

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

ABU news

Quarter 4 2021



MEDIA RESET: SERVING THE PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE

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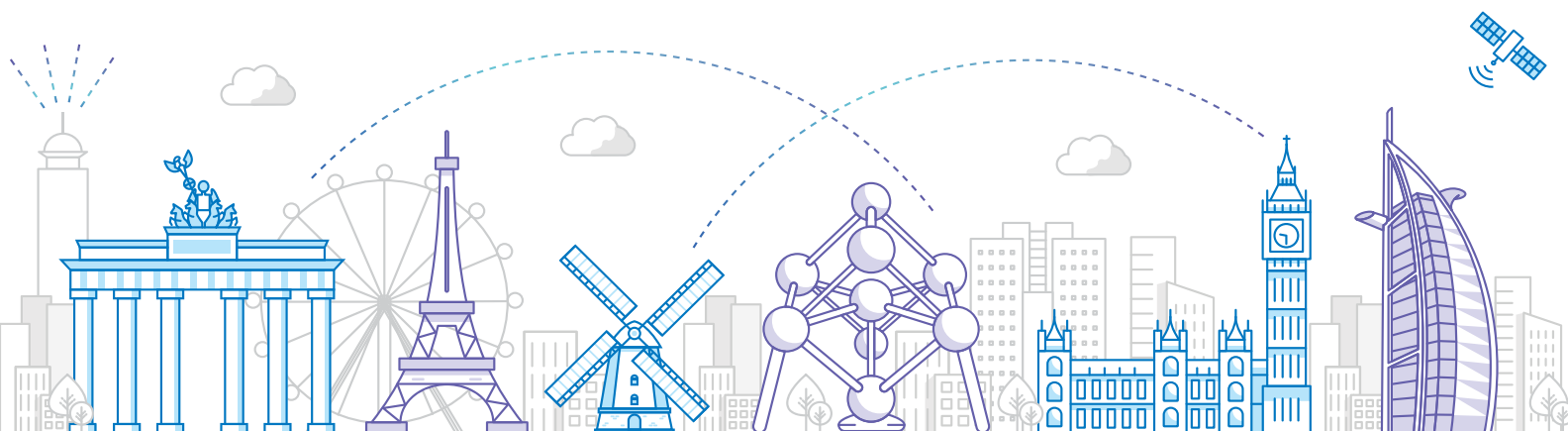
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Welcome to the final issue of ABU News for 2021.

This issue includes full details of the 58th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, which were held entirely online for the second year in a row.

With COVID-19 continuing to throw up fresh challenges, broadcasters, like everyone else, have learned to adapt. Despite the pandemic, the Secretariat had a busy, successful year.

As the ABU Acting President, Mr Yang Sung-dong, observed when opening the General Assembly, the ABU has become used to virtual meetings.

Indeed it has. This applies to everything from a flagship event like the annual ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium to webinars and training events. They were all held virtually this year.

While nothing can replace face-to-face meetings, online activities have definite advantages, notably the fact that members can take part in events that used to be beyond the reach of some because of high travel costs.

This year the Secretariat took things a step further. For the first time, it successfully conducted online elections for all the governing bodies of the Union. This includes the Sports Group, the Programme and Technical Committees and the News Group.

The Secretariat also conducted online re-elections to the Administrative Council in July and the ABU Presidential election on 25 November. Despite the challenges involved, everything went smoothly.

The ABU's annual meetings ran from 9 to 26 November, building up to the General Assembly itself on 24-26 November. They included the ABU TV Song Festival and the ABU Prizes Awards Presentation.

While all the main meetings addressed the pandemic and its ongoing effects on broadcasters, participants also looked at other critical issues.

The theme this year was 'Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace'. A highlight of the General Assembly was the Super Panel Forum on the final day, with three sessions focusing on different aspects of this theme.

One of the thought-provoking ideas put forward was that reporting the truth was more important for broadcasters than giving every perspective an equal say.

Another was that instead of simply covering conflicts, broadcasters should make it their mission to campaign actively for peace. The media's crucial role in saving lives and livelihoods in times of disaster also came under the spotlight.

ABU members have continued to show unity and resolve in the campaign against the pandemic, sharing valuable news and information throughout the year. The Secretariat extends its appreciation to all members for their determination and commitment.

We hope you enjoy the coverage of the ABU's annual meetings and other activities in this issue. Happy reading.

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ABU elects new President

The ABU's new President is Mr Masagaki Satoru, Executive Vice President of NHK-Japan.

Mr Masagaki was elected on 25 November at the ABU General Assembly, held online for the second year in a row because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He will serve as ABU President through to the end of 2024.

Mr Masagaki succeeds Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and CEO of KBS-Korea, who had been acting ABU President since July 2021.

He expressed his sincere gratitude for the support and confidence shown in him. It was an honour that came with profound responsibilities, he said.

He promised to listen to the voices of all ABU members, encourage cooperation and build the value of the Union.

"As we are all aware, our Union is now facing a historic moment of change.

"Over the last decade, with expanded digitisation and use of the internet, the broadcast industry was forced to confront major upheavals."

"And seemingly overnight, the COVID-19 pandemic compelled us to move our activities from the real world to the virtual one.

"When the pandemic finally comes to an end and we move into the post-COVID era, we will enter a new-normal phase in which we must work to reduce costs and achieve maximum results.

"I will build upon these changes and make our activities more efficient and beneficial."

Mr Masagaki joined NHK in 1983 as a news reporter. After serving as news editor for more than 10 years, he became Head of the Political News Division in 2010, Editorial Controller News Department, Director of Osaka Station in 2015, Director of the News Department in 2016, and Director of the Public Relations Department in 2017.

He joined the NHK Executive Board as Senior Director in April 2019 and assumed the post of Executive Vice President in February 2020.

The ABU General Assembly and Associated meetings took place from 9 to 26 November. They began with the ABU Sports Group Conference and ended with the General Assembly Super Panel Forum, addressing the topic "Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace".



Clockwise from left: Yang Sung-dong, Shashi Vempati, Masagaki Satoru

The ABU Acting President, Mr Yang Sung-dong, opened the General Assembly on 24 November.

Mr Yang, President and CEO of KBS-Korea, said he wished participants could have met face-to-face instead of online. However, the ABU had become used to virtual meetings, and he was grateful that everyone was keeping well and safe.

He noted that he had succeeded Ibrahim Eren of TRT-Turkey as Acting ABU President in July and expressed gratitude to Mr Eren for everything he had done for the Union.

ABU Vice President Mr Shashi Vempati, CEO of Prasar Bharati-India, said the Union had emerged stronger through the period of the pandemic.

"Thanks to the virtual technologies, we have met more often, we have collaborated more, we have exchanged more," he said.

ABU Vice President Mr Masagaki Satoru, Executive Vice President of NHK-Japan, said the broadcasting industry was confronting a fundamental reset. It was essential that the ABU family retained its unity.

The Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, said the pandemic had taught the broadcasting industry valuable lessons. It needed to seize the opportunity to turn the page and start on a new slate.

He noted that 635 people had registered for the annual meetings.

ABU Acting President Opens General Assembly





SG's Report: Key Programmes and Partnerships



In his report to the assembly, The Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, outlined some of the ABU's key activities and partnerships.

He said between October 2020 and October 2021, the ABU held 160 webinars with more than 7,000 participants.

Asiavision members shared more than 16,000 news items, most of them same-day coverage.

An ABU Solidarity network was also established in response to COVID-19. More than 1,800 copyright-free programme content items from 51 members in 31 countries were uploaded in the year ending October 2021. They were available free of charge.

The ABU Music Exchange expanded to 26 members. The ABU was also sharing copyright-free broadcast quality sports content. So far this year, 900 items

Small Pacific Members to get Reserved Seat on Administrative Council

The General Assembly agreed to create an additional seat on the Administrative Council specifically for small members from the Pacific Islands.

The seat will be rotated among small Pacific Island members every three years to ensure as many of them as possible are given an opportunity to serve on the council.

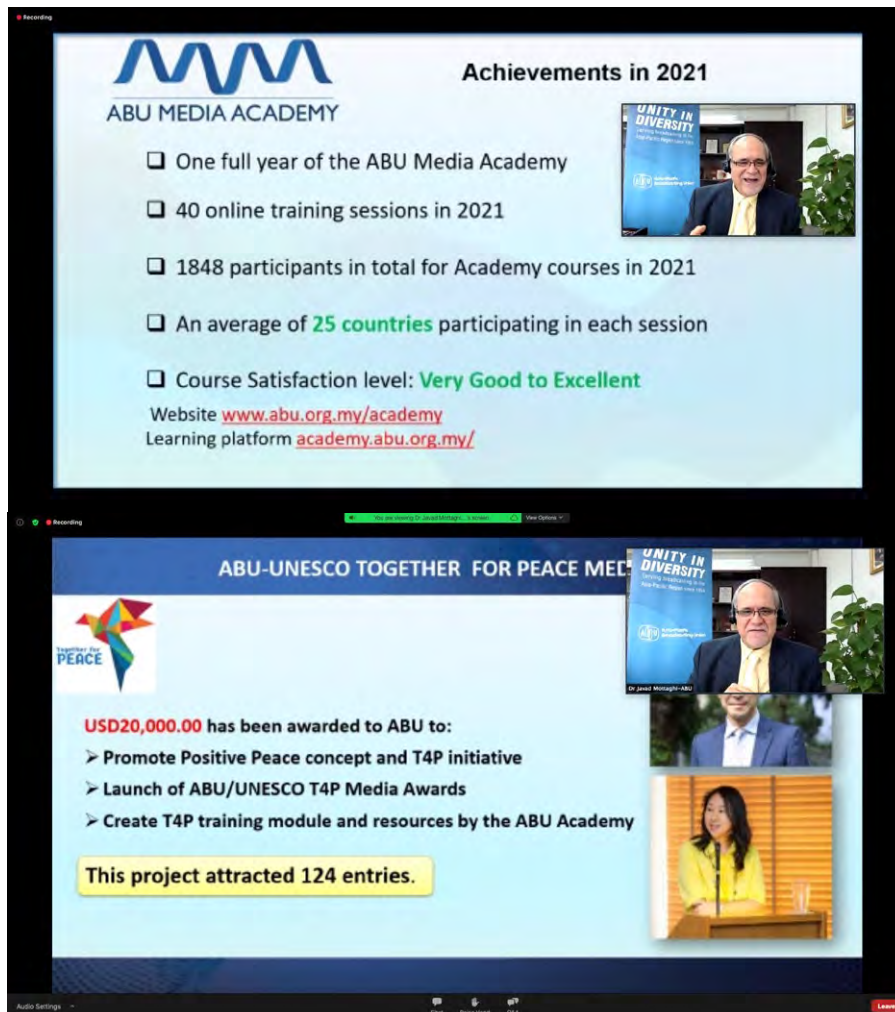
The move is designed to give Pacific Island members a direct voice in determining the ABU's strategic and policy goals, particularly for services offered to their region.

This will bring the total number of council members to 18.

Elections to the Administrative Council

The General Assembly also made changes to the rules for elections to the Administrative Council.

Voting for re-election to the council will in future be conducted online, at least one month before the scheduled General Assembly. Other elections to the council will take place online during the assembly's restricted session.



had been uploaded and 512 of them downloaded. This showed the value members placed on them.

Twenty-nine broadcasters took part in the sports exchange, along with two unions and eight partners.

Dr Mottaghi also mentioned what he described as the massive achievements of the ABU Media Academy, established in July last year, which held 40 online training sessions in 2021.

The Technology and Programme departments also conducted many important activities, including the Digital Broadcasting Symposium and Robocon.

The Sports Department had a strong presence at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and was part of the host production team for the Tokyo Paralympics.

Dr Mottaghi spoke of the important partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This partnership, which

included other regional broadcasting unions, would continue in the year ahead.

He also gave details of partnerships with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), UNESCO, the Hoso Bunka Foundation (HBF) and the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

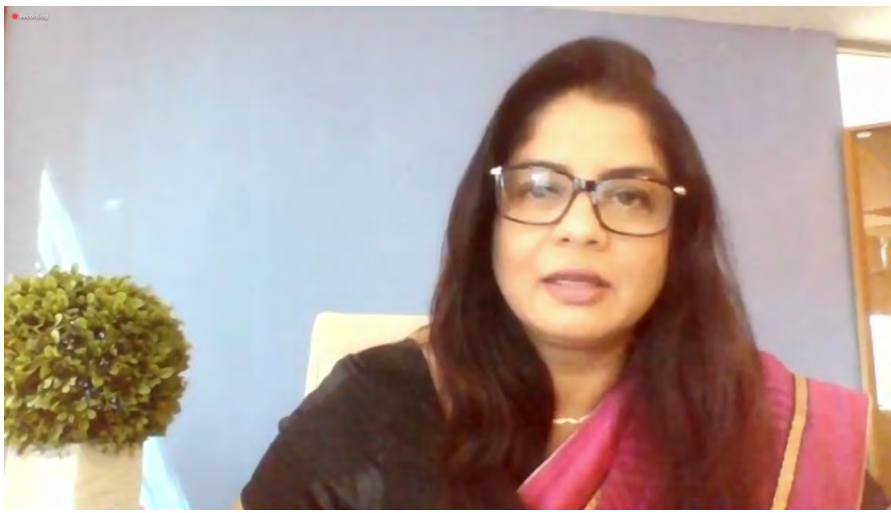
Dr Mottaghi said the ABU had established the Pacific Media Development Group to assist its members in the region.

ABU Programme Director Mr Yasu Nagahata briefed the assembly on a new project, ABU TV-Con, a conference and convention for all kinds of TV genres.

It would be a two-day hybrid event from May 2022, he said. It would facilitate the development of TV programme production and encourage young programme makers. Ken Watanabe, one of Japan's best-known actors, would participate.

Super Panel Forum session 1: Serving the People

‘We have to challenge our audience’



Nedra Weerasinghe

A highlight of the General Assembly was the Super Panel Forum on 26 November, the final day of the assembly.

Its theme was Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace. It featured three sessions, each focussing on one of these three related issues.

Session 1 looked at how media can best serve the people. The moderator was Nedra Weerasinghe, Capital Maharaja Group-Sri Lanka.

Craig McMurtrie of ABC-Australia said it was quite dangerous, and becoming more so, to give the audience what they wanted, to reaffirm their world view, at a time when communities were increasingly polarised.

A public broadcaster like the ABC should focus much more on truth-telling and the facts. It was not good enough to give every perspective an equal say.

“What we ought to be thinking about is due impartiality and truth telling,” he said.

On issues like climate change and vaccination policies, broadcasters needed to consider where the balance of evidence was and follow this balance of evidence. Their coverage needed to reflect this.

“We can’t ignore different perspectives but we are not obliged to give them equal time.

“Sometimes we have to confront and challenge the world view of our audience.”

Hirosuke Usui of TBS-Japan said it was crucial for commercial broadcasters to retain their trust and credibility.

Audiences had become fragmented but thanks to digital technology, broadcasters could reach out to people on platforms such as On Demand.

“We have to rethink and redefine what we are right now. At the same time we have to keep our TV credibility and trust in very high quality.”

Even if TV reached only a small segment of the people instead of mass audiences, broadcasters needed to maintain the value of their output.

This was a big challenge. Their broadcast model could be in danger otherwise.

Thepchai Yong of Thai PBS-Thailand looked at the role of a public broadcaster in a situation where a new generation was demanding drastic political changes.

He said a parliamentary committee had accused Thai-PBS of not doing enough to echo the government’s message on the current political situation and of giving too much space to the young protestors demanding political reforms.





Clockwise: Hirotsuke Usui, Craig McMurtrie, Thepchai Yong.

This kind of encounter was not something new but it showed a lot of misconception of the role of public service broadcasters among those in power.

"As a matter of principle and as legislated, the mission of a public broadcaster, as far as Thai PBS is concerned, is to offer new service and programme content that is fair and balanced and without any political bias or serving any commercial interest.

"Simply put, our job is to serve the people, not the people in power."

He said the challenge was how to strike the right balance in news coverage in the middle of this conflict.

A broadcaster must provide a voice of reason and stick to the basic principle of public broadcasting. It was easier to take sides than to be objective and unbiased.

The session ended with a presentation by Jun Ogawa of the Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organisation (BPO). He briefed participants on the organisation, an independent watchdog for broadcasting content established by Japanese public and commercial broadcasters in 2003.



BPO is an independent third-party organization promoting higher ethical standards in broadcasting to protect the audience's human rights as well as the healthy development of children, while ensuring freedom of speech and expression.

<https://www.bpo.gr.jp>
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Super Panel Forum session 2: Serving the Planet

Media 'a crucial stakeholder' in disaster risk reduction



Russell Isaac of Sports Media Services moderated session 2 of the Super Panel Forum. It featured three panellists, who Mr Isaac noted were all actively engaged in efforts to help audiences survive the climate challenges the world faced.

Mami Mizutori of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) noted that this summer had been the hottest recorded summer in Europe. The whole region had been devastated by floods, heatwaves and wildfires.

However, it was developing countries who were disproportionately bearing the brunt of the climate emergency.

She said her office had gone to the Cop26 UN climate change summit in Glasgow in October-November with three concrete calls for action.

- To dramatically raise our ambition for climate adaptation, disaster reduction and building resilience.
- To significantly increase support to developing countries for averting, minimising and addressing losses from climate-related disasters.
- To accelerate predictable financing for disaster risk reduction.

Ms Mizutori said Covid-19 had taught people that risk was systemic. One risk led to another. A public health crisis turned quickly into a socio-economic crisis.

The response also needed to be systemic. All stakeholders needed to increase their cooperation to tackle



From top: Russell Isaac, Mami Mizutori



From top: Koike Hideo, Iman Brotoseno

climate change and disaster risk reduction – and the media was a crucial stakeholder.

She noted that the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was coming up in 2023. All stakeholders needed to be involved, including the media.

“The media is a crucial stakeholder in

saving lives and livelihoods. You know it. You have the tools.”

Koike Hideo of NHK-Japan said there had been a series of major disasters in Japan over the last decade, almost one after another.

“There is a strong sense of crisis among people in Japan as to what they need to do when they or their families are caught up in one.”

Disseminating information on disasters was a mission for NHK as a public broadcaster, he said.

It was essential for each of NHK’s 53 domestic stations to tell the audience in their local area to evacuate in the face of a disaster.

NHK had developed a method to provide real-time disaster information. It had developed a smart phone application with the latest information directly linked to a specific area. For foreign residents, it provided news in 18 languages on video and the internet.

This year, NHK had started a campaign called Protect Lives from Floods. It worked with local municipalities to estimate how high floodwaters could reach in each area and used graphics to show the likely results.

“NHK broadcasts special programmes every year around the anniversaries of major historic disasters, not to let their memories fade with passage of time,” he said.

Iman Brotoseno of TVRI-Indonesia said natural disasters were common in his country. “Our country is located in the ring of fire so it happens all the time.”

He said TVRI had become a leading source of information on disasters. It cooperated with local officials and the national disaster office.

People trusted TVRI as a centre of information on disasters. It ran special programmes designed to assist the recovery and rebuilding in times of disaster.

At the end of the session, the Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, thanked Ms Mizutori for the great support that she had rendered to broadcasting unions in various parts of the world. He looked forward to strengthening the partnership.

Super Panel Forum session 3: Promoting Peace

Media urged to take a larger role against war



Dr Savyasaachi Jain

Dr Savyasaachi Jain of Cardiff University moderated session 3 of the Super Panel Forum. The three panellists spoke passionately of the need for the media to help bring about peace.

Dr Chandra Muzaffar of the International Movement for a Just World said the media potentially had an important role in promoting peace.

"It can take a principled role against war and violence. One hopes this will become the mission of the media all over the world."

