

ABU news

Quarter 4, 2023

ABU 2023 SEOUL

60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings

What comes next?

ABU 2023 SEOUL

60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings



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Happy New Year from all of us here at the ABU Secretariat!

The fourth quarter of 2023 marked the end of the first year back with a full year of in-person events, as the world returned to normalcy after the Covid-19 pandemic. It also marked a momentous end to the year, with the 60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings held in October.

The 60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, hosted by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) in Seoul, South Korea, marked several milestones: the 50th anniversary of public service broadcasting in Korea, the election of a new ABU President, and the first GA held under the tenure of Secretary General Ahmed Nadeem.

Read all the details of this event, including the various decisions by the Technical Committee, Program Committee, and Sports Committee, along with a recap of the ABU Prizes, and TV Song Festival.

We also have a special article on the future vision of the new ABU President, Professor Mehmet Zahid Sobacı, the Director-General of Türkiye's TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation).

The last quarter also saw the 2023 ABU Media & Culture Days conference, where participants were reminded of the importance of culture for public service broadcasters, especially in a time of rapid social and technical upheaval.

The fourth phase of the ABU-led World Broadcasting Union and UNDRR's Media Saving Lives initiative also culminated in this quarter, with the ABU team leading coverage of the UN Climate Conference COP28 to over 200 broadcasters across the region and beyond.

We also delve into many achievements by members over the period, including awards won by ABU members, collaborative trainings and projects held within the ABU membership, as well as various conferences that saw major developments for the broadcast industry.

With a promise of bringing you updates from Asiavision's 40th Anniversary celebrations and the ABU's Digital Broadcast Symposium in the next issue, happy reading!

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ABU 2023 SEOUL

60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings

PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

The 60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, hosted this year by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), convened with the theme "What Comes Next? The Original Question of Sustainability."

The meetings attracted a remarkable turnout, receiving 580 registrations from 52 countries, including over 300 in-person attendees.

Speaking at the President's Press Conference, Dr Yan Chengsheng, the Acting President of ABU and the Director General of the International Cooperation Department at China's National Radio & Television Administration (NRTA/RTPRC), elaborated on the significance of the General Assembly and associated meetings. Describing it as the highest decision-making body of the ABU, he stressed its importance for governance and operation.

"The General Assembly serves as a platform for member organisations to share experiences and best practices," said Chengsheng. In addition to the main assembly, several committee meetings, forums, and governance bodies will focus on specific areas of interest within broadcasting.

ABU Secretary General Ahmed Nadeem outlined the core objectives of this year's assembly. "Our primary mission is to enhance our service to ABU members," Nadeem stated.

He said in a media landscape that is continually changing, the ABU aims to equip its members with the resources, knowledge, and support needed for success. This includes sharing best practices, fostering collaboration, and advocating for diversity in broadcasting.

Climate change was identified as one of the most pressing challenges facing society today. "We are committed to exploring how the broadcasting industry can play a role in raising awareness, advocating for positive change, and adopting eco-friendly practices," said Nadeem. With the industry's broad reach, the ABU believes broadcasters can be powerful agents for change in this critical area.



ABU General Assembly explores sustainability and future of broadcasting

Nadeem emphasised the importance of the union's services remaining a robust source of information and culture for society's benefit. Public media has a significant role in keeping the public informed, educated, and entertained. He said a key goal of the ABU General Assembly is to secure the sustainability of public media services.

"Our mission is to explore and embrace new technologies in media such as artificial intelligence (AI), leveraging their potential to improve content creation, distribution, and audience engagement," Nadeem added, addressing the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

The 60th ABU General Assembly officially began on 31 October and continued until 01 November at the Conrad Hotel in Seoul, South Korea.



The 116th ABU Administrative Council meeting was held on 29 October, preceding the 60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, hosted by South Korea's Korean Broadcasting System (KBS).

The meeting was chaired by ABU Acting President Dr Yan Chengsheng, Director General of International Cooperation Department, National Radio & Television Administration of China.

ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem briefed the Councillors on the activities of the union, as well as about the changes being implemented both in the Secretariat and for improving the engagement with the members.

The majority of ABU Councillors attended the meeting in person. Ahead of the meeting, the Planning and Strategy Group (PSG) met for its discussions. The PSG meeting was held on Saturday, 28 October.

The Administrative Council is the ABU's 'Board of Directors.' It comprises of 18 Councillors who are elected by the members at the ABU Annual General Assembly, for a three-year term. The council meets twice yearly to decide on policy matters, to review the Union's finances and consider current issues facing the ABU.

116th ABU Administrative Council Meeting

ABU 2023 SEOUL

60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings





**ABU 2023
SEOUL**
60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings



60th ABU General Assembly kicks off in Seoul



The 60th ABU General Assembly was officially inaugurated on 31 October 2023 at the Conrad Hotel in Seoul. Hosted this year by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) this year's theme of the meetings is "What Comes Next? The Original Question of Sustainability."

In his opening remarks, Dr Yan Chengsheng, the Acting President of ABU and the Director General of the International Cooperation Department at China's National Radio & Television Administration (NRTA/ RTPRC) welcomed delegates from over 52 countries and thanked the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) for hosting the event.

He also congratulated KBS on the 50th anniversary of public service broadcasting in Korea. "It's a time of constant changes, and it calls for firmer



아흐메드 나딤 ABU 사무총장 Ahmed Nadeem ABU Secretary-General



“‘What Comes Next?’ is a fundamental question that will guide us towards sustainability.”

Both Chengsheng and Deock-Jae expressed their gratitude to the delegates and the ABU Secretariat for their roles in organising this pivotal event. “I would like to extend my gratitude once again to the more than 550 esteemed participants from 65 countries,” said Deock-Jae, thanking everyone for their contribution to what promises to be a landmark General Assembly.

Secretary-General of ABU, Ahmed Nadeem, mirrored the sentiments of Dr Chengsheng by emphasizing the union’s primary mission of enhancing service to its members. Nadeem outlined key objectives, including fostering collaboration, advocating for diversity, and focusing on the sustainability of public media services. He also spoke about the importance of embracing new technologies like AI, stressing their potential to transform the media landscape.

The first day of the Assembly saw plenary sessions that included matters such as financial reports, appointments of auditors, and working procedures. Various committees also presented their work and goals, including those focusing on programming, technology, sports, news, and media development.

ABU Members’ Showcase, featuring innovative projects, the advent of new technologies, and the increasing role of AI in media brought a fitting conclusion for the first day’s agenda.



belief and stronger cooperation,” he stated. “Media plays a strong force to facilitate social progress,” he added, urging attendees to use the assembly to explore ways to rise to the challenges of the post-pandemic era.

