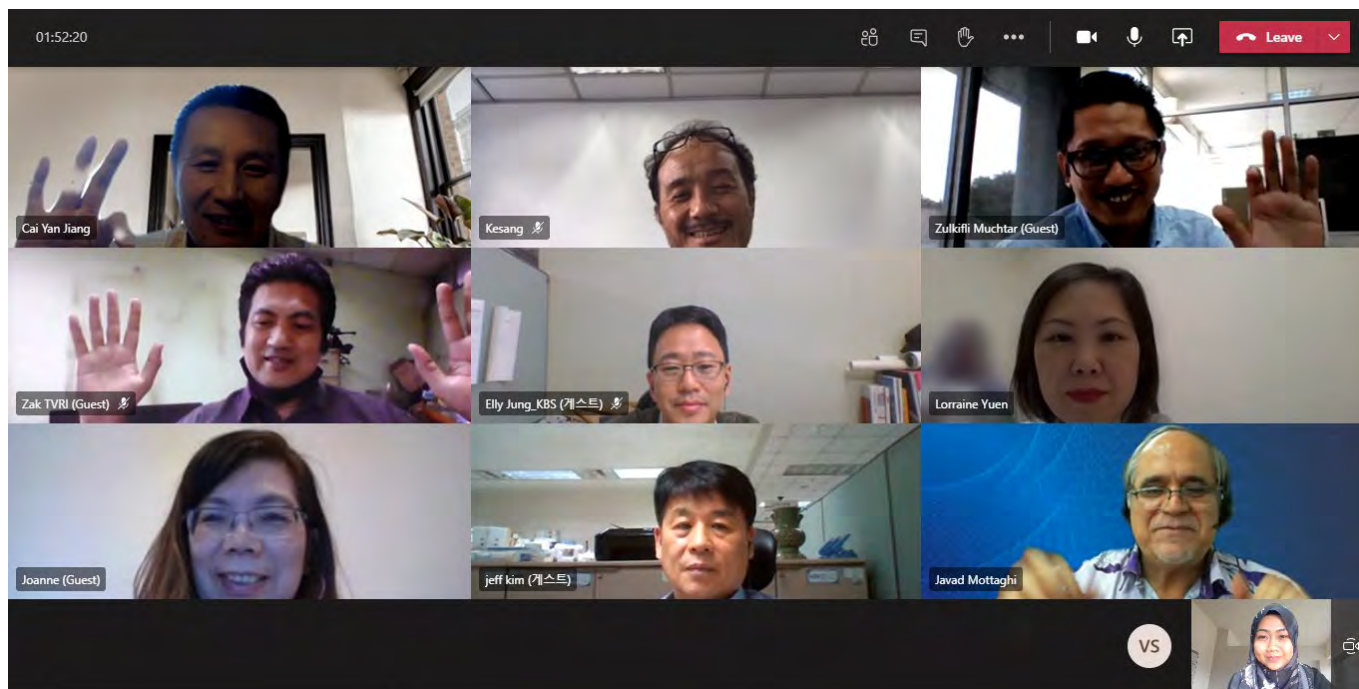
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2020 ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings – a virtual marathon

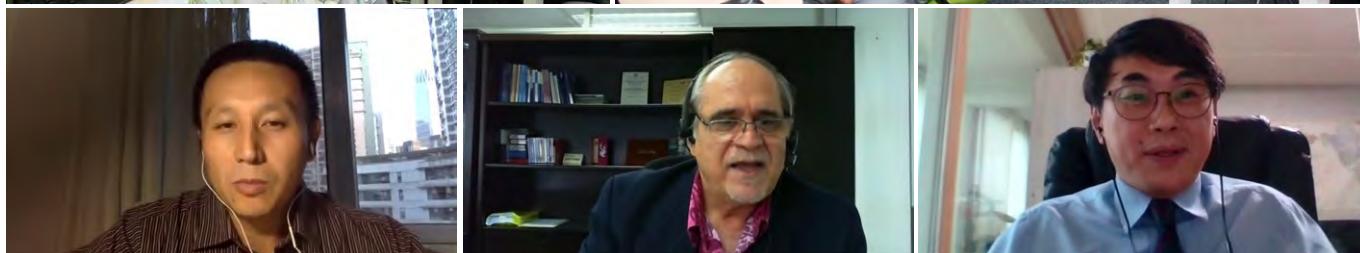
The ABU General Assembly (GA) and Associated Meetings held for the first time entirely online, comprising delegates, members and experts, all of whom gathered together across the globe for the first-ever virtual marathon of the GA --was a great success.

The series of online fora included such meetings as: the Sports Group Conference, Programme Committee Meeting, Technical Committee Meeting, Women With the Wave Forum, Radio Working Party Meeting, Quality Management Workshop, the ABU Prizes Awards Presentation and the ABU TV Song Festival plus many more, all of which are contained herein for further reading.

In the first of such meetings- the Sports Group Media Content Committee meeting, delegates from broadcast organisations discussed the major events of importance for the ABU members in 2021 and further discussion on topics such as the ABU Sports Co- Production, ABU Sports Achievement Award and the ABU Sports & Entertainment Network–ASEN.

In addition, the ABU Sport Prize-hopefully to be launched in May 2021 at Bangkok's Sports Group Conference (travel permitting), was discussed in the context of its three proposed categories; Best Footage, Best Sports Journalism and Innovation. The discussion was a fruitful exchange of ideas and opinions for delegates concerned with next year's sporting events and in strategic planning for ABU members.

Upon completion of the Sports Group Media Content meeting, the GA was underway!

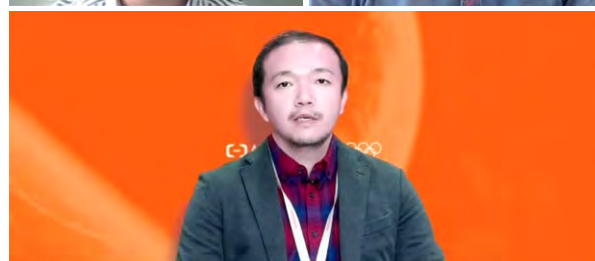
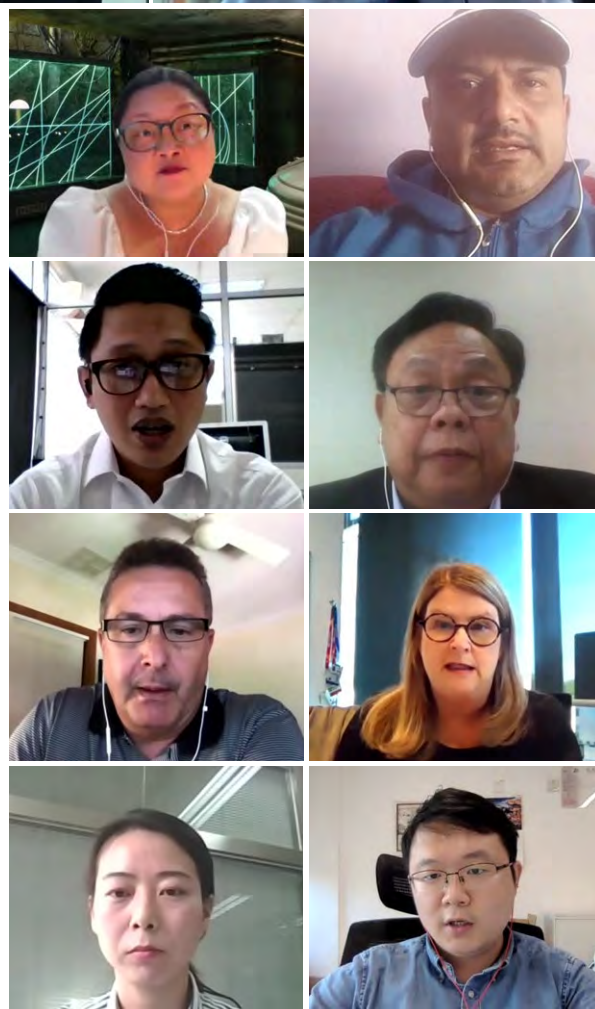


ABU Sports Group Conference

The 66th edition of the ABU Sports Group Conference was opened by its Chairman, Mr Kimoon Lee, KBS, who warmly welcomed all the participants. This virtual conference focused on the upcoming Olympic Games and other sports broadcasting events in 2021 and 2022. The Director of ABU Sports, Mr Cai Yanjiang, updated the participants on the work of the department's initiatives and achievements since the last mid-year Sports Group Conference, which was also held virtually. Mr Cai's report was followed by a brief overview of the new Asia-Pacific View (APV) Platform for content exchange, presented by the ABU Technical Department Director Mr Ahmed Nadeem. Several organisations shared perspectives during the Members' Forum which allowed exchange of experiences and ideas between countries on sports and broadcasting in their country/region.

Another topic discussed at the Conference was the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. Mr Ali Cloud, representing the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee and Sports Broadcast Technology, outlined the implementation of cloud services to enhance the spectators experience. Aspects of the Chengdu 2021 Summer Universiade were provided by the Chengdu 2021 Organising Committee. A presentation on Remote Production by NEP Group rounded off the engaging online conference.

A restricted session limited to Full and Additional Full Members was also part of the conference. The Sports Group listened to the Content and Finance Committees Chairmen's reports and Mr. Cai Yanjiang encouraged all members to collaborate closely with the Union and take action for a common, better future.



Mr Ibrahim Eren opens ABU General Assembly

The ABU's first-ever online General Assembly was officially opened by the Acting President Mr Ibrahim Eren, Chairman and Director-General of TRT, Turkey. He praised members who had been working tirelessly to provide exemplary services to audiences in the middle of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Eren warmly welcomed all member organisations attending the unique online assembly. "As never before, media organizations around the world had to shoulder the heavy burden of responsibility to provide curated and reliable information," he said.

"The jump in our ratings proves beyond doubt that ABU members rose to this challenge. I'm sure it is safe to say that how our members served their people during COVID-19 has re-awakened people to the vital role of media in their societies."

Mr Eren welcomed ABU Vice President Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and CEO of KBS Korea, who said: "COVID-19 has brought enormous changes all over the world. I'm sure all of you have been affected by the pandemic." He continued that the world-wide impact of COVID-19 had been felt by all members since the media industry has faced the most severe challenges due to the Coronavirus global crisis."

The ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi reinforced the words of the senior ABU leaders by stating: "The economic crisis brought by the pandemic affects all and the broadcast industry is not an exception. The broadcast media's sustainability is under great threat. The traditional business models that we know now do not work anymore. It is up to our collective wisdom and efforts to withstand this existential challenge, flourish in the post-COVID world, engage with our audiences and help our nations to build a fair to all sustainable future."

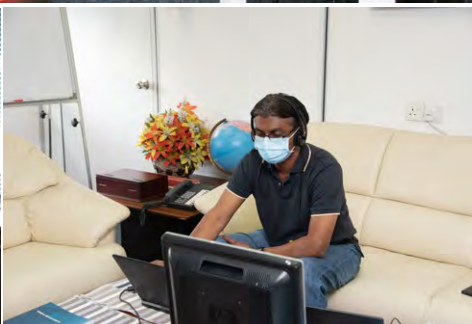
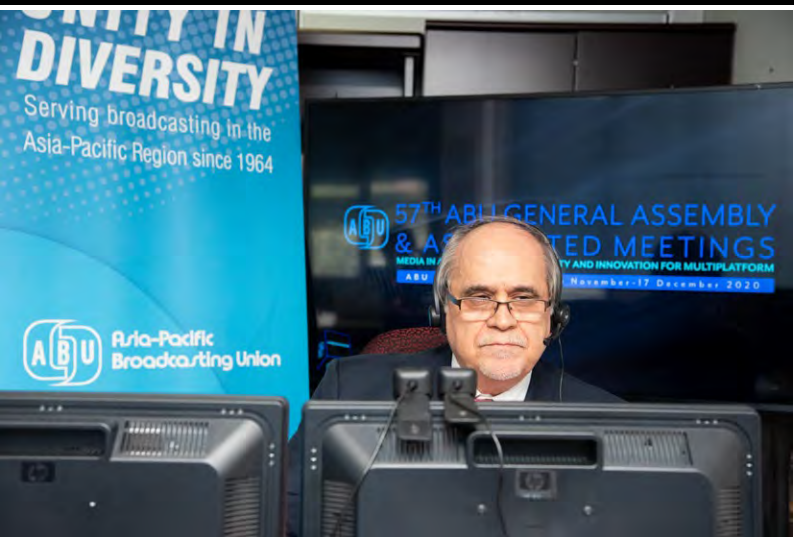
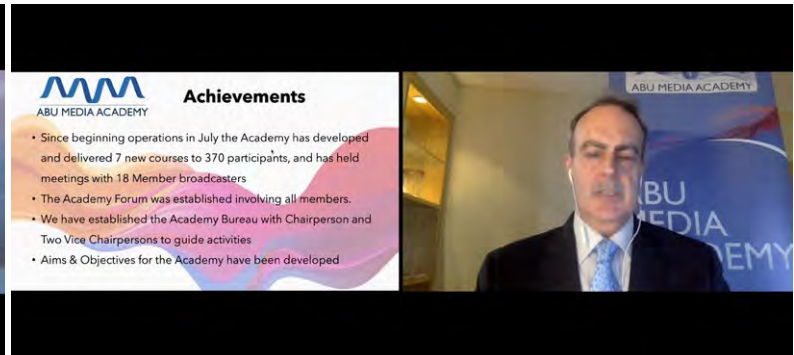
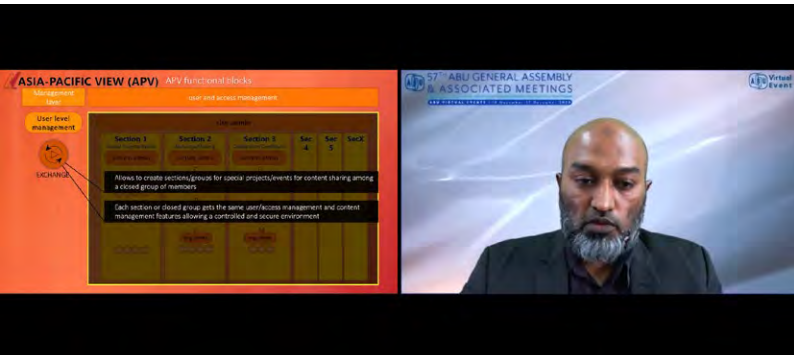
Members then proceeded to the GA Agenda, with Professor Dr Nguyễn Thế Kỳ, President of The Voice of Vietnam (VOV), sending a video invitation to the 58th GA and expressing his high hopes in welcoming all to Viet Nam for the 2021 ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.



Top: Chairman and Director-General of TRT Turkey and ABU President Mr Ibrahim Eren; Mr Yang Sung-dong, ABU Vice President and President and CEO of KBS Korea.

Right: Professor Dr Nguyễn Thế Kỳ, President of VOV, Vietnam







Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT, Turkey



Mr Masagaki Satoru, NHK, Japan



Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, DDI, India

The 57th GA unanimously elected Mr Ibrahim Eren, Chairman and Director-General of TRT, Turkey as new ABU President. The NHK Japan's Executive Vice President Masagaki Satoru and Prasar Bharati's CEO Mr Shashi Vempati were elected as ABU Vice – Presidents. Mr Eren said that he is "filled with pride" to be elected as head of the world's biggest broadcasting union.

His mandate is until December 31, 2023. He thanked all ABU members and colleagues for the trust and promised to do everything in his power to increase ABU services to members.

In his acceptance speech Mr Masagaki stated: "The management environment of our industry is facing a tremendous threat from COVID-19 this year. And we are facing the most drastic transformation we have ever experienced due to digitalization and the rise of new media on the internet.

I would like to bring together the wisdom and experience of our very diverse group of members and endure the hardships while learning from each other." Mr Masagaki steps into the new role after Mr Sun Yusheng's (CCTV China) term ends at the end of December 2020.

Mr Shashi Vempati, Chief Executive Prasar Bharati – India, who was also elected as an ABU Vice President, will take this position with immediate effect. He will continue his role for three years from 1st January 2021. Mr Vempati noted how honoured he was to be elected and said: "I wish to express my thanks to the ABU and hope that I can help to serve all of the members in my role as VP of the ABU."

ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi praised Mr Sun Yusheng of CCTV China for his diligence and expert contribution over his three-year term. He noted that all ABU Presidency office holders have to balance their contribution to the ABU with their highly demanding full-time jobs as senior executives of their own organisations. Dr Mottaghi added: "Without ABU members, the Union would not be the valued body it is, supporting so many broadcasters around the Asia-Pacific."

New ABU Presidency

ABU Presidency President:

Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT, Turkey

Vice – Presidents:

Mr Yang Sung-dong, KBS, Korea

Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, DDI, India

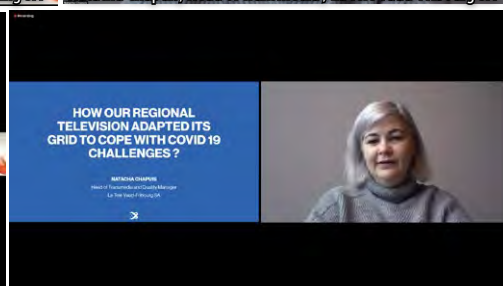
Mr Masagaki Satoru, NHK, Japan

ABU Programming Department Conducts Workshop on Quality Management -Online

The Quality Management Workshop (QMW) has been a permanent fixture of the meetings associated with the GA since 2015 GA in Istanbul. This year's virtual QMW unsurprisingly focused on management in time of crisis. 2020 has illustrated clearly how crucial and sensitive the content broadcast by media companies can be. COVID 19 has reminded the entire world how small, unique and vulnerable the news landscape is. In such a context, media companies play a key role not only in helping people look at the situation differently and in a more positive way, but also to report facts based on science and evidence. As such, Quality Management can further foster creativity throughout teams and innovation through new products, new content, and encouraging new mindsets.

It is in this vein that the ABU Programming Department has hosted, as part of the ABU Associated Meetings stream, a workshop on Total Quality Management. The workshop was opened by Mr David Balme, CEO, Challenge Optimum SA, who spoke in detail about innovation and creativity management requirements according to the global standards ISAS. He provided case studies of the impacts of fake news and of journalism with agendas. At the same time, he singled out Thai PBS as a broadcaster incorporating best media and reporting practices.

Mr Matthieu Aubert, Co-Managing Director, BNJ Media Holding SA outlined how radio stations can fight the CoViD crisis while providing the regional economy with new tools and cross collaboration.





Programme Bureau Online Meeting

The Chairperson of the ABU Programme Committee, Mr Soleman Yusuf from RRI Indonesia chaired the ABU Programme Bureau meeting. In his welcoming remarks, the ABU Secretary General Javad Mottaghi, highlighted the massive online capacity-building programme (webinars, workshops and consultancies) the ABU has been providing since the beginning of 2020.

Mr Koichi Okumura, Director of ABU Programming, briefed attendees on the Programme Department's activities including ABU Media Lab Days, CARE 10 Coproduction, ABU Prizes Reform Working Party, Children's Drama Co Production, and more. He also outlined the timeline for the ABU flagship event — ABU Prizes. He concluded by previewing the upcoming events for 2021 in light of the restrictions placed on events by the pandemic.

This was followed by a brainstorming session which harnessed suggestions and feedback on current TV, Radio and New Media activities and proposals by members for activities and initiatives in the future. The participants reviewed programming activities over the past year and looked at future activities, with a view to continuing to improve services for members.

The Programme Bureau acts as an advisory body to the Programme Committee. It evaluates and prioritises current activities and makes suggestions for future ABU programming initiatives.



COVID Crisis Made ABU Radio Working Party Meeting Special

The Radio Working Party turned the COVID crisis into a strength by holding one of its best-attended General Assembly meetings online.

More than 120 members from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond logged into the meeting, but that wasn't all that impressed ABU Head of Radio Olya Booyar about the virtual event.

"The content and discussions were so good that by the end of the two hours 118 participants were still logged in," she said.

"And from feedback afterwards, it seems the agenda and speakers really hit the spot for people who are looking for reliable and relevant information, advice and encouragement in these difficult times."

She said it had been tricky fitting all the content onto their two-hour window, but thanks to expert chairing by ABC-Australia's Claire Gorman they overran by only one minute – and that was in signing off.

The meeting began by bringing radio members up to date with numerous projects during the year, including the special Heart of the World song project led by RRI-Indonesia and the annual ABU Prizes, which this year had its highest ever number of entries – 127 across eight categories - giving the Pre-selection and Final juries a huge job selecting winners that will be awarded in an online ceremony on 10 December.

The main body of the agenda was packed with stimulating and useful sessions on key areas of broadcasting activity in the Asia-Pacific.

These included two sessions looking at the past and future prospects of both commercial and public service broadcasting, which Olya called "incredibly enlightening".

"It was great to hear experts from both sectors speak of common challenges and solutions," she said. "Many ABU members now combine both PSB remits and some commercial imperatives, so the RWP sessions showed participants how the two can work together."

Of special interest was a pre-recorded video discussion between Joan Warner, CEO of Commercial Radio Australia and Grant Blackley, the CEO of the Southern Cross Austereo network. This provoked lively discussions by a panel with Ronnie Stanton of Corus Media Canada; Ramzi Cassim, Channel Head of English Radio, MBC Sri Lanka; Caroline Oh, Head of Programming, BFM Malaysia.

This segued into a later session on PSBs which included the ABC (Claire Gorman), Widhie Kurniawan of RRI, Dan Santa of Radio Romania and Indu Shekhar of the BBC World Service.

Other highlights included a presentation of New Technologies by Jaime Chaux, head of Digital at Commercial Radio Australia, a presentation from The Insights People about Engaging Children and Young People in Radio as well as on Digital Platforms and examples of Great COVID Ideas from ABU members around the world.

The ABU's first virtual RWP had been a great success but members are hoping the crisis will be over sufficiently for next year's RadioAsia to take place in Indonesia face-to-face.



CMG, ABC and NHK win big at ABU Prizes 2020

outstanding programs praised by the judges. Commendations were awarded to ABC-Australia, NRTA-China, AIR-India, IRIB-Iran and VOV-Vietnam.

Streamed simultaneously on ABU Facebook page, YouTube channel and Zoom, it marks the first time ever in the history of ABU that that award ceremony was organised virtually.

ABU received a record number of 330 entries for ABU Prizes this year, the highest ever since the inception of the awards. The breakdown of awards received for categories include 127 for Radio, 174 for TV and 29 for New Media.

View the full list of ABU Prizes 2020 winners here: <https://www.abu.org.my/2019/05/04/abu-prizes-2/>

CMG-China, ABC-Australia and NHK-Japan took home several awards at the ABU Prizes 2020 award presentation ceremony held virtually on 10 December 2020.

17 content awards across Radio, Television and New Media were presented at the ceremony.

CMG won 4 awards in total while ABC and NHK won 3 awards each. CMG won Radio News Reporting and Radio ABU Perspective Award by China National Radio (CNR), Radio On-Air Personality by China Radio International (CRI), and TV Special Jury Prize, while ABC won awards in Radio Docudrama, TV Entertainment and TV Sports categories and NHK won awards in Radio Drama category, TV Perspective Award and Digital Content Award.

Other winners include KBS-Korea (TV News Reporting), MBC-Korea (TV Documentary), TBS-Japan (Radio

Special Jury Prize), NBT-Thailand (Radio Community Service Announcement), BBC-UK (Radio Documentary), Rai-Italy (TV Drama), and KiKA-Germany (TV Children).

Five organisations were also awarded certificates of commendation for their

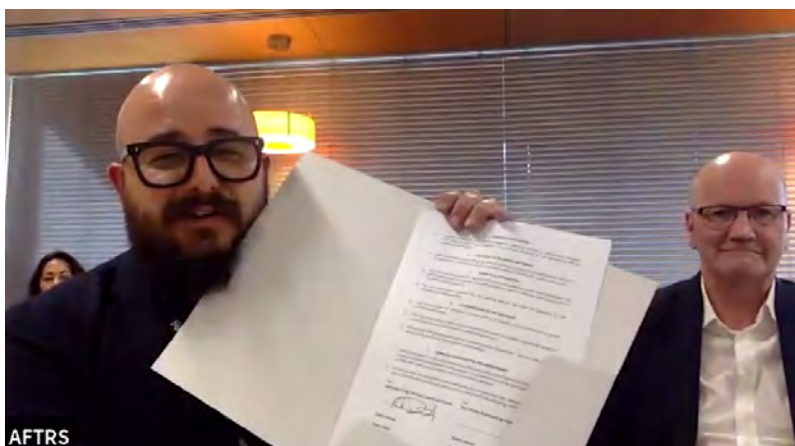
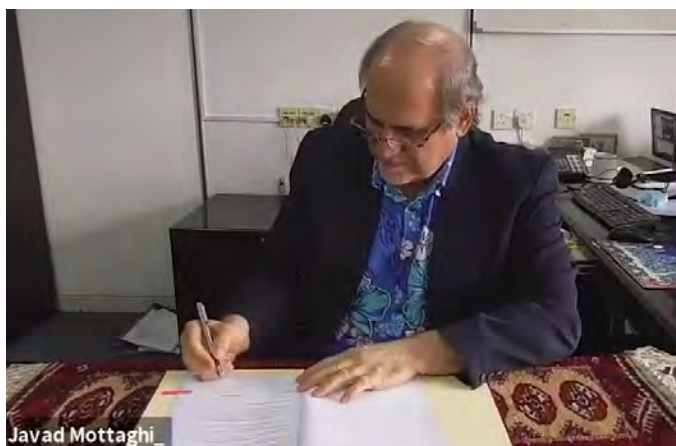


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ABU Signs MOU with AFTRS

- ABU Media Academy Task Group Meets

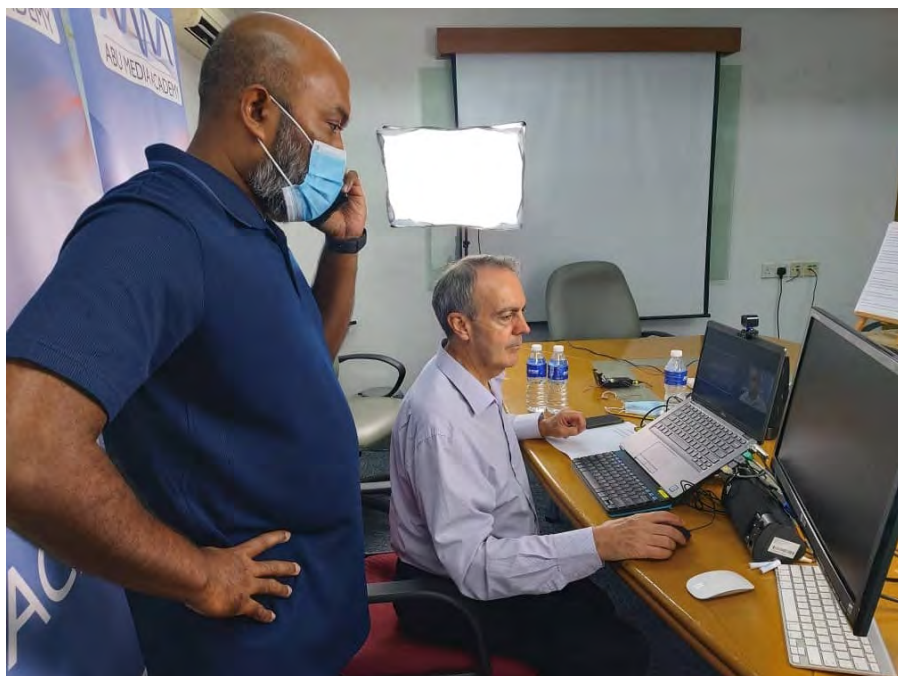
The ABU Media Academy Task Group met on December 4th, as part of the ABU's General Assembly virtual meetings schedule for 2020.

The highlight of the meeting was an MOU signing ceremony between the ABU and the Australian Film Television and Radio School to formalise an agreement to work together on courses and offer higher learning opportunities in the AFTRS Masters of Screen Business course.

Speaking from Sydney, the CEO of AFTRS, Dr Nell Greenwood said she is excited to be able to work together with the ABU in "a very valuable and exciting partnership," to share expertise and "learn from broadcasters in the Asia Pacific region." AFTRS is ranked as one of the top 15 international film schools in the world.

Signing the MOU in Kuala Lumpur, Dr Javad Mottaghi said the ABU is enthusiastic about the partnership, because it will expand the types of training that can be offered to members. "We got to know AFTRS this year when a team of post graduate students in the Screen Business studied the ABU for their Masters Level research project. We were impressed by the work done at AFTRS and can see that this partnership will add value for our members."

During the Task Group meeting, attended by 29 members from 20 organizations in 18 countries, ABU Media Academy Head Steve Ahern outlined the achievements so far and gave the floor to Task Group members to talk about their priorities for the coming year. Course offerings from the Academy for 2021 will reflect the priority needs of members, as outlined in the meeting.



2020 ABU Engineering Awards



Mr Iwaki Masakazu of NHK-Japan



Ms Zhang Hong, Director General, Radio and Television Administration of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, RTPRC-China



The 2020 Technical Awards were held virtually on 24 November during the ABU Technical Committee.

The **ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award**, which recognises contributions of an outstanding nature in broadcast engineering made by an individual in a broadcasting organisation was awarded to Mr Iwaki Masakazu of NHK-Japan. Mr Iwaki is Senior Director at Senior Director of NHK Engineering System Inc and won the award for his promotion of AI technologies for programme production and his outstanding contributions to the ABU Technical Committee and ABU activities.

The **ABU Engineering Industry Excellence Award**, which recognises the most outstanding engineering contribution made by an individual to the broadcasting industry in the region, was awarded to Ms Zhang Hong, Director General, Radio and Television Administration of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, RTPRC-China who won the award for her outstanding leadership of the broadcasting industry of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The **ABU Green Broadcast Engineering Award** recognises outstanding contributions in developing, implementing and/or promoting green technology in the broadcasting industry. The 2020 winner was the Radio, Film & TV Design and Research Institute, China who won the award for promoting environmental protection measures and green initiatives in the design and construction of the Guangzhou TV Tower.

The sponsor of the 2020 **ABU Green Broadcast Engineering Award** is KOBA. We highly appreciate their support. Our thanks also to KBS for initiating the sponsorship.

There were no nominees for the **ABU Developing Broadcasters' Excellence Award** this year.



From left: Mr R Arul, Mr S Gurumanickam and Mr K Balaji of Doordarshan India

ABU Technical Review Prizes 2020

The ABU Technical Review Prizes were awarded for articles contributed to the Technical Review from October 2019 to September 2020. Three prizes were presented each from the categories of Practical Implementation, Research and Case Studies.

The winners for the **Best Article on Practical Implementation** are Mr R Arul, Mr S Gurumanickam and Mr K Balaji of Doordarshan India who co-authored the article titled Indigenous News Automation Software at DDK Chennai which appeared in the April-June 2020 issue of the ABU Technical Review.

The **Best Article on Research** was co-authored by Dr Kazuyoshi Shogen of B-SAT, Japan and Mr Thong Pham Viet of ITU-R. Their article titled Effectiveness of Frequency Sharing Criteria in the Broadcasting Satellite Link appeared in the October-November-December 2019 issue of the ABU Technical Review.

The winner of the **Best Article on Case Studies** is Mr M S Duhan of Doordarshan-India who authored the article titled Seminal motives for Digital TV: Metamorphosis of ATT into DTT, which appeared in the January-March 2020 issue of the ABU Technical Review.



Dr Kazuyoshi Shogen (left) of B-SAT, Japan and Mr Thong Pham Viet (right) of ITU-R



Mr M S Duhan of Doordarshan-India

ABU Technical Bureau Annual Meeting- Online

Among the associated meetings of ABU General Assembly 2020, the annual meeting of the ABU Technical Bureau took place as a virtual event on 23 November. The bureau heard from members on current issues and challenges and on progress made, amidst the pandemic.

The meeting reviewed ongoing study projects and terms of reference of study topic areas. Among other issues, the bureau discussed a decision on amendments to the ABU technical committee rules of procedure and supported the WBU cybersecurity recommendations on broadcasters' use of cloud-based services. A brief update on Technical Committee meeting to be held from 24-25 November & its agenda were presented as well.