This was not just reporting on conflicts. It was about developing consciousness as a long-time goal and analysing the causes of war even after the conflict is over.

This was a big mission for the media and must surpass everything else they did.

Abdel Bari Atwan of Rai al-Youm digital newspaper said the media was facing

difficulties in covering conflict, both in the west and in Middle Eastern countries.

"I believe the media has a role to major play in order to promote peace by siding with justice, siding with the oppressed people who are suffering because of the wars that are taking place."

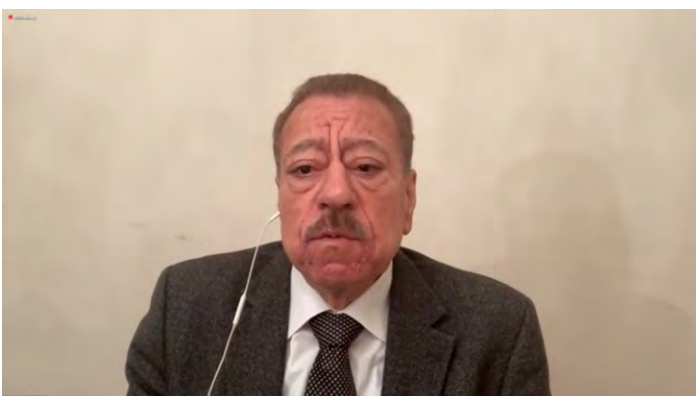
Journalists who opposed war had been able to express their opposition in the west 20 to 30 years ago, so journalists from other regions, including him, had come to the west to speak out.

But things had changed. Now they were not allowed to talk. The media should help peace by telling the truth, in the west particularly.

Mr Atwan said that after he interviewed Osama bin Laden in 1996, western news outlets were happy to talk to him and appreciated his views. But now he was not able to talk about the suffering of his own people. Where was freedom of information, he asked.



Dr Chandra Muzaffar



From top: Abdel Bari Atwan, Aidan White

Aidan White of the Ethical Journalism Network questioned whether it was all doom and gloom.

"I think there are many cases where the media do a very good job when they're reporting conflict, when we see the media stick to their principles, their values."

He said courageous media had changed public opinion over the Vietnam war and the 30-year war in Northern Ireland.

However, journalists and journalism alone could not make peace. It was not their purpose.

"Our role is not to make peace. Our purpose is to tell the truth, to tell the people what they need to know in order to understand the terrible consequences of war and the opportunities that exist in order to make peace."

Mr White said the media did have an important and significant role in pointing towards solutions that will bring about peace. They should be a signpost towards peace-making and reconciliation.

The session ended with a video message from Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Bangkok. He spoke about the 2021 ABU/ UNESCO Together for Peace Media Awards that had recently been presented and congratulated the winners.

He said UNESCO had launched the Together for Peace to bring together member states in the region including the media and news organisations, to work towards positive peace and sustainable society. He praised the ABU for being a partner in the initiative.

"Without peace there cannot be sustainable development. Without development, there cannot be lasting peace," he said.

Technical Bureau Looks at Pandemic Challenges



Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General



Mr Hamid Dehghan Nayeri, IRIB-Iran



Dr Kong Bin, NRTA-China



Mr Sunil, DD-India

Bharati India (Guest)



Mr Masashi Kamei, NHK-Japan

The challenges facing members amid the ongoing pandemic were the main topic at the 2021 ABU Technical Bureau Annual Meeting, held online on 8 November.

The Bureau proposed two decisions.

The first was to support the WBU position on WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5.

The second was to replace the current ABU Green Broadcast Engineering Award with an award to recognise outstanding contributions made by organisations in adopting and implementing mechanisms in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals in all broadcast and related operations.

The meeting ended with the announcement of the results of the Technical Bureau elections.



Mr Ahmed Nadeem, Director ABU Technology

ABU Engineering Awards presented

ABU
ENGINEERING AWARDS
2021

The four ABU Engineering Awards for 2021 were presented virtually on 16 November during the ABU Technical Committee.

The awards consist of the ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award, the ABU Engineering Industry Excellence Award, the ABU Green Broadcast Engineering Award and the ABU Developing Broadcasters' Excellence Award.

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 Dr Reza Alidadi, Technical Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB-Iran). Dr Alidadi won the award for leading IRIB's migration from SD to HD and 4K-UHD as an important national project.



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 Mr Fu Haibo, Chairman of the Board, Inner Mongolia Broadcast and Television Network Group Co., Ltd, RTPRC-China. Mr Fu Haibo won the award for his outstanding leadership of Inner Mongolia Broadcast and Television Network Group including the provision of coverage in many remote areas.



湖南广播影视集团有限公司
Golden Eagle Broadcasting System

The ABU Green Broadcast Engineering Award

recognises outstanding contributions in developing, implementing and/or promoting green technology in the broadcasting industry. The 2021 winner was the Golden Eagle Broadcasting System, RTPRC Radio, Film & TV Design and Research Institute, China for developing the 5G iMango Radio system promoting environmental protection measures and other green initiatives.



The **ABU Developing Broadcasters' Excellence Award**

which is for contributions of an outstanding nature in broadcast

engineering made by an individual in a developing broadcasting organisation was awarded to Mr Joe Wafewa, Deputy CEO, National Broadcasting Corporation – Papua New Guinea for leading the installation and commissioning of an AM transmitter in Goroka and bringing radio services to many remote areas.

ABU Technical Review Prizes 2021

The ABU Technical Review Prizes were awarded for articles contributed to the Technical Review from October 2020 to September 2021. The prizes were judged by the ABU Technical Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

Three prizes were presented, one each from the categories of Practical Implementation, Research and Case Studies.

The winner for the **Best Article on Practical Implementation** was Mr C W Leung, Head of Engineering, Radio Television Hong Kong, for the article titled Audio Description for communion of visually impaired and normally sighted persons which appeared in the Quarter 4 2020 ABU Technical Review.

The **Best Article on Research** was co-authored by Mr Mohsen Shaban Moazam, Mr Seyed Hossein Alavi Soltani, Dr Mohieddin Moradi and Mr Maher Fatehpour. The title of the article was A Novel Approach for Evaluating Multi-Path Adaptive Video Streaming in IP Networks which appeared in the Quarter 1 issue of the ABU Technical Review this year. The authors are from the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting R&D and IRIB University.

The winner of the **Best Article on Case Studies** was Dr Les Sabel, Chair of the WorldDAB APAC Technical Group, for the article titled DAB Adoption Process Guide | Investigations and Trials which appeared in the Quarter 1 2021 issue of the ABU Technical Review.

Making TV more Accessible for the Visually Impaired



AGENDA

- Audio description (AD)
- Objective of the project initiative
- Adopted Technologies
- Technical challenges
- Key Technical Features
- Modules of AD System
- Implementation
- Use of the Mobile App
- AD programmes Launched
- Way forward



Making TV services more accessible to visually impaired people was the subject of the keynote address at the ABU Technical Committee Meeting on 16 November.

The meeting also saw elections for the committee Chairman and three Vice-Chairmen being held online for the first time.

Mr C W Leung, Head of Engineering at RTHK-Hong Kong China, gave the keynote address. He spoke about the Audio Description (AD) service RTHK has developed.

He described how it made TV services more accessible to visually impaired people by providing an explanation of what was happening on the screen, during the gaps in dialogue, making it easier for them to follow the programme.

Mr Leung said RTHK had been producing a series of AD TV programmes, in which visual messages were turned into verbal expressions.

Visually impaired people listened to the AD soundtrack on mobile apps and the original soundtrack on TV, while normally sighted people listened to the original soundtrack.

Presiding over the virtual meeting, the Technical Committee Chairman, Mr Hamid D Nayeri, said the mandate of broadcasters continued as before despite the pandemic. Ever-expanding digital technologies were creating new opportunities.

Dr Javad Mottaghi, the ABU Secretary-General, said more people had turned to public service media for trusted information through these difficult times.

Results of the TC CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMEN election

CHAIRMAN	Mr Hamid D Nayeri, IRIB-Iran
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Mr Sunil, DD-India
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Dr Masashi Kamei, NHK-Japan
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Mr Kazim Pektas, TRT-Turkey



Production Topic Area



1. Radio & Television Archiving Including Metadata for International Programme Exchange (P/RTA)
2. Ultra High Definition TV (P/UHDTV)
3. Systems for people with special needs (P/SN)
4. IT-based Production System and File Based Workflows (P/ITPS)
5. Big Data, Personalisation and Artificial Intelligence (P/BDAl)

He urged ABU members to work together to safeguard their role and keep public trust alive.

At the opening session, participants watched a screening of the announcement of the ABU Engineering Awards and Technical Review Prizes for 2021.

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the activities carried out by ABU Technology during the past year.

Participants also heard reports from the chairmen of the four Topic Area Chairman covering Production, Transmission, Training & Services, and Spectrum. They were Mr Kazim Pektas of TRT-Turkey, Mr Kenichi Murayama of NHK-Japan, Mr P Das of Prasar Bharati-India and Dr Li Leilei from NRTA-China.

In addition, five ABU members from China and Malaysia gave presentations on new technologies and applications.

The results were also announced of the elections for membership of the Technical Bureau, held online earlier.

The 18 members elected for 2022-23 were NRTA-China, TVB-Hong Kong China, DD-India, RRI-Indonesia, IRIB-Iran, NHK-Japan, KBS-Korea, RTM-Malaysia, Mediacorp-Singapore, NBT-Thailand, TRT-Turkey, VTV-Vietnam, Phoenix TV-Hong Kong China, Walesi-Fiji, NTV-Nepal, PTNI-Philippines, MTV-Sri Lanka and VOV-Vietnam.

Mr Hamid Nayeri from IRIB-Iran was re-elected as committee chairman in the online ballot held during the meeting. The three Vice-Chairmen elected were Mr Sunil from DD-India, Dr Masashi Kamei from NHK-Japan and Mr Kazim Pektas from TRT-Turkey.

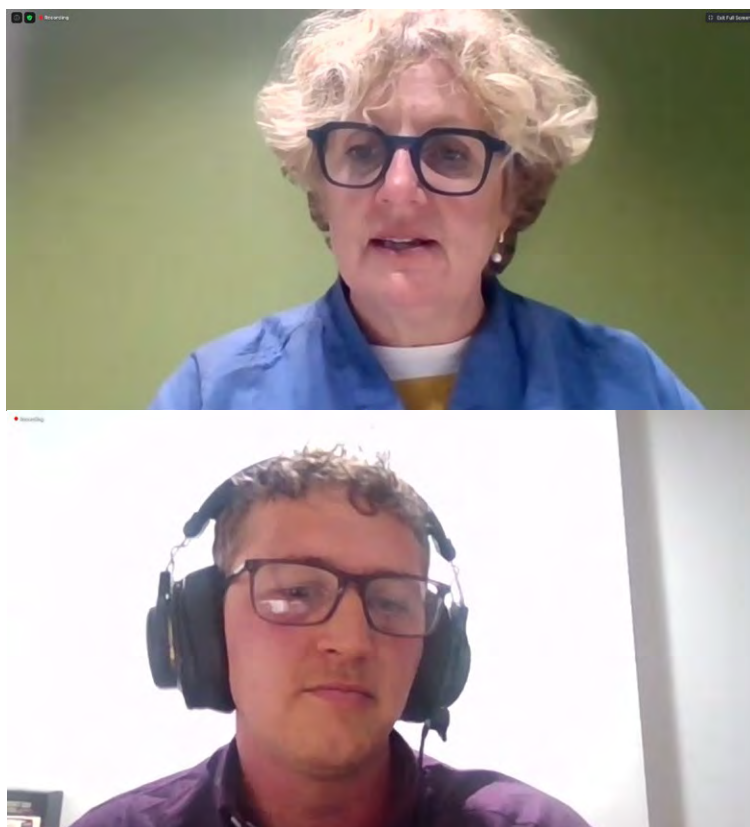


ABU Technical Team delivers

Once again, the ABU GA technical team went beyond expectations and delivered the online events for all departments at the ABU Secretariat.

Well done to Mr Ahmed Nadeem, Director ABU Technology & Innovation, and his team: Dr Veysel Binbay, Shree Bhadra Wagle, Siva Kumar, Saravana Kuma Ramalingam and Muhammad Hafiz Samsudin.





Radio Working Party Showcases Diversity and Quality



Sample programmes from around the Asia-Pacific provided real proof of the value of radio in the region, according to the organiser of this year's ABU Radio Working Party meeting.

Eleven ABU members – including two from Europe – provided programming highlights from the year during a special showcase segment at the Zoom virtual RWP meeting.

Head of Radio Olya Booyar said people needed to look no further for evidence that radio is alive and thriving in 2021.

"The quality and diversity of talent is astonishing," she said. "There was a host of great projects on display, masterfully delivered by broadcasters who obviously care deeply about offering their audiences only the best."

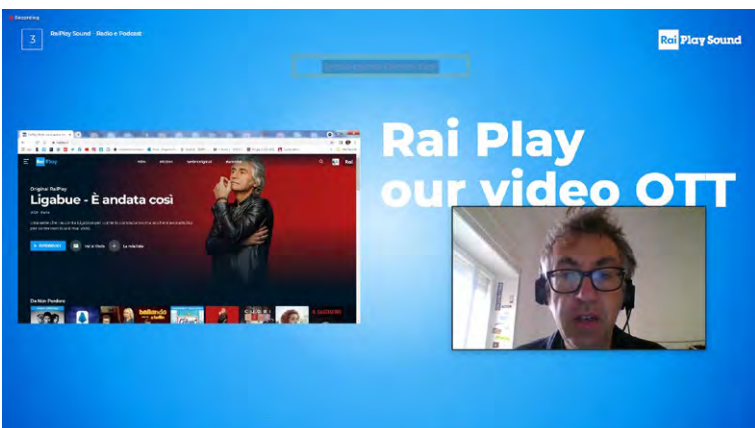
Projects presented in the showcase segment ranged from a Japanese program from NHK dedicated to the

sounds of railways to a love song to songbirds made by All India Radio with Irish and Scottish guest ornithologists, with almost everything else possible in-between.

RTM-Malaysia featured a special series of COVID-19 information featuring a comic hero Captain Zeal the Virus Slayer; FBC-Fiji showed how it was connecting to listeners at markets.

China Radio International showcased its 12-part podcast "Decoding the Art of War", a modern take on the classic text by Sun Tzu; RRI-Indonesia featured a multimedia documentary on distance educational help for disabled students; ABC-Australia reported on its Pacific programme "Sistas Let's Talk", made for women by women and fronted by Papua New Guinean host Hilda Wayne.

TRT-Turkey explained how its special programming about road rules was helping to cut the horrific death tolls on



roads in Turkey and around the world; Shanghai Media Group's He Xin spoke movingly of their special documentary by a reporter accompanying medical teams into the heart of the COVID outbreak in Wuhan;

VBTC-Vanuatu showed how its interaction with audiences was spread across radio, television and online platforms; Voice of Vietnam demonstrated how its Mekong FM service linked more than 20 million people across the Mekong Delta.

Earlier, the meeting had started with ABU Director Programming Yasu Nagahata, RWP Chair Claire Gorman, and Vice Chair Widhie Kurniawan welcoming 126 participants, the largest number to-date.

This led on to a short presentation "Dreamland will Shine" by NBT-Thailand, which showed that, in a year marred by separations, sorrows and tragedies, people could look forward to a new start in 2022.

Ms Booyar then presented her report on major radio and online initiatives over the previous 12 months which included many workshops, masterclasses, ABU Prizes webinars and showcases as well as conferences

and joint activities with regional and global partners. The activities and initiatives included World Radio Day, International Women's Day, Remote Radio Week, Media Literacy Week as well as international festivals such as the Grand Prix Nova Drama Festival, New York Festivals, and of course, the annual ABU Prizes.

The RWP also featured three stand-alone segments covering diverse areas of radio broadcasting.

The first was a report by Shannon Bosshard of ARN Audiolabs on his research into how audio interacted with listeners' brains, the processes that happened and their implication for brand recognition, advertising and audience loyalty. Even short bursts of audio measured in milliseconds could have a measurable effect on listeners' brains.

Then Chair Claire Gorman interviewed Karalaini Koroi, Program Director and Presenter at FBC-Fiji, on being the first recipient of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) Radio Content, Management and Leadership fellowship. Kara described what the course involved and how it helped shape her career in Radio. She said she could hardly believe it

when she won the ABU's free place on the program and she said the most important thing she learned was to really get to know one's listeners, what they did and what they wanted.

The third special segment looked at RAI-Italy's newly reconfigured channel Rai PlaySound. Andrea Borgnino described how RAI had identified its RaiPlay Radio online channel was getting only a small proportion of visitors compared to its TV equivalent, so they revitalised it by interweaving content from some of RAI's 12 other channels with original audio productions targeted at different segments of their audience.

They were also working to get their content on all digital platforms from websites to smart watches and to register consumers so they could tailor content to their individual tastes. He also showed a video of their Radio 2 Visual Studio, where visitors can watch behind the scenes of radio broadcasting, enhanced with studio performances and supplementary content.

The RWP closed with thanks from the Chair and a video performance of "Let's have some fun" by artists recorded by NBT-Thailand.



Mr Keizo Izuta, NHK-Japan



Mr Soleman Yusuf, RRI-Indonesia



Mr Yasu Nagahata, ABU

ABU Programme Committee Meeting provides a Silver Lining

The 53rd ABU Programme Committee Meeting took place on 11 November with 139 participants.

Mr Keizo Izuta, the Vice-Chairperson of the PC, chaired the meeting in place of the Chairperson, Mr Soleman Yusuf, who unfortunately could not attend.

After a video message from Mr Soleman and welcome remarks from Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General, Mr Yasu Nagahata, Director of ABU Programming, reported on the activities of the Programme Department over the past year, and the discussions of the 12th Programme Bureau meeting held in October.

In the Special Session, Mr Takuya Iryo of NHK-Japan, Ms Clair M. Gorman of ABC-Australia, and Ms Maria Luisa Mazzei of RAI- Italy gave presentations with video clips of their programmes on the topic of "Sharing new ideas of programme production under the Covid-19 pandemic."

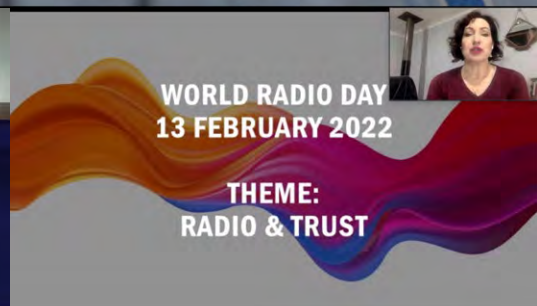
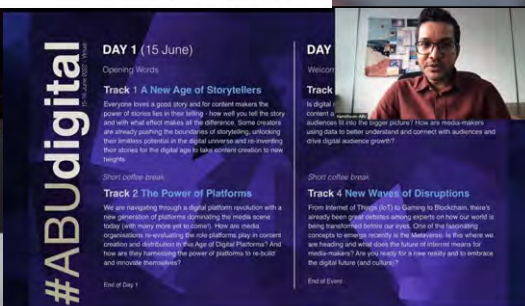
In the Member's Forum, Mr Takushi Yoshida of ABU Robocon Tokyo Secretariat reported on last year's competition and future activities of ABU Robocon.

Dr Hyunsook Chung of EBS-Korea presented on "Beasts of Asia Season 2" and Ms Miwa Komori of NEP-Japan introduced the video restoration service called "Goldseam Scaler."

In the Invitation to Future Events, the PC members and ABU Secretariat announced information on upcoming events and activities. A brand-new project of the ABU, "TV-Con", which is scheduled to be held next May, was introduced by Mr Nagahata.