Kim Deock-Jae, Acting President and CEO of KBS, noted the broadcaster’s journey over the past 50 years, from its inception to becoming the representative channel of Korea. Highlighting the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and shifts in media consumption, he said,





60th ABU General Assembly concludes with election of new President

The 60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings concluded in Seoul, South Korea, with the election of Türkiye's Professor Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, TRT Director General, as ABU President and Japan's Inoue Tatsuhiko, Executive Vice President of NHK, as Vice President.

Professor Sobaci fills the vacancy left by Masagaki Satoru, who stepped down as President of ABU after concluding his term as Executive Vice President of Japan's public broadcaster NHK on 15 February 2023.

Inoue Tatsuhiko fills the vacancy left by South Korea's Kim Eui-chul, who left his position as President and CEO of KBS on 13 September 2023.

With the election of these two positions, ABU's leadership now includes Professor Mehmet Zahid Sobaci as President, along with Vice Presidents -Dr Yan Chengsheng, Director General of International Cooperation Department, National Radio & Television Administration of China; Mr Sunil, Additional Director General (Global Outreach) and Head of International Relations, All India Radio, Prasar Bharati; and Mr Inoue Tatsuhiko, Executive Vice President of NHK.

The final day of the General Assembly featured super panels and professional discussions, as well as a restricted plenary session for members.

The Super Panel Forums tackled urgent issues surrounding sustainability in the public broadcasting and media industry, especially at a time of heightened uncertainties that include climate change, global economic turmoil, and a worldwide health crisis.

The first Super Panel Session, titled "What Comes Next?" boasted a line-up of experts from big global technology companies specialising in Urban Air Mobility (UAM), Robotics, and the Art of Generative AI.

The second Super Panel Session, titled "How Can We Secure Sustainability?" saw lively discussions from leading figures from international media organisations, including David Jordan of the BBC, Kristian Porter, CEO of the Public Media Alliance (PMA) and Ahmed Nadeem, Secretary-General of the ABU.

The two-day General Assembly, along with the preceding associated meetings, were hosted by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), held in conjunction with its 50th anniversary of public broadcasting in Korea.

TRT Türkiye was announced as the host for next year's General Assembly and associated meetings, with the gatherings slated to take place in the historic city of Istanbul.

New President's vision for the union: Prof. Mehmet Zahid Sobaci at the helm of ABU

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), during the 60th General Assembly in Seoul elected Prof. Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, the Director-General of Türkiye's TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation), as its President.

This milestone coincides with the centenary of the Republic of Türkiye, marking a new era in international broadcasting leadership. His leadership comes at a time when the ABU - the world's largest broadcasting union - reaches approximately 3.5 billion viewers, encompassing 246 members from 65 countries.

Under Sobaci's stewardship, TRT has evolved into a global broadcasting institution, with channels like TRT World and TRT Arabi and several digital news platforms. "We have transformed into a broadcasting institution that tells the world about the world," Sobaci noted, emphasising their commitment to equitable reporting and being the voice of the world's conscience, especially in the wake of events like the recent massacre in Palestine.

The 61st ABU General Assembly, set to take place in Istanbul in October 2024, will be hosted under Sobaci's tenure, promising to usher in a new chapter of collaborative and innovative broadcasting.

Prof. Sobaci, a distinguished academic and media professional, holds degrees in Public Administration and Political Science from Uludağ University, with a career encompassing significant contributions in the fields of public administration reform, public policy, and the interplay of social media and politics. His acclaimed works and



leadership roles in various prestigious institutions have established him as a thought leader in his field.

As TRT's Director-General since 2021, Sobaci has pioneered a broadcasting approach centred around in-depth, innovative, and comprehensive content, with a keen focus on human stories. His efforts have led to the launch of Türkiye's International Digital Platform "tabii" and the introduction of TRT Français, TRT Balkan, and

TRT Afrika, further expanding TRT's international reach. This period also saw TRT receiving the International Emmy Award, a testament to its global impact.

With his extensive experience, innovative vision, and commitment to impactful broadcasting, Prof. Mehmet Zahid Sobaci is poised to steer the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union towards a new horizon of media excellence and global influence.



ABU Prizes 2023 celebrate broadcast excellence across radio, television, and digital media

Celebrating exceptional contributions in Radio, Television, and Digital Media, winners of the annual ABU Prizes have been announced at a gala ceremony on 31 October 2023, held as a cornerstone event of the 60th ABU General Assembly in Seoul, Korea.

This year's awards featured a special focus on the theme of "Green and Sharing" for the ABU Perspective Award, aimed at inspiring a collective vision for a more sustainable world.

Below is the full list of winners:

Radio Category

- Radio Drama: China Media Group-China National Radio (CMG-CNR) from China took home the prize for "The Swallows Flying South – Episode I: It's Time to Fly"
- Radio Podcast: Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI) secured the award for their boundary-breaking episode, "Campursari."
- Radio Documentary: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) received accolades for "Dig – Saving The Franklin."
- Radio News Reporting: The Voice of Vietnam (VOV) was honoured for "The Dream of Swimming and a 7300-Day Journey."
- Radio Community Service Announcement: Another win for VOV with "25cm of Hair Will Help Me Blend in With Flair."
- Radio On-Air Personality: "When There's a Piano in the Heart" by CMG-CNR charmed the judges.
- Radio ABU Perspective Award: CMG-CNR was also lauded for "HOME."
- Radio Special Jury Prize: RRI clinched this category with "Save The Bornean Primates."





Television Category

- TV Drama: Germany's Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) claimed victory for "The Swarm."
- TV Documentary: Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) earned accolades for "Discharged by Death."
- TV News Reporting: Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund (MTVA) from Hungary secured the prize for "Commentary Club."
- TV Children: Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) was honoured for "Hello Baby Birds."
- TV Entertainment: CMG-China Central Television (CMG-CCTV) won for "Journey of Chinese Art on the Scroll."
- TV Sports: ABC stood out with "Bradman and Tendulkar."
- TV ABU Perspective Award: Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI) was acknowledged for "The Green Hero."
- TV Special Jury Prize: NHK was recognised for "Nature's Hidden Miracles: Episode 1 The Secret Life of Plants."

Digital Media Category

- Digital Content Award: China Media Group-China Radio International (CMG-CRI) won for their poignant content "Why We Love Dunhuang."

The gala was a triumphant celebration of the industry's best and brightest, highlighting the rich tapestry of broadcasting content and talent across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. For more information with clips from winners and nominees, visit the [ABU Prizes page](#).