TC Chairman Mr Hamid D Nayeri of IRIB-Iran presided over the meeting and ABU Secretary- General Dr Javad Mottaghi welcomed the bureau members and other delegates.



Mr Hamid Dehghan Nayeri, Chairman Technical Committee (IRIB-Iran)



Mr Javad Mottaghi, Secretary-General, ABU



Mr Masashi Kamei, Vice-Chairman Technical Committee (NHK-Japan)



Mr Sunil, Vice-Chairman Technical Committee (DDI-India)



Mr Sahin Demir (TRT-Turkey)



Mr Yuen Man (TVB-Hong Kong)

Technical Committee Meeting

The ABU Technical Committee Meeting was held as a virtual event from 24-25 November 2020 and was chaired by Mr Hamid Dehghan Nayeri, Chairman of the ABU Technical Committee. He welcomed all participants to the first ever online ABU Technical Committee Meeting and stated that the use of digital technologies should be further enhanced and that broadcasters need to take advantage of the convergence of technology and new media innovations. In his welcoming address, Dr Javad Mottaghi, Secretary-General of the ABU, observed that the pandemic has amplified the role of broadcasters in providing accurate and timely information to the public and that it is up to broadcasters to always be alert on the advancements of technologies and solutions and work together to safeguard their integrity and the trust of the public.

Presenting the ABU Technology Activity Report, Mr Ahmed Nadeem said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns that the ABU was only able to organise three physical events. However, ABU was able to provide 48 webinar sessions covering 14 main themes within this period, this is in addition to the regular annual webinar series. Updates on the Technical Advisory Service missions, international cooperation and partnerships and e-versions of the Technical Review magazines were highlights of the activity report. Bureau Proposals were also brought to notice to the delegates, and these were, firstly, the Decision 1/2020 on Adding a Force Majeure Clause and, secondly, the Recommendation 1/2020 on Supporting the WBU Cybersecurity Recommendations on Broadcasters' Use of Cloud-based Services.

The delegates also heard from the Topic Area Chairmen, Mr Kazim Pektas from TRT-Turkey and Mr Kenichi Murayama from NHK-Japan regarding Reports on Production and Transmission Topic Area respectively. Production Topic Area has five study projects and only two contributions were received this year on Big Data, Personalisation and Artificial Intelligence. Other updates on AI neural networks, the latest

development of UHD, EBU technical document on Colour Bars and ITU's publication on the AI Systems for Programme Production and Exchange were presented in the session. On Transmission Topic Area, there are three ongoing projects and two new projects. The contributions received and briefed to the audience were latest ASO situations in the region on DTTB coverage, Investigative efforts toward the realization of next-generation terrestrial broadcasting in Japan, 4K-UHDTV field experiments in the Seoul, Cyber Security on IoT devices in Japan, and Content protection of China and 4K/8K Broadcasting in Japan.

Keynote Presentation

There were four different sessions with sixteen presentations over the two days. The Keynote Presentation was by ABU Technical Committee Vice-Chairman Mr Sunil from Prasar Bharati (DD-India) who gave an overview on the future of broadcast technology and the key transformations in Prasar Bharati. He started off by saying how broadcast technology is focused towards having an enhanced audio/video experience for bigger screens, and internal savings through mobile portable devices. He said that Prasar Bharati's key transformations are Next Gen Broadcast – Direct to Mobile (DTM) and Next Gen TV with IBB Convergence.

He further reported an exponential rise in per capita video consumption, which will lead to congestion and network clogging, therefore 5G broadcast is the next solution to help un-choke the mobile networks from video traffic. He quoted, "Prasar Bharati shall implement Next Gen broadcasting infrastructure addressing DTM and develop India's specific standards for DTM in line with emerging global standards and technologies." In summing up, he said that convergence is fundamental to ensure a smooth flow between different delivery platforms, and that it was important for all platforms to offer addressability, mobility, interactivity, good bandwidth, cheap delivery and connectivity to the Internet to ensure they withstand any broadcasting challenges in the future.

Invited Presentations

Session 1:

Mr. Akira Negishi from NHK presented on Measures for 5G Interference to C-band Satellite. He shared how NHK World addressed its transmission issues of 5G interference over its global distribution network of C-band satellites. Though faced with these issues, he said that "We still need the use of C-band satellites to cover the entire globe." In Japan, the use of safe zone teleports resolved the issues while in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, it migrated to higher frequency transponders on the satellites. In the US, the solution was to migrate to terrestrial IP networks. He reminded delegates on the "Recommendation adopted by ABU Technical Committee supporting the WBU C-band position."

The second presentation entitled New Broadcasting Based on 5G NR Technology was presented by Mr Shuang Li from China Broadcasting Network. Currently, more than 10 high-definition TV channels are being transmitted throughout China using DTMB system. However, traditional broadcasting using DTMB was unable to cope with the growing demands of users and applications and there was a need to provide better coverage in terms of signal, devices and content. Mr. Shuang Li, in

explaining the company's move towards 5G NR technology, said "We believe that 5G NR and http-based live streaming is emerging to take over traditional broadcasting." The implementation of 5G NR and http-based streaming, he said, "will ensure new TV services on all devices with all content anytime, anywhere."

The third presentation was on Video Coding - latest developments and future codecs, was delivered by Dr Peter Siebert from IEEE BTS. Video coding standards and formats have been improving over the years, from MPEG-2 digital format Standard Definition (SD) broadcast in 1993 to H.264 High Definition (HD) transmission in 2003, then to H.265 Ultra High Definition (UHD) services in 2013, and now to Versatile Video Coding (VVC) in 2020. He said, "Over time, the performance of video codec has drastically increased. In 1993, we needed 16MB for full HD content and now we are down to about 2. That's a significant improvement." The next generation codec candidates include VVC, Essential Video Codec (EVC), AOMedia Video 1 (AV1) and Audio Video Coding 3 (AVS3). All these have significant improvements in bit rate reductions compared to the present batch of codecs.

Session 2:

On Technical issues of UHD Broadcasting Service in Korea, Mr Haeng un Jung from KBS-Korea said the 470 MHz to 806 MHz band was allocated for digital and analogue TV services in South Korea. The government has redeployed digital television in the DTV band i.e. 470-698 MHz and Some of the freed up 700 MHz band were allocated for mobile network and some for public communications network. Mr Haeng un Jung said "In this year from 2020 to 2021, the UHD broadcasting network will be expanded using DTV band frequencies for local broadcasting." He added "Expanding the UHD broadcasting network requires the relocation of existing DTV channels in some regions to ensure frequencies for UHD broadcasting."

Ms Emily Dubs from DVB Project Office presented on DVB, Tackling the next big move. DVB moved from analogue to digital 20 years ago and then 10 years after that, moved from Standard Definition (SD) to High Definition (HD). Ms Emily Dubs said "DVB is uniquely



positioned to again bring together the industry into a consensus and do the work that anybody else can do to move from fragmentation to unification, and this has to be done in a hybrid world offering seamless experience to the end user." DVB-I (Internet) enables the delivery of DVB services over the internet. DVB is creating a hybrid experience where IT services would be delivered in a number of access networks. She said, "This is DVB's next mandate, to build on its success that we all know and tackle this next big move."

The next presentation was on DRM Update, Ms Ruxandra Obreja from Digital Radio Mondiale updated that India has seen progress with more medium wave DRM transmitters, channels, pure DRM hours of transmission, receivers and receiver models. In Indonesia, 5 DRM FM transmitters were installed while Pakistan embraced the full DRM standard for AM/FM. In South Africa, the regulator recently published the draft framework for licensing. As for Brazil, Ms Ruxandra Obreja said "It is ready to start test on its DRM shortwave transmitter manufactured in Brazil and this will be used for domestic coverage of the Amazonian region." On technical updates, the

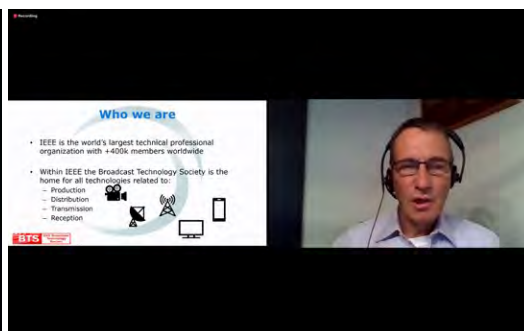
European Telecommunications Standards Institute recently published two specifications. DRM has also been involved in the ABU series of webinars.

Ms Bernie O'Neill from WorldDAB gave updates that "Despite the pandemic, we have seen solid growth of DAB+ around the world. Most notably, South Africa published draft regulation for the licensing of digital radio." She went on to say "DAB+ is now established as the core future platform for radio across Europe." Some countries have already switched off FM, like Norway and Switzerland expects to complete switch off by 2023. Over in the Middle East, several countries have DAB on air. She said "The countries that are pretty established, they have pretty much near 100% new cars come with DAB factory fit". This year, the focus was more on virtual events especially the technical webinar series done in collaboration with ABU.

Session 3

Mr John Lee from WBU Technical Committee gave an overview of the current cyber threats to the media and started his presentation by sharing the cybersecurity recommendations by NABA and EBU. He said that the first

Continue next page >>



WBU cybersecurity recommendation was the production of the WBU Cyber Security Recommendations for Media Vendors' Systems, Software and Services released in January 2018. The second recommendation, Core Cybersecurity Controls or Basic Cyber Hygiene was approved in October 2018, and it offers steps to prevent up to 70% of cyber-attacks. The third recommendation on Cloud Security, was approved in 2020. He continued by providing a brief update on cyber threats to the media/broadcasting industries and said that "broadcasters are rapidly adopting IP technologies... but that may broaden the threat surface for cyber-attacks".

Mr Wang Lei from NRTA China then gave an update on China's standardisation and implementation practice of its video and audio content protection technologies. He said that "content protection should be the standardised infrastructure of video/audio content eco-system". He shared the digital rights management standards for video/audio content distribution and gave an update on China's content protection technologies. He concluded by updating that there were 98 domestic and international companies involved in China's DRM implementation support mechanism.

Mr Geoffrey Low from Dolby presented an update on Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos, and how they can offer a spectacular experience to content and to the future. He explained that Dolby Atmos, produced in audio format, sets out to bring an immersive experience for the audience whether in the cinema, living rooms, or mobile devices. He said that Dolby Vision is the most advanced HDR solution offering richer colour, greater contrast and sharper details, adding that some legacy content could also be revamped to VISION HDR. In regard to costs, it is an average of USD2,500 and USD10,000 worth of equipment respectively for Dolby Atmos and Dolby Vision. He concluded

by saying that "Dolby is here to create, distribute and facilitate a spectacular experience with your content."

Mr V Ramarathinam from Benchmark Broadcast Systems provided an update on DANTE, saying that it is "a combination of software, hardware, and network protocols that deliver uncompressed, multi-channel, low-latency digital audio over a standard Ethernet network". He said that with DANTE, there will be less cabling, multiple audio channels transporting over standard device and cable, flexible audio routing, user-friendly maintenance, better source sharing, savings in cost, and that it supports redundancy link. He shared the Dante Audio implementation in a broadcast workflow and briefed on the design and network considerations.

Session 4:

Ms Yinan Wang from Mango TV presented on the interactive video content production model of Mango TV. Mr Lian Xue from Mango TV program platform co-authored the presentation. Ms Yinan presented the system architecture and interactive video workflow, which consists of script writing, media resource uploading, interactive editing and interactive broadcasting. She shared some of Mango TV's interactive video projects, broadcasted in 2020. In the 5G era, Mango TV is upgrading its services and smart devices and will offer hi-tech videos, smart AI, and create and produce cloud-based and remote content.

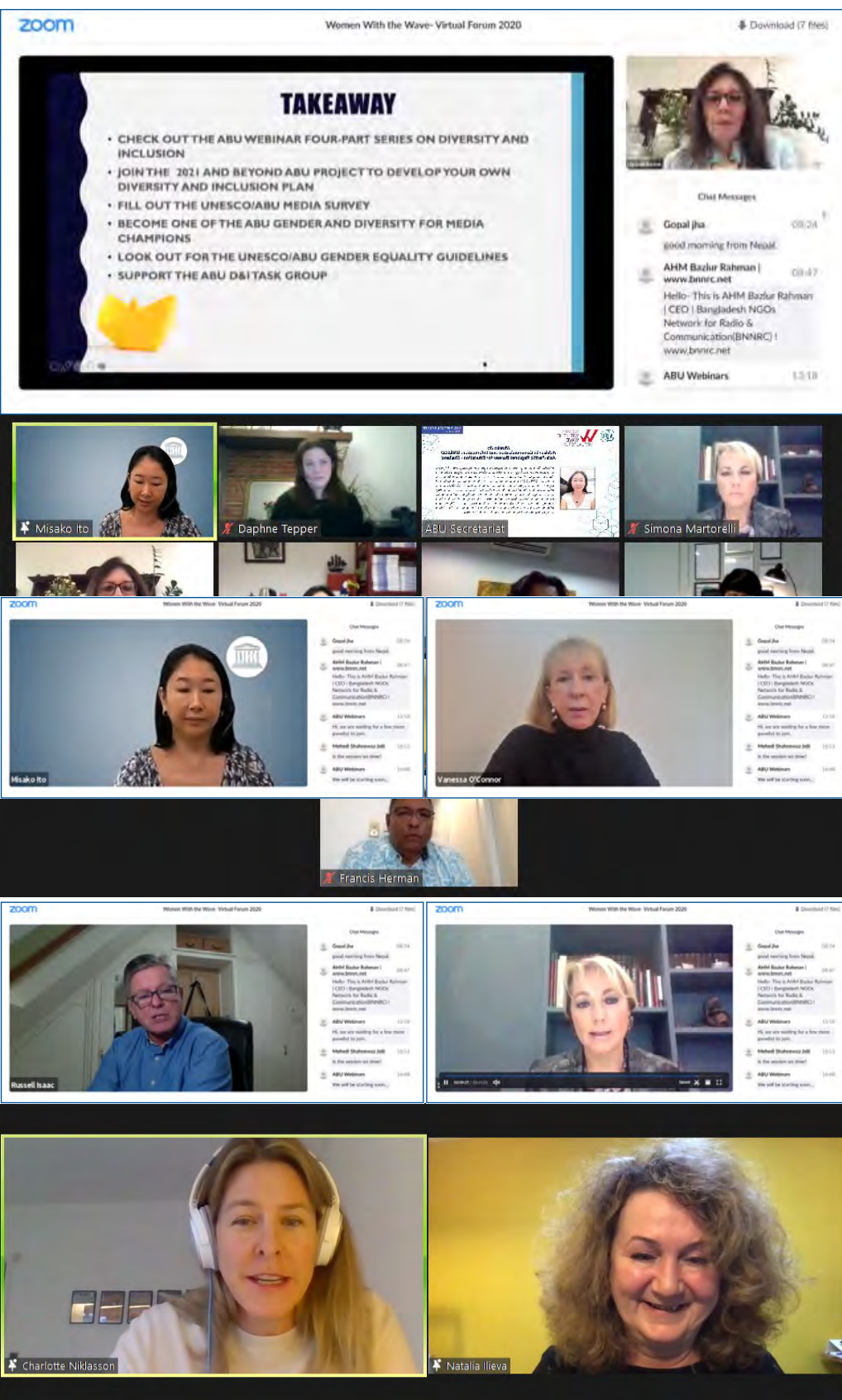
Mr Lindsay Cornell from the BBC then spoke on how the BBC was affected by the COVID pandemic, and how they had made changes to their radio production to adapt to the situation. During the pandemic, BBC ensured that every employee's laptop was in working order and equipped with the Zoom application to ensure there were no work disruptions. Their live shows continued but they were simple

productions with guests joining remotely. BBC's comedy shows, which usually had studio audiences, were affected. He concluded by saying that "we've been able at times to admit much smaller studio audiences, social distancing reduces capacity tenfold, but currently in lockdown 2, remote audiences and different formats for comedy programmes are the way we have to work".

Ms Do Hong An from VOV-Vietnam gave the audience an update on VOV's technical supports and activities during COVID-19. She said, "we met a lot of challenges of radio production, like how to keep our audience updated on current news, how to keep them entertained, how to adapt to the new normal operations, and how our technical team responds to any situation". Their employees were divided into respective groups and asked to work independently. A 24/7 technical line support was also set up. She said that the connection to the Radio Broadcast System has innovated VOV's radio remote production where they were able to connect to multiple sources immediately.