Ms Clair M. Gorman, ABC-Australia



At the end of the meeting, the results of the election for the next Programme Bureau members were announced, and ABC- Australia and RAI- Italy were chosen as the new PB members.

This fruitful meeting shared the tremendous efforts of the production sites that are struggling with Covid-19 and the vibrant new upcoming events. It provided a silver lining to all participants who are still suffering from the pandemic.



Programme Committee Appoints Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons

The Programme Committee has appointed a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons to steer and lead the committee over the next two years. Ms Claire M Gorman, Head of International Services at ABC-Australia, will be the Chairperson and Mr Keizo Izuta, Deputy Director of Production Department at NHK-Japan and Ms Yeşim Eren, Deputy Head of TRT School Channel, will be the Vice-Chairpersons. They will serve a two-year-term in their leadership roles from next year.

Programme Committee

Chairperson



Claire M Gorman
ABC (Australia)

Vice-Chairpersons



Keizo Izuta
NHK (Japan)



Yeşim Eren
TRT (Turkey)

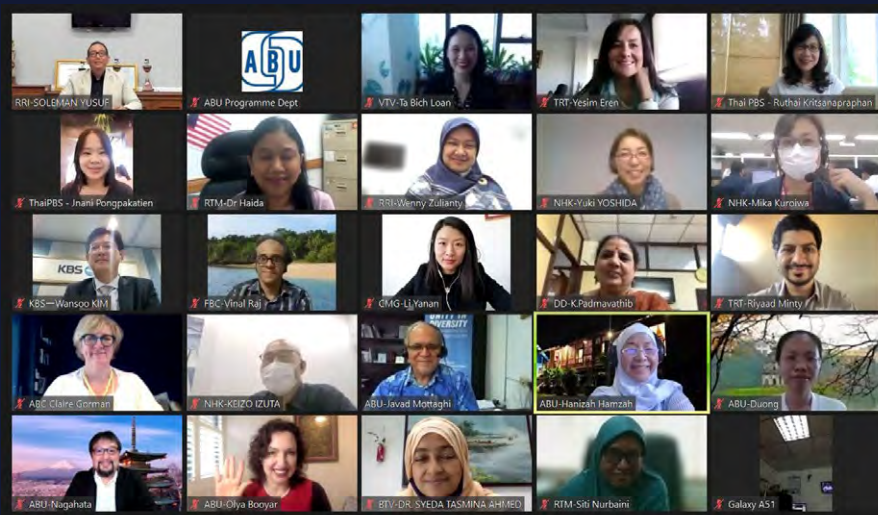
Programme Bureau Members Share Experiences

The 12th ABU Programme Bureau Meeting was held online on 12 December.

Taking part were the Chairperson, Mr Solemon Yusuf (RRI-Indonesia), the Vice-Chairperson, Mr Keizo Izuta (NHK-Japan), and the current bureau members from AIR-India, BTV-Bangladesh, CCTV-China, EBS-Korea, FBC-Fiji, KBS-Korea, NHK-Japan, RRI-Indonesia, Thai PBS-Thailand, TRT-Turkey and VTV-Vietnam.

In addition, the Chairperson of the Radio Working Party, Ms Clair M Gorman (ABC-Australia), the Chairperson of the Digital Media Working Group, Mr Riyaad Minty (TRT) and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Soobass Latchman (MBC-Mauritius) participated.

Mr Yasu Nagahata, ABU Director of Programming, presented his report on past activities and the Secretariat introduced future activities. Programme Bureau members shared their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and updates from their organisations.





Sports Group elects new Chairperson

A total of 116 participants joined the conference, which kicked off the ABU's annual meetings associated with the General Assembly.

www.arianatelevision.com



Music Unites our hearts - The 10th ABU TV Song Festival

The 10th ABU TV Song Festival featured 10 amazing performances from ABU member countries on 18 November.

It was hosted by Sharizan Borhan and Azura Zainal, and streamed simultaneously on YouTube and Zoom to a virtual audience of 1,360 in total.

The participant artists were, in order of performance, Summersalt (India), İlyas Yalçıntaş (Turkey), Dr. Jen (Macau-China), ITZY (Korea), The Pentatonic (Vietnam), Denny & Nonoy with Mixline Band (Indonesia), milet (Japan), Suzan Maidin (Brunei), Amir Jahari (Malaysia), and Amre (Kazakhstan).

Not only their wonderful performances but their heartfelt messages gave their audiences courage and hope to endure the Covid-19 pandemic.

The webcast of top-notch performances of popular music from a variety of national music scenes was a great success, showcasing the geographical and cultural diversity of the Asia-Pacific region with astute cooperation from ABU member organisations.



China Wins Big at ABU Prizes

CMG-China was the biggest winner at the ABU Prizes Award Presentation 2021.

The event was held virtually, hosted by Sharizan Borhan and Azura Zainal on November 17, viewed by 213 people via Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube Live.

Seventeen awards across Radio, TV and Digital Media were presented from 300 entries in total - 104 in Radio, 167 in TV and 29 in Digital Media.

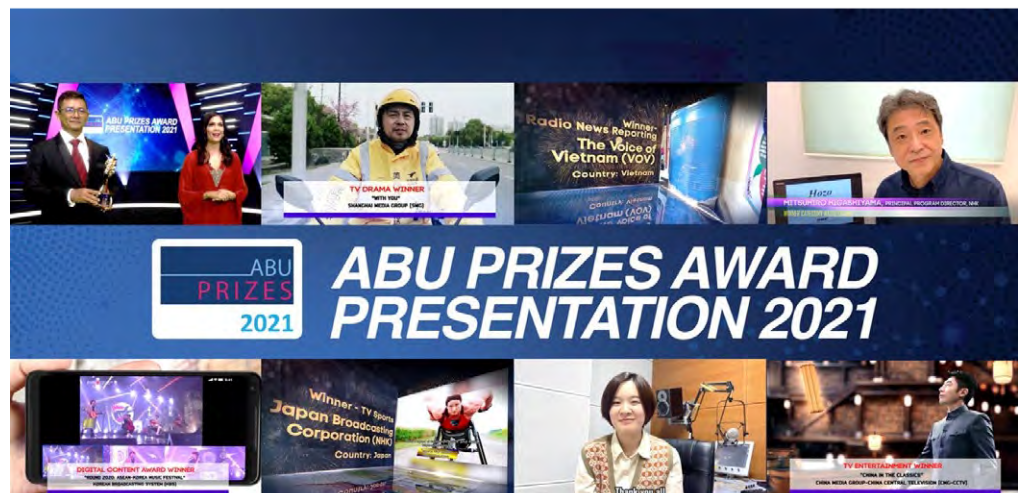
China Media Group won four awards in total: Radio Docudrama by China National Radio (CNR), Radio On-Air Personality by CNR, Radio ABU Perspective Award by China Radio International (CRI) and TV Entertainment by China Central Television (CCTV).

Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) won three awards, TV News Reporting, TV ABU Perspective Award, and Digital Content Award.

Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) won Radio Drama and TV Sport, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) won Radio Community Service Announcement, and Voice of Vietnam won Radio News Reporting and Radio Special Jury Prize.

Other winners were SMG-China (TV Drama), BBC-United Kingdom (Radio Documentary), RAI-Italy (TV Documentary) and WDR-Germany (TV Children).

Six organisations were awarded certificates of commendation for their outstanding programmes praised by the juries. Commendations were awarded to KBS-Korea, CNR-China, CRI-China, IRIB-Iran, CCTV-China, and NHK-Japan.





ABU Quality Management Workshop 2021

As part of the associated meetings of the 58th ABU General Assembly, the ABU's annual Quality Management Workshop was held virtually on 5 October 2021. Highlighting the theme for this year's ABU GA "Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace", the workshop covered the ISAS MEDIA 9001 international standard, which provides key management tools for media managers. The workshop was conducted by Dr David Balme, CEO at Challenge Optimum, S.A., with an industry case study presented by Elisabeth Logean, Co-editor in Chief at RTS, Switzerland. More than 70 participants attended and benefitted from the workshop this year.



(As 10 December 2021)
 COVID-19 Content Database
 Total: 2,465 items
 51 members registered under the APV
 solidarity platform



(October 2021 to 10 December 2021)

- 97 items uploaded, including 15 programmes and 82 songs
- Total duration of programmes: 331 minutes
- Total duration of songs: 372 minutes
- Total duration of all uploaded content: 703 minutes
- Total number of downloaded: 73 items

A new alliance between Pacific Islands broadcasters and the region's main media capacity-building bodies was forged at the 2021 meeting of the Pacific Media Partnership Conference.

Held over Zoom with more than 100 participants, the PMPC conference heard the region's leading media CEOs tell of their experiences and needs then closed with a session with some of the Pacific's principal media development agencies to see what they could offer.

The closing session was moderated by seasoned Pacific broadcaster and academic Phil Kafcaloudes, who urged the speakers from UNESCO, the Australian and New Zealand governments and aid implementors to respond to what they had heard, so by the end of the session there was broad agreement on practical action.

UNESCO's Misako Ito opened discussions by stating how important Pacific media were to the United Nations body.

She said the concept of media as a common public good was a theme of the 2021 World Press Freedom Day and UNESCO had been promoting media independence and freedom as a main pillar for democracy and sustainable development.

"It is important we maintain the viability of the media if the public are to continue to access information on which they rely," she said. The organisation had recently launched a project to assess media viability against draft indicators in 10 countries that would help nations with strategies to address problems facing their media.

Charlotte Darlow, a Pacific Regional Manager of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), said her country wanted to see strong, powerful voices in the Pacific.

"COVID has taught us ... that quality, accurate broadcast journalism that is based in-country, that understands and responds to local context is absolutely crucial," she said. Further, COVID travel restrictions had prevented the previous "fly-in, fly-out" approach and instead meant more development assistance had to be based in-country, which was



Pacific Media Conference Forges New Alliances

a benefit for both countries.

She said there had been additional problems getting equipment into and out of the island states, and COVID misinformation had shown the need for cooperation between trusted public media working more closely with governments.

Next was Natasha Meleisea of Pacific Cooperation Broadcasting Limited (PCBL), a New Zealand government initiative funded by MFAT to support the region's media.

She said they had asked 23 broadcasters in 13 Pacific Islands countries what they needed, and responses included the ability to present news in an environment remote from the main studios, laptops, production equipment and training. The main content priorities were news, factual information and sport. She admitted there were logistical problems getting people and equipment around the Pacific even without COVID movement restrictions, though the pandemic had brought all the difficulties together "in one hit".

Dave Peebles of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



(DFAT) echoed the previous speakers about broadcasting needs and logistical problems. He said their major capacity-building programs were through the regional Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) and the Media in Development Initiative working with the ABC and National Broadcasting Corporation of Papua New Guinea.

He said DFAT was currently at an inflexion point in planning for the future, so he had been interested in hearing what the island broadcasters said they needed. He said it was important not to return to the old days of Australian assistance but to deliver what partners say they need in 2021 and beyond.

Claire Gorman, the Head of ABC International and Chair of the ABU Radio Working Party, admitted that the ABC could be seen as competition for Pacific Islands broadcasters, so it was important for the Australian broadcaster to offer something different. It was also important to ensure that any assistance initiatives were not stealing content from the media in-country. She acknowledged that content developed by and for Pacific Islands broadcasters was also of value to the ABC, reflecting the rich cultures and diversity of the region.

Mr Kafcalouides then brought the CEOs from the PMPC first session into the discussion, so they could tell the assistance agencies what they needed most.

Francis Herman of the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation suggested rather than exchanging content with overseas producers, Pacific Islands broadcasters would benefit from an injection of ideas and expertise on how to make their own. He envisaged a "buddy system" between stations such as his and those in larger countries able to talk through content ideas.

Samoa Broadcasting Corporation Managing Director Faiesea Matafeo said she needed help building the capacity of staff because turnover was high – sometimes around every five years due to long hours, work pressure and other factors. She felt hands-on training in-country was better than staff going overseas, and they also needed equipment to practise on after training courses.

Ms Meleisea of PCBL commented that training would ideally be Pasifika-minded, with things happening organically through engagement.

Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, CEO of the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation, said without doubt they needed relevant content.

"There's only so much content we can produce ourselves," he said.

He also said the FBC needed some major funding to future-proof facilities against natural disasters, in his case by relocating some of their major facilities further inland away from the danger of disasters such as tsunamis.

ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi said he would circulate a questionnaire among members of the new Pacific Media Partnership Conference committee to ascertain their current and future needs.

Mr Kafcalouides closed the session by asking each member of the assistance agencies what they could offer to Pacific Islands broadcasters.

Ms Ito said UNESCO had annual calls for aid proposals and there was no reason why individual broadcasting organisations couldn't submit their own.

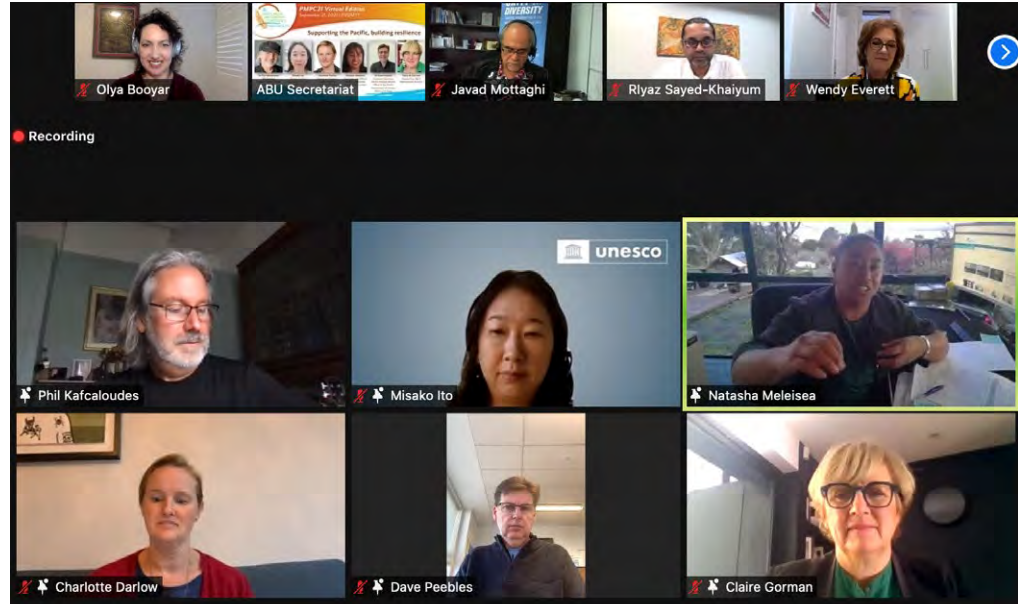
Ms Darlow said New Zealand could offer co-productions and mentoring and could share technical solutions to remote broadcasting.

Mr Peebles said that while funding was important, no-one was in it for the money, though Australia was currently "on the hunt for future projects".

Ms Meleisea of PCBL was keen to continue the conversation with partners on issues such as content, capacity and facilities. She said it was important to remember the Pacific Ocean was "something that combines us, not divides us".

Ms Matafeo said that was a positive note on which to draw the discussions to a close. She thanked all the participants and the moderator and said she looked forward to the partnerships and cooperation that would come out of the PMPC.

Mr Herman added he was looking forward to hosting the conference face-to-face in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in 2022.

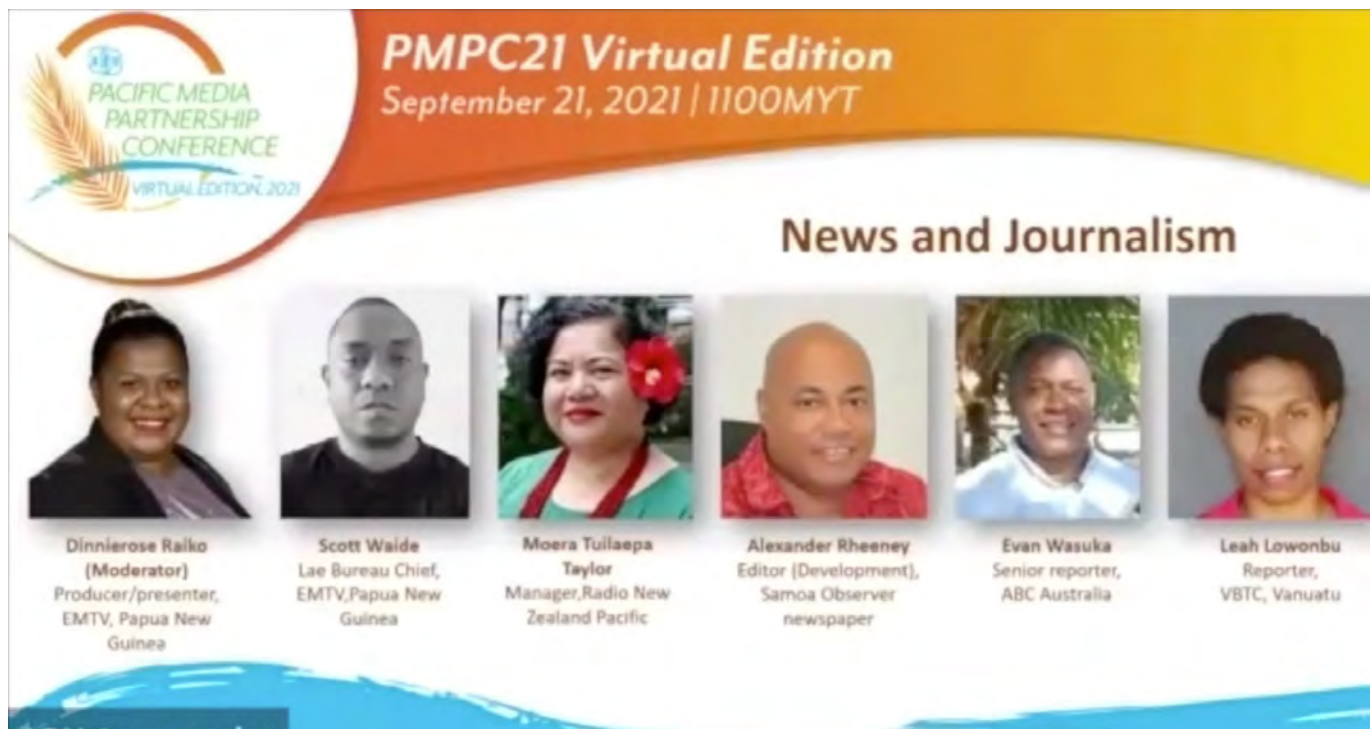


Pacific Media Development Forum Meets for First Time

The ABU's Pacific Media Partnership Conference on 21 September committed to set up a special forum to help members spread across the Pacific Ocean to tap into the relevant funding, training, content, and technical assistance available to broadcasters so that they can build a sustainable future.

The first meeting of the forum, on 1 October, included the CEOs of FBC-Fiji, VBTC-Vanuatu, SBC-Samoa, SIBC-Solomon Islands and ABC-Australia. Other forum members invited were Fiji TV, NBC-Papua New Guinea, TBC-Tonga and EMTV-Papua New Guinea. The meeting focused on priority areas in training, content development, back up facilities and development funding available for the region. Short and mid-term action plans are being drafted to take strategies forward.





Maintaining Quality Output at a Time of Fake News and Misinformation

Asiavision's News Panel at the Pacific Media Partnership Conference featured six frontline Pacific journalists discussing the challenges of maintaining quality news output when fake news and misinformation are circulating with the intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic itself.

Under the title 'Maintaining integrity and ethical reporting through the chaos of the pandemic and politics', panellists from five countries spoke about the challenges to and the solutions for upholding integrity and the principles of journalism across the Pacific. The focus was on recent national elections and the exponential increase of fake news prompted by the pandemic.