ABU TV Song Festival 2023 showcases dazzling array of talent

The ABU TV Song Festival 2023 culminated in a resplendent celebration of music at KBS Hall, where a host of performers from the Asia-Pacific region dazzled audiences in a one-and-a-half-hour concert that illuminated the diverse musical landscape of the area.

Gracing the Stage with Chinese Pop: Tia Ray

Shanghai Media Group (SMG) presented the illustrious Tia Ray, an artist who has made historical strides in the Chinese music scene. Her sonorous voice and pioneering soul pop delighted a global audience.

Hong Kong's Musical Evolution on Display: Chau Kat Pui

Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) showcased Chau Kat Pui, a multifaceted talent whose career has spanned across singing and television. His victory in the reality TV series "Midlife, Sing & Shine!" secured his status within Hong Kong's musical vanguard.

India's Folk Music Ambassador: Malini Awasthi

Malini Awasthi represented Doordarshan (DD), enchanting the crowd as the bearer of India's folk traditions. Her performance was not just a display of music but a vibrant festival of Indian culture.

Japan's Versatile Virtuoso: Ayaka Hirahara

Ayaka Hirahara from Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) celebrated her 20th anniversary in the industry, sharing her journey through a memorable performance that reaffirmed her status in Asian music.





Korea's Fresh Sensation: Mamamoo+

The host broadcaster, Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), introduced Mamamoo+, the first unit of the acclaimed K-pop group MAMAMOO. Their dynamic performance hinted at an exciting future for K-pop.

Melodic Wonders from Malaysia:

Aina Abdul

Aina Abdul, presented by Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), captivated the audience with her unique style and vocal prowess, reinforcing her position as a leading figure in Malaysia's music scene.

Macau's Independent Marvel: Winifai Teledifusao de Macau, S.A (TDM)

brought Winifai to the limelight, an independent artist whose award-winning R&B, soul, and jazz numbers won hearts.

Sri Lanka's Prodigy: Sheron Silva

Sheron Silva, introduced by MTV Channel (Pvt) Limited (MTV), displayed the artistry and potential that mark him as the future of Sri Lankan music.

Turkmenistan's Celebrated Artist: Annamyradow Begmyrat

The State Committee for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography of Turkmenistan (TVTM) honoured the festival with Annamyradow Begmyrat, a renowned "Honoured Artist of Turkmenistan."

Turkish Melodies Enthrall: Umut Sülünoğlu & Uğur Önür

The duo from Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT), Umut Sülünoğlu and Uğur Önür, entranced with their Turkish folk music, echoing both through local and international arenas.

Vietnam Adds Musical Charm: Lê Trung Thành

Vietnam Television (VTV) made a significant impact with Lê Trung Thành, also known as Erik. His performance, appealing to the Gen-Z demographic, showcased why he is a sensation in Vietnam.

The ABU TV Song Festival 2023 set a new benchmark for gala festivals, with its unparalleled spectacle and the rich array of musical talent it highlighted from the Asia-Pacific region.



ABU Programme Committee announces new leadership at 60th General Assembly

At the 55th Programme Committee meeting, held in conjunction with the 60th ABU (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union) General Assembly and Associated Meetings, a new leadership has been elected to oversee the future direction of the committee.

Yotaro Yashiki, Director of the Program Production Center for Drama and Entertainment at NHK, and Furkan Gündoğan, a Vice President of Drama and Programs at TRT 1 Channel, were elected as the new Vice-Chairpersons for the Programme Committee. Meanwhile, Claire Gorman of ABC Australia will continue her role as Chairperson.



The event saw a detailed report on ABU Programme Activities spanning from December 2022 to October 2023, presented by Yasu Nagahata, Director of Programming at ABU. The subsequent Member's Forum showcased successful international activities of the ABU Programme Department. This included notable mentions such as the Media & Culture Days in December 2022 and the ABU-RAI Days in March 2023, CARE 11 -Documentary Co-Production, and the ABU Robocon in August, among others.



Another notable segment was the special session on New Ideas & New Techniques, which highlighted members' flagship content and innovative approaches in programme creation. Taewoong Lee of KBS-Korea, introduced a unique take on documentaries that make extensive use of archival footage. Hideaki Kato of NHK-Japan presented a major music program featuring internationally acclaimed singers, while Zhang Shilei of CGTN-China, and Nesryn Bouziane of ABC-Australia introduced their respective efforts in the digital media.

A lively 60 Seconds Pitch session allowed members to promote their programmes, projects, and events in a concise yet impactful manner. It featured pitches ranging from a "Free TV Programs Service" by Toru Goto of JAMCO, Japan, to "ITALIANA" by Simona Martorelli, RAI-Italy.

The curtains drew on the 55th Programme Committee meeting, with a highly contested election for a spot on the Programme Bureau. With both ROR-Romania and RTR-Russia vying for the position, it was Radio Romania (ROR) that was ultimately successful.



Asia-Pacific radio leaders share solutions to modern broadcasting



More than 40 delegates from 19 ABU member organisations gathered for the Radio Working Party to share their experiences at the Union's General Assembly in Seoul, South Korea.

The half-day meeting was packed with presentations and discussions on some cutting-edge initiatives to improve production, programming and services for audiences.

The working party opened with a welcome from Kim Deock-Jae, Acting President of the host broadcaster KBS. He talked about the development of radio in Korea, starting with the first broadcast in 1927, before it became the public broadcaster known as KBS in 1973. Now operating seven radio networks and celebrating their 50th anniversary as a public broadcaster this year, he spoke of the continuing challenges of reaching all audiences and using digital technology to develop platforms that engage listeners.

ABU Director of Programming Yasu Nagahata welcomed attendees on behalf of the Union, thanked all participants and speakers and

reassured everyone the Union remained fully committed to helping its members in every way possible.

ABU Head of Radio Olya Booyar gave a report on major initiatives over the past 12 months – including international cooperation such as ABU-Rai Days, Radio Sonic, the Pacific Media Partnership Conference, RadioDays Asia, ABU Awards workshops both in-person and over Zoom as well as in-country workshops across the Asia-Pacific region.

During the "Key Challenges and Opportunities for Radio in 2024", session, the RWP Chair Mistam (RRI Indonesia), Vice Chair Fan Xuan (CMG China) Radio reflected on the radio developments in their countries and what they would be focussing on in 2024.

The Radio Working Party's final session was the traditional "Around the World with Radio!" showcase, in which members were asked to share programs, initiatives and segments that have been especially successful in the past year, ranging from top rating programs to the newest and most surprising segments.



2023 ABU Engineering Awards and Technical Review Prizes announced



The winners of the 2023 Annual ABU Engineering Awards and Technical Review Prizes have been announced at the ABU Technical Committee 2023 Meeting, on 28 October at the KBS-Korea headquarters.