Mr Phan Tien Dung from the same organization then shared some insights on how VOV uses low-latency streaming technologies in remote production. He said "at VOV, we create our own VTC solution that has ultra-low latency". He added that due to the evolvement of technology, now remote production only requires a simple setup with lighter technology, lesser movement of materials and machinery, and fewer people involved in production. The remote production is cloud-enabled, has ultra-low latency, is secure, reliable and used for direct transmission using live streams and players.

In his closing remarks, TC Chairman Mr Hamid Dehghan Nayeri, thanked all speakers for sharing a glimpse of what the future is offering for broadcasters.



2020 WWW Forum Advances Equality

The ABU platform for advancing diversity and inclusion in and through the media, Women With the Wave, held its ninth edition successfully online on 17 November. This year's virtual event allowed a broader geographical participation from a wide range of countries, across continents. It brought together 150 participants from 38 countries from around the world for three invigorating sessions.

Panellists from Asia, the Pacific and Europe spoke about gender equality progress in their regions and successful efforts for diversity and inclusion in their organisations. ABU members and others around the globe were able to take note of the latest developments and activities, and be motivated to embrace this important area of media workplace and content practice, to better serve and reflect communities and societies.

The Head of SG Office Ms Natalia Ilieva thanked the moderators and speakers for their inspirational contributions. She also expressed gratitude to partners and participants for joining and supporting the forum: "We really appreciate your commitment, especially when everyone's workload had been increased during the COVID 19 pandemic and working from home. This commitment has sustained us over the years to create a movement of likeminded media professionals advancing the diversity and inclusion agenda."



FLOOR 88 - Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) - Malaysia



Sonam Gonpo - Sichuan Radio and Television (SRT) - China



TAE MIN - Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) - Republic of Korea



ABU TV Song Festival - a Gala of Cultures and Talent

The ABU TV Song Festival, an annual international gala event organised in coordination with ABU members, featured 14 performances from ABU member countries on 14 December 2020 at 1400hours UTC/GMT+ 8 hours).

The participating countries were Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Vietnam. It was both Nepal and Vanuatu's debut at this Song Festival. It was also the first time in the ABU history, instead of gathering at the venue, participating organizations were requested to submit specially made recorded video of Musical Act performances.

The webcasted performance of popular music of top and solo group talents from an array of national music scene, represented the geographical and cultural expanse of the whole Asia-Pacific region and was a success with the robust cooperation of the ABU member organisations.



Akashvani Vadya Vrind - Doordarshan (DD) - India



Tokosouwia - Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) - Vanuatu



Ilyosbek I. Arabov - National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan (MTRK) - Uzbekistan



Öykü Gürman - Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT) - Turkey



Epo D'Fenomeno - LPP Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI) - Indonesia



HATSUNE MIKU - Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) - Japan



HATSUNE MIKU - Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) - Japan



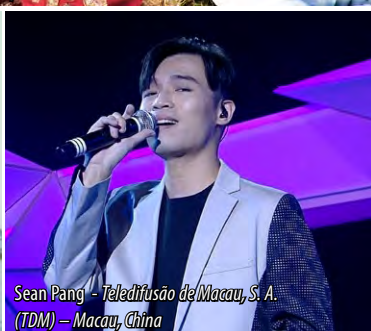
Sindhu Malla - Radio Tulsiपुर - Nepal



Germano Guilherme - Teledifusão de Macau, S. A. (TDM) - Macau, China



Begmyrat Annamyradov - State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography (TVRM) - Turkmenistan



Sean Pang - Teledifusão de Macau, S. A. (TDM) - Macau, China



Dương Hoàng Yến - Vietnam Television (VTV) - Vietnam



AUF ISMAIL - Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) - Brunei



Top from left: ABU President Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT-Turkey Chairman and Director General; and Mr Iman Brotoseno, TVRI President Director, Indonesia.

Bottom from left: Dr Wilasinee Phiphitkul, Thai PBS Director General, Thailand; Mr Satoru Masagaki, NHK-Japan Executive Vice-President; and Mr David Anderson, ABC Managing Director, Australia

GA Ends on High Note with Super Panel Forums

The ABU's historic, first-ever online General Assembly, ended on a high note with two lively and informative virtual Super Panels.

The discussions took place on the final day of the ABU's 57th General Assembly, when broadcasting industry leaders logged in online for two insightful question-and-answer sessions examining the theme *Not Business as Usual - Broadcasting in Extraordinary Circumstances*.

Both panels were moderated by the ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi. The first consisted of Mr David Anderson, ABC-Australia Managing Director; Mr Iman Brotoseno, TVRI-Indonesia President Director; Dr Wilasinee Phiphitkul, Thai PBS Director General; and Mr Satoru Masagaki, NHK-Japan Executive Vice-President. In the second session panellists were: ABU President Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT-Turkey Chairman and Director General; Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, ABU Vice-President and CEO of Prasar Bharati, India; Mr Marcello Foa, RAI-Italy President; and Mr Yang Fuqing, Deputy Controller of CGTN China's English Channel.

Other eminent individuals from the broadcasting industry sent contributions via video messages.

Session 1

Mr Anderson kicked off the first session by describing the ABC's internal and programming responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Putting people first to maintain essential services meant about 80 percent of their employees worked from home at the peak. In audience terms, they increased viewers, listeners and online visitors to their highest levels, clearly demonstrating the value and trust of their audiences and their reliance on a public broadcaster as a trusted source of information.

He felt the situation post-COVID-19 would be more of a "COVID normal" where everyone was constantly alert and worried. Despite their imperfections, they had learned to be more flexible and responsive and that having a connection was more important than the experience itself.



Top from left: Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, ABU Vice-President and CEO of Prasar Bharati, India; and ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi
Bottom from left: Mr Yang Fuqing, Deputy Controller of CGTN China's English Channel; and Mr Marcello Foa, RAI-Italy President

"Moving forward, broadcasters should work towards strengthening trust, value and relevance to the public as a whole," he said.

Mr Brotoseno continued the theme of trust, stating the "infodemic" (the spread of false information, misinformation, fake news and hoaxes) was a challenge for TVRI. To overcome it they utilised digital literacy in monitoring, fact-checking, and legislative and government responses. Reliable information was broadcasted online for easier access by the public.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted their focus towards an increase in providing useful social digital technology applications and easier access to the media," he said. "There were a lot of hoaxes in social media on matters concerning the pandemic, and this had led to a panic amongst the public."

In education, since April 2020 TVRI had offered the BDR online home-learning program in collaboration with the Ministry of Education & Culture to 50 million students from various levels across Indonesia. On health, they had a special studio in the COVID-19 National

Centre so that information could be quickly disseminated to the public.

Dr Phiphitkul said effective communication with the public was a major factor to Thai PBS's success.

"With regards to the circulation of fake news during the pandemic, we worked with various networks, authorities and NGOs in Thailand to make checks and balances on the information received," she said.

About 60 percent of their employees worked from home during the pandemic and Thai PBS utilised new digital platforms to allow employees to work remotely from content production to back-office.

She said they were also working on closing the gaps of social inequality and inclusivity.

Mr Masagaki said the most important lesson NHK learned was the need to deliver accurate and reliable information to the public and to become a trusted source. They created a website where it would be easy for the audience to get the latest updates on COVID-19, also accessible

via smartphones. About 60 percent of staff worked from home and they were trying to find a balance between expanding remote work while maintaining security of their content.

He said NHK had also enforced a business continuity plan in case their media centres became dysfunctional and had to cease operations. Dr Mottaghi remarked how NHK has successfully tackled issues regarding national disasters in the past.

Session 2

Mr Eren began the second session by describing how TRT had launched its distance learning channel, EBA TV, on the third week of March 2020. Two schools in Ankara and Istanbul were transformed into studios, and more than 10 of their old studios were also used for this purpose. At present, they were still broadcasting online education, and the teachers had become more professional in their online teaching methods, as they have been given additional visual aids by the Ministry of Education & Culture.

Continue next page >>

He said TRT's television ratings overall during the pandemic had increased from between 40 and 50 percent to more than 60 percent.

He said TRT had observed during COVID that location was really not that important a factor for employees, as they had proved that they could be as efficient - if not more so - when working from home. Their digital platform helped to ensure that mainstream media sustained their position in the industry.

Speaking as the ABU President, he said content sharing between members was important for public broadcasters as a way of serving the public. Dr Mottaghi noted that the ABU Solidarity Network has offered 1,240 copyright-free programs to the region from many broadcasters.

Mr Vempati said that during the pandemic, Prasar Bharati had pursued innovation in content development, with new formats and fusions with different modes. An example was having visually enhanced radio programs to make them more interesting and accessible to a wider population. There were challenges to offering educational channels due to India's large population and multiple languages, though they experimented with broadcasts to ensure the entire school year was not lost and 51 educational channels were offered to the public.

An important lesson learned from the pandemic was that a crisis could also be an opportunity for a lasting behavioural change. He said Prasar Bharati's employees had learned to adapt to digital technology and new IT tools. They were more efficient now, though the agility of PB's workforce needed to be further strengthened and they would continue to find new solutions and technologies.

As ABU Vice-President, he reiterated the benefits of the Union in program sharing and collaborations.

Mr Foa said that the pandemic has made RAI stronger in Italy, as public service broadcasters had become the trusted source for the public, including

younger people. However, they had been impacted financially, so it was important for them now to become more efficient to ensure sustainability.

Dr Mottaghi commented that governments could play a part in allocating more funds for public service broadcasters to better enhance their productions in education, culture and other sectors.

Mr Foa said although RAI had seen an overall increase in audience, at the same time they had to compete with other content providers such as Netflix and Amazon, so they had learned to build on innovation and to be more active and dynamic on the digital platform and not just rely on broadcasting.

Mr Yang Fuqing of CGTN English Channel highlighted several differences in media coverage during the pandemic including: constant visits by journalists to hospitals to interview doctors, patients and family members; faster media convergence as they had employed digital media; and performing cloud interviews using platforms such as Skype and Zoom.

During the pandemic, between 30 and 40 percent of employees worked from home, although all employees were now back in the office.

He said an important lesson was that the media has a crucial role in disseminating science-based information and knowledge to the public. The crisis was turned into opportunities, with their TV ratings increased, though their responsibility was to continuously provide information the public needed.

He agreed with other panellists that international collaboration amongst all media organisations was an excellent way to share knowledge, and he said an example of this was a livestream by CGTN where they invited medical doctors and scientists from all around the world to share their experiences on the pandemic. It was seen by 170 million viewers. Dr Mottaghi said the ABU Secretariat was delighted with the partnerships they have had with CGTN, CCTV and CMG China.

During the panel sessions, other ABU members shared some updates on how they too were affected by the pandemic.



Mr Alisher Khadjaev, Chairman of MTRK-Uzbekistan, spoke of the changes they had implemented and how they had to consider the psychological impact their audiences faced with COVID-19.

Ms Ambreen Jan, Director-General of PBC-Pakistan, said a challenge was the low literacy of some of the population who did not believe in the severity

of the pandemic. PBC continuously reminded their audiences to be aware of fake news and to stay away from conspiracy theories.

Ms Hosne Ara Talukder, Director-General of Bangladesh Betar, said as part of fighting conspiracy theories and misinformation they conducted livestreams on their social media viewed by thousands.

Mr Aamer Manzoor, Managing Director of PTV-Pakistan, said that the most challenging thing as a public producer was to convince people to adapt to the current situation. They offered free COVID-19 testing to their employees and the work-from-home culture had made them more agile and efficient.

Ms Dagmar Skopalik, Head of International Relations of ZDF-Germany, said new ways of delivering content had proved to be a big success as a trusted source for information, entertainment and culture. Their biggest challenge was to reach out to the youth and stay relevant and meaningful to them.

Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman, Director-General of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), said during the pandemic international cooperation amongst media organisations was important to share experiences, solutions and best practices.

Mr Georgica Severin, Director-General of Radio Romania, said their biggest challenge was to keep close to their audience. With schools closed, they offered programs via radio and delivered powerful messages from cultural personalities to support the public at large.

Mr Gregoire Ndjaka, Director-General of the African Broadcasting Union (AUB), said that although, like the public, broadcasters too had been confused and sceptical during the pandemic, they supported their audiences to the best of their capacity as a public service.

Ms Asun Gómez-Bueno, Director of International Relations of Radio & Television of Spain, said they provided information on safety measures and also psychological support for their employees and relatives.

Ms Melissa Fleming, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations, said with the latest discoveries on vaccines, the media now played an even greater role educating the public on their safety. She said the UN appreciated the value of media organisations and the work they did.

15th Seoul Peace Prize awarded to Thomas Bach, President of the IOC

Contributed by: IOC Television & Marketing Services

As a firm believer of the spirit of the Olympics, Thomas Bach has devoted himself to promoting peace through sport. He lit a torch of hope for refugees worldwide by introducing the Refugee Olympic Team in the Olympic Games Rio 2016, an unprecedented deed in the history of the Olympics, which has raised global awareness of refugee issues and promoted respect for refugee's human rights.

His efforts focused on friendship and harmony among developing countries through the revitalization of sports and this gave way to the participation of North Korea (DPRK) in the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics hosted by South Korea (ROK), a notable outcome considering DPRK's absence from the 1988 Summer Seoul Olympics. The 2018 Winter Olympics was held successfully, serving not only as an Olympic symbol of peace, but also as a stepping stone for peace in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. In light of the achievements, Thomas Bach, 'Olympic Champion' and President of the IOC, has been chosen as The 15th Seoul Peace Prize laureate in acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution to peace.

The Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation (Chairman Jaeho Yeom) announced that Thomas Bach (1953. 12), President of the IOC, has been chosen as The 15th Seoul Peace Prize laureate on September 24.

The Selection Committee, consisting of 8 members from diverse fields (Chairman Christopher Koo), has conducted a rigid, objective and in-depth screening on several candidates including incumbent and former heads of state, politicians, business leaders, religious leaders, scholars, journalists,

cultural figures, artists, athletes and international organizations before selecting Thomas Bach, President of the IOC, as recipient of the prize for his outstanding contribution to world peace through sport.

Lighting a torch of hope for refugees through the Refugee Olympic Team

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), there are at least 79.5 million people around the world that have been forced to flee their homes, living in harsh conditions without access to basic rights. Refugee issues became a crisis around 2015. Concerned with the matter, IOC President Thomas Bach looked into the difficulties and challenges that refugees were facing.

IOC President Bach sought to promote peace through sport under the Olympic flame. At the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in October 2015, he announced the creation of the Refugee Olympic Team, the first of its kind, to take part in the Olympic Games Rio 2016. A few months on from the announcement, 10 athletes, who originally hailed from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were competing alongside 11,000 fellow athletes in Brazil, sending a message of hope and inclusion to millions of refugees around the world and inspiring the world with the strength of their human spirit.

The Refugee Olympic Team demonstrates the IOC's commitment to stand with refugees who had to flee their homes due to violence, famine or for simply being different. This unique project not only gave refugees a chance to compete in the Olympics, but also showed the world that harmony in diversity can be achieved through sport.

The Refugee Olympic Team became a symbol of hope for worldwide refugees and it served as a flare for raising global awareness of refugee issues. It was indeed a signal that enlightened us to see refugees as members and companions in the global community that we live in, as well as important human resources that could improve our society.

In October 2018, the IOC decided that there would be a Refugee Olympic Team for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and President Bach announced on June 20, World Refugee Day, the 37 Refugee Athlete Scholarship-Holders who are aiming to be part of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team in Tokyo 2020 (Following the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, announcement of the Tokyo 2020 Refugee Olympic Team members will be made in 2021).

Promoting respect for refugee rights through the Olympic Refugee Foundation

In September 2017, the IOC launched the Olympic Refugee Foundation to support the protection, development and empowerment of children and youth in vulnerable situations through sport. This initiative emerged from its strong cooperative partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in which IOC President Thomas Bach played a vital role.

The Olympic Refugee Foundation supports projects across the world on two levels. One deals with creating safe, basic and accessible sports facilities in areas where there are refugees, a displaced migrant population or internally displaced people, where all children and young people can play sport and take advantage of sport's multiple benefits. The other deals with



developing sport activities that can be successfully implemented within these safe environments.