The News Panel comprised: Moderator, Dinnierose Raiko, Presenter/producer, EMTV-Papua New Guinea. Panel: Scott Waide, Lae Bureau Chief, EMTV-PNG; Alexander Rheeney, Editor (Development), Samoa Observer newspaper; Moera Tuilaepa Taylor, Pacific Manager, Radio New Zealand; Evan Wasuka, Senior reporter, ABC-Australia; and Leah Lowonbu, Reporter, VBTC-Vanuatu.

EMTV's Lae Bureau Chief, Scott Waide: "It's been a really difficult time for PNG media organisations – we hadn't future-proofed enough our revenues so while everybody else around the world was moving to online streams of income, for us in PNG it was quite a slow painful process over the last

two years. And that gave rise to the difficulty of producing good, ethical news content in this time of competition where we had a sharp increase in production houses taking over what was traditionally mainstream media functions."

Mr Waide said one of the biggest challenges was when production houses started live-streaming COVID press conferences which authorities preferred because they didn't have to face the media: "[There was also] the excuse that you couldn't have a lot of people in the one room so it caused a lot of conflict for us. There was also mushroom media organisation flourishing on Facebook and getting a lot of traffic to their sites. And they had no responsibility whatever in terms of producing content that was verified, fact-checked and that put us also under a lot of pressure trying to produce sound, ethical content. We were competing in a sense with the speed at which they were churning out content without any responsibility while we were required to have our content fact-checked and put through a process for our multiple platforms."

For more fascinating content from the Pacific News Panel, here's the link: <https://youtu.be/ZTcLnMSYevA>



Indonesian Team Wins Online ABU Robocon 2021



Thailand through the Lightning app, Facebook Live, YouTube and Nico-Nico Video.

After a heated competition, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (Indonesia) won the Grand-Prix.

The Mongolian University of Science and Technology finished second, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Team B third. Wuhan University (China) received the ABU Robocon Award for its comprehensive technological ability.

ABU Robocon 2021 ended with a welcome speech from Mr Sunil, Additional Director General of Doordarshan India, which will host the next ABU Robocon in Delhi, India in August 2022.

*You can see more information including the results and the entire competition at <https://www.robocn2021.com>

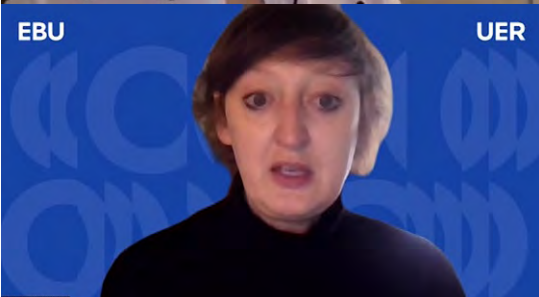
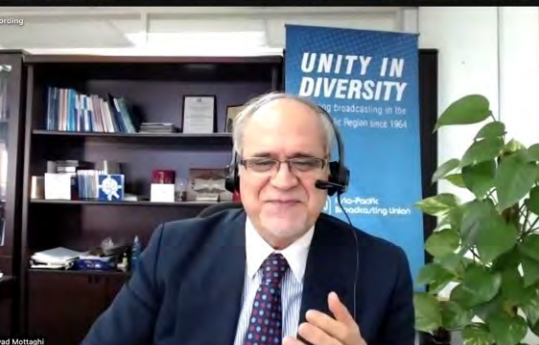
ABU Robocon 2021 was hosted by Shandong Radio and TV from Jimo in China on 12 December, supported by the National Radio and Television Administration of China.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the 20th anniversary of ABU Robocon saw it take place as an online competition for the first time. Although a virtual contest, it attracted 21 teams from 10 Asia-Pacific countries and regions.

The contest theme was based on the popular Chinese traditional entertainment 'Toufu' (throwing arrows into pots). Teams competed by shooting arrows into eight pots positioned at four different locations on the field while they connected with SRTV through the VooV meeting app.

The contest was broadcasted live on three major channels of SRTV in China as well as webcasted in China, Cambodia, Japan, Mongolia and

How Media and Culture leaders Cope with COVID



Broadcasters from across the Asia-Pacific and Europe, together with a dozen industry experts met online to share how their organisations had coped with COVID and had actually improved their operations and services to their audiences on-air and online.

More than 100 ABU members and guests from across the Asia-Pacific and Europe joined them on Zoom in the first meeting of a new Media and Culture Days Dialogue series, a partnership between the Union and Radio Romania (ROR). It follows on from the successful Media2020 Dialogues which had been running since 2015, rebranded to meet the challenges of the next decade.

ROR Director of International Relations Dr Dan Santa introduced the event from Bucharest on an optimistic note, describing culture as a way of seeing the world in which we live and pointing out that although global media had impacted on national cultures this had also brought new perspectives and shared knowledge.

ROR's new President Director General Dr Răzvan Ioan Dincă welcomed participants, saying how important culture was in leaving open doors between nations when other forms of dialogue were closed.

ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi echoed the sentiments, saying COVID-19 had forced inescapable rethinks about the role of public service broadcasting in radically altered societies.

"It has also forced us to confront some issues that we might not have paid enough attention to in the past," he

said. "In this case [it is] the importance of culture and the arts in our societies and the role of public service media in their protection, maintenance and future direction."

The dialogue was held over two sessions. The first on the changing world of media and culture saw a diverse panel of media leaders and experts in the field of culture/the arts discussing several current issues. The second session had additional real-world examples of how the media are moving into a changing cultural landscape, with broadcasters, technologists, and independent content creators showcasing innovative projects being undertaken in the fields of culture and the arts, sharing the reasons for their successes and failings.

The first session began with a presentation by Mr Taro Kunimi, Senior Producer in the Media Development & Strategy Center of Japanese national broadcaster NHK. He gave an illustrated talk about how their world-leading 8K-3D technology could capture and share digital models of rare ancient artifacts for audiences, educators and academics kept apart by COVID. Acclaimed violinist Alexandru Tomescu of the ROR National Radio Orchestra compared live and online performance, concluding with a performance recorded in lockdown in an empty concert hall.

Ms Edita Kudlacova, Head of Radio at the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) spoke of how her members were spending about 19 billion Euros a year on content and how proud everyone should be with how quickly they had responded to the pandemic, sharing their innovations in radio.

Malaysian media consultant Dato Kamil Othman said the pandemic had given broadcasters chance to take stock of what they knew about their own cultures. With so many people having to stay at home, networks had run content from other cultures, which opened up discussions and the pandemic had provided “a time we can share good things with each other in a borderless world”.

Ending the first session, Sylvestre Defontaine told how RTBF Culture and Music of Belgium had made practical efforts to support out-of-work or underemployed artists in content production, by organising a large number of performances and concerts for broadcast. This theme was echoed in the second session by Laurent Nègre, Head of Culture at RTS in Switzerland, who said their multi-media platforms for co-productions had unearthed talent that might otherwise not have gained exposure.

ABU Head of Radio Ms Olya Booyar introduced the second session by noting how the pandemic had led broadcasters to “unleash their creativity as a silver lining in the dark clouds of COVID”.

The first showcase by Andra Pretrariu described how Radio Romania Culture had implemented new schedules and created “safe circles” within which staff, listeners and online viewers could enjoy the new reality of being “at home together”. They had introduced new schedules and features as if at home, with breakfast and lunch programming plus an evening story time for children.

“We can stay together anywhere, at any time through radio,” he said.

ABU Head of Television Hanizah Hamzah detailed the numerous ABU programming and development initiatives that had moved or expanded online during COVID. These included the virtual ABU TV Song Festival, the ABU Prizes awards presentations, the first thematic exchange scheme ABU Solidarity about COVID-19, the ABU Music Exchange, a Children’s Media Hub Workshop and the Change Asia Rescue the Earth (CARE) scheme.

She said they were looking forward to the first ABU TV-Con in May 2022, where creators could share new

formats, content, and production ideas from around the world.

The next presenter, Davide Schiappapietra told how the Special Broadcasting Service in Australia had embedded culture further into its programming on radio and television, including Indigenous culture. All its 68 language programs included a “Welcome to Country” at the start, acknowledging the traditional ownership of the land by Indigenous Australians, who had the oldest continuous culture in the world.

Voice of Vietnam’s Mekong FM radio service showcased its special thrice-weekly cultural program that also livestreamed on the internet. It allowed listeners to connect with presenters and performers in the studio, for example by taking part in a virtual karaoke, singing to music played on traditional instruments by guest musicians.

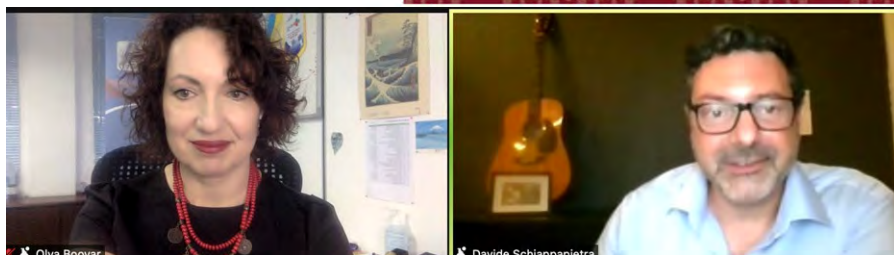
Oltea Serban Parau next explained how Radio Romania Culture had introduced CoolSound 2021 to support online

MEDIA & CULTURE DAYS

7th December 2021



7th December 2021 | 16:00-18:00 MYT



arts productions by musicians, actors, and dancers of all ages, at the height of their careers. It features established repertoires and original work, professionally filmed and uploaded to the Pro Contemporanea YouTube channel and the coolsound.ro platform.

The second session was rounded off with a presentation by China Radio International’s “A Thousand Whys” series on China Plus that tried to answer listener and reader questions about China ranging from food to space travel.

Dr Santa closed the dialogue by thanking all the presenters who had demonstrated fantastic examples of what the media were doing to support culture during very difficult times.

As well as the scheduled presentations, several participants from around the Asia-Pacific and Europe joined in a sidebar chat about establishing an ongoing vehicle to share and showcase successful initiatives during the pandemic.

ABU Digital Media Working Group Meeting

29 November 2021



ABU Digital Media Working Group Outlines Plans for 2022

The ABU Digital Media Working Group mapped out its planned activities and events for 2022 at its end-of-the-year meeting held on 29 November 2021. As part of new plans for next year, it was announced that a member assessment survey will be conducted early next year to better understand the common areas members can work together. This extensive survey will also pave way for planning specific digital strategy and content workshops and capacity building programs for members in the future.

As an immediate follow-up to the survey, the Group members also agreed to organise one-on-one meetings led by the ABU with the DMWG Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons in the first quarter of 2022 to identify key

digital training, capacity building and knowledge sharing needs of members.

The main aim of this meeting was to catch up and hear digital media updates from the DMWG members. All members present at the meeting shared digital projects they have completed this year and highlighted some of the planned projects for next year at their respective organisations.

This meeting also featured for the first time a presentation from YouTube, one of the external partners the ABU has invited to provide members with some key industry insights on emerging digital trends across the globe. The presentation on 'YouTube in the World of OTT Growth' was delivered by Jin-Ah Yang, Regional Lead - YouTube TV Film & Sports Partnerships APAC. The

presentation highlighted the findings of the study conducted in August this year to understand how YouTube users are engaging with other OTT services across the region and how streaming platforms can work with one another in such a fast-paced ecosystem change.

The ABU also shared the plans in place for some of its key digital events including the #ABUdigital 2022 scheduled to be held on 15-16 June virtually and the ABU Digital Media Workshop on how to produce quality digital shorts scheduled to be held online on 28-30 March 2022.

The Digital Media Working Group, previously known as New Media Task Group, was re-branded in June this year and now meets twice a year as part of the efforts to establish regular conversations between the members. The Group has also launched a meet-up series on Slack to stay connected with each other and discuss relevant digital media topics. The next Slack meet-up is scheduled to take place sometime in February 2022.

The meeting was attended by 10 participants from these 9 organisations: ABC-Australia, RAI-Italy, NHK-Japan, Media Prima-Malaysia, MBC-Mauritius, ABS-CBN-Philippines, Thai PBS-Thailand, TRT-Turkey and VOV-Vietnam.

Asiavision Plays Host to International Emmy Awards Semi-Final

The ABU and Asiavision hosted a Semi-Final round of the International Emmy® Awards, judging entries in both the News and Current Affairs sections. As with all 2021 events, the judging was held online in early July with Jurors spending many hours watching entries from around the world.

The judging group for the Asiavision Semi-Final was: Mark Maley, Manager, ABC News Editorial Policies, Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Regina (Ging) Reyes, Senior Vice President and Head of Integrated News and Current Affairs, ABS-CBN Corporation, Philippines; Ahmed Afruh Rasheed, Senior Editor, Asiavision, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union; Linhua Pan, Deputy Director of the International News Department, China Media Group; Caroline Faraj, Vice-President and Editor-in-Chief, CNN Arabic; Ian Ferguson, Deputy Chief Editor News, Mediacorp, Singapore; Zulfick Farzan, Manager of News 1st Digital, MTV/MBC Channels, Sri Lanka; Miki Ebara, Executive Producer, NHK World, NHK, Japan; Kiratikorn Naksompop (Tulip) Blauw, Editor-in-Chief, Thai PBS World.



ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi said: "Once again, the ABU is honoured to bring together a pool of diverse and highly-qualified journalists from the world's largest broadcasting union, to celebrate and learn from the best in News and Current Affairs, produced during the most challenging time in recent history."

The Semi-Final round is usually held in-person but was switched to an online event for 2021. The nominees for the 2021 International Emmy® awards in news & current affairs were announced in August and included entries

from Brazil, Kenya, Qatar, Russia, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The final round of judging which decides the winners is always held online and this year, the Director of the ABU News Department, Wendy Everett, was part of the Finals Panel.

In late September, the winners were announced at an online ceremony - the 2021 International Emmy® for News was presented to A Warning from Italy (Sky News, United Kingdom). When coronavirus spread in early 2020 and Italy overtook China as the epicenter,

nobody knew what this looked like – until, for the first time, Sky News revealed the horrific scale of the crisis in their world exclusive coverage.

The International Emmy® for Current Affairs was presented to In Cold Blood (Exposure) (DSP/ITV, United Kingdom). In Cold Blood examines the biggest treatment disaster in National Health Service (NHS) history after thousands of British haemophiliacs were infected and died from HIV and Hepatitis C caught from infected blood products. The scale and impact have until now been relatively understated in Britain.

With online News panels the only option and an 11-hour time difference between Members, east to west, Asiavision held two ABU NewsGroup Meetings to ensure all Members could contribute.

ABU NewsGroup – Asia News Panel

Am I The Right Person To Lead My Newsroom? Lessons from the Pandemic



It's a provocative title asking newsroom leaders to examine what they've learned about their own leadership over the past two years. After the challenge of 2020-21 and the professional and personal toll of the pandemic, it is a topic for all news leaders and reporters to ponder. What have we learned? What were our strengths? What could we have done better? What will we do differently in future?

A stellar lineup of leaders from Asiavision's main newsrooms told a story of reinvention, of a focus on the well-being of reporters and production staff, and of forging new ways to tell stories to keep audiences informed. The unrelenting crisis of two years and counting, put newsrooms on notice – reinvent or become irrelevant.

Keynote speaker Hany El-Konayyesi, TRT World Turkey: 'Pandemics are unlike any other challenges. The biggest dilemma we face is maintaining the safety of our staff, while maintaining the output on our platforms, without undermining the on-air programming and news quality. Output and editorial standards had to evolve to cater for the needs of the new audience, shaped by the pandemic. As the pandemic eases, breaking away from the 'new normal' has been a challenge in returning to previous protocols and norms.'

Moderator Jamie Ho, Mediacorp Singapore: 'Story fatigue is something audiences feel when covering the same story for so long. One of the recent challenges we as editors now face is to find ways to also keep our reporters interested and on track on covering

ABU NewsGroup — Asia News Panel

Keynote Speaker: Hany El-Konayyesi: Manager, News Output: TRT World Turkey

Moderator: Jaime Ho: Chief Editor, CNA Digital: Mediacorp Singapore

Panelist: Shuhei Ikehata: Deputy Head, World News Division: NHK Japan

Panelist: Ging Reyes: Head of Integrated News and Current Affairs: ABS-CBN Philippines

Panelist: Boldsaikhan Amarbat: News Director: TV5 Mongolia

Interpreter: Oyuntuya Dugersuren: IT engineer + AVN Coordinator: TV5 Mongolia

Panelist: Nguyen Thi Phuong Lien: Deputy General Director, VTV International: VTV Vietnam

Panelist: Pen Bona: Chief Editor: PNN Cambodia

Welcome remarks: Javad Mottaghi, Secretary-General: Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, Malaysia



this 'longest coverage' in recent times. We need to always be on alert to find creative ways to keep the stories fresh and relevant but also reporters interested in doing their best.'

Nguyen Thi Phuong Lien, VTV Vietnam: 'One of the creative solutions VTV came up with was to empower citizen journalists, especially in providing footage and interviews from the field. This meant that we were able to cover very inspiring stories from within communities and hard-to-reach places like quarantine stations and hospitals, [to give] well-rounded coverage of the pandemic.'

Pen Bona, PNN Cambodia: 'With the pandemic, one of the biggest impacts was the financial constraints broadcasters faced due to reduced advertising spending. This posed many challenges on balancing the output, and delivering the best information to the audience while supporting production and human resource needs. This needed creative solutions, adapting to the restrictions brought by the pandemic.'

Shuhei Ikehata, NHK Japan: The biggest challenge of course was the same for NHK as well, that was maintaining quality and guaranteeing the safety of our staff. There are some aspects that worked well working

from home and some that weren't possible. It's great that many viewers have accepted the quality of the 'new normal', be it less than it was before.

Ging Reyes, ABS-CBN Philippines: 'We had to find a balance of maintaining safety of our reporters, but also to deliver to the public, especially with the need to keep the public informed. There were times I would personally feel the pressure but we just had to face it head-on and conquer it the best we could. The amazing thing is that everyone stepped up as every journalist knew this [pandemic] was not something we could turn our backs on.'

Javad Mottaghi, ABU Malaysia: 'Am I the right person to lead my media organisation? This is especially an apt question particularly following the pandemic. Success indicators have changed drastically. The pandemic has taught us to think globally and act locally. This is important as we live in a global village. We must strengthen our partnerships with global partners. The high level of trust placed on our employees, as they were tasked to work from home, has also uncovered hidden talents. Thus, it has given us the chance to recognise and empower our employees even more.'

Watch again: <https://youtu.be/S9Nj2ZE0000>



PACIFIC NEWSGROUP MEETING 2021
Wednesday, October 27: 1400 Fiji / 1000 MYT

LEARNING FROM THE PANDEMIC



Moderator
Indra Singh
Manager News and Sports
FBC Fiji





Panelist
Sincha Dimara
Head of News and Current Affairs
EMTV Papua New Guinea





Panelist
Gabriel Vusi Lai
Chief of Staff
VBTC Vanuatu





Panelist
Stella Taoi
Senior Reporter/presenter
Fiji TV Fiji





Panelist
Scott Waide
Founder
LEKMAK Papua New Guinea



ABU NewsGroup – Pacific News Panel

Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic

ABU NewsGroup – Pacific News Panel

Moderator: Indra Singh, Manager News and Sports, FBC Fiji

Panelist: Sincha Dimara, Head of News and Current Affairs, EMTV PNG

Panelist: Gabriel Vusi Lai, Chief-of-Staff, VBTC Vanuatu

Panelist: Stella Taoi, Assistant News Editor, reporter and presenter, FijiTV Fiji

Panelist: Scott Waide, Founder, online news feature company LEKMAK, PNG



In the pandemic's first year, closed borders mostly kept the COVID-19 virus out of the Pacific but caused an economic crisis in countries that rely on tourism for much of their income. In 2021, the Delta variant changed the equation and the C-19 virus ravaged communities in Fiji and Papua New Guinea, causing a humanitarian crisis.