The awards recognized the distinguished individuals and organizations that have contributed to the development and innovation of broadcasting engineering in various categories. The prizes honoured the best papers published in the ABU Technical Review journal in three categories: Practical Implementation, Research and Case Studies.

The winners on five different categories including the Broadcast Engineering Excellence, Engineering Industry Excellence, SDGs implementation, Developing Broadcasters' Excellence, and Young Engineers' Broadcasting awards received certificates and trophies in the session.

ABU BROADCAST ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023

Chien Pham Anh, Vietnam Television Digital Center, VTV-Vietnam (for leading VTV Digital to develop from scratch the VTV's OTT TV platform – VTVgo and his outstanding contribution in developing the strategy of digital transformation at VTV)

ABU DEVELOPING BROADCASTERS' EXCELLENCE AWARD

Purswotam Manandhar, Radio Broadcasting Service , RNE-Nepal (for his outstanding contribution in execution of installation, repair and

maintenance of production studios, MW and FM Transmission systems including FM relay stations in high altitudes and also providing remote technical consulting and supervision to technical staff throughout the country)

ABU ENGINEERING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023

Sheng Zhifan, Academy of Broadcasting Science, National Radio and Television Administration, NRTA-China (for his visionary and strategic approach as well as planning in transformation of the DTV industry in China and for leading the development of several key technologies – a smart TV operating system (TVOS) & conditional access systems (CAS) for DTV receivers and location-based CAS technology (L-CAS) for DTH digital TV receivers)

ABU YOUNG ENGINEERS' BROADCASTING AWARD

Do Anh Duc, The Voice of Vietnam, VOV-Vietnam (for proposing innovative solutions for remote control and monitoring of FM broadcasting stations and developing a model for the National Digital Radio Broadcasting Platform on web and OTT platforms)

ABU ENGINEERING AWARDS ON SDGS IMPLEMENTATION

• **Hunan Broadcasting System**, HBS-China (for planning and construction of the program production base – Colorful Box – comprising a theatre, an all-media broadcast control center and an art museum achieving efficient energy conservation, emission reduction, and efficient resource recycling during design

and construction processes along with maintaining environmental protection)

• Islamic Republic of Iran

Broadcasting, IRIB-Iran (for optimizing the terrestrial broadcasting infrastructure by accommodating maximum HD channels using DVB-T2 and HEVC standards, maximum usage of capabilities of legacy set-top-boxes and IDTVs as well as by developing new Doherty TV Transmitter for reducing Power Consumption and with optimal usage of the frequency spectrum to increase HD broadcasting coverage)

The ABU Technical Review Prize 2023 Best Article Award | Practical Implementation

Ts. Ahmad Shafiq Mirza Bin Mansor, Mardhiah Nasir, Sam Bogoch, RTM-Malaysia (for the article titled RTM's HD News Digital Archive: Revolutionary Broadcast Technology Towards Effectiveness-Future Demand: Part 2)

Best Article Award | Research

Lee Yoon-Jae, Choi Seongwoo, Hong Minsoo, Lee Yong-Gun, Kim Nam-Ho, Kim Sansung, KBS-Korea (for the article titled VVERTIGO: Redefining Multi-Cam Production with AI-powered Reframing)

Best Article Award | Case Studies

Ts. Ahmad Fesol Bin Mansor, RTM-Malaysia (for the article titled Performance Analysis of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Services in The Central Region of Malaysia)



ABU Technical Committee 2023 Meeting charts the future of broadcast technology

The ABU Technical Committee 2023 Meeting, an integral part of the 60th ABU General Assembly, commenced on 28 October at the KBS-Korea headquarters. The two-day event saw an impressive line-up of speakers, reports, and presentations aiming to shape the future of broadcast technology.

The session opened with a welcome address by Hamid Nayeri, Chairman of the Technical Committee, who underscored the advancement in broadcast technologies and the challenges and opportunities they present. Ahmed Nadeem, ABU Secretary General, also delivered an opening address reiterating his commitment to supporting ABU members in the technical domain.

The meeting took a moment to honour excellence with the announcement of the 2023 Annual ABU Engineering Awards and Technical Review Prizes. These awards celebrated distinguished individuals and organisations that have made remarkable contributions to broadcasting engineering across several categories.

Masakazu Iwaki, a Research Engineer at NHK-STRL Japan, enthralled attendees with a keynote presentation titled "Emerging Technologies for Future



Public Media." Dr. Veysel Binbay later presented the ABU Technology Activity Report, highlighting the Union's initiatives to drive innovation and excellence in broadcasting engineering.

Lee Yoon Jae, Deputy Manager at KBS Media Technical Research Institute, offered insights into AI-powered production, whilst Joonam Lee from the Korea Radio Promotion Association (RAPA) discussed Korea's role in broadcasting development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The second day began with reports from topic area chairmen, ranging from production to training and services. An information exchange session provided updates on technical developments within member organisations over the past year. Additionally, proposals, including one on 'Implementing Attendance Policy for Bureau Meetings', were put forth for approval.

The committee saw the election of new office bearers, including Masashi Kamei from NHK-Japan as the new TC Chairman. Two new members, SBA-Saudi Arabia and PBC-Pakistan, were elected for the term 2024-2025.

The afternoon sessions were centred around cutting-edge technological implementations, including Internet TV for the deaf and disaster alert systems. A representative from TRT, next year's host, closed the session with an invitation to the 61st ABU General Assembly in Istanbul.



72nd ABU Sports Group Conference resolves to diversify its services to members

**ABU 2023
SEOUL**

60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings



Opening the 72nd ABU Sports Group Conference, the ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem has highlighted the importance of sports and events. The conference took place on October 29 at KBS in Seoul, Korea, on the sidelines of the 60th ABU General Assembly.

The Secretary-General stated that the demand for sports content keeps increasing despite ever-increasing rights fees. Describing content as king, Nadeem said that the ABU will emphasise the importance of supporting and facilitating content production.

Nadeem mentioned that the recently concluded Asian Games in Hangzhou as a good example of cooperation between the ABU and its members.

The ABU collaborated with members to produce venue feeds for three sports: Sepak-Takraw, Cricket, and Squash. The ABU also provided English commentary services for the Games.

72ND SPORTS GROUP CONFERENCE

29.10.2023 | 09:00 - 17:00



KBS Sports Director, Bong Jin Kim, emphasised the importance of the ABU's support in promoting the growth of sports and broadcasting. He stated that in an increasingly commercialised industry, the ABU has been, and can continue to play, a special role in supporting ABU members.