The IOC not only trains refugee athletes to qualify for the Olympics, but also helps them, through the Refugee Athlete Support Programme within the Olympic Solidarity, in continuing their sporting career after the Olympics so that they may build a future for themselves.

The aim of the Olympic Refugee Foundation is for 1 million forcibly displaced young people to have access to safe sport by 2024. The IOC furthers its commitment to using sport to help refugees across the globe by working closely with the UN, NGOs and other international organizations, offering ongoing support to refugees and displaced people by creating accessible sports facilities in areas where they reside so that all children and young people may play sports and enjoy its multiple benefits.

IOC President Bach has continuously supported refugees through the creation of the Refugee Olympic Team and the Olympic Refugee Foundation. He contributed to promoting the human rights of refugees by raising

global awareness of refugee issues and renewing the world's perspective on refugees.

Promoting harmony and friendship among states through vitalization of sports in developing countries

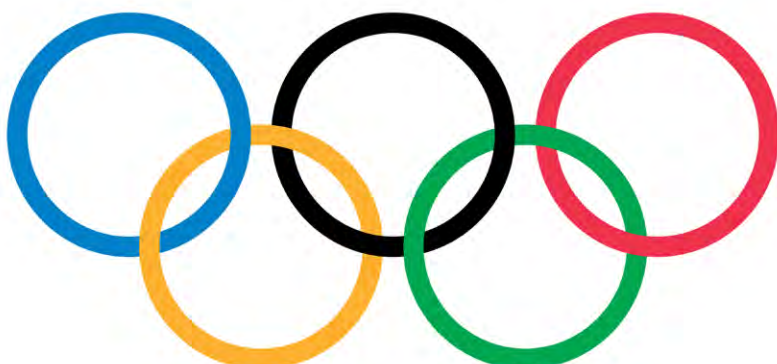
IOC President Thomas Bach has long believed in the vision of achieving peace through sport. In 11 May 2010, while working as IOC Vice-President, Bach successfully led and inaugurated the Olympic Youth Development Center in Lusaka, Zambia. This 15.6 million dollar multi-sport complex also served as a center for promoting culture, education and social development programs, accommodating over 10,000 children and youths yearly. The facility contributed to social change and human development, and a Zambian athlete trained and educated from this center won the gold medal in the 100-meter dash at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

As IOC President, Thomas Bach successfully inaugurated the Sport for Hope Centre in Haiti, in July 2014. The Center, built at a cost of USD 18.7 million, was a joint initiative between the IOC, its key stakeholders and the Haitian government carried forward to bring hope to young Haitians who

had suffered from the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Since its opening, the Center has hosted numerous sports camps for children and young athletes, as well as educational workshops, technical seminars for coaches and dedicated workshops for sports journalists. It brought hope and the courage to stand again the people and the youth of Haiti who were devastated by the natural disaster. IOC President Bach also led the internal reforms of the IOC through the Olympic Agenda 2020.

He shifted the Olympic Candidature Process to make it more transparent and greatly reduced the costs for bidding, thereby promoting the active participation of developing countries in terms of hosting and other related rights. Through such changes in process, the Olympic Games seized to be an event hosted by rich and powerful nations, opening a way for alienated nations and regions to host them just the same. This road map contributed to peace and cooperation among states, as it motivated the global community to put aside the discord and division stemming from the wealth gap and seek harmony and cooperation in the true sense of the word.

Continue next page >>



Contributing to peace through sport by promoting Olympic Truce

IOC President Thomas Bach played a crucial role in the adoption of the Olympic Truce Resolution at the UN General Assembly in 13 November 2017, which took place 3 months prior to the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics. The resolution called for the Olympic Truce to be respected from seven days before the start of the Olympic Games in February 2018 until seven days after the Paralympic Games, and to use this opportunity to harness sport to foster and encourage concrete action that promotes dialogue and reconciliation during the Games and beyond, with the aim of bringing the world together in peaceful competition, providing hope for a better future.

Although resolutions supporting the Olympic Truce has been adopted and implemented before, the one adopted prior to the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics held much significance in that it was adopted following the ballistic missile and nuclear tests conducted by DPRK amid military tensions in the Korean Peninsula. IOC President Bach played a crucial role in its successful adoption.

Contributing to the successful celebration of PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics

Several nations, including France, have expressed the possibility of their absence from the PyeongChang 2018

Winter Olympics due to security risks rising from DPRK's ballistic missile and nuclear tests in 2017 that provoked military tension with the United States.

During the IOC Session held in Peru in September 2017, Bach stated that the Olympic Games must be beyond all the political tensions and should be seen as a stage for dialogue, adding that the Olympic Games are a symbol of hope and for peace. He also expressed that the IOC encouraged the participation of DPRK, saying that the IOC could assist with the accreditation its delegation. President Bach contributed to the hosting of a peaceful Winter Olympics in the Korean Peninsula by extending special consideration to DPRK, which led up to the participation of its delegation.

He also quelled the unrest of nations that were reluctant to participate by reassuring safety and security during the Olympics. In doing so, he contributed to not only the successful celebration of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, but to the promotion of peace and harmony in the global community.

IOC President Bach chaired the four-party talks held at Lausanne, Switzerland on 20 January 2018, where the IOC, PyeongChang Organizing Committee for the 2018 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG), and the National Olympic Committee (NOC) delegations from both Koreas sat

down to decide on the participation of athletes from the NOC of DPRK at the 2018 Winter Olympics. The Olympic Korean Peninsula Declaration was drawn at this meeting, in which the IOC took exceptional decisions to ensure the participation of athletes from the NOC of DPRK at the Winter Olympics. In successfully leading this meeting, Bach contributed to the peaceful and productive celebration of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, which would serve as the foundation for peace in the Korean Peninsula.

The 1988 Summer Seoul Olympics, at which delegations from 160 nations participated, played a part in easing tensions between the Eastern Bloc and the Western Bloc during the Cold War. However, DPRK's absence from it remained as a sad recollection that should not be repeated. With this in mind, Bach strove to encourage DPRK's participation at the Olympic Games that were being held in the peninsula, once again, after 30 years. He did so with a firm conviction and his success made the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics far more commemorative. In doing so, Bach contributed to the successful hosting and celebration of the Olympic Games, upholding the ideals of peace and hope that the Olympic spirit carry, proving himself to be an 'Olympic Champion' in deed.

Due to the IOC's efforts, PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics marked the highest participation of states (92 nations) in the history of Winter Olympics, as well as evaluated to be the best.

Contributing to peace through sport in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia

IOC President Thomas Bach played a key role in drawing the Olympic Korean Peninsula Declaration at the IOC's four-party talks at Lausanne, Switzerland on January 2018. In this declaration, the IOC decided to allow the NOCs of both Koreas to form a unified team in sport, a Unified Women's Ice Hockey Team, for the first time in their Olympic history.

Under firm belief that DPRK should participate at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, Bach allocated additional quota places for DPRK's

delegation, chaired the talks between the Ministers of Sport of both Koreas and supported the adoption of the UN resolution for Olympic Truce. His efforts allowed DPRK to participate in the Olympics with the highest number of athletes in DPRK's Olympic history and gave way to a peaceful competition where the two Koreas stood united as one team in Women's Ice Hockey. These achievements laid the foundation for South-North Korea talks and U.S.-North Korea talks.

IOC President Thomas Bach devoted himself to encouraging DPRK to participate at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics with concerns for peace in the Korean Peninsula. Hailing from Germany, Bach understood the pain of unnatural division and strove hard to achieve peace and harmony in the Korean Peninsula through Olympic sports.

Bach played a vital role in the organizing of PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, drawing cooperation and exchange among hosting countries in Northeast Asia such as South Korea, China and Japan. This served to strengthen peace and harmony in Northeast Asia and among the three hosting nations.

A persevering Olympic champion and IOC President

Thomas Bach is a German lawyer, sports administrator and a former Olympic fencer who won a gold medal in fencing (team foil) at the 1976 Summer Olympics held in Montreal, as well as at the 1977 World Championship. Bach majored in law and politics at the University of Würzburg and earned a doctor of law (Dr. iur. utr.) degree in 1983 from the same. He worked as a lawyer and became a member of the IOC in 1991, where he began his career as an executive sports administrator. He was elected as a member of the IOC Executive Board and served as an IOC Vice-President until elected as IOC President at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires on 10 September 2013. He is the first IOC President with a gold medal, a professional sportsman and lawyer, who serves as an example and inspiration to all younger athletes.

Chairman of the Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation Jaeho Yeom announced that IOC President Thomas Bach was chosen as The 15th Seoul Peace Prize laureate after final screening for creating and introducing the Refugee Olympic Team into the Olympic Games, an unprecedented deed in the history of the Olympics that has raised global awareness of refugee issues and respect for refugee's human rights; for offering continuous support to these athletes; for transforming the Olympic Games into events of true harmony; and for greatly contributing to the successful organization and celebration of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, which has laid the foundation for peace in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia.

Upon hearing the news, IOC President Thomas Bach expressed gratitude to the Seoul Peace Prize Selection Committee for bestowing this great honor on him and through him on the entire Olympic Movement, stating that he will humbly accept the 2020 Seoul Peace Prize. He added that the honorarium will be donated to the Olympic Refuge

Foundation which he created in 2017 to support refugees all over the world through sport programs, the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, and other charity organizations which he supports.

The laureate of The 15th Seoul Peace Prize, IOC President Thomas Bach, will be presented with an award, a plaque and an honorarium of 200,000 US dollars. The awarding ceremony of The 15th Seoul Peace Prize will be held within the year in Seoul.

Former laureates of the Seoul Peace Prize from 1st to 14th are:

- 1st Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC Chairman
- 2nd George Pratt Shultz, US Secretary of State
- 3rd Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- 4th Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 5th Ogata Sadako, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- 6th Oxfam International (international relief organization)
- 7th Václav Havel, Former Czech President
- 8th Muhammad Yunus, Establisher of Grameen Bank
- 9th Suzanne Scholte, Chairmam of US Defence Forum Foundation
- 10th José Antonio Abreu, Founder of El Sistema
- 11th Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 12th Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
- 13th Denis Mukwege, medical director at Panzi Hospital
- 14th Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India



The ABU's Global News Forum 2020 took the form of a webinar on the story-of-the-decade, entitled **COVID-19 and the challenge to journalism**. It was a virtual platform of support for Asiavision broadcasters as news leaders reflected on their many challenges and diverse experiences during the pandemic.

The Keynote Speaker was **Dr Anthony Feinstein**, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and co-author of a recent Reuters Institute study which found that one in four journalists was reporting 'clinically significant' anxiety post COVID-19.

He was joined on November 11 by a panel of ABU newsroom leaders - CGTN's Head of Domestic News Gathering **Xu Zhaoqun**, DDI's Head of News Operations **Padma Angmo** and FBC's CEO **Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**.

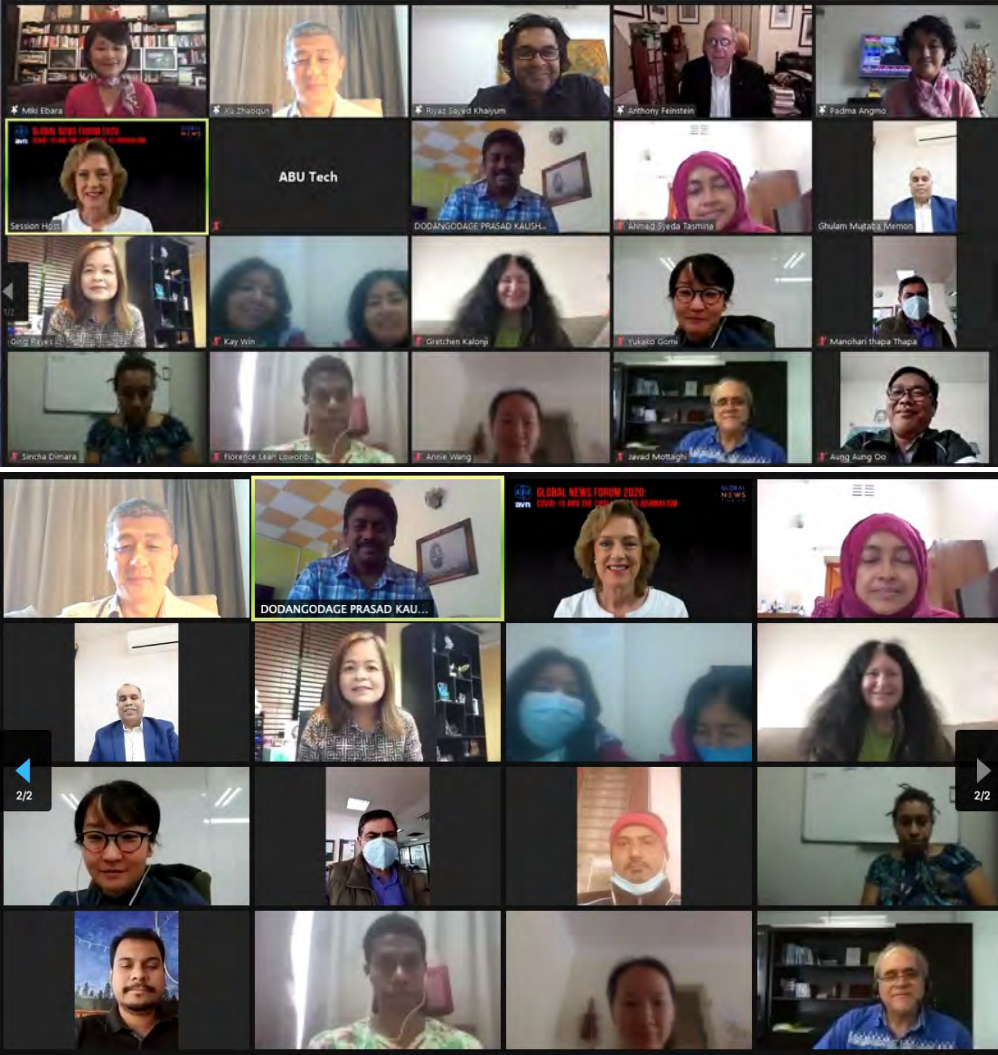
NHK's Chief International Correspondent, **Miki Ebara**, moderated a lively presentation-and-discussion session before a Q+A featuring Asiavision Chairman, **Indra Singh**, manager news and sports at FBC Fiji, **Ging Reyes**, Head of News and Current Affairs at ABS-CBN the Philippines; **Prasad Kaushalya**, Assistant Director of English and Foreign News, SLRC Sri Lanka, and **Yukako Gomi**, Deputy Director, Media Strategy, NHK Japan.

More than 60 people in 24 countries from Fiji to Iran participated in the 90-minute session. They heard details from the academic study on how COVID-19 has affected the mental wellbeing of journalists; accounts of how journalists reported from the field in Wuhan when the pandemic first developed; about the challenges of running a massive news operation in multiple languages in India; and how the economic consequences of closed borders is causing serious economic problems in the Pacific.

Dr Feinstein has been studying how journalists deal with violence and trauma for 20 years. In response to overwhelming stress, some will develop conditions like PTSD, anxiety and depression. Dr Feinstein found journalists exposed to war and violence were at increased risk for these mental health issues, at rates similar to front-line combat veterans. This work by Dr

Asiavision's Global News Forum: Ensuring good mental health for journalists covering the pandemic

by Wendy Everett, ABU Director, News



Dr Feinstein said there was some good news in the data: "We saw news organisations had made counselling available to their staff and those journalists who made use of counselling benefited from it." Just over half of the sample - 52 percent - was receiving counselling for COVID-related anxiety, depression or stress and this group was significantly less anxious or depressed than journalists who weren't getting therapy.

From January, CGTN's Head of Domestic News Gathering **Xu Zhaoqun** worked for three months with 10 teams of reporters and crew in Wuhan, the pandemic's Ground Zero. The team's average age was 30 and some of them are still working on the front line: "In the first week, everybody was very brave, they rushed to the hospitals, to the communities but in just a couple of days we found that [was] very, very dangerous." By the second week, Mr Xu's staff were saying they were having problems sleeping, many of them weren't telling their families where they were and with little information about the virus, some even worried about turning on the air-conditioning in case it spread.