Broadcasters faced mighty challenges with newsrooms often empty as staff were forced to isolate. The Pacific News Panel revealed the two big issues for newsrooms – supporting the mental health of journalists/staff and tackling misinformation on social media. Social media was also the platform where newsrooms were criticised for their reporting and for showing the grim facts.

Moderator: Indra Singh, FBC Fiji:
'The pandemic has taken us down a route we never ever dreamt of. We



were watching it on the TV as things that were happening elsewhere but suddenly, it hit the Pacific and it hit hard, changing things drastically.'

Sincha Dimara, EMTV PNG: 'Social media is twofold – it's something that helps us, or something that we have to address with all of the misinformation that spurts out there on social media. Our policy was "Let's report the facts and keep the conversation going". We cannot ignore what happens on social media, be it the masses of body bags. We had to say, let us show the public what is happening [and this is] helping the authorities too.'

Scott Waide, LEKMAK PNG: 'We realised that we need to work as a unit and not individual news organisations. Collaborations needed to happen, and I think it's the most vital lesson that we learnt from the pandemic. Not just at a national level but also across the Pacific.'

Stella Taoi, FijiTV Fiji: 'One of the biggest challenges was that all the planning had to be re-assessed when the pandemic actually hit! The biggest concern: How could we report the news without compromising the health and safety of our reporters. We took

a bubble routine, where reporters worked in bubble shifts.'

Gabriel Vusi Lai, VBTC Vanuatu: 'We are lucky to be COVID-free and our story is a bit different. Things are normal but for us, we are looking into how we can learn from our Pacific neighbours. The biggest lesson – how can we address social media misinformation, but we [VBTC] are lucky that we know there is still trust from the audience towards mainstream media.'

Moderator Indra Singh: 'A lot of the time, people forgot about the journalists who were putting their lives at risk. How did it affect the mental health of reporters?'

Sincha Dimara, EMTV PNG: 'There were the front liners, there was the public and we were the link between them. We had to take a moment to step back, have a conversation with the newsroom as a family, just to get away from the high emotion.'

Stella Taoi, FijiTV Fiji: 'I had just come out of maternity leave to report the pandemic. Going out into the field at that point was in itself a roller coaster of emotions for me. We had reporters who had to leave their families behind and

set up camp closer to the newsroom.'

Moderator Indra Singh: 'The pandemic swept through beyond the newsrooms and with the many facets it brought, how has it affected the family life of reporters?'

Scott Waide, LEKMAK PNG: 'You can't just be a manager; you have to be a counsellor too! We are being forced to work long hours, and taking care of the reporters, looking into how it affects their families at home, these are things that are not discussed openly. It goes beyond the textbook approach of management where you have to deal with every individual separately. It's a whole new aspect that the pandemic has taught us.'

And a final word from **Moderator Indra Singh**: 'What we have heard here today is resilience. People around the world might not know what the Pacific reporters are going through, have gone through the past year. I want to thank each and every journalist who is here and not here, for all you have done. **We need each other, we need to support each other!**

Watch again: <https://youtu.be/UedJ1upfoPU>



ABU NewsGroup Executive Elections and Closed Meeting

As part of Asiavision's signature annual events, the NewsGroup Closed Meeting was held after the News Panel on 28 October.

With grateful thanks to members for their strong support through yet another year filled with immense challenges, the News Review revealed some pleasing figures.

For the year July 2020-June 2021, there were 16,142 uploads onto the Asiavision News Exchange. Of these, 9,067 or 56 percent were same day stories, an essential figure that continues to rise.

As expected, pandemic stories were a strong focus with members uploading 5,585 COVID-19 related news stories or 34 percent of the total.

THE TOP 10 NEWS EXCHANGE CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2020-21 WERE:

VTV Vietnam	2,487
CCTV China	2,403
NHK Japan	1,871
IRIB Iran	1,612
DDI India	925
KBS Korea	610
MCOT Thailand	545
TVB Hong Kong China	419
RTM Malaysia	374
TDM Macau China	340

THE TOP FIVE COVID-19 CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2020-21:

CCTV China	930
VTV Vietnam	880
NHK Japan	511
IRIB Iran	498
DDI India	331

THE WINNERS OF THE ASIAVISION ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

Coverage of the Year:
VTV Vietnam

Outstanding Coverage of Breaking News:
NHK Japan

Outstanding Reporting on Climate Change and Adaptation:
CNA Singapore

Outstanding Reporting from the Pacific:
EMTV Papua New Guinea

Outstanding International Coverage:
IRIB Iran

Outstanding Visuals for a News Story:
NHK Japan

Outstanding Reporting of a News Story:
TVB Hong Kong China

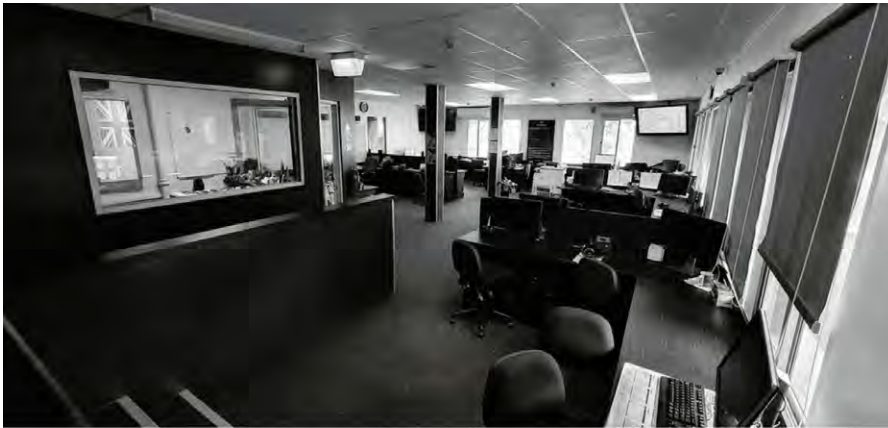
Outstanding Coverage of a News Event:
CCTV China

The NewsGroup Closed Meeting also discussed a much-needed development over the use of Asiavision content on social media platforms. This will be followed up in subsequent Editors-in-Chief Meetings.

The elections for Asiavision's Chair and two Vice Chairs were filled without a vote as there was a single nomination for each position.

Indra Singh, Manager News and Sports, FBC Fiji was re-appointed Chair of the Asiavision NewsGroup with Seki Norio, Head of NHK Japan's International News Division and Maushumi Chakravarty, Assistant Director General, Prasar Bharati News Service Division, selected Vice Chairs.

The Unseen: Trauma and Resilience in the Pacific Supporting Journalists who Cover Pandemics and Disasters



The Unseen

Trauma and Resilience in the Pacific
Helping journalists who cover
the Pandemic and Disasters

Let's hear from:

**Kimina Lyall - Deputy CEO, DART Centre Asia Pacific
&**

Wame Valentine - DART Pacific Fellow 2017

Moderator: Indra Singh, FBC

Thursday, December 2 @1400 Fiji



**DART CENTER
FOR JOURNALISM & TRAUMA**
A PROJECT OF COLUMBIA JOURNALISM SCHOOL

During Asiavision's Lessons from the Pandemic news panel at the NewsGroup Meeting in October, it became clear that for many in the Pacific media, the toughest professional challenge of these past two years was not logistics but psychological stress and burnout.

With COVID-19 still a huge challenge and the cyclone season on the way, Asiavision joined with the DART Centre Asia Pacific on 2 December for a timely webinar workshop on trauma and resilience.

More than 40 people from 10 countries joined on the day – from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia and China.

NewsGroup Chair and Manager News and Sports at FBC Fiji, Indra Singh, started the workshop with a shocking memory of the day his Newsroom was empty. Not a single journalist could turn up for work but the bulletin still had to go to air that night.

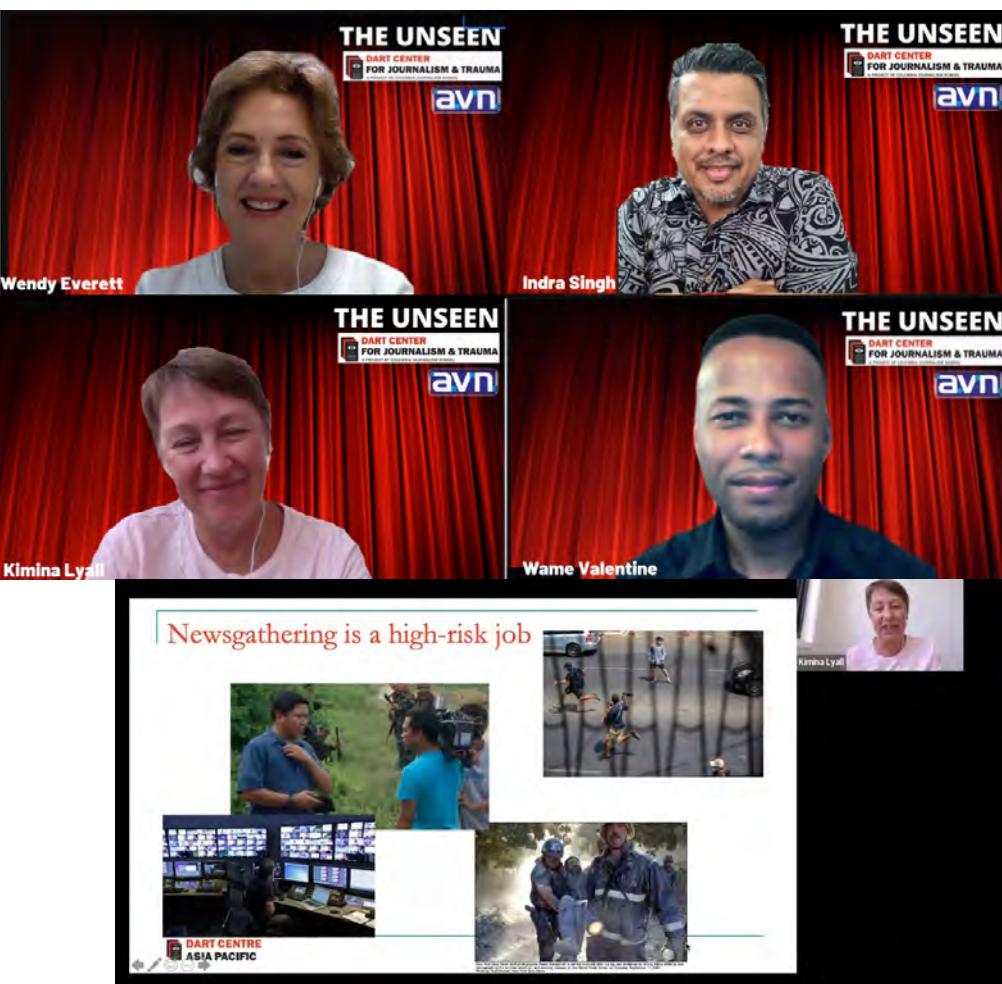
"It still gives me shivers when I think that we saw an empty newsroom for the very first time, having covered political crises and natural disasters," he said.

"That was one part of the puzzle, the next part was dealing with shattered staff. They didn't know what was happening. They didn't know what they were dealing with. What was going to come up next?

"Was COVID going to see us cutting down on staff numbers? Our family members were losing employment. There were domestic issues cropping up. Particularly our female staff with pressure as sole breadwinners or single mums looking after kids.

"Then we had teams moving out of their family homes into apartments provided by the company because we didn't want to break up teams. That had a major psychological affect.

"We saw people smoking, drinking, taking kava much more, looking for outlets. There was stress. There was friction between colleagues. One of our colleagues lost her husband. How do you console her? What do you do? What do you say?



"And how do you report? You're reporting on something that's not been there before.

"I believe we really haven't dealt with [the mental fallout] from COVID. Stress and depression are at levels we haven't seen before."

The DART Centre Asia Pacific provides psycho-social education to media professionals and organisations exposed to trauma. Its purpose is to mitigate the effects of psychological trauma and negative mental health outcomes on both journalists and the traumatised victims they report on.

DART Centre Deputy CEO Kimina Lyall told the workshop that with the many dangers they are exposed to, being a journalist was a high-risk job. And not just those working in the field. Those in editing booths or in the production line could be exposed to images that needed editing because the content was too graphic for broadcast.

"To continue to do our important work, we need to have ways to respond and adapt to this constant inflow of quite

difficult visual, auditory and emotional information," Ms Lyall said.

"That's at the heart of what the DART Centre is about – teaching journalists and people who work in the media how to become resilient and to have the resources to deal with it."

Ms Lyall said trauma and the trauma response involved a threat to life, extreme violence or sexual violence. It could be experienced directly or witnessed as happening to others. It could be experienced electronically if this was part of your job. If your job required you to look at violent images, then that put you in the risk category.

"So, what has COVID got to do with all this? It is a relentless story that is just not going away BUT that affects us all personally. We are not able to just go and report on the story - it's in our community, it's people we know.

"In addition to that there's the fear that I go out and do my job and I come home and bring the virus home to my family. It's stress AND it's trauma. It's trauma because we are seeing the

impact on the hospitals, the impact of the shortage of oxygen and the impact of people losing loved ones.

"And it's stress because it's relentless and it requires a whole lot of resources that might not be accessible or be able to be maintained over time," Ms Lyall said.

"And one of the key things that actually helps us survive difficult times in life has been taken away from us – and that is interaction with other human beings ... connection with others, camaraderie, collaboration, all of those things are gone now and we've been turned into these walking PPE bodies, trying to do our jobs.

Ms Lyall said there are three areas that the DART Centre thought were vital to develop resilience to trauma.

"The first one is so important – interaction ... reaching out to another human being. We are social creatures. We cannot survive on our own. It doesn't necessarily mean you have to reach out to de-brief or talk about what you're feeling. It's just - share a cup of tea and a cake, go out to watch a footy match ... just have some interaction with someone that you care about," she said.

"The second one is exercise, maintaining your physical body and moving out the stress hormones that are building up though exercise. The third one is about a sense of purpose, [thinking] that there is something worthwhile in what I am doing, I am achieving something important. My job is important. It's informing the community, it's helping keep the community safe – whatever [that sense of achievement] is for you."

Ms Lyall said those three aspects were called the golden triangle of resilience – social support, exercise and a sense of clear purpose or meaning in one's work. "They will help you stay strong as you navigate what you've been through and what's to come," she said.

To watch this insightful workshop and hear more from Ms Lyall, from DART Pacific Fellow Wame Valentine and from journalists around the Pacific, here's the link: <https://youtu.be/Y508giCM0BI>



Editors of VTV International Minh Đức, Thanh Hải, Thanh Trung and Lam Oanh celebrate their win

Asiavision Annual Awards 2021 Celebrate the Best of the Past Year



Ootaka, Toshiyuki / Chief Cameraman, NHK Sapporo, and Nakamura, Sho / Chief Director, NHK Tokyo, celebrate their win

With around 17,000 eligible items for the 2020-21 season, awards were presented in seven categories along with the award for Coverage of the Year. This year, an additional category was introduced – Outstanding International Coverage, due to the high number of contributions by members on stories of global importance, reported through their various correspondents based outside the home nation.

The 2021 Award for Coverage of the Year went to **VTV Vietnam**, for its excellent coverage of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Their coverage not only included pandemic prevention and daily updates, but also included a vast array of economic, social, technological, and human-interest stories that showed a wholesome picture of how individuals, businesses, small communities and the country as a whole battled the pandemic.

Among the winners were: **NHK Japan** who won two awards – Outstanding Visuals for a News Story and Outstanding Coverage of Breaking News; **CNA Singapore** – Outstanding Reporting on Climate Change and

Adaptation; **EMTV Papua New Guinea** – Outstanding Reporting from the Pacific; **IRIB Iran** – Outstanding International Coverage; **TVB Hong Kong China** – Outstanding Reporting of a News Story; and **CCTV China** – Outstanding Coverage of a News Event.

Looking at the numbers, NHK Japan received five nominations (2 wins); VTV Vietnam received four nominations (1 win); IRIB Iran (1 win), CCTV China (1 win), TVB Hong Kong China (1 win) and KBS Korea all received three nominations; PNN Cambodia, RTM Malaysia, SLRC Sri Lanka, TRT Turkey, TVRI Indonesia and MCOT Thailand all received two nominations; EMTV Papua New Guinea (1 win), CNA Singapore (1 win), TV5 Mongolia, TDM Macau China, VBTC Vanuatu, FijiTV Fiji, FBC Fiji all received a nomination.

This year's ceremony was the second time the awards have been held virtually. The eligibility period for the 2022 awards runs from 01 June 2021 to 31 May 2022, and the winners will be announced at the Global News Forum 2022 set for October 2022 in New Delhi, India.

The ABU News Department's premier events came to a fitting conclusion of Friday 29 October, after three days of News Group events with the annual celebration of the best of the best contributed by Asiavision members over the last year.

FULL LIST OF WINNERS AND NOMINEES:

OUTSTANDING VISUALS FOR A NEWS STORY

- **Hokkaido glacier river – NHK Japan (WINNER)**
- Unique Squat Market – VTV Vietnam
- National Nadaam Festival – TV5 Mongolia
- Yau Ma Tei lockdown – TVB Hong Kong China
- Children hunt for baby frogs – PNN Cambodia

OUTSTANDING REPORTING FROM THE PACIFIC:

- Vanuatu Independence Day celebrations – VBTC Vanuatu
- Cyclone Yass coverage – FijiTV Fiji
- **Former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's death – EMTV, Papua New Guinea (WINNER)**
- COVID-19 coverage – FBC Fiji

OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE:

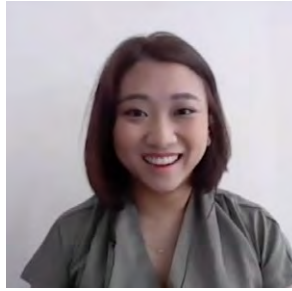
- Coverage of the Myanmar military coup – NHK Japan
- **Coverage of the death of George Floyd and the global reaction - IRIB Iran (WINNER)**
- Coverage of COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts worldwide – CCTV China
- Coverage of the Hong Kong democracy movement – NHK Japan
- Coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – IRIB Iran

OUTSTANDING REPORTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION:

- Old material given new life as bags – VTV Vietnam
- Efforts to protect Shiwha Lake – KBS Korea
- Bumpy road to achieving zero carbon emission – KBS Korea
- **Declining biodiversity in Singapore – C.N.A. Singapore (WINNER)**
- Outdoor turtle classroom – RTM Malaysia

OUTSTANDING REPORTING OF A NEWS STORY:

- **Refugee-curated modelling agency inspired by Black Lives Matter – TVB Hong Kong China (WINNER)**
- "Tsunami baby" sits for his O Level exams – SLRC Sri Lanka
- Light pollution debate – TDM Macau China
- Veteran rescue dog retires – KBS Korea
- Taskforce saves volunteer who had a miscarriage during a S&R operation – VTV Vietnam



Geraldine Yap, accepts award for climate reporting for her story on declining biodiversity in Singapore



IRIB News Editors Abbas Rasouli and Ali Rabiee along with AVN IRIB Coordinator Arezou Abdi celebrate their win for the inaugural "Outstanding International Coverage" award.