ABU Sports Chairperson Lorraine Yuen said that the ABU plays a pivotal role between content owners and broadcasters. She commended ABU Sports for its efforts to support all ABU members and help bring as many sports events as possible to their citizens.

The Sports Director presented ABU activities, events, and future scheduled events. Cai Yanjiang stated that the ABU is increasingly focusing on serving its members. It is also diversifying services to include production during events, besides rights acquisition. Capacity building of members, through skilled training, he said, is a priority.

The day-long conference featured several presentations by broadcasters, federations, and partners. These included KBS Korea, NHK Japan, CMG China, and RTM Malaysia among members. The World Archery Federation, Alibaba Cloud, and ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals Busan 2024 were also presented.

The next Sports Group Conference is scheduled for May 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



LEADING with GENDER EQUALITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



**ABU 2023
SEOUL**
60th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings

VOICE AND VISION: LEADING WITH GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE MEDIA

The ABU and KBS presented the 12th Women With the Wave, Broadcasting for all: Diversity and Inclusion in the Media Forum on 29 October 2023 in Seoul, Korea, as part of the ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

Seoul, Korea was the location of the first of these Forums, which introduced the important subject of gender and diversity in the media as a stand-alone ABU event.

Since then, the focus, activity and progress of diversity and inclusion in ABU member organisations and the region, has built on this foundation, with greater awareness and participation.

LEADERSHIP – THE THEME FOR 2023

The half-day event in 2023, highlighted diversity and inclusion and gender equality through leaders and leadership across the media in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, with international and regional senior executives, renowned experts and champions.

Through their vision, direction and stewardship, leaders of global and regional institutions and broadcasting organisations, highlighted and increased the awareness of inclusion; adopted plans, policies and actions to mainstream diversity and inclusion in workplaces and content; and inspired confidence and greater representation of

women and of all members of communities with a diversity of experiences, identities and perspectives.

Both working in the media and reflecting the news, stories, education and entertainment of, and for all, audiences and content users. Leaders have recognised the need for a workplace culture and work environment that enables teams that reflect diversity, to be embraced and provided with equal opportunity to succeed.

In line with the theme of the overall General Assembly, "What Comes Next?" speakers highlighted recent gender equality, diversity and inclusion activities and their focus and vision for the future. The Secretary of the ABU, Ahmed Nadeem, welcomed the participants and delegates, and together with inspiring opening remarks by Kim Deock-jae, KBS Acting President and CEO, and the keynote speaker, Lee Ki-Soon, the Vice Minister of Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Korea, set the tone for a varied programme of highlights of sustainability through diversity and inclusion.



Sponsors and supporters acknowledge the sphere of endeavour and drive to promote and build gender equality, diversity and inclusion in all organisations across regions, and the importance especially in the media to deliver on this momentum to make a difference in this space. Thanks and appreciation to the sponsors and supporters of the ongoing work of the ABU and the 12th Forum in the series, in 2023: KBS, UNESCO, U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, UNI GLOBAL UNION and AB COMMUNICATES.

The WWW Forum: Broadcasting for All: Diversity and Inclusion in the Media 2023 was developed, coordinated and delivered by KBS representatives Mr Wansoo Kim and Mr Seongkwon Sohn and the KBS Gender Equality Center, Chrissie Tucker, Chair of the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group and Natalia Ilieva (ABU), along with technical and support staff of both organisations.

In Session 1, the Forum showcased the work of KBS in leading with gender equality through the outstanding KBS Gender Equality Center, led by Director, Suh Young-ju.

Session 2, featured the leadership of gender equality, diversity and inclusion in the media on a global and regional level by panel members Ningrum Spicer (USAGM, Thailand), Hanna Harvima (UNI GLOBAL UNION, Switzerland) and Lee Gippeum (YWCA, Korea).

Delegates were provided with an inspiring mini masterclass on leadership and coaching in Session 3, with a focus on diversity, by Andrew Buchanan, a long-term specialist in communications and media from AB Communicates, Australia.

The ABU's major project for the year was the topic for Session 4, with senior executives from the Asian Region, demonstrating their leadership in advancing and embedding gender equality, diversity and inclusion, through strategic planning and policy development in their broadcasting organisations, as part of the UNESCO/

IPDC ABU Mainstreaming Gender and Diversity in Media Organisational Policies and Planning Project 2022/2023. Representatives who took part were Nasrullah Md. Irfan (Bangladesh Betar), Afsana Bilkis (Bangladesh TV), Aishath Asifa (PSM Maldives), Janardan Bista (Radio Nepal) and Phulman Bal Tamang (Nepal Television).

The ABU also announced two major pilot programmes for ABU members for 2024. One is aimed at supporting women working in the media with their career progression through a mini mentoring program. The other is the introduction of a recognition award scheme for diversity and inclusion workplace strategies linked to sustainability and capability.

As part of the closing proceedings of the Forum, KBS prepared a special initiative, in line with the ABU's efforts aimed at strengthening gender equality and expanding diversity and inclusion across the media landscape, with the presentation of the SEOUL DECLARATION document, that was acknowledged and ratified by Forum

participants. The DECLARATION has commitment to five steps to strengthen diversity and inclusion, regarding gender, regions, generations and socioeconomic disparities. KBS MC for this session was Seungdon Choi, who guided all present, to sign a specially designed wall and a record book to confirm the ratification.

All of the events included in the dynamic line-up of the Forum were skilfully and warmly brought together by the programme MC, Andrew Buchanan, supported by Moderators Simona Martorelli (RAI Italy) and Faiesea Matafeo (Samoa Broadcasting Corporation).



ABU enhances cooperation with Korea Radio Promotion Association

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) has signed a partnership agreement with the Korea Radio Promotion Association of The Republic of Korea (RAPA), under which both organisations commit to strengthening the cooperation for the improvement of the broadcasting environment and the sustainable development of broadcasting in the Asia-Pacific region.

Both organisations will actively cooperate in the following areas:

- Improvement of broadcasting infrastructure;
- Development and dissemination of advanced broadcasting technology;
- Enhancement of broadcasting program and content;
- Cultivation of broadcasting professionals;
- Any other matters of mutual interest.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday (30th October 2023) by ABU Secretary-General, Ahmed Nadeem and RAPA President, Jung Su Song.



The Korea Radio Promotion Association (RAPA) is a special corporation established under Article 66(2) of the Radio Waves Act. RAPA's mission is to enhance radio wave management, adapt to evolving spectrum conditions, and foster technological advancements utilizing radio waves. This is achieved

through close collaboration among radio wave, broadcasting, and telecommunications companies, internationalization of the radio wave broadcasting industry, and standardization of radio wave technologies. RAPA aims to create an environment conducive to the growth of radio wave broadcasting.