Over the months, with better PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) and information, their fears diminished but the pressure and worry continued. In November, to celebrate Journalists' Day in China, CGTN interviewed reporters for a video: "We found these people are still suffering in the bottom of their heart from their experiences in Wuhan. Some people cried for a long time, some have to wait a few minutes to continue with their interviews so we know they are still suffering from the experience. Many of our young team members didn't have any experience of losing their beloved people, their family members, so this is their very first time to see a terrible, terrible thing." Mr Xu said CGTN had offered counselling: "But not all like to receive - maybe because Chinese people are not good at telling other people their pain inside their heart."

For **Padma Angmo**, Head of News Operations for DD News, the challenge was to organise 100 editors and a similar number of reporters in the

Feinstein and his team has changed the way news organisations take care of their journalists and their mental health.

Fast forward to 2020 when staff from two major news organisations volunteered for the Reuters study. Their average age was 41 and just over half were women. Sixty percent were directly focused on the pandemic - going to hospitals, intensive care units, interviewing the survivors or the relatives of people who died of C-19.

The data showed 25 percent had clinically significant anxiety and 20 percent had clinically significant depression while just under 10 percent had PTSD. Dr Feinstein said the 25 percent figure for anxiety was significant because the rate was considerably higher than in the general population or for journalists working pre-pandemic. Dr Feinstein said this rate for journalists overlapped the level for first responders.

"So, this is a significant level of distress in journalists. Why would anxiety be the single biggest emotional difficulty?" Dr Feinstein asked. "[It's] because the pandemic has taken away an enormous amount of control

from people's lives. You can't control the infection, you can't control the mortality rate, the economic fallout, the stock-market. We can't control the behavior of our fellow citizens. We can't even control our work environment - journalists were not going into their bureaux, they were working from home. So, they had lost all this control plus, on top of that, they were exposing themselves to risk by going into hospitals and intensive care units."

Dr Feinstein said the study showed that depression was also common - 20 percent was a high rate, much higher than in journalists pre-pandemic and much higher than the general population. At nine percent, the PTSD rate was elevated but not as common as depression or anxiety. Dr Feinstein said the study did not show a lot of substance abuse - meaning journalists were not using alcohol to self-medicate their distress.

Another finding was that most journalists were working much harder - providing more output, more stories and working longer hours. Another work-related stress while WFH was covering for colleagues who were sick.

Continue next page >>



field to broadcast across India in five languages, along with 31 regional units broadcasting in 23 local languages: "We had the first fatality in our organisation on May 26, just before the lockdown. That was quite a shock for everyone – it caused quite a panic in the newsroom. Since, we have had 20 positive cases in the newsroom itself and an equal number in the field. Thankfully, all of them have recovered. After the Lockdown, it has been quite a challenge to make the newsroom function at the same time as taking care of our staff. [We had] to keep them insulated, isolated from each other but at the same time, keep the newsroom functioning," Ms Angmo said.

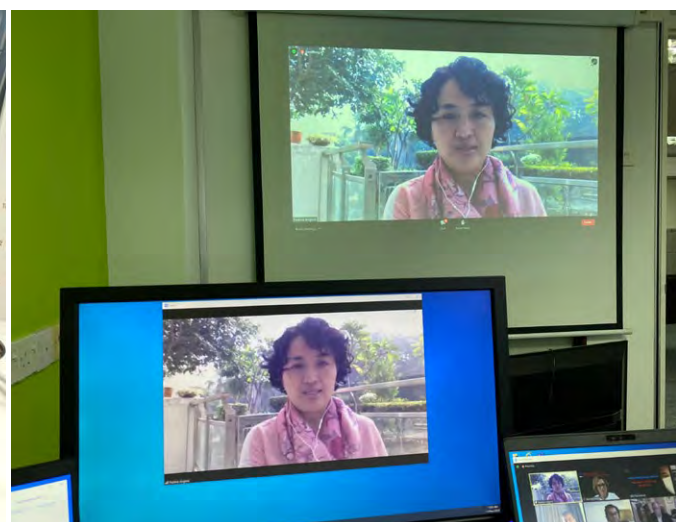
The answer was to divide up the workforce so 25 percent of staff were always in the newsroom: "If someone got sick, another team could take over." Early on, ahead of government safety rules, DD News made sanitisers available and provided masks and face guards. With the public transport system closed down, DD News also provided transport to work. Ms Angmo said it was helpful for staff morale that the Director General and all senior staff did not work from home and were always available. To calm anxieties as colleagues got sick, the Newsroom started a Whatsapp group: "We tried to keep speaking to one another. Counselling is not something

we have done until now but after this Webinar, I would like to recommend to our hierarchy that we need to go for counselling. [Although] India has a very strong support system at family level, the Health Ministry has found that there is a lot of mental stress."

As India's national broadcaster, DD joined with private media and the government to develop a specific program called Doctors Speak, a one-hour phone-in program. Ms Angmo said that in a country with many cultural constraints where counselling was not common, the phone-in gave the audience anonymity and the courage to ask questions. She said many questions were related to mental health and emotional wellbeing: "And while interacting with the calls, our journalists benefited a lot, indirectly."

The COVID-19 experience has been very different for Fijian Broadcasting Corporation CEO **Riyaz Sayed Khaiyum** and his staff. With few cases, Fiji has been largely unaffected by the health aspects of the pandemic: "Life in Fiji is really normal – [in] the streets of Suva, the capital, nothing's changed, everyone goes to work, everyone meets," he said.

But the economic fallout has been significant. Between 60 and 70 percent of Fiji's economy is based on tourism



and that revenue has dried up: "The economy is suffering terribly. Many people are without jobs, especially where tourism is concentrated. We think [as a national broadcaster] that we should be responsible for bringing about good cheer so ... we have been concentrating on television content that is more entertaining, that is more fun, that has got more humour because we believe that people need that sort of escapism from the woes of not having a job."

FBC's revenue is down about 80 percent which has changed the way the national broadcaster does business: "We have stopped buying content which has forced us into creating content for ourselves. Sometimes it is more expensive to create your own content ... but we are trying to develop content that is cheaper in the long run - nothing too complicated, more studio-based stuff. Lots more comedy and in-studio talk shows. We are concentrating on entertainment because we're trying to give people a break. Mentally, it's affecting more people than journalists – most journalists still have a job."

In an effort to focus on positive news, FBC has been broadcasting a 15-minute program each night on inspirational stories about the COVID pandemic from around the world: "We are encouraging

people to not lose hope, to try out new things to generate income. We are doing programs on backyard farming, telling people how to grow their own food and have fun at the same time and interact more with family."

Moderator **Miki Ebara** asked Dr Feinstein what the media could do for the mental well-being of their audiences. Dr Feinstein said: "One of the challenges is that news can be consistently negative – [it] can make people worried and anxious. I tell my patients, limit your exposure to the media. You can't avoid the media – avoidance is a very bad coping strategy – but limit it. Just watch one bulletin to get up to date but [don't be] glued to the television because if you do, you will get this unremitting diet of negative stories. [I am] pleased to hear Fiji is focusing on positive stories and people's resilience, which I think is fantastic. Otherwise it's all just negative – it's not just the pandemic, it's the economy, it's the stock-market, it's the election – one negative thing after another. **Life needs to be more balanced and that's one of the challenges.**"

Link to the Podcast on Asiavision's main webpage: <https://www.abu.org.my/2019/05/09/abu-asiavision/>
Link to the Podcast on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/1wej8QstYoE>



SHABANA JAN: PROJECT OFFICER

AHMED AFRUH RASHEED: SENIOR EDITOR



WENDY EVERETT: DIRECTOR, ABU NEWS



PREMALATHA JAYARAMAN
AVN COORDINATOR



NISHA PARMANADAN: AVN COORDINATOR



HASHIM AHMAD HAKEEM
AVN COORDINATOR

Who's Who at Asiavision

Asiavision's team is complete with Senior Editor, Ahmed Afruh Rasheed, leading the unit from his home city, Male' in Maldives, and Digital Coordinator Hashim Ahmad Hakeem, working from his base in Delhi, India.

Like the rest of the News Department working-from-home in Kuala Lumpur, they are online day and night, ensuring the latest quality stories are available on Asiavision's News Exchange.

As Editor of the News Department at public broadcaster Television Maldives, Afruh headed a staff of 60 before a stint as Executive Producer of Television Maldives' programming, overseeing infotainment and entertainment.

With his experience as a multi-media journalist, Hashim's digital skills also benefit Asiavision's training agenda including Mojo (Mobile Journalism).

Here is a link to the page where you can get to know the News Department team, their background and their special interests: <https://www.abu.org.my/2019/09/25/whos-who-avn/>



First Online ABU ROBOCON FESTIVAL 2020 a big Success

The online ABU ROBOCON FESTIVAL 2020, held on Dec 12 was a grand success scoring over 80,000 viewers on YouTube, Facebook, nico nico video and at the virtual venue. The festival was cross posted on Facebook in Thailand and Cambodia and it was also web-cast live on the platform of Shandong Radio and TV Station, China.

The meeting was attended by on average, 130-140 participants from around the world on Zoom from 2pm to 6pm (JST).

As many as 21 teams from 10 countries participated in this novel event. The teams made presentations on their robot taking turns. We had special guests of very popular influencers with millions of followers from Thailand, Vietnam, India and Indonesia where Robocon have been very popular, to further promote Robocon.

After all the team presentations, the Best 5 Teams who made the best robots and 1 Best Presentation Award were selected by mutual voting of the participating teams.

The awards were given to the teams below:

Awards	Winners
Best Award 1st	The University of Tokyo
Best Award 2nd	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Best Award 3rd	Toyohashi University of Technology
Best Award 4th	Northeastern University
Best Award 5th	National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia, Team B
Best Award 5th	Nakhonnayok Technical College
Best Award 5th	Lac Hong University, Team A
Best Presentation Award	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The teams in 5th place scored the same points
You can watch this exciting event on YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBryK_6929A
The next ABU Robocon will be held in Jimo, China in August 2021.
Official URL: <http://www.roboccon2021.com/>



WorldDAB-ABU Webinar Series on DAB+ Digital Radio Technology

ABU Technology hosted a three-day webinar series with the support of WorldDAB from 20-22 October 2020. It was organized on the theme of DAB+ Digital Radio Technology, Implementation and Rollout. Participants joined the sessions, over the 3 days, to hear from a panel of WorldDAB experts who explained the features and opportunities that DAB+ offers to broadcasters and listeners. The multi-speaker event saw presentations on DAB+ overview, business case, DAB receivers, headend systems, transmission systems, RF Network design and DAB+ trial implementation in Thailand.

First day on the webinar started with session on DAB+ overview and its business case. It highlighted on a number of issues such as DAB global and Asia-Pacific status, DAB system features, using DAB+ to provide multi-language programs along with technical and commercial business case and brand extension strategy case study. A session on the DAB market and receiver examples with home and automobile versions constituted the initial part that followed with session on headend systems dealing with encoding and multiplexing systems. Last part on the second day was NBTC experiences on DAB+ trial implementation in Bangkok.

Final day sessions focused on transmission with presentations including modern transmitters technology and coverage planning methods. The coverage planning session included RF network design and modelling and interference planning steps. The event was promoted and published both on ABU events page and WorldDAB portal with details on the program schedule, speakers' profile and registration information. The 3-part sessions attracted close to 90 attendees daily over the three days from Asia Pacific and elsewhere.

The screenshot shows a webinar interface. At the top, there are five video thumbnails of participants: Lars Peder Lundgren, Orasri Srirasa, Les Sabel, Albert Tseng, and Kathryn Sabel Brown. Below them is a large green title slide with the text: "DAB+ DIGITAL RADIO TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION AND ROLLOUT" and "20-22 October 2020". A circular clock icon indicates the session will begin shortly. Below the title slide, there is a section titled "Day 2: DAB+ headend systems" with a list of speakers and their affiliations. At the bottom, there are five circular headshots of the speakers, followed by the text "WorldDAB and ABU DAB+ technical webinar series" and the "world dab" logo.

Speakers

- Kathryn Sabel Brown, S-Comm Technologies
- Albert Tseng, CEO, Keystone Semiconductor Corporation
- Roger Lancot, Director Automotive Connected Mobility, Strategy Analytics
- Lars Peder Lundgren, Marketing Director, Paneda
- Orasri Srirasa, Director, Satellite and Orbit Management Bureau, Office of the National Broadcast and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand

WorldDAB and ABU DAB+ technical webinar series



Photo: Orlando Sydney

SBS appoints David Hua as Director of Audio and Language Content (ALC)

Mr Hua joins SBS with more than 20 years' experience in the media industry. He has held a number of senior executive roles at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), and has been responsible for diverse portfolios across radio, content, marketing, commercial and digital.

Mr Hua had led the ABC's international services including ABC Radio Australia, ABC Australia (TV), and digital services that connect audiences around the world with Australian stories.

SBS Managing Director, James Taylor, said: "David joins SBS at an exciting time – SBS Radio is the world's most linguistically diverse public broadcaster, and is an essential source of coverage for the nearly five million Australians who speak a language other than English at home.

"David is an accomplished leader with many years of experience across the radio, broadcast, and digital sectors. His keen passion for content and understanding of the industry will be

key to the continued growth of our ALC offering. I'm delighted to welcome David to SBS's Executive team."

On his appointment, Mr Hua said: "It is a great privilege to be able to continue my career in Australia's national broadcasting and media services by joining the SBS family. How people relate to each other has always been the key to a healthy society. The role SBS plays in telling the stories of Australians in all of our diversity is only growing more important, as we work to strengthen our vibrant, inclusive democracy.

"As a former refugee and as an ardent consumer of SBS's language content, it is a great honour to be appointed to lead the Audio and Language Content team. SBS is renowned for its ability to connect communities and for its innovative storytelling that delivers to all Australians, from our First Nations peoples to our most recent arrivals. It has been especially inspiring to hear, read, and see the work that the teams have delivered during the pandemic, providing trusted and reliable content across more than 60 languages on multiple platforms. I look forward to working with everyone to build on SBS's many achievements," Mr Hua said.

Bulletin From Bangkok: Thai PBS Director General Dr Wilasinee Phiphitkul



Thailand seems so far to have avoided the worst impacts of COVID-19 seen in other countries. What do you attribute this to and what role has Thai PBS played in keeping case numbers and deaths down?

Our success came from various factors. One is that Thai PBS has been able to facilitate collaborations from all sectors; the civic society groups, the state authorities, the medical practitioners and experts, local volunteers and local communities, etc. Thai PBS has always been experienced in becoming a public space, linking its network together. By working with epidemiologists, medical experts, medical care practitioners around the country, and the state authorities responsible for dealing with the COVID-19 situation nationally, Thai PBS helped create a collaborative operation. Secondly, Thai PBS has a major role in providing a comprehensive view of the situation and possible scenarios in order for people to be prepared and develop solutions together.

How has COVID affected the way Thai PBS and your staff operate now and will that become the new normal for you?

We utilize new digital platforms that allow us to work from home or work remotely without having to come into the office for content production people, while our back office team can easily switch to working online or take turns coming into the office only when needed. All the Mobile Journalist (MoJo) training we've been doing these past years have been put to test on a bigger scale and helped us become more agile.

Thai PBS is an active member of the ABU, so what is it about the Union and your membership of it that drives your involvement? Please also tell us how you assess the ABU services to members during the long months of lockdown.

Having an opportunity to be involved and affiliated with other international public media organizations helps broaden our horizon with new experiences shared among these wonderful friendships that could exchange our diversities and help us learn from each other. During the Covid-19 lockdown, some of our staff had opportunities to exchange with other countries' representatives about the outbreak situation, also the impact and different measures taken in each country. As webinars instead of on-site seminars, it has far greater audience accessibility since anyone who speaks English from anywhere with the internet can participate, an on-demand-viewing is also available to those who were unable to attend.

Thai PBS is a publicly funded network independent of state control. What are the challenges in maintaining that model?

As competition in the media industry soars higher together with our Public Broadcasting Service Act revision, Thai PBS increasingly needs to prove that we can work better as an independent public media, other than just a state media nor commercial channel. Being independent enables us to verify and counter-check information given by the state authority instead of just repeating the state's announcements, especially since back in the beginning when the Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) was still not as efficient. While other channels are troubled by decreasing advertising-income because COVID-19 hindered them from doing regular TV content production, Thai PBS could just modify 90% of our time slot to fully meet the situational needs.