TVB reporter Jacky Lin celebrates her win for her story inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement



Paul Vunituraga, Head of Production, and Sincha Dimara, Head of News, celebrate their win



Ying Wang, CCTV-AVN desk editor, and June Liu, producer of CCTV-AVN desk, editor celebrate their win



Yamamoto Rie and Chiba Shigeo of the NHK News Exchange Desk celebrate their win

OUTSTANDING COVERAGE OF A NEWS EVENT:

- Coverage of court case and sentencing of Former Prime Minister Najib Nazak – RTM Malaysia
- Coverage of the New Security Law and resulting shut down of the Apple Daily – TVB Hong Kong China
- **Coverage of Change'e-5's mission to the Moon – CCTV China (WINNER)**
- Coverage of the Iranian Presidential Elections – IRIB Iran
- Coverage of the re-assignment of Hagia Sofia as a mosque – TRT Turkey
- Coverage of the ASEAN leader's summit on the Myanmar military coup – TVRI Indonesia
- Coverage of the 10th Anniversary of the 3-11 earthquake and nuclear catastrophe – NHK Japan
- Coverage of the failed hit and run case against Red Bull scion – MCOT Thailand

OUTSTANDING COVERAGE OF BREAKING NEWS:

- Coverage of the Shandong gold mine blast search and rescue efforts – CCTV China
- **Coverage of the resignation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe – NHK Japan (WINNER)**
- Coverage of anti-government protests in Bangkok – MCOT Thailand
- Coverage of the oil tanker fire off the coast of Sri Lanka – SLRC Sri Lanka
- Coverage of the sinking of Kri Nanggala submarine – TVRI Indonesia
- Coverage of the massive flooding across 19 provinces in central Cambodia – PNN Cambodia
- Coverage of landslides at the Rao Trang Hydropower company – VTV Vietnam
- Coverage of the Izmir earthquake – TRT Turkey



ABU Sports with 35 production crew on-site led by ABU Sports Director was the host broadcaster for Equestrian and Shooting

A unique joint-venture production crew with RTM Malaysia, KBS Korea and SRT China



ABU Sports: Looking Ahead

With 2022 at our doorstep, ABU Sports is in the process of delivering several multi-sporting events to ABU members. While it is essential to review the past year, planning for the coming year assumes even more urgency and importance, considering the events that are ahead.

Going by the calendar of sporting events of international federations and sports organisers, 2022 is set to get even better. Despite the pandemic showing no sign of ending anytime soon, the sports broadcast industry has resolved to move on, and so is ABU Sports.

This is evident from the international sporting events lined-up for next year. Some of the major scheduled events with focus on Asia, and that ABU Sports



	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
🏆 Ceremonies																			
🏂 Alpine Skiing					🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂		🏂		🏂	🏂	🏂		🏂	
🏂 Bobsleigh												●	🏂	🏂			●	🏂	🏂
🏂 Biathlon				🏂		🏂	🏂		🏂	🏂	🏂		🏂	🏂		🏂	🏂		
🏂 Cross-Country Skiing				🏂	🏂		🏂		🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂		🏂				🏂	🏂
🏒 Curling	●	●	●	●	●	●	🏒	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	🏒	🏒	🏒
🏂 Freestyle Skiing		●		🏂	🏂	●	🏂	🏂				●	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂
🏂 Figure Skating			●		●	🏂	●		🏂		●		🏂	●		🏂	●	🏂	●
🏒 Ice Hockey		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	🏒	🏒	●	🏒	🏒
🏂 Luge				●	🏂	●	🏂	🏂											
🏂 Nordic Combined								🏂						🏂		🏂			
🏂 Snowboard				●	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂		●	🏂					
🏂 Ski Jumping				🏂	🏂	🏂				●	🏂		🏂						
🏂 Skeleton									●	🏂	🏂								
🏂 Speed Skating				🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂		🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂		🏂		🏂	🏂	🏂	🏂
🏂 Short Track Speed Skating				🏂		🏂		🏂	🏂		🏂			🏂					

● Event competitions 🏂 Event finals 🏆 Opening and Closing Ceremony

* Schedule subject to change

19 SPORTS

INCLUDING 8 PARA-SPORTS



is associated in one way or the other, include:

- The Olympic Winter Games, Beijing 2022 February 4-2 in China.
- The 2022 Winter Paralympics- March 4-13, Beijing China
- The 31st South East Asian Games (SEA) – May 12 – 23 in Vietnam
- 2021 Summer World University Games, June 26 – July 7, 2022 in Chengdu, China
- The Commonwealth Games 2022, July 28 – August 8, Birmingham, the UK
- The 2022 Islamic Solidarity Games, August 9 – 18 in Konya, Turkey
- The 19th Asian Games 2022, September 10 – 25 in Hangzhou China
- The 2022 Asian Para Games, October 9 – 15 in Hangzhou, China
- The 2022 FIFA World Cup, November 21 – December 18 in Qatar

Olympic Winter Games, Beijing 2022:

The year 2022 sporting calendar kick-starts with one of the largest multi-sporting events - the Olympic Winter Games or Beijing 2022, as it is known.

According to the organisers, the global television audience can expect major changes in the way the Games will be produced and delivered. The Olympic Broadcast Services and the China Media Group will use full UHD, which is 4K in terms of resolution with high dynamic range and white colour gamut, which essentially means the best quality pictures that will be available for the global audience. The Games will see the biggest ever 8K camera deployment or presence.

Around 2,900 athletes, representing approximately 85 National Olympic Committees, are expected to compete in the 2022 Winter Games.

Birmingham 2022: the Commonwealth Games.

The next big event is the Commonwealth Games, Birmingham 2022, scheduled to take place from July 28 through August 8 in the United Kingdom.

The event is dubbed the first multi-sport games experience for the best emerging stars - the next generation of heroes. According to the organisers, sports broadcasters can look forward to a world class sports TV production with over 1,380 hours of content.

>> From previous page



HANGZHOU ASIAN GAMES 2022 ESPORTS GAME TITLES ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFICIAL GAME TITLES

 Arena of Valor Asian Games Version	 DOTA 2	 Dream Three Kingdoms 2	 EA SPORTS FIFA branded soccer games
 HearthStone	 League of Legends	 PUBG Mobile Asian Games Version	 Street Fighter V

The 19th Asian Games 2022, Hangzhou 2022, September 10 – 25

Asia's largest multi-sporting event Hangzhou 2022 is being described as 'Athletes-Centred and Competitions-Focussed'. It will take place in some 55 venues in and around Hangzhou, China. The event will see 40 sports, including the debut of the E-sports at Hangzhou 2022 for the first time.

The inclusion of E-sports as a medal sport at the 19th Asian Games was announced by the Olympic Council of Asia and the Asian Electronic Sports Federation during campaign, in November, leading up to the Asian Games titled 'Road to Asian Games'.

The year that was - 2020:

The past year has been described as a landmark for the ABU Sports. Despite the pandemic, ABU Sports was able to deliver Tokyo 2020 to at least 11 member countries. ABU Sports, for the first time, partnered with the host broadcaster to produce feeds for two sports during the Paralympics. It is a unique partnership between the members and the ABU.

According to a release from the IOC, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games reached a global broadcast audience of more than three billion. ABU Sports as a right-holding broadcaster of Tokyo 2020 delivered the games to six countries in South Asia, and five in Southeast Asia.

ABU Sports continues its efforts to deliver the Olympics, Beijing 2022, to these countries despite the global pandemic.

Other Initiatives:

ABU Sports is also planning these initiatives in the coming year/s to help generate and produce more diverse content for our members.

- The ABU Sports monthly Webinar Series - with major players in the sports broadcast industry as speakers
- The ABU Sports Achievement Award - to recognise and acknowledge the work and the contribution of people working in the sports broadcast industry
- Co-production project in sports, entertainment and lifestyle themes under the broad title 'Eyes on Asia'.

At the moment, these initiatives are being discussed with members in terms of their involvement and contribution. How far and soon the activities can be implemented will also depend on the way the ongoing pandemic pans out in the coming year.



Stellar year for ABU Media Academy

During the past year the ABU Media Academy delivered 40 courses to over 1,800 participants from almost all of our members broadcasters.

This outstanding result was achieved in the first full year of Academy operations through cooperation with all the ABU Departments who recommended expert trainers, contributed expertise and assisted with course delivery.

Some of the most notable courses include:

- Social Media
- Sales
- Adapting Books for Screen
- Virtual Production
- Outside Broadcasts
- Radio Programming
- Radio Presentation
- TV Presentation
- Video editing
- Colour Grading
- News

The Academy also collaborated with the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and the HEC Business University in Canada to deliver university level training to a radio program director in Fiji, a tv producer in Vietnam and 40 middle level managers across the region who studied professional management techniques.

At the most recent Media Academy Forum, 60 attendees from 35 member organisations reviewed the success of the courses and commended the Academy team, Steve and Ruchi, for their success this year.

“Our members have had a very tough time during the pandemic. Training has really helped them to refresh themselves during their lockdowns and prepare for the new things that will face them when the new normal of broadcasting resumes after covid subsides,” said ABU Academy Head Steve Ahern.



TV News Presenting: It's a Matter of Trust

Brad Smart, a seasoned news presenter, delivered a course on TV News Presenting as part of the ABU Media Academy's training schedule this year.

In this article Brad summarises some of the tips he gave participants during the course.

Presenting

Presenting TV News is easy, everyone thinks they can do it. What is *difficult* is doing it well and continuing to improve, bulletin after bulletin.

When you get your on-air dream job with a TV news service, your world can shrink into a little bubble of ego.

It is easy to end up performing for the studio crew or the camera sitting in front of you. Take a reality check and remember what your real job is.

You are not in the TV business, you are in the people business. So you have to become a communicator.

Your audience is not the camera, it is the tens of thousands of individuals who make up your viewing audience. They are the ones who will be judging your performance each night.

TV news anchors and field reporters do not have the same direct contact with their audience like public speakers in a meeting room or a theatre. As a broadcaster, you have to create that audience connection with your imagination.

Mental preparation is crucial before every on-air performance. Athletes and actors use it and you should too.

Imagine someone sitting on a couch at home watching you. That is your audience. Remember that person whenever you are reporting and put yourself in that viewer's place. Ask yourself 'how would I like this story or this bulletin to be presented to me?'

This process can help you create a mental bond with your audience and improve the way you deliver.



When you are communicating with an audience, you are trying to establish trust. As a broadcaster, your job is to take your audience inside the stories you introduce or cover.

Audience members need to feel that they can trust you, because you give them valuable information on subjects that may make a difference in their lives. It's a big responsibility.

Great TV news services aren't created by on-air talent alone. The outcome is a combined effort – producers, reporters, writers, editors and the technical team.

Writing

Without good writing you can't have a quality news service.

Broadcast news relies on short, simple sentences to get the message across. Lengthy, complex sentences only confuse viewers.

In most viewer's homes, there are many competing sources for the viewer's attention – the internet, radio,

newspapers, magazines, social media, cooking meals and fighting with kids. News bulletins need to be written and delivered with clarity and cut through to keep your viewer's attention.

Sell the story

A good axiom to remember for broadcast news is "**what** you say is less important than **how** you say it."

Reporters and anchors must know how to sell stories to viewers with passion and enthusiasm. Anchors must practice so they can produce a sincere smile when required. Smiling makes you appear warm and open to your viewers.

Both anchors and reporters need to 'think' a smile during their on-camera appearances, and whenever they are reading or recording a voiceover. 'Thinking a smile' helps lift the inflections in your voice, adding colour and texture.

Effectively working the camera with your eyes also helps to build

a connection with your audience. Someone speaking to a room full of people is lucky, it is easy for them to use their eyes to make a direct audience connection. Not so in television. Unfortunately, for many reporters and anchors, the world of television news ends at the camera lens.

Because broadcasters work to a virtual audience they must use their imagination to help make that all-important connection. When you're looking directly at the lens or a teleprompter, you have to look right through that lens and talk directly with your imaginary audience member.

These tips were prepared by Brad Smart as part of the ABU Media Academy's series on TV Presentation. If you would like to use it to train your presenters, Brad's presentation is available on the Academy Learning Platform. Contact academy@abu.org.my for access to this and other ABU Media Academy courses.

Q & A

Broadcasting UHD/HDR content in IRAN



Fatemeh Fallahi Vishkaei
Senior Project Manager,
IRIB R&D, Iran

ABUTechnologyWebinar

Broadcasters in the Asia-Pacific region have shared some of the technology solutions they have created to improve the services they offer their audiences.

Experts from IRIB-Iran and Prasar Bharati-India described such innovations during the last two sessions of the ABU Webinar Series on Member Innovations in October and November 2021.

ABU Technology provided the platform to its members to share their stories, case studies and advancements in broadcasting.

Ms Fatemeh Fallahi of IRIB delivered the first webinar session on 'Broadcasting UHD/HDR content in Iran' on 26 October.

She introduced major elements of high-quality image production and the HDR ecosystem and explained preparations for UHD broadcasting, live production and distribution workflow within IRIB.

The trial of UHD TV broadcasting began in Tehran in May 2020 and the pilot UHD channel was launched in November 2020.

Over 70 participants representing about 39 organisations from 23 countries attended the webinar session.

Broadcasters Share Creative Technology Solutions

ABUTechnologyWebinar

The Speakers

TV Studio Applications using Open Source CASPAR CG Platform

Nandakumar Singh
Director Engineering,
AIR Imphal, India

Vimlesh Kumar
Engineering Assistant,
DDK Mumbai, India

Another session took place on 2 November, with two speakers from Prasar Bharati introducing TV studio applications using the open source CasparCG platform.

Mr Nandkumar Singh and Mr Vimlesh Kumar discussed in detail the software applications they have developed in areas including playback automation,

graphics, slow motion and off air logger.

Ms Manisha Shete of Prasar Bharati's in-house training institution NABM also spoke. She said Prasar Bharati was willing to share this open source software with ABU members.

About 60 people from 33 organisations in 20 countries took part in the session.

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ABU DIGITAL
BROADCASTING
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**22-24 MARCH 2022
A VIRTUAL EVENT**

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Acting President says Farewell



Mr Yang Sung-dong stepped down as ABU Acting President on 9 December 2021, upon completing his second term as KBS CEO and President.

In a farewell letter, he said he had focused on maintaining the fundamental principles and quality services of the ABU since becoming Vice President of the Union in December 2019.

"I made particular efforts to better serve our members struggling with COVID-19 in the even-unprecedented age of the new normal. I continued to explore ways to create a stronger and sustainable ABU, which will ultimately benefit our members."

He praised the "superb stewardship" of the ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, and thanked all Secretariat members of staff.

Mr Yang said he was certain the new ABU President, Mr Masagaki Satoru, would steer the Union with strong leadership.

He said he would continue to support the ABU despite leaving KBS.

Dr Mottaghi expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr Yang for his outstanding contribution during his term as ABU Vice President and Acting President.

During his four years at the helm of KBS, Mr Yang successfully hosted Public Broadcasters International in Seoul in 2018 and the KBS-ABU International Radio Forum in 2019, which highlighted the critical role of public service media in the ever-evolving media landscape.

He joined KBS as a television producer and director in 1989 and has an extensive background in documentary production and investigative journalism.

New KBS President Pledges Support for ABU

Mr Kim Eui-chul has succeeded Mr Yang Sung-dong as President and CEO of KBS. He took up the position on 10 December and will lead KBS for a three-year term.

Mr Kim pledged that KBS would continue its unwavering support and enthusiastic involvement in ABU activities and initiatives.

"The ABU has become the most relevant and essential international media body in the Asia-Pacific region," he said in a letter to the Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi.

"The Union continues to play an important role in advancing cooperation among media organisations across the region."

Dr Mottaghi had earlier written to Mr Kim, congratulating him on his appointment. He said he was confident Mr Kim would lead KBS to new heights around the globe.

Mr Kim has an extensive background in news and current affairs production.

He joined KBS as a journalist in 1990. In 2005, he became Head of the Investigative News Team in the Newsroom. Three years later he was appointed Head of the Social Affairs Team in the Newsroom.

He took up the position of Executive Director, Newsroom, in 2018, and in 2020 became CEO of KBS Business, a subsidiary of KBS.





New Head of Radio Romania welcomed into ABU family

ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi welcomed the appointment of the new President Director General of Radio Romania, Mr. Răzvan Ioan Dincă, and said the Union was eager to strengthen the relationship with one of its most active European partners on the eve of their forthcoming joint initiative, the virtual Media and Culture Days Dialogue on 7 December.

Dr Mottaghi said Mr Dincă's career in culture and the arts meant he was well-placed to help lead the dialogue to discuss the important question of how to strengthen the media's relationships with culture and the arts in a post-pandemic world.

The new President Director General was elected to head Romania's national radio broadcaster by a large majority of the Romanian Parliament.

Mr. Dincă's has extensive experience in cultural and media management, with a focus on the performing arts. He served previously as Director of the Romanian Opera House in Bucharest, from 2012 to 2015, and Director of the National Operetta and Musical Theatre "Ion Dacian", from 2006 to 2012. He has also been a theatre director, and director and founder of several international performing arts and drama festivals.

Mr. Dincă succeeded in establishing and developing a large network of professional exchanges at European level for both the Opera House of Bucharest and for the Operetta and Musical Theatre.

He earned his PhD in Drama from the University of Theatre and Film "I. L. Caragiale" in Bucharest in 2009. He directed several operas, operettic shows and musicals in various opera houses and theatres in Romania and overseas. He also served as adviser for Radio Romania from 2010 to 2012.



'Our Reporters Need to Risk Their Lives'

Mr Phosy Keomanivong, Director General of Lao National Radio (LNR), speaks to ABU News about the challenges facing his organisation amid the pandemic and lockdowns.

Due to the Pandemic, what has Lao National Radio done to make sure the needs of different sectors in society are being served and what are some of the challenges that you faced in serving the public?

During the COVID-19 outbreak since early 2020, Lao National Radio (LNR) has particularly found difficulties in the fulfilment of its main duty in delivering news and information to the general public.

However, LNR, by doing its best and adapting its working methods, has still been able to properly assume its role of infotaining the public, by using different ways of broadcasting, from traditional radio waves to internet/social media (websites and applications), via Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp.

The lockdown imposed nationwide by the government has also affected the information access of our news team, when all state and private organisations were asked to temporarily close their doors or reduce by half the number of their personnel coming to work.

Nevertheless, despite facing great difficulties, our news team has been wise enough to cope with the situation during this COVID-19 pandemic, by having more usage of new media for reaching our various credible sources of information.

The key objective was to help the general public to be fully informed and updated on any latest important news and developments related to the COVID-19 situation in the country, as well as on any official announcements, directives, measures and recommendations about how to effectively deal with the disease.

During the current COVID-19 situation, it is obvious that LNR has to face several challenges. Our reporters are among those people working in professions that need to risk their lives. But even being scared and losing confidence, like any other people, they still have to go out, to do their noble task.

Unfortunately, there were some who were infected with the virus and were obliged to stop working for a certain

period, while many of their colleagues identified were put in quarantine.

Then trouble came into the news team when the workforce had temporarily been reduced, but not the quantity of work. However, 'working from home' and 'working on site' have been merged, maintaining the quality of news and reports, with consistent credibility, accountability, accuracy and punctuality.

Another challenge that LNR had to face was economic, when commercial advertising, the main source of our income, dramatically decreased, causing significant shortages and serious problems to the smooth operation of our station.

The downturn in the world economy due to COVID-19 is bringing hardship in many sectors of society. How is your organisation coping and how do your radio services help at times like this?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lao PDR, facing economic recession, was not able to achieve the targets set by its previous 8th five-year national socio-economic development plan (GDP reached only 5.8 percent against 7.2 percent in the plan).

SMEs from the services and tourism sectors were the most hit, affecting many thousands of people who lost their jobs. Faced with this difficult situation, the Lao government had to undertake some appropriate measures to deal with it. Lao National Radio, inevitably hit by the crisis, also had to take the same direction.