The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting (ABU) participated in the 44th Standing Committee of Copyright & Related Rights (SCCR) organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The 44th SCCR was scheduled for 6 November 2023-8 November 2023. Suranga Jayalath (ABU Intellectual Property & Legal Committee Chairperson) & Haruyuki Ichinohashi (ABU Intellectual Property & Legal Committee Vice-Chairperson; NHK Copyright & Contracts Division), Mihoko HIROISHI Head of NHK's Copyright & Contracts Division) represented ABU physically at the 44th WIPO SCCR.

Seemantani Sharma, ABU Legal Manager participated in the meeting remotely.

Ahead of the 44th SCCR, ABU IPLC had also released an official statement and call for action for the timely adoption of the proposed Broadcasters' Treaty, The statement is available [here](#).

ABU Participates in 44th WIPO SCCR



ABU Academy kicks off 4-part voice-over training for aspiring broadcasters

Over 600 participants from ABU member organisations have joined a focused 4-part course on voice-over training, which commenced on 5 October 2023. Aimed at a wide range of professionals—from voice-over artists and radio producers to those interested in audiobook productions—this course offered comprehensive insights into the flourishing field of voice-over.

The course is designed to empower participants to explore the world of

voice-overs and improve their vocal abilities. By the end, attendees will be well-versed in identifying the vocal niches for which they are best suited and will have the knowledge to start building a client base.

Leading the course were seasoned professionals Steve England and Julia Small. England brings extensive experience dating back to 1973, having worked with multiple radio stations and voice-over productions. Small is known for her roles at The Revolution 96.2 and Manx Radio and has a rich portfolio of voice-over work for commercials and corporate scripts.

Guest speakers included industry notables such as screenwriter Chris Brookes, Rachel Knighting from S2Blue, and producers and voice-over artists Tom Marshall, Steve Jones, and Emma Davis.

Participants included broadcasters from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Fiji, Egypt, Iran, India, the Philippines, Maldives, Vanuatu, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Laos, and the Solomon Islands.

Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem has called for a renewed focus on upskilling and technological advancements during his address at the 7th ABU Media Academy Forum.

The Forum was held online with participation from several members of the Academy committee, and was chaired by the committee's Vice Chairman, Baber Ali, General Manager of VU Television Network, Virtual University of Pakistan.

Secretary-General Nadeem highlighted the organisation's strides towards addressing skill gaps in the media industry. He noted that since the launch of the Media Academy, the emphasis has been on a variety of training topics, including technology, management, and different aspects of broadcasting.

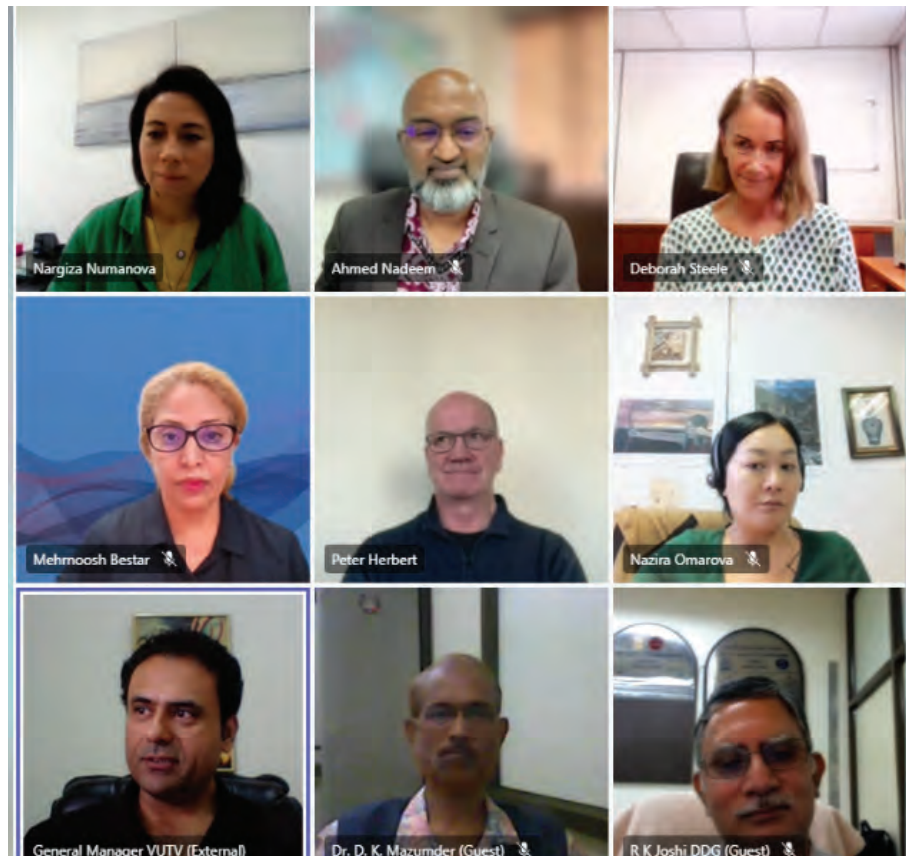
One of the key announcements was the focus on developing 'more robust courses' aimed at career development. "We need to go beyond just short training programmes. The aim is to offer certified courses that will enrich the skillsets of our members," Nadeem said. He also highlighted the potential for further collaborations with academic experts and other institutions in this endeavour.

Members of the forum highlighted the need to be ahead, especially with rapid developments in Artificial intelligence. They noted that the Academy can play a vital role in conducting trainings faster than universities, with the vast resources of technical experts within the union.

The future work plan of the Academy includes a strong emphasis on technological advancements, an area that has generated significant interest and request from members. "The focus is not only on how technology can replace jobs but also how it can enhance our work environment and assist us in various capacities," Nadeem added.

The Secretary-General urged for closer inter-departmental collaborations and better engagement with members to holistically address the needs of the broadcasting community. Another meeting is planned for early 2024, to discuss future strategies and potential enhancements to the services offered by the ABU Media Academy.

ABU Media Academy focuses on future growth and technological advancements



MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND DIVERSITY IN MEDIA ORGANISATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANNING PROJECT 2022-2023

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, with support from UNESCO/IPDC

GENDER AND DIVERSITY IN THE MEDIA AT WORK IN 2023 – A UNESCO IPDC AND ABU PROJECT!

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the funding of the “Mainstreaming Gender and Diversity in Media Organisational Policies and Planning” Project in June 2022, part of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The ABU, with the cooperation of UNESCO New Delhi Office, was given the go ahead to undertake activities for the overall purpose of strengthening media institutions and capacities in developing countries through training, network building and advocacy.

This body of work aimed to address the under-representation of women working in the media; supporting women and those from diversity groups through a more inclusive workplace; and increasing awareness of content makers and stories and news and portrayal about the gender and diversity of whole communities.

The targeted sub-regional countries were Bangladesh, Bhutan, India,

Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, within the project timeframe from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023.

The strategy embraced participation, knowledge, discussion and practical application – to make a difference with each participant on their diversity and inclusion journey:

1. A capacity-building **regional workshop**.
2. **Baseline survey** report to assess the gender equality and inclusion status in media organisations.
3. Template for a **gender and diversity action plan** and support for broadcasters to complete their first-time plan.
4. **Online workshop modules** to support plans and for other media across the region.

The introduction to the project started with the two-day regional masterclass and participation in the ABU Broadcasting for All: Women With the Wave Forum in New Delhi, India, in November 2022, in association with the ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

There were 24 participants, and the aim of the masterclass was to increase the awareness of these senior executives from National and Community broadcasters in the areas of gender equality, diversity and inclusion in the media. Focusing their attention on the issues, background, research, case studies and actions.

The masterclass introduced the concept of developing their own tailored gender and diversity action plan under a common template that would bring together all the facets of diversity and inclusion in a structured and strategic way.

As well as the plan, the project introduced and increased the awareness of having a relevant business case and communication strategy and the importance of leading from the top and appointing a gender and diversity task group.

Before developing their own plans in 2023, the broadcasters completed the Gender Equality and Inclusion Media Survey for this project's targeted area of Asia. The survey provided data on a continuing basis, as this was the third in a series in the Asia-Pacific region.

The large number of questions (55 for mainstream broadcasters and 42 for community media), aligned with the headings in the Gender and Diversity Action Plan template, highlighted to respondents the range of policies and activities associated with the theme. All

up, eleven complete the survey from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. [Link to survey...](#)

The ABU then worked with a number of the mainstream broadcasters through individual workshops and discussion, resulting in the achievement and completion of four first-time Gender and Diversity Action Plans in Bangladesh and Nepal, a final draft by a Maldives broadcaster and a draft in progress by a broadcaster in Sri Lanka.

Those who completed their plans included strong messages of commitment from their CEO/Managing Director in the preamble of their plans. There was also a commitment and appointment of a Gender and Diversity Task Group to have oversight of the Gender and Diversity Plan.

Additionally, the outcome of strong leadership commitment and focus, and the actions included in the plans, enable the whole of the broadcast organisations to deliver practical outcomes over the next three years to increase representation, awareness, inclusivity and representative media coverage and content to enhance gender equality and diversity.

Ongoing support in the form of a comprehensive, user friendly, four-module course named "The Way Forward with Diversity" further supports the broadcasters with the development of concrete plans, actions, awareness and commitment.

BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the:

- leadership teams of all the broadcasters who attended the Masterclass, workshops and discussions during the timeframe of the project, with enhanced knowledge of the subject matter and increased skills in strategic planning, plus access to training modules.
- the workforce (current and future) employed at the broadcasters who will benefit from leadership role modelling, enhanced policies and actions for gender equality and diversity; and
- audiences and users of content who will see increased coverage, access and broader on-air and on-line faces, voices and perspectives representative of the broad communities.



SWIMMING IN THE GLOBAL POOL OF CLIMATE BROADCASTERS



Putting together a team from across 4 continents to report on one of the globe's greatest annual gatherings, is not one of the easiest tasks in the world of broadcasting! With the administration of ABU at the helm, the unions from across the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, the Arabic speaking countries, Asia and the Pacific combined under the World Broadcasting Unions banner, to form the Global Syndicated Coverage from COP28 in Dubai.

Over an intense two week period, journalists, camera operators and editors joined forces from countries including Bangladesh, Fiji, Tonga, Indonesia, India, Nigeria, France, Cameroon, the Philippines, Malaysia,

Tunisia, UK and Italy.

Given support from the United Nations office for Disaster Risk reduction (UNDRR) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the objective was to cover as broad a range as possible of stories relevant to the participants' countries and regions, alongside coverage of the main issues from a SIDS (Small Island Developing States) or LDC (Least Developed Countries) perspective.

This is the fourth consecutive COP that this kind of team has been assembled, not to follow a strictly "news" agenda as such (that the bigger broadcasters such as NHK, BBC, CNN etc are duty bound to follow) but to hear, collect and disseminate views and opinions on



could resonate and have meaning to us all. These were just two of the many highlights of this frantic but worthwhile venture.

Cooperating alongside our colleagues within the UN and the Green Climate Fund gave the team great insight into the aims and objectives of complex and far-reaching projects and goals.

The EW4All (Early Warnings For All) initiative involves many partners including UNDRR, WMO, ITU and IFRC and leading officials from each of these organizations were more than willing to offer their assistance to the team - indeed complimenting the aims and offering further support to the operations of the WBU coverage.

Further testimony to the success of the Global Syndicated Coverage came from one of the major international donors of the UNDRR project funding pool. Part of USAID's funding policies is guided by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, and Sarah Charles, Assistant to the Bureau's Administrator heard first-hand from one of the team's members(Chanolde Munroe, Antigua) how much the WBU-UNDRR projects had been of value to her fellow broadcasters in the Caribbean and how guidance and advice at COP was now advancing her professional skills and grasp of vital worldwide issues. It was gratifying to hear similar comments from the other team members before the conference drew to an end.

Perhaps the eventual outcome of COP28 wasn't as significant in the battle to control our climate as many would have wished, although the inclusion of the words "fossil -transition" was a step in the right direction.

However, the further development of the Global Syndicated Coverage Team was another significant step forward in broadcasting climate issues in those countries and regions most affected by climate change.

The endorsements and future support that came from the UN departments and the representatives of the Green Climate Fund at the conclusion of a long two weeks effort, was just reward for the team's efforts and professionalism.

current issues that are important from an environmental and climate portfolio.

It's estimated that there are over 350 potential stories that come to light on any given day at COP, so choosing a varied cross-section of items is an interesting and often debatable process to be a part of.

An estimated 90,000 people attended this year's event so there were plenty of opportunities to meet and interview a varied range of people. Emphasis was put on the participants to select their interviewees but with a suggested wider view in mind to consider lines of questioning that would be of interest to audiences outside a country or regional sphere.

Poignant and hard-hitting interviews were conducted for example with members of the Pacific Warriors, who's passion and emotion for their Islands survival, translates into powerful tele-visual material across the globe.

The Chief Scientist of the Antarctic Research Institute gave a "no-punches-pulled" warning to the COP negotiators not to deliver a weak final statement, explaining hard science regarding the ice-cap melt, in a language that

COP28 Global Syndicated Coverage

UNDRR/WBU Media Saving Lives Initiative

World
Broadcasting
Unions



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



United Nations
Climate Change



COP28UAE



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Phase 4 will expand the scale and depth of the Media Saving Lives initiative, which was conceived as a long – term organisational capacity - building for 100 broadcasters in the Global South (2020 – 2025). The project aims to engage participating media organisations in DRR, so they move from a reactive approach focused on covering disasters, to a proactive engagement, actively educating and engaging the populations to manage disaster risks.

Phase 4 builds on the previous steps to further institutionalize DRR in participating media organizations through the establishment of Working Groups between NDMA, Met Services and Broadcasters as well as the development of SOP's for Early Warnings for Media in times of disasters.

The project will also expand its geographic coverage to include priority countries from the Early Warning for All Initiative, working closely with regional broadcasting unions in Asia – Pacific, Africa, Arab States and Caribbean regions. The project is led by the ABU, which is coordinating the activities and administering the funding on behalf of the World Broadcasting Unions.

This latest stage was launched on 14 November 2023, involving for the first time Arab State Broadcasting Union along with the Asia – Pacific Broadcasting Union, African Union of Broadcasting and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union who have been a part of the project from its beginning.

Phase 4 will run until mid June 2024 and offer online and in-country capacity building, developing a co-production on EW and EWS between the participating regions and developing organisational DRR action plans.

The first activity of Phase 4 was the Global Syndicated Coverage of the

The Global WBU/UNDRR Media Saving Lives Initiative enters Phase 4



Climate Conference COP28, held in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023. A team of journalists from Algeria, Barbados, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Tonga and UK provided daily coverage of the COP28 to over 200 Radio and TV stations in the Global South.

The ABU would like to express its gratitude to the sponsors of the COP28 Global Syndicated Team – the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Green Climate Fund(GCF).

The 16th ABU Programme Bureau Meeting sets stage for ABU General Assembly in Seoul



The ABU convened its 16th Programme Bureau Meeting with all PB members on Thursday, October 19, 2023, setting the stage for the upcoming ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings in Seoul.

The meeting was chaired by Claire Gorman of ABC, Chairman of the ABU Programme Committee, with introductions by Wansoo Kim, Chief Project Manager of ABU 2023 Seoul.

Yasu Nagahata, ABU's Director of Programming, presented a comprehensive report of activities spanning from December 2022 to October 2023, highlighting the achievements and milestones of the ABU during this period.

The meeting progressed into an engaging brainstorming session, during which PB members shared updates on their activities throughout the year. PB members also offered valuable suggestions and feedback on various aspects of the ABU, encompassing recent activities, including the ABU CON-FEST and ABU Prizes workshops.

The meeting concluded, with the agenda set for the Programme Committee and Radio Working Party meetings during the ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings in Seoul, South Korea.



Participants at the 2023 ABU Media & Culture Days conference were reminded how important culture was for public service broadcasters, especially in a time of rapid social and technical upheaval.

The theme running through the international East-West forum in Romania was “Diverse and distinctive: How culture powers public service media”, and discussions ranged from how culture breaks down barriers to how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to enhance programming.

Răzvan Ioan Dincă, President Director General of co-hosts Radio Romania, in opening the conference on Radio Romania’s 95th anniversary, said the broadcaster was one of the major cultural players in the country.

“Culture can open new doors of dialogue when other doors seem closed,” he said.

Culture open doors to dialogue, ABU conference told



Seventy-three delegates, from 19 countries in Asia and Europe, including 23 speakers, gathered in Bucharest for the third edition of the Media & Culture Days, which comprised nine conference sessions included 14 content showcases and two special AI presentations (from TRT World-Türkiye and Media Prima Malaysia).

A High-Level Roundtable brought together broadcasting leaders from Asia and Europe, including ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem, EBU Deputy Director General Jean Philip De Tender, Secretary-General of PBI David Jordan and Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI) President Director I. Hendrasmo.

They discussed the complex interplay between media and culture, addressing how media can reflect and shape societal values and beliefs, promote diversity, challenge stereotypes, and address cultural appropriation.

In opening remarks, Mr Ahmed Nadeem extolled the relationship with Radio Romania which started with Media2020

and continued with Media & Culture Days. And he congratulated them on achieving 95 years of broadcasting.

“The important thing is for us to know in the environment like this, with so much competition around, is how can we as broadcasters leverage the available technology and still continue to do what we do best, like storytelling,” he said.

“We need to move away from our traditional mindset and make ourselves available on all the platforms that are available.”

The BBC’s David Jordan, speaking as Secretary General of Public Broadcasters International (PBI), said the conference brought together from across the world people who have tried to meet the challenges of fulfilling the needs of diverse audiences efficiently and economically.

Ignatius Hendrasmo, President Director of RRI Indonesia spoke about the broadcaster’s role as the guardian of





national diversity. "RRI's strength lies in the diversity of its programs" he said. "It aims to unify the diversity and richness of culture and language in the archipelago and thereby plays the role of the National Culture Preserver", he added.

Delegates and speakers discussed the deep and symbiotic relationships between broadcasters' content and culture, with case studies on how broadcasters (including online) can support a nation's cultural capital while making sure they get their own dividend from it to sustain their business and satisfy and grow their domestic audiences.

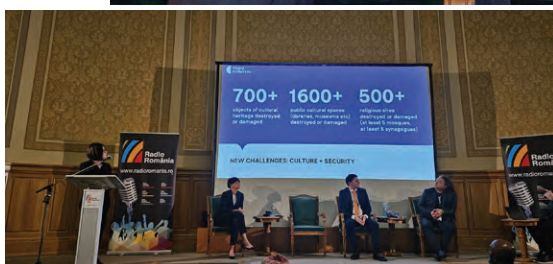
Speaking during a special discussion on "AI - Friend or foe?", Juranga Jayalath, Chairperson of ABU's Intellectual Property and Legal Committee and Group Director, Legal, at CMG Sri Lanka said that the opportunities and challenges brought by artificial intelligence to the development of broadcast industry cannot be

disregarded, but "it should be noted that research of AI technology is still in very early stages and it will be a major task for the media industry to get used to the applicable legal framework."

Aaron Pinto of Media Prima Audio, Malaysia, demonstrated the evolution of Southeast Asia's first AI DJs Aina Sbrina and Aiman. He said the audience engagement with AI is quite positive and the broadcaster is planning more AI projects involving listeners. He added that while artificial intelligence had a future in radio, it remained to be seen whether AI-generated personalities would replace human presenters.

"Radio