As the concern for education and the lack of schooling has become one of the biggest issues, and to compensate for the missing class lessons for almost half a year, Thai PBS began airing educational content to help children develop self-

learning habits. We increased our service by adding another TV channel and online platform as a multimedia service to accommodate and compensate for the lack of education and promote self-development among the Thais of all ages. Not only seeking to inform the society but also to provide them with interpretations of the situation and an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the situation as a whole.

The downturn in the world economy due to COVID-19 must have hit Thailand like every nation, bringing hardship in many sectors of society. How do the Thai PBS services help at times like this?

With the economic and financial impact after the COVID-19 lockdown was imposed, many have to face unemployment making poverty a much greater problem, Thai PBS expanded our work in the field and utilized local networks to help identify vulnerable groups that had gone unnoticed by the state. This, later on, had grown dissatisfaction towards the government had exacerbated into a higher degree of civil unrest as currently seen in Thai politics. Currently, we are trying our best to maintain impartiality in our reports and seek the best next steps towards national resolution and progress.

In these past few years, Thai PBS has been providing non-classroom educational content, also activities & workshops in our learning space events.

What do you see as Thai PBS's main roles as a public broadcaster, going forward?

Definitely, especially during such times of socio-political crisis, our role will be even more crucial. Thai PBS's core agenda for 2020-2021 is to close the widening gap of social inequality and seek solutions to livelihoods and poverty problems. To create resiliency, we aim to equip people with learning skills, a growth mindset, not just occupational skills that could go outdated. As public media, we strive to serve society as best as we could, yet all this is done with the help of this global collaboration such as ABU that helps strengthen Thai PBS's stance.



View from Sri Lanka: Nedra Weerasinghe Group Director Electronic Media Business – MBC Networks & MTV Channel (Pvt) Ltd The Capital Maharaja Group-Sri Lanka



MTV/MBC Broadcasting Station

Capital Maharaja Group has been in business for more than 90 years, charting Sri Lanka's history through many turbulent events. How has it managed to survive and thrive?

The story of the Capital Maharaja Group Sri Lanka in a simple phrase is "Future Focused".

A 90 year history commenced with two friends who committed their lives savings to buy out an American Trading firm Dodge & Seymour which was winding up in Sri Lanka and ready to exit during World War II. Since then the spirit of enterprise and optimism with a culture of challenging things in the present to build the future, exists.

Having its early roots in manufacturing and distribution, joint ventures with International brands to reach global markets such as Parker Quick Inc, Union Carbide, Cheesborough Int, Pepsi Cola Int, Singapore Telecom, New Zealand Dairy Board to name a few. Now in the 3rd generation the Capital Maharaja

Group has rightly carved for themselves a reputation of Trailblazers. Today the Group is a multi-faceted conglomerate front runners in several business verticals both locally and globally with leading brands in Industrial, Exports, FMCG, IT, Digital and Media.

Our ethos is the "Courage to be Different" It validates our belief since the inception. To go where no one else has been. To align ourselves to adapt fast! This is the visionary leadership of the Chairman Mr Rajamahendran and filters down to Managing Director Sashi Rajamahendran and to the rest of us.

You are now a major conglomerate with TV, radio, entertainment and news networks among other businesses. How did you manage to build your media services and what were the principles on which you based decisions?

We revolutionized the media landscape in Sri Lanka in 1992. We are Sri Lanka's largest private broadcaster. We have



International Franchise programs “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” & “The Voice Teens Sri Lanka” produced at our production facility Stein Studios.

grown from a single Channel to a 08 Channel Network, with 05 Radio & 03 TV channels broadcasting in 03 languages reaching all segments of society.

We are an unconventional media. We interact very closely with our audiences. We strive to focus on our customers and partners in order to provide a positive experience and build value through long term relationships.

One needs to invest in a sustainable business model which meets the requirements of both audiences and consumers. This is not always an easy task to balance and we keep trying new ways when we don't succeed.

Being mindful, authentic and consistent. We realize one size does not fit all. We strive to build a brand community which requires active listening to our consumers.

Being recognised as leaders and trailblazers in the field who do things differently the journey has not always been an easy one. Our recurring theme has been to envision the future set long term objectives and then take bold steps to achieve this.

CMG has a vibrant look, sound and feel. Is it what you were looking for and how has it been received by your audiences?

Our Chairman Mr Rajamahendran has been a visionary leader with a belief that we must “take our Media to the people”. This vision has translated into action.

Our News 1st brand is one which not only reports the facts but works for solutions Our socially responsible initiative “Gammadha” which translated

means “Centre of the village” is creating waves and empowering rural communities around the island.

Today “Gammadha” has been recognized globally including by the UN as a “flagship rural humanitarian movement” It has also been cited as a case study by some of the worlds top universities including Oxford and Browns and has an ongoing partnership with The Clinton School of public service.

On the general entertainment side we are closely knit with the social fabric of our country. We have many programs which encourage and recognize talent and provide opportunities for countless Sri Lankans.

As a media and entertainment power house our consumers are at the epicenter of our approach. We are mindful that we need to be consistent and work hard at delivering value across multiple platforms to live up to the reputation of “The Peoples Network” as we are known.

You operate in a competitive environment alongside other broadcasters. How are you different to these other broadcasters and what do you offer as a company that is different?

Human capital has been and is Sri Lanka's real wealth and a source of great potential. We are a people centric organization.

Any employees will tell you our Chairman always prefers to see the best in people and give them opportunities that in turn has created a highly energetic motivated loyal work force which is our most valuable asset.

It is no mistake that success is achieved and led by organisations that are trusted and respected, those who become “thought leaders” by providing value.

We have not looked at our business from any pre conceived model, instead what we have are home grown success stories.

The multimedia, multi-platform and global nature of modern media imposes all sorts of burdens on the resources of companies. What guides your way forward in such an environment? And what can one do to grow in such a challenging environment?

The broadcast media industry is changing at a rapid pace, media convergence offers so much choice with scope in digital space growing wider.

I have no ready-made response to these changing times however, I believe the most successful media outlets will be those who are agile and have the ability to understand their audience requirement and deliver across multiple platforms. This way your audiences can be expanded thereby adding new revenue streams to conventional revenue generation.

One needs to find ways to keep creating relevant content for your audiences as the demand for anywhere anytime programming is growing on multiple platforms. Our state of the art studio transmission and production facilities stand testament to our commitment to this industry in serving audiences.

Continue next page >>



From left: Capital Maharaja Group Executive of the Year Event, Stein Studios, and T20 International Studio Broadcast

The focus is now on quality for entertainment content and timeliness for News and Current affairs across platforms. Our media hub has expanded to many complimentary verticals which helps in a changing environment. M Entertainment is Sri Lanka's largest music rights management and Distribution Company of original content catalogs. We also produce and distribute theatrical films. In the emerging digital business our latest addition is KIKI a disruptive audio and video service which enables the consumption of content through diverse platforms.

Capital Maharaja Group is an active member of the ABU, what is it about the Union and your membership in it that drives your involvement? Please also tell us how you assess ABU's services to members during the long months of lockdown.

Our Groups association with the ABU goes back many years. If I were to pick one strong attribute that is common to us both its "Inclusive Media Initiatives". I find that across the various activities the ABU has had and introduced recently.

This is very important in my view for any professional association or organization where all its members gain equal access to its facilities. This has been further strengthened with sharing of information via online workshops, webinars, virtual meetings and other important ABU initiatives delivering value. I believe most of the members would have benefited from this especially since the media has a crucial role to play in such times.

I am sure I speak for most members when I say we greatly appreciate the ABU's services being accessible to all during the pandemic, and it is by no means an easy task. The exchanging, sharing and updating of such information has most importantly kept the "ABU family" in touch and supporting each other in these trying times.

The COVID 19 pandemic affected all media outlets but particularly badly the commercial operators who rely mainly on advertising revenue. How Maharaja Media Group managed to stay afloat and continue to serve its audiences with timely and accurate news and quality educational and entertainment programmes?

The Company has faced many challenges throughout its history. In the 1983 civil riots most of its assets were reduced to ashes. We have had many vicious attacks on our media for exposing the truth and calling those responsible to accountability.

This time the pandemic surfaced when we were just recovering from the horrific Easter attacks of 2019.

We run a 24/7 news gathering operation. We have an extensive "U Reporter" network island-wide which provides inclusive opportunities to citizens to contribute. We were able to increase our news consumption with accurate and timely increased news reporting across multiple platforms.

In our experience over the past months we realized the revenue will obviously take a hit but the important thing is that we were true to our brand promise and found our audiences remaining loyal.

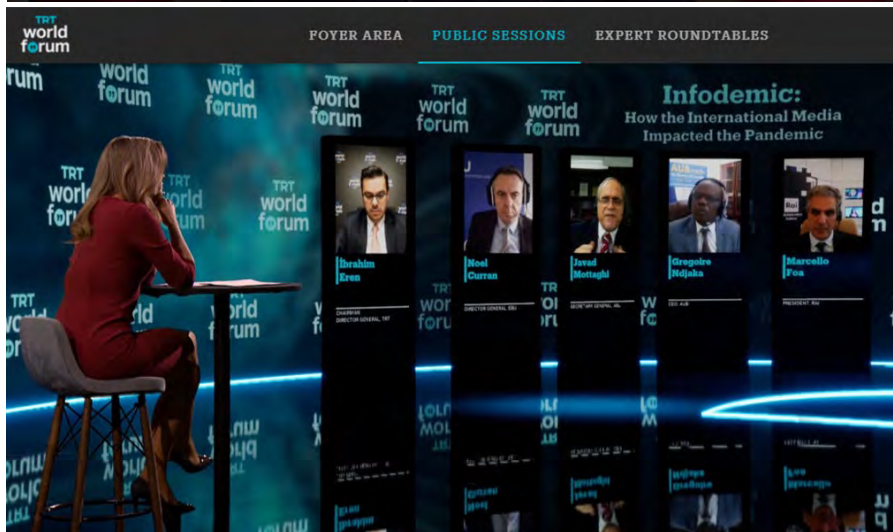
We are finding it tough like many others and needed to go back to the blueprint handed down from our founders to become leaner and more agile. We needed to optimize resources with increased numbers working from home.

This is yet another tough situation. However our history shows us that it is the tough ones that have taught us best.

My sincere hope is that we as responsible broadcasters would have lessons learned through this experience which I am sure we can share through the ABU's many opportunities to benefit our audiences and each other.

The media and entertainment business is poised for growth. We must put our energy into preparing to face the future at this time even though globally it seems a tough ask. One needs focus and precision when dealing with such situations especially because these are in the external environment and beyond our control.

I am humbled to have been given this opportunity by ABU to share our experiences with you and wish you all safe and successful times ahead.



an important gap with its qualified staff, which includes world-renowned journalists. I wish them success in their difficult but honorable mission. I sincerely congratulate all TRT employees, from the general manager to the reporters, as well as the technical staff. ”

Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT Chairman and Director General and ABU Acting President stated that during the first days of the pandemic, the situation was reflected as a catastrophe, creating the perception that a world war had erupted: “During the first days, people were lost in the numbers. In this sense, we can say the reactions in the first days of the pandemic were psychological. The global pandemic numbers reported on television are more reliable now. Thus, conventional media has proved itself to be better compared to digital media. We have seen the highest ratings for our news channels during the pandemic.”

The opening session was entitled, ‘How the International Media Impacted the Pandemic’. Some of the topics discussed were the influence of international media on people’s understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the constructive roles it should play in helping to mitigate the impacts of similar crises in the future.

The speakers included some of the most prominent names in international media outlets, including Mr Eren, Noel Curran, Director-General of the European Broadcasting Union; Javad Mottaghi, Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union; Gregoire Ndjaka, CEO of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) and Marcello Foa, the President of the board of directors for RAI, Italy.

TRT World Forum a Virtual Success for a Global Audience

The fourth annual TRT World Forum held virtually under the theme, ‘Shifting Dynamics: The International Order in a Post-Pandemic World’ was held this year.

Delivering his opening speech via teleconference, Turkish President Erdoğan stated that he sees the Forum as a ground for effective discussions for the world, the region and the country.

President Erdoğan also said: “I believe that in the four years since its establishment, TRT World has filled



Roundup from Romania with Radio Romania CEO Mr. Georgica Severin

Radio Romania-RR, has been broadcasting for more than 90 years, through many turbulent events. How has it managed to survive and thrive?

Indeed, Radio Romania has started its activity on the 1st of November, 1928. In its 92 years of uninterrupted activity, the public radio station has experienced, together with the entire Romanian society, many of the most difficult moments. We passed through four authoritarian or dictatorial regimes, a World War, a few economic crises and a national revolution. There have been tough years, in which all of our journalists and Radio Romania's leadership have sometimes faced unexpected challenges. Compromises have been made, but generally speaking, our journalists' professionalism and commitment have enabled us to capture the hearts and souls of our audience throughout these historical times.

Let's not forget that in 1928 the only competitor of the public broadcast were the newspapers. Since then, the television,



Radio România

which brought image and colour to the radio sound, and the internet, which instantly brought the information worldwide, were born. In those circumstances, today, after almost a century of existence, with a market share of 30% nationwide and more than 3.6 million listeners every day, Radio Romania is the leader of the Romanian radio market. I am convinced that all this has been possible to the seriousness, professionalism and impartiality of the Radio Romania's teams of journalists and its efficient management.

You have obviously carried generations of listeners through the hard times and periods of calm. How are you keeping them informed and engaged during the current, developing global crisis?

Generally speaking, we are permanently trying to adapt our radio programs to respond to the current challenges. The present crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic found everybody (governments, institutions, scientists, civil society, citizens) unprepared. All data is subject to a continuous change and the crisis sometimes becomes a race against time for saving lives. This time the challenges are much bigger, but, as always, our journalists' experience and involvement are appropriate.

In these most difficult times, RR stands for a prompt and efficient information standard. We quickly broadcast all the official announcements and communications of the authorities and we permanently keep our listeners informed about the current developments. All our efforts are committed to the responsibility principle – to choose between sometimes contradictory information, to make the difference between truth and fake news and to inform without creating panic.

The media world has changed dramatically in recent decades. RR has obviously needed to move with the times. What have been some of your guiding principles and challenges in transitioning to a modern multimedia, multi-platform public service broadcaster?

Given the history of over 90 years of public radio and the invaluable "voices" from the radio's sound library, we began a few years ago the digitization of the radio archives. This fact has significantly contributed to the diversification of the radio programs.

Both in the area of content production and of radio programs distribution, significant progress has been made in terms of the transition to Audio over IP technology.

The constant concern of Radio Romania for the implementation of new technologies was highly appreciated by the Romanian Ministry of Communications and Informational Society, which is why we were invited to be part of the Digital Radio Working Group within the Ministry and other authorities, to ensure the implementation of digital terrestrial broadcasting in Romania. I would also add the online presence of audio streams of the main radio programs, podcasts of some shows and, of course, the presence of all Radio Romania stations on social media.

Romania lies between Europe and Asia, and RR was at the forefront of engagement with Asia and ABU members. How has that benefitted ROR and its audiences?

It is an opportune moment to remember the times – there are five years since Radio Romania, in partnership with the ABU, succeeded to generate and manage, in Bucharest, the first dialogue between broadcasters in Asia and Europe. We've selected the Media 2020 as the theme for this initiative intending to focus on future perspective and the media's landscape. This was an opportunity for senior media professionals from the two continents to get together and exchange their views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities we, broadcasters, face in our regions and countries.

Talking about the benefits of this partnership, I strongly believe that the main beneficiary is our public.

Owing to Radio Romania's membership in ABU, the access to program platforms has been facilitated so that we can offer our audience diverse cultural programs. At the same time, our cultural programs have been able to reach an audience of millions of listeners. For this fact, we are deeply grateful to ABU.

If you could be granted ONE wish for the future, what would it be?

It would be for the radio to find the internal resources to permanently reinvent itself so that future generations can find radio among the media that matters.



Yerlan Bekkhozhin, Khabar Agency JSC Chairman

Khabar Agency A Light at the End of a Tunnel

Contributed by Yerlan Bekkhozhin, Khabar Agency JSC Chairman

Agency Khabar JSC (the Agency) appreciates the ABUSecretariat, the Board and all the members of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union for their continuous support and active work during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also express our gratitude for the opportunity given to us to share our experience and vision of the current situation with ABU colleagues through this platform.