The global COVID-19 recession has forced the Lao government to undertake some budget reduction measures, affecting LNR which already suffered from advertising revenues decrease.

Consequently, some unavoidable belt-tightening measures have been adopted at LNR. These have cut some unnecessary administrative costs and reduced certain broadcasting hours in favour of focusing on improving the quality of contents and programme production technologies. We have upgraded the level of professional competence of our personnel and

fostered the appropriate coordination between traditional media and new media for offering better services to the audiences. They can see a better response to their demands and can enjoy nowadays better contents, better programmes and better audio-visual qualities. Useful messages, information, advice and skills about how to adapt a 'new normal' life for everyone from all professions and jobs were sent to the public through several platforms available.

In relation to the wider society, media play an increasingly important role in society. What are the unique features found in Lao PDR's media that contribute to growing wealth and nation-building?

Lao National Radio, considered an important traditional broadcast media established 60 years ago, is definitely an easy access media, which can fully deliver news and information to the audiences in every corner of the national territory, via its AM and FM waves, even in remote areas that are unreachable by some other media.

It is obvious that in a least developed country like Lao PDR, where ICT systems are less advanced, the internet is still lacking, and newspaper distribution is just partially available, radio broadcasting has an important role to play in delivering news and information to the general public; that's why, until today, it remains the leading and most popular media in Lao PDR.

Nowadays nearly 100 programmes are produced daily, covering a large variety of features, including those on growing wealth and nation-building.

Highlighted features deal with subjects focused on national socio-economic development, poverty reduction, the typical lifestyle of the population of different ethnic groups living in rural and remote areas, health and hygiene care, nutritional support, pandemic protection, natural disaster prevention, human trafficking prevention, child rights protection and education promotion, among others.

Before COVID, recent years have seen a decrease in trust in media in many countries around the world, including terms like "fake news". Has



that happened in Lao PDR too and what can be done to keep the trust of listeners and viewers?

During the last decade, the world has been affected by the exorbitant development of the new media which has brought both positive and negative impacts to our society as a whole.

The escalation of fake news through new media is one of these new threats that causes serious confusion to the general public, who are questioning more and more the credibility of news and information ready to be vastly and rapidly served on every platform nowadays.

The public can fully trust all the contents provided by Lao National Radio as a trustworthy official media organisation of the country. Our news and information protected by the Mass Media law, are definitely true, right, credible, accountable, impartial, instructive, educative and combative, and totally serve the people, the verity and the justice.

How has Lao National Radio modified its operations insight to the pandemic and what do you foresee your operating landscape to be like in the future, post pandemic world?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LNR has undertaken specific plans in order to ensure everyone's safety in the fulfilment of their tasks. New media is key to coping with the situation, enabling a 'new normal' system for our news producers and reporters to have easier access to their sources and get their work well done.

Zoom and Google Meet are among those new communications technology

tools that our managers are now using more frequently to conduct management and news meetings, which contributes to help to minimize the risk of infection, save time, reduce unnecessary expenses and comply with the government's directives.

After the COVID-19 pandemic is over, Lao National Radio shall retrieve its normal position and is determined to continue to employ and translate all the new useful skills, knowledge and experiences acquired in their operation under the 'new normal' during the crisis, into positive actions, by smartly using the new media in the reform of the delivery of contents to the public inside and outside Lao PDR, allowing them to have easier and faster access to the most credible source of news and information about the country and the world in every aspect.

LNR has the duty to help, on the one hand, the Lao people be well informed of everything happened each day in every part of the country, and on the other hand, the world community to better know about Lao PDR in all spheres, especially the success of the socio-economic development of Lao PDR, as well as the loveliness of Lao PDR, the beauty of Lao culture, the delicacy of typical Lao food, the kindness of the hospitable, multi-ethnic people, and the multi-charms of Lao tourism.

In addition, closer ties and more fruitful exchange and cooperation with regional and international media organisations will be enhanced for the benefit of Lao National Radio, which expects to have personnel progressively qualified and a technical system continuously advanced, for the benefit of the audiences.

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Welcomes New President



Dr. Peyman Jebelli

IRIB Iran has had a change at the top of the organisation.

Dr. Peyman Jebelli, born on January 25 in Tehran, is now President, IRIB. He is an Iranian politician and a TV Journalist. He is a graduate of Imam Sadiq University with a PhD in Culture and Communications (2004).

He has been the head of the world service of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and the CEO of Press TV, an Iranian 24-hour news channel in English. Dr. Jebelli was the General Director of News at Al Alam News Network (2002- 2005) and the Director of Al Alam regional Middle East office in Beirut (2005- 2008).



Dr. Ali Askari

He replaces Dr. Ali Askari, who served as IRIB president for five years. Dr. Ali Askari is considered as the father of Iran's digital television since he was the main founder of the accelerating trend of converting IRIB analogue system to digital and received the 2010 ABU broadcast engineering excellence award in Tokyo.

On hearing of the change, Dr Javad Mottaghi expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Ali Askari for his past contributions and participation in ABU matters and congratulated Dr. Peyman Jebelli on his appointment.

All India Radio gets 3 new FM stations

Three new FM stations of All India Radio have been inaugurated in the north-eastern state of Uttar Pradesh.

The new stations will extend the reach of All India Radio, especially in the Indo-Nepal border areas.

At the same time, an earth station of the Doordarshan news centre in Gorakhpur, a city in Uttar Pradesh, was also inaugurated.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur, said the earth station would ensure that local TV programmes originating from Gorakhpur would now reach all over the country.

The minister said three more FM stations would open soon in Sultanpur, Rampur and Maharajganj, other districts in the state.



The 2021 Belt and Road Media Community Summit Forum — sponsored by China Media Group and organised by China International Television Corporation — was held in Beijing on 13 December.

The ABU was among around 80 participating media organisations from more than 40 countries and regions.

More than 10 leaders of overseas media organisations sent video speeches. They included the ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi.

He said the ABU had worked together with CITVC since 2017 on the “Golden Ribbon” series of events, including outstanding TV programme selection events and international co-production projects.

“We would like to deepen the cooperation with BRMC friends and to promote cross-border communication together in the future.”

At the forum, the President of China Media Group, Shen Haixiong, presented “Golden Ribbon” awards to seven programmes from Russia, the United States, India, France and China.

The “Golden Ribbon” special award went to “China: Nature’s Ancient Kingdom”, co-produced by China Media Group Chinese Global Programme Center and the China Radio, Film and Television Programmes Exchanging Center.

The theme of the 2021 forum was “Joint Innovation, Sincere Integration, Mutual Learning Through Cultural Exchange”.

In the five years since the media community was established, members have worked together in fields such as programme production and simulcasting, joint channel building, programme translation, training and other areas.

In addition to focusing on the Belt and Road Initiative, the media community has worked together to help fight the COVID-19 outbreak by donating materials to fight the pandemic, publishing factual reports and jointly launching anti-pandemic programmes.



Belt and Road Media Community Summit Forum held in Beijing



Women With the Wave Celebrates 10 years



The MC for the two-hour session, David Hua, Director of Audio and Language Content, SBS-Australia, introduced the background to the Women With the Wave (WWW) from its inception at the ABU General Assembly held in Seoul in 2012.

He made special mention of early collaborating partners, such as Geena Davis, UNESCO and the ITU, and pointed to the success of the project by noting that diversity plans developed from the project's influence had, in the last 10 years, rolled out in broadcasting organisations across the region.

The ABU's Women With the Wave celebrated its 10th anniversary on 14 October with an online conference attended by 160 people.

Participants from 43 countries marked a decade of the ABU's project Broadcasting for All: Making a Difference Across Asia and the Pacific with Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Media.

The 2021 virtual forum was delivered in conjunction with the 58th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

The two-hour forum featured 19 speakers from 13 countries and a range of cultural backgrounds. Four of them provided recorded messages. Chrissie Tucker moderated the forum.

A feature of the forum was the production and airing of three short videos that covered all the previous nine forums held over the past 10 years.

This provided the opportunity to showcase the hosts, countries, participants and subject matter. The videos were produced by Ming Tse (Fire Phoenix Creative) and Natalia Ilieva (ABU).

In his welcoming remarks, Yang Sung-Dong, ABU Acting President and President and CEO of the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), extended his congratulations and spoke of the pride of his organisation in having played such a major role in assisting to establish the WWW initiative.

From the USA, Madeline Di Nonno, President and CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender and Media, also extended congratulations and reminded participants of their Institute's memorable and meaningful slogan, namely 'If she can see it, she can be it'.

Session 1, Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion with international and intergovernmental partners and sponsors, featured reports of highlights and progress 10 years on.

The speakers were from Asia and Pacific regional offices of UNESCO and UN Women, the UNI Global Union division that represents workers in the media, entertainment and the arts and a representative of the work of the European Union and the G20.

They spoke about gender equality, diversity and inclusion, with references to the media, over the past 10 years.

ABU GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MEDIA MATTERS! GUIDELINES (DECEMBER 2020)

BASED ON EBU GUIDELINES FOR THE WORKPLACE
UNESCO SUPPORT
ADAPTED FOR ASIA-PACIFIC
LOOKING TO PROMOTE IN A DEDICATED CAMPAIGN
TO MAXIMISE TAKE-UP OF THIS RESOURCE
POTENTIALLY DEVELOP SIMILAR CONTENT AND
SERVICES VERSION FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

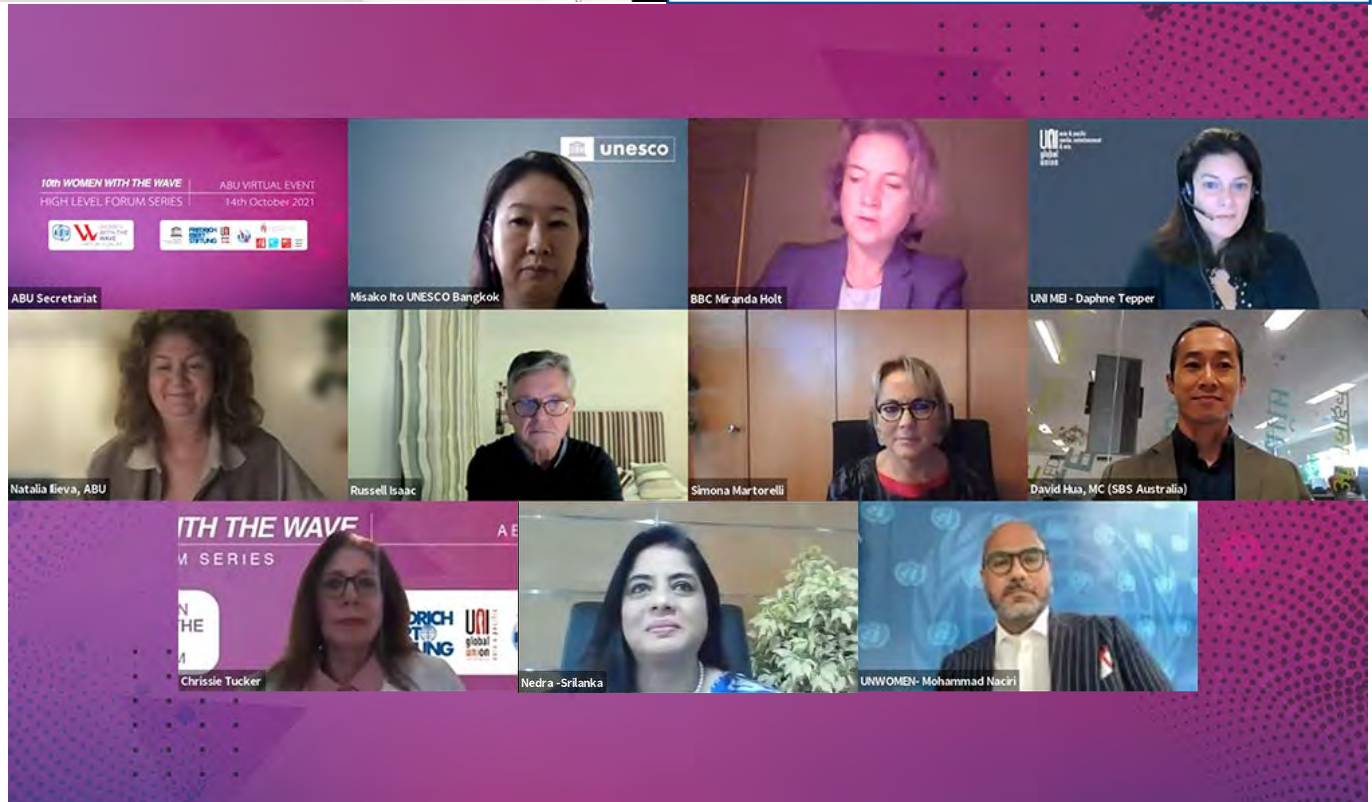


We have been developing key partnerships and actions in different regions of the world, such as:

- A Framework of Actions on gender equality with broadcasters and producers, and sister trade unions' federations representing actors, journalists and musicians in **Europe**
- A Survey and campaign on the prevention of violence and harassment in audiovisual and live performance workplaces in **Latin America**



10th Women With the Wave ABU Virtual Event
14 October 2021



Session 2, Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion with regional media partners, brought together a range of regional speakers who answered questions about the progress of the #MeToo movement; the work of Deutsche Welle from the Director of Programs for Asia; the progress of the European Broadcasting Union's gender equality, diversity and inclusion work; and the background and expansion of the BBC's 50:50 The Equality Project.

Session 3, ABU snapshot – a decade of leading, influencing and promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the Asia-Pacific media - focused on the work of the ABU and its members with a snapshot of a decade of leading,

influencing and promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the Asia-Pacific media.

The ABU outlined its progress to date and projects in the pipeline. Two members from the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group and Champion cohort provided messages about their involvement in both groups.

NHK provided information about its participation in the BBC 50:50 Project. As well there was a video from ABC-Australia outlining their participation in the 50:50 Project.

The forum was delivered with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese, as there were a substantial

number of NHK employees who took part as audience participants. This service was funded by UNI Global Union.

The forum launched the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Three-Year Plan. It will see monthly activities produced to mainstream gender and diversity in Asia-Pacific media organisations, and more research on diversity in the ABU.

For the forum's programme and other information, please see [ABU Women With the Wave Forum 2021](#).

Messages from WWW Forum Participants Over the Years

Turan Ali

Director, Bona Broadcasting Limited

"It has been a pleasure to be part of the Women With the Wave events in the last ten years. The organisers understood the need to have robust and accessible theory to underpin their goals. Changing the realities for women requires persuasion of many different people. So, I was honoured to deliver a number of masterclasses, where we explored persuasive storytelling, which is the key tool for bringing about change. The Women with the Wave events are important, until the goals are achieved and so are no longer needed."

Usha Bhasin

Additional Director General (retired), Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati, India

"Congratulations to ABU for completing a decade of tireless efforts in an extremely important and meaningful initiative called Women With the Wave. I feel honoured and privileged to be associated from its inception stage and till date.

I thank ABU for giving a harmonious platform to women across the world to speak up and be constructively heard. Women leaders and very senior practitioners provided a world view of global connect and conflict.

We learnt and understood that when women are put at the helm of affairs conflict has this very unnatural way of decreasing. If we truly want to reduce conflict in the interest of humanity then the very first step the world has to take is to empower women.

Women With the Wave is a dynamic step in this direction. And I join my global co-riders to wish this wave scales greater heights in the immediate future."

Dan Santa

Director – International Relations, Radio Romania Vice President, URTI

"It's 10 years already since ABU and partners have turned ethnic and religious diversity and gender equality as the key points of debate at the Women With the Wave Forum, which I had the opportunity to see develop year after year!

After a decade, many things have changed in the media and if women's access to work and self-improvement opportunities through media has significantly improved, I am sure this Forum has brought its contribution in this direction.

Inclusion policies have substantially changed, and I think one of the Forum's outcomes is to have extended to include and cover all areas of diversity.

I am looking forward to this year's edition as I am convinced that only through international cooperation, we can drive change globally!"

Dagmar Skopalik

Head, International Relations ZDF German Television

"Ten years of Women of the Waves: this is a reason to celebrate! Right from the start for me this was a place to raise awareness, for collecting the essential data, to analyse the obstacles women face in their professional career and to tackle the multifold hurdles that prevent them to achieve their full potential.

Even more: it is a space where we learn from each other, exchange best practice and convincing examples, a forum which provides a benchmark where we currently stand.

Now, is the glass half empty or half full? As optimist I tend towards the latter. But it is still a long rocky road to travel for the still unfinished project of gender equality and diversity in our organizations and in our societies. We should keep on walking it: together. So, let's move on!"



ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group meets for second time

The members of the ABU's Diversity and Inclusion Task Group (DITG) met for the second time on 29 November 2021.

They approved the Chairperson Ms Chrissie Tucker's Report of the 10th Women With the Wave Forum held virtually on 14 November and discussed the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan for 2022, particularly the notion that ABU join the BBC 50:50 project.

This is a global initiative to support equal numbers of men and women on screen – in the news, sport and other programmes. Two ABU members – ABC-Australia and NHK-Japan – joined the project in 2017 and 2020 respectively. Another member – RAI-Italy – was due to join the project in December 2021

By joining the 50:50 initiative, the ABU Secretariat will commit to work towards gender parity across all its events – workshops, conferences, etc. - to achieve parity between female and male panellists and participants as well to promote the 50:50 initiative to its members.

The DITG also discussed potential sources of fundraising for the planned activities. A lot of time was spent also discussing the next Women With the Wave Forum. All members of the DITG agreed that it should not be separated from the General Assembly and Associated Meetings. The DITG will work with the Secretariat to find a solution.

The ABU's Diversity and Inclusion Task Group (DITG) held its first formal meeting on 26 August 2021. The formation of the group was approved by the ABU's Administrative Council at the Tokyo General Assembly in 2019.



The purpose of the DITG is to serve the ABU membership by offering advice and recommendations on gender and diversity related initiatives and activities, in line with the ABU's long-standing outreach campaign Broadcasting for All: Diversity and Inclusion in the Media.

The common goal is to work together to:

- Promote and facilitate a culture of diversity and inclusion in media organisations
- Build on the representation, development and retention of employees from diversity groups in the media
- Enhance the participation, connection and engagement in media content and services, that reflects the broad range of diversity in communities and audiences.

The DITG's work focuses on monitoring and supporting ABU activities, particularly through the objectives and actions of a strategic diversity and inclusion media action plan, with a timeframe of three years, commencing mid-2021. The focus areas of the plan are leadership, communication and strategy & projects.



ABU CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA FORUM 2021

15 JULY 2021 - VIRTUAL EDITION
14:00-16:00MYT (GMT +7)

ЦЕНТРАЛЬНО-АЗИАТСКИЙ МЕДИА ФОРУМ АБУ 2021

15 ИЮЛЯ 2021 ГОДА – ВИРТУАЛЬНОЕ МЕРОПРИЯТИЕ
14:00-16:00MYT (GMT +7)

CAMF 2021 Looks at Joint Initiatives

The virtual edition of the 4th ABU Central Asian Media Forum took place successfully on 15 July 2021.

The CAMF brings together media organisations from Central Asia and beyond to network and to initiate cooperation and joint initiatives. The forum provides a platform for sharing knowledge and future strategies, discuss solutions for challenges brought by the rapid developments in the media industry in the region and around the globe. The Forum knowledge exchange is led by expert speakers and skilled media practitioners, who will present and share their experiences in content creation and distribution and will explore the role of media in this fast-changing social environment.

The Forum contained of three sessions covering topics that the CA members marked as a priority for their organisations. The high-level experts from six countries shared their experiences in various fields such as Cyber Security, OTT, Valuable content making and successful content marketing, they also talked about pros and cons of Traditional and Social media.

In the Session 1: **OTT & CYBERSECURITY** the speakers talked about the fast-growing segment of the

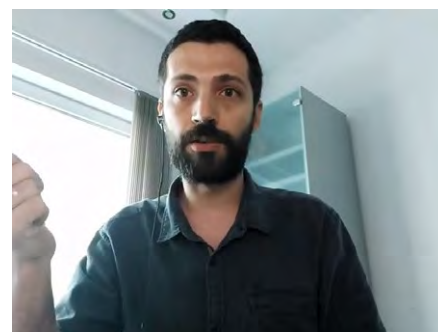
media market OTT & about safety in the cyber world, i.e. CYBERSECURITY.

Mr Ben Vandenberghe, CEO of Skyline Communications, shared his ideas about the cybersecurity in media business, the specific nature of a media & broadcast operation, and the technology evolution of the media & broadcast industry.

Mr Nino Pirtovšek, the Sales & Business Development Manager of UniqCast, shared the latest updates from the fast-paced broadcasting technology – OTT. The main advantage of each is that the content can be accessed by any Internet user and it seems more and more broadcasters turn to this solution to reach and serve their audiences.

In the Session 2: **SOCIAL MEDIA VS TRADITIONAL MEDIA** the discussion went around the question of what are the major differences between traditional media and social media and if they can co-exist and serve the wider audience.

Mr David Hayward, Digital News Consultant from BBC Media Action, revealed the vital topic as the Social Media – Friend or Foe of Traditional Media. It was admitted that traditional media and social media both have their pros and cons and broadcasters' duty



is to protect the listeners and viewers and provide them with accurate and unbiased information.

Mr Dmitry Leontiev, Executive content producer for Russia Today, spoke on how to Utilise Social Media to Reach Wider Audience, about the advantages of social networks for delivering information. He came up with an advice to fellow TV presenters on how best to increase social media engagement and reach an audience based on your experience at Russia Today.

The Session 3: **SUCCESSFUL CONTENT MARKETING** was devoted to the main sources of income of broadcasters – content marketing. Two distinguished speakers shared their experiences.

Ms Aise Dilara Arslan, Head of VOD, TRT-Turkey, spoke on the topic Content Monetization: Successful Marketing



Strategies, she shared ideas about key elements of a successful marketing strategy on the example one of the largest broadcasters in the region. No doubt, that content monetization is a golden vein for creative minds, it also might become a lifesaving choice now, during the ongoing pandemic.

Mr Chandana Sooriyabandara, CEO at Stein Studios, MBC/MTV, Sri Lanka, discussed the topic of Creating Added-Value Content and spoke about what is the international co-production and how to do it right, how to create big media projects that will interest audiences from different cultures and societies.

The Session was a presentation of the content from five ABU members such as Khabar Agency – Kazakhstan, MTRK-Uzbekistan, RTRK “Qazaqstan”-Kazakhstan, RTR-Russia, BTRC-Belarus where they showcased their own production of dramas, documentaries and entertainment.

This can rightfully be considered the most valuable part of the Forum since through this gathering we are expecting the initiative to grow into a programme exchange between ABU members, and even into a content market for Central Asia and not only.

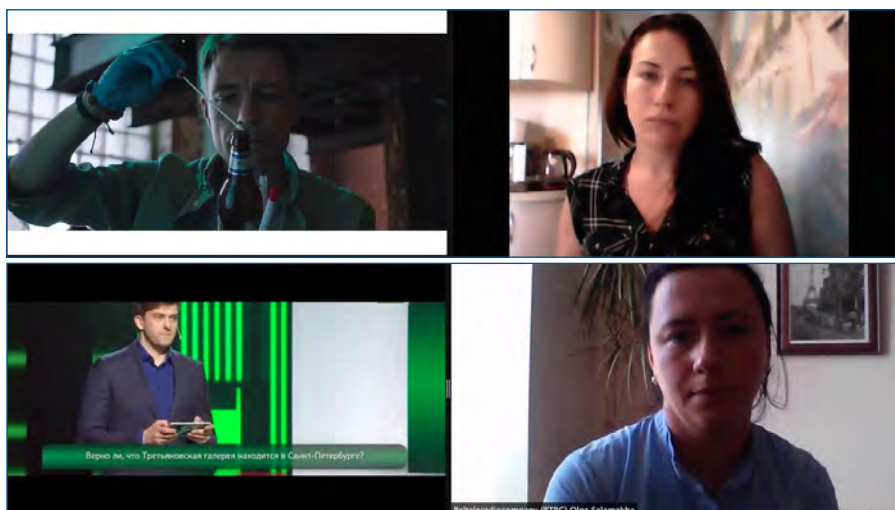
The CAMF2021 initiated a content marketing and exchange platform among members on a trial basis <https://www.abu.org.my/camf-content-market>

CAMF Content Market page is for members who want to promote and present their TV and digital content and find partners for co-productions. The platform also helps members to engage and find relevant content for their TV channels. ABU members can post their promo clips on the page and contact other partners .

The speakers’ presentations and content showcase are available through the link: <https://bit.ly/3rOivtX>

The CAMF2021’s recording can be watched through: <https://bit.ly/3yguL3X>

5th CAMF is planned to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2022. For further information about the Central-Asia Media Forum please contact Ms Nargiza Numanova at nargiza@abu.org.my





ABU Calls for Media Engagement in Climate Action to Save Planet



The ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Prevention was held online for the first time on 9 December 2021.

The two-hour virtual meeting, which focused on the actions governments, businesses, NGOs and people around the world should take to prevent the disastrous overheating of the planet Earth, was attended by nearly 150 participants.

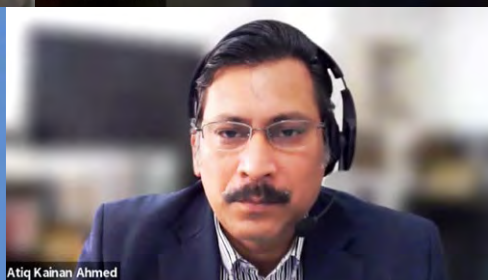
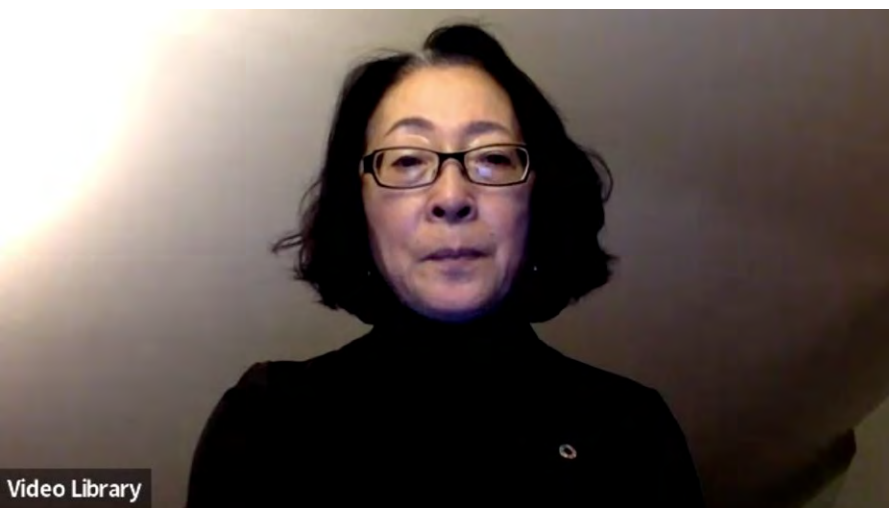
Under the theme 'Post COP26 Action to Save the Planet: Media for Sustainable Future', the summit was a call for active engagement of media in driving the agenda to secure the future of the next generations.

It was held three weeks after the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow

(COP26) at which over 25,000 delegates from governments, UN agencies, NGOs, scientific communities, civil society, commerce and the media discussed how to avert the common existential threat facing all humanity, namely an increasing, human-induced carbon footprint which is contributing to global warming and climate change.

The climate crisis has changed the dynamics of societies and is impacting all aspects of human activities. The ABU Media Summit addressed the urgency of the situation and the need to act now.

A line of high-level speakers provided participants with an overview of the COP26 conference outcomes, next steps and most importantly how media professionals can engage their



audiences for climate action and disaster prevention.

One speaker after another highlighted the vital need for media practitioners to be part of the conversation and the gateway in analysing and disseminating vital information from COP26 to readers, listeners and viewers in their home countries.

They said the immense power and reach of media was needed for educating broad audiences about climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster prevention and preparedness.

The summit aimed to start a process of engaging media and make climate action related topics a priority in content production.

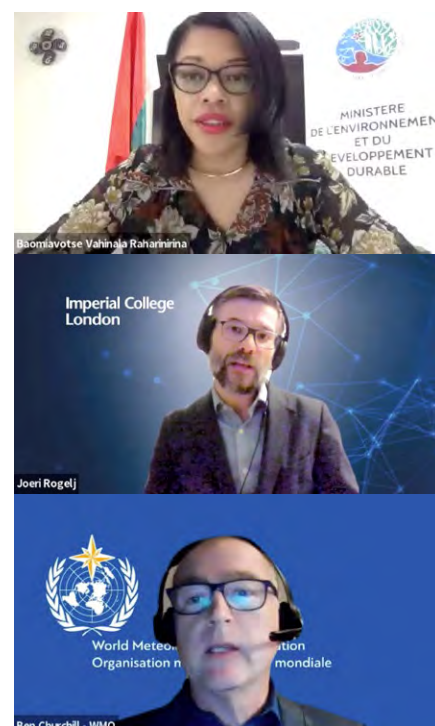
It will be followed in 2022 by monthly online webinars to explain the different components of the Global Green Deal – energy transition, moving to zero

carbon emissions, water management, climate change adapted agriculture, change of consumer behaviour and the like.

This is part of Phase 2 of the WBU/ UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES initiative, which will run from 1 January to 31 March 2022

Since 2014, the ABU has actively addressed the need for accurate reporting of the subject through a series of regional summits which highlight specific issues and provide journalists and content makers with the tangible skills they need to ensure the comprehensive delivery of invaluable information to readers, listeners and viewers to save lives and build resilient communities.

For more information on how to participate in the planned activities please contact the ABU Head of SG's Office Natalia Ilieva at natalia@abu.org.my



ABU/UNDRR Provides Coverage of COP26



The ABU helped provide coverage of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP 26) for members of the World Broadcasting Unions, the WBU.

It worked with the United Nations' Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which had a production unit of six people at the conference, to provide syndicated coverage for WBU members with rights cleared for news broadcasting.

The production team filed a daily range of interviews and reports to over 200 broadcasters from the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow.

The coverage was provided to members of the ABU, the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

The ABU helped coordinate the coverage and ensured it reached members.

Some 25,000 delegates, politicians, scientists, campaigners and media representatives were in Glasgow for COP26, which ran from 31 October to 12 November 2021.



Testimonials of Members

China Radio International Liao Jibo, Head of CGTN Radio and Podcasts

COP26 was one of the most important events this year, both for the media and for people around the world. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many media, including CRI, were not able to send reporters to cover the event. The syndicated coverage by the ABU and WBU was a lifesaver. We used most of the reports and interviews in our radio programmes and new media reports.

On behalf of my team, I'd also like to extend our gratitude to Natalia Ilieva, Head of the SG's Office at the ABU, and other colleagues who worked restlessly to provide the feeds to us. We'd like the ABU to provide more coverage of future big events and breaking news around the world. We are also ready to be part of the coverage by working with the ABU to provide member stations and partners with stories happening in China.

Doordashan, India Anoop Khajuria, Director TV Programmes Punjab

We telecast quite a few interesting stories from COP26. We invited experts for our morning programme and ran the footage. We focused on the issue of the IPCC global report. We also ran the footage highlighting the concern in Punjab due to paddy straw burning which is creating pollution in neighbouring states and creating heavy pollutants.

The initiatives of the ABU bringing COP26 images to us has encouraged our colleagues to organise a conclave with the agri experts of Punjab and

farmers focusing on the impact of climate change on crops in India and Punjab in particular. Our partners in this conclave are Punjab Agriculture University Ludhiana, IMD Chandigarh and Paddy Growers Association of Punjab. We are about to finalise the agreement and it should happen after 26 January 2022.

Maharaja Media Group, Sri Lanka Asoka Dias, Director MTV/MBC, MTV Channel (Pvt) Ltd.,

This is to recognize and appreciate the COP26 Syndicated Coverage supported by UNDRR, which was carried out by the ABU.

We at News 1st Sri Lanka carried out comprehensive coverage on the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, highlighting its relevance and its importance to Sri Lanka.

Although we obtained footage via the global wire services, your coverage paved the way for us to add more value and context. Especially with regard to the side events organised predominantly by critical activists which had the tendency to be missed. We received the footage on all 12 days. It was technically smooth, visually impactful and opened us a fresh window to look at the biggest global climate change summit, with a perspective of a developing nation.

We used the footage mostly for our morning news coverage which broadcasts in three languages, Sinhalese, Tamil and English, on Sirasa TV, Shakthi TV and TV1 respectively. We are thankful to the ABU for the services provided with a professional shot list, which allowed us to use the footage in a more meaningful and efficient manner.



Malaysia's RTM praised for its flood coverage

Malaysia's national broadcaster, RTM, has won praise from a government minister for its coverage of the severe flooding that hit the country in mid-December.

The floods, triggered by incessant rain, left more than 40 people dead. Tens of thousands in eight states and territories were displaced.

The Communications and Multimedia Minister, Tan Sri Annuar Musa, singled out RTM and the national news agency Bernama for disseminating information on the floods in a fast and accurate manner.

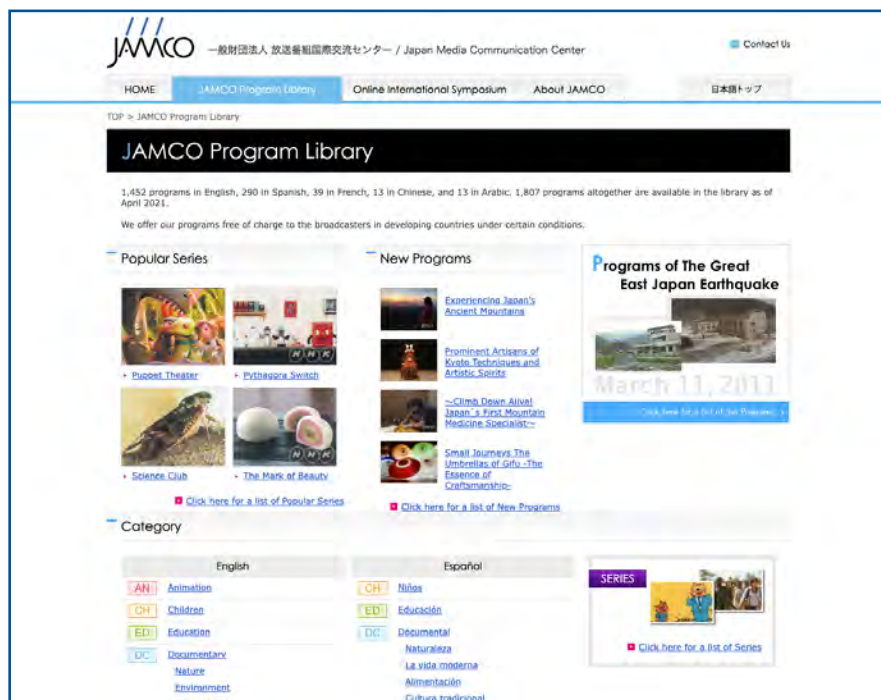
He urged the public to continue getting the latest information on the flood situation from them, Bernama reported.

Days of downpours caused rivers to overflow, submerging many urban areas and cutting off main roads, leaving thousands of motorists stranded.

The heavily populated state of Selangor, which encircles the capital Kuala Lumpur, was one of the worst hit areas.

Malaysia is hit by floods annually during the monsoon season from November to February, but these were the worst since 2014.

Free TV Programmes for ABU Members



The Japan Media Communication Center, JAMCO, is offering a wide range of television programmes to ABU members and other broadcasters free of charge.

JAMCO, a non-profit organisation, has 1,807 Japanese-made programmes in its library. They are available free to broadcasters in developing countries.

They include documentaries, education programmes, dramas and children's programmes. Most are in English, with others in Spanish, French, Chinese and Arabic. More will be registered with the library by April 2022.

To view the library, visit the JAMCO website at <https://www.jamco.or.jp/en/library/> or contact JAMCO at info@jamco.or.jp

JAMCO was established in 1991 with funding from NHK-Japan and the Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association, JBA.

Its purpose is to promote international mutual understanding and contribute to the development of broadcasting in the world.

Mediacorp to promote sustainability issues



Singapore's leading media company, Mediacorp, has launched an island-wide campaign to spread awareness of sustainability issues.

The company says the aim is to "inspire individuals in our communities to take the first step towards going green".

The first phase of the CNA Green Plan will include a series of public engagement activities both on the ground and online, Mediacorp said in a news release.

These are centred around the five pillars of the Singapore Green Plan 2030: City in Nature, Resilient Future, Energy Reset, Green Economy and Sustainable Living.

On-ground challenges began in early January. They "incorporate friendly competitive elements, such as pitting participants against each other in nature trails to track down specific species of flora and fauna", Mediacorp said.

The on-ground challenges will be filmed and packaged into a five-part series.



ABU Staff of the Year Winners Announced

The ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, announced the winners of the ABU Staff of the Year Award at a staff meeting on 10 December.

The award went to seven people for their excellent contributions to the work of the Secretariat:

- Wendy Everett, Director, ABU News
- Cai Yanjiang, Director, ABU Sports
- Natalia Ilieva, Head of SG's Office
- Hanizah Hamzah, Head of TV
- Olya Booyar, Head of Radio
- Nargiza Numanova, Personal Assistant to SG
- Ruchi Malhotra, Assistant, SG's Office

ABU farewells Faten, Larson and Hafiz

The ABU Secretariat said goodbye to Faten Amira binti Rahmat, our Finance & Administration Officer, Larson Moth, our Manager, Public Affairs & Communications, and Muhammad Hafiz Samsudin, our IT Systems Support Officer.

We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Meanwhile, Alan Williams, a former Director of the News Department, has returned to the Secretariat for a few months. He will help compile the ABU News and the weekly newsletter until a new Manager, Public Affairs & Communications, is appointed.



From left: Faten Amira binti Rahmat, Larson Moth, and Muhammad Hafiz Samsudin.



Alan Williams

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

AFTRS-Australia joins ABU

The Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) has joined the ABU as an Affiliate Member. AFTRS is the country's leading screen arts and broadcast school – the only Australian education institution to consistently make The Hollywood Reporter's annual list of the top film schools in the world.

AFTRS



SHEKHINAH PR joins ABU

Shekhinah PR is a new ABU member. A public relations and branding agency, it services local, regional and international clients across Asia. Its business relationships have been guided by one simple premise; to help clients communicate who they are to the people whose opinions matter most. Shekhinah's awards include being named one of the finalists in the 'Best Engagement to Targeted Communities' at the the PR Awards 2015 South-East Asia in Singapore on 5 March 2015.



SpaceLabs Technology joins ABU

SpaceLabs Technology Sdn Bhd has joined the ABU as a member. It was incorporated in 2019 but has more than two decades of business involvement in its core business in providing large-scale systems including Flight Information Display Systems (FIDS), LED Display Technology for Stadium Public Scoreboards and a fully Integrated Sports Management System for multi-sports meets in the region. SpaceLabs Technology has been globally recognised as being a world-class standard in providing technology.



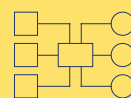


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