The pandemic showed us all how small our planet is, how closely we are connected with each other and how an event in one country can affect the entire arrangement on a global scale. On the other hand, we have become even closer, more attentive and careful to our neighborhoods. All this, to some extent, influenced people's attitudes towards the role of the media.

It is necessary in these difficult times, to provide the media audience with reliable and timely information. At the beginning of the year, COVID-19 began to gain serious momentum and jumped



to the front pages of many publications, viewership ratings skyrocketed, with audiences stuck to gadgets and their TV screens.

We acknowledge that the pre-quarantine and post-quarantine reality will long remain with us. It is necessary to accept this and continue to build a new era in the development of the media industry.

For media workers, including national broadcasters, the challenges of the “new era” dictated their own rules every day, forcing them to reconsider the formats and technologies for presenting news and the entire content in general. Khabar Agency was not an exception in this regard. In the early days of quarantine broadcasting, all the structures of the Agency were united, thereby rallying the creative and technical teams into one coherent mechanism. Often, the Agency’s weekly programs were broadcasted live from the employees’ own homes. Such a turn of events would not have been predicted by any expert. However, the lives of our news correspondents have stood in one line with the fighters for the lives of people and those who fought the pandemic.

This whole pandemic story made us face a number of challenges.

Firstly, we have thoroughly revised the approaches to business processes within the Agency. We got rid of unnecessary links in the chain, which made it possible to solve problems much more quickly, as it was required by the unforeseen circumstances.

Secondly, we have strengthened the feedback from the viewer on all possible resources. This allowed us to clearly track their interests, adjusting to changes in preferences and surrounding events.

Thirdly, we have significantly revised the content we have. We got rid of what was no longer relevant and improved what required perfection.

The production of new products were initiated. We have completely revised our current plans. Everything that was supposed to work didn’t work anymore. It was necessary to create something that had not been thought about before.

We intensified our work with numerous partners, with whom we all found ourselves to be in the same boat. Hence, the mutual assistance worked perfectly. There are many cases when we helped each other, exchanged content, created new projects. This is good news.

We also strengthened our technical infrastructure. The increased load required large resources, both for TV broadcast and for the Internet, primarily due to the increased number of live broadcasts.

We tried our best to take care of our main resource - the personnel. All possible means of protection, social support, elementary moral support allowed us to maintain a fighting spirit. All this had a positive effect on our work.

The Agency did not intend to slow down the pace of its activities on international cooperation in the context of modern realities. On the contrary, this layer of cooperation has shown that the fight against the pandemic is much more effective with the support of colleagues from near and far abroad.

A number of events held under the auspices of ABU are evidence of that. Despite the announced quarantine in the country, the Khabar Agency, together with the Public Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Turkish TV channel “TRT AVAZ”, managed to create a documentary film “Heirs of the Great Turks”. This is another reflection of the fact that the pandemic is not an obstacle to transnational cooperation, even under conditions of strict quarantine and closed state borders.

I would like to especially emphasize the fact that the Agency is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this fall. During its creative work, the Agency has received many state, international and professional awards and prizes. Among them: EMMY, “Golden Verb”, “TEFI - Commonwealth”, “Country”, and many others. In this light, we express our gratitude to all ABU members for their support in common endeavors and active work under the auspices of ABU.

Geographically, it so happened that Kazakhstan is located at the junction of two parts of the Eurasian continent. Hence, the Agency, over a quarter of a century, has managed to strengthen its position as a broadcaster interested in the stable development of the television industry in two broadcasting unions such as ABU and EBU.

So, being an associate member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) since 2018, the Agency has been taking part in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest, where Kazakhstani participants have been winning prizes on the podium. This year too, the Agency intends to follow its traditions and participate in the contest for the third time in a row.

There are also plans to deepen cooperation with ABU. The Khabar Agency already has a successful experience of holding the General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) in Almaty. According to plans, the Agency is preparing to host the mid-annual Administrative Council Meeting of ABU in 2022. I am sure that this meeting will be held at the highest level and ABU members will be able to visit the capital city of our country, Nur-Sultan, and witness with their own eyes latest achievements of modern Kazakhstan.



Programme Committee hears about value of joint initiatives with members

A joint initiative between the ABU and TVTM Turkmenistan featured in this year's Programme Committee (PC) online meeting as an example of cooperation between the Union and individual members.

Mr Annasahet Kakayev, Deputy Chairman, TVTM Turkmenistan spoke about the International Media Forum that focussed on the importance of cultural cooperation amongst the media in resolving emerging issues and conflicts, highly valued in spreading the work carried out in his country's policy of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.

Mr Kakayev said that they had good relationships with the Arab countries, European and African broadcasters and looked forward to working with all members in regard to radio, TV and cinematography.



ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi said afterwards that the ABU-TVTM forum in Ashgabat in September had been a good example of the value of joint ventures between the Union and its individual members, something the ABU has encouraged for many years.

"The ABU is more than just members meeting or providing common services," Dr Mottaghi said. "It is also very much about supporting individual members' initiatives, offering our expertise and using our network of more than 270 members to enhance the efforts of those individual members."

The video conference in Ashgabat had been dedicated to the 25th anniversary of adopting permanent neutrality as Turkmenistan's foreign policy.

Mr Ibrahim Eren, then Acting President of the ABU and Chairman and Director General of the Turkish Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation (TRT), had said that from the very beginning Turkmenistan has chosen this political course to promote global peace and stability.

He'd added that Turkey recognized Turkmenistan's legal status of neutrality having officially opened the first embassy there after independence.



"Turkmenistan's neutrality has recommended itself as an actual mechanism of establishment of fruitful cooperation in many fields including the media and strengthening of friendly and neighbouring relations," said Mr Eren, who is now President of the ABU.

In his speech, reported regionally by the Anadolu Agency, Dr Mottaghi, had said Turkmen neutrality became a game changer in diplomacy.

Also speaking at the Ashgabat forum, Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, chief executive officer of the Indian Broadcasting Company Prasar Bharati and now Vice-President of the ABU, had said Turkmenistan's neutrality was

crucial in the international arena.

He said that the policy pursued by the country's leader "fully coincides" with the course of strengthening good neighbourliness in the region and globally.

Other speakers from the ABU membership were Mr Alisher Khadjaev, Chairman, National TV and Radio Uzbekistan (MTRK) and Mrs Nedra Weerasingh, Group Director Electronic Media Business MTV Channel (Ptv) Limited (MBC/MTV), Sri Lanka.

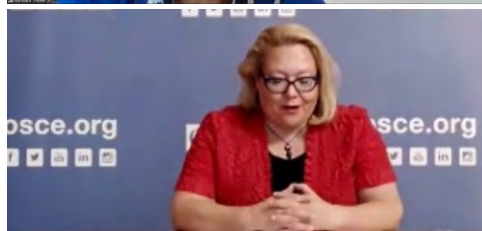
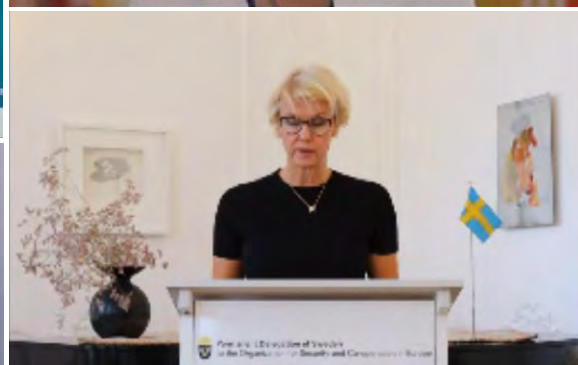
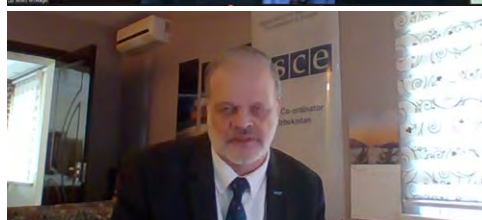
The joint event in Ashgabat had been attended by government officials, diplomats and more than 300 international journalists.

Celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). “Saving lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope”

To launch the 2020 International Day for Universal Access to Information and its themes, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe office in Uzbekistan organized a high-level online panel, “Access to Information – Saving Lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope!”. It took place online on 28 September.

The panel opened with statements from Komil Allamzhonov, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Public Foundation for Support and Development of National Mass Media, Ambassador John MacGregor, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and several representatives of governments on the importance of the day, as well as interventions from UN partners, followed by an Open Talks session.

The ABU was represented by Dr. Javad Mottaghi who said: “Information has often been described as the “oxygen of democracy. Without it, citizens cannot fully participate in decisions that affect their lives”. He added that it was the duty of traditional media and specifically of public broadcasters to guarantee that the information that the audiences get is scientifically proven, that it was based on facts, not fiction. “That is why it is so important to guard the global institution of public service broadcasting as one of the crucial gatekeepers of universal access to information”.



IRIB Iran holds “Rethinking of International Festivals” Webinar



The “Rethinking the International Festivals” Webinar by IRIB International Affairs of IRIB’s International Communication & Cooperation Department initiated its first specialized webinar held on October 20th 2020. This webinar was specifically aimed at developing the knowledge and insight of managers, producers and TV program makers to be able to participate more effectively in the ABU Prizes festival.

Guests were warmly welcomed by IRIB’s Dr. Neyestani, Director of International Cooperation, who elaborated on the objectives of the webinar which held at IRIB International Affairs Headquarters. This prestigious webinar hosted some producers, directors and managers of various production units from all around the country along with Mr. Masahide Satake from Fuji TV Japan (winner of ABU Perspective Awards 2019), Mr. Hakim Amir from Astro, Prof. Marijek De Valck from the Utrecht University of Netherlands and Prof. Varahram from Austria. Prof. De Valck who has much experience in the field of festivals, shared her views on festivals during the present Covid-19 pandemic. Prof. Varahram also enumerated the features of a quality documentary.

The webinar was run via two 90 minutes sessions with other speakers from Iran and a detailed analysis of video segments from previous editions of ABU Prizes. Mr. Tamjidi, the academic advisor of International Cooperation Department had the responsibility of researching; compiling the content & presenting the webinar in both sessions. He

also moderated & presented the webinar in both sessions. He stressed the need to review the conditions for submitting works to international festivals, the impact of principled criteria to make productions better seen in the international arena, and greater vigilance in presenting diverse and lavish works for success at festivals. Idea creation, matching the idea with the program, defining the target audience, the originality of the content along with creativity and proper structure were among the key components that were mentioned in the production of effective and memorable works.

Comings and Goings



Mr. Koichi Okumura Director, ABU Programming has completed his final year in ABU. He will go back to his mother- organization NHK, and will have a high position at JIB, Japan. The ABU wishes him all the best and thanks him for his dedication and tireless endeavours in his role in driving forward the ABU Programme Department's initiatives.

Mr Okumura joined the ABU in February 2018. He is a Japanese national and started his career with the Japanese public broadcaster NHK in 1991. He has mainly produced science programmes for the last 25 years. Mr Okumura holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Tokyo, Japan.

Taking over the role at the ABU Secretariat is Mr Yasu Nagahata, a long-time producer and developer of programs at NHK. He was educated in Boston MA, in the United States and has been with NHK since 1997.



Mr Yasu Nagahata



Ahmed Afruh Rasheed is the new Senior Editor. Afruh, based in Maldives, has a broadcasting career spanning more than 13 years working for public and private media organisations. He started as a reporter with the International Desk at Maldives' public broadcaster Television Maldives and was later the Editor of the News Department. Afruh has also worked as a trainer for various national and international organisations, conducting professional training in broadcasting and journalism. He has multiple degrees in Film and Television, Broadcasting and Journalism.



Hashim Ahmad Hakeem is now the Asiavision Digital Coordinator, based in India. Hashim holds a Masters of Arts in Mass Communication and Journalism from Kashmir University and a Diploma in Visual Journalism from Ateneo De Manila University in the Philippines. He has previously worked as a multimedia journalist, and has trained more than 100 journalists in Mojo (mobile journalism) skills.

STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ABU Technical Department was awarded as the "ABU 2020 Department of the Year Award" for its exceptional contribution to this year's General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

The online ceremony was held on 28th December with participation of all members of the ABU Secretariat. This year, as a result of the exceptional teamwork conducted by the Technical Department in conducting training, arranging online meetings and conducting a well-executed online/virtual ABU General Assembly for the first time, the ABU Staff of the Year Award has been granted to an entire department! Accepting the award, on behalf of the department, Mr Ahmed Nadeem, Director of the Technical Department, stated that the award was not only for the department he heads, but was for everyone who facilitated the smooth running of the GA.

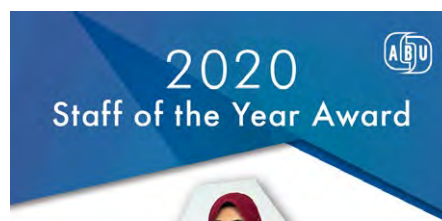
The other individual awards were given to two individuals who had contributed not only to their own departments, but to all other departments - Ms Jalilah, from the Sports Department, who has served six years at the ABU and Ms. Yan, from the Programming Department. In accepting her award Ms Jalilah said that she appreciates highly the award. Ms Yan stated that she felt quite honored to receive the Staff of the Year Award.



TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT



Ahmed Nadeem - Director, ABU Technology & Innovation
Dr Veyssel Binbay | Shree Bhadra Wagle | Saravanakuma | Siva Kumar
Geraldine Peters-Williams | Hamidah Rani | Muhammad Hafiz Samsudin



Ms Nur Jalilah



Ms Lai Kai Yan

RTR Presents new Online-Platform



Russian broadcaster RTR has presented a new online-platform **СМОТРИМ.РФ** - **WATCHING.RF** (the developer is www.smotrim.ru). It includes all the audio-visual content produced by the holding including the RTR radio stations' programs. **СМОТРИМ.РФ** (www.smotrim.ru) will present federal and regional news, analytical programs, favorite films and series, premieres, exclusive reports and many other programs. This is a user-friendly media platform

of RTR's content which is often renewed and easily found.

The launch of the new online-platform is an evolutionary step into the future that will use the digital space and prove RTR's leading position in media production and content distribution. More news, radio programs and podcasts on the **СМОТРИМ.РФ** radio platform started on November 2.

The Insights People

Kids Insights, part of The Insights People, specializes in research and insights on kids and their ecosystems. Kids Insights now survey more than 5,000 children every week, across five continents and 13 countries, or more than 277,000 children a year. Our real-time portal is continually updated to allow our clients to spot the latest trends before their competitors do. Our market intelligence is used by companies such as the Amazon, Crayola, Formula 1, LEGO, Ofcom, Pokémon, SEGA, Turner and Warner Bros.



Research and Training Institute (RTI)

Research and Training Institute (RTI) of National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA), People's Republic of China, is the largest training institution in China's radio, TV, online media and audio-visual industry.

Serving both domestic and overseas professionals within the industry, the RTI shoulders the implementation of NRTA training programs and international media seminars, as well as the organization of training programs for media management, program producers and technical professionals.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

- 5th ABU INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND LEGAL COMMITTEE (IPLC) 15-16 March 2021, Online Platform
- ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium 5-8 April 2021, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Central Asia Media Forum 2021, Dates TBC, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- ABU Digital 2021, 26 – 27 May 2021, (Kuala Lumpur), Malaysia
- Media Summit on Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction and Contest on Climate Change and DRR content 2021, Dates TBC, Maldives
- Global Summit on Media for Children: 6 – 8 July 2021, Jakarta, Indonesia
- The Global News Forum 20 – 22 September 2021, Sarawak, Malaysia
- Pacific Media Partnership Conference: 16 – 18 August 2021, Vanuatu
- Women With the Wave Forum: October 2021 – Hanoi Vietnam
- ABU GA 2021: October 2021 Hanoi - Vietnam
- RadioAsia Conference and Media 2020: Dates TBC, Bali, Indonesia

In case of further date confirmations, changes or updates, ABU Secretariat shall inform accordingly

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3 kW–2,000 kW Digital/Analog
Medium Wave Transmitters

SAVE up to \$100,000 USD each year with Nautel

Replacing legacy technology with Nautel NX Series MW transmitters running MDCL can yield significant energy savings. With exceptional efficiency and low maintenance overhead, these transmitters are extremely cost effective to own and operate.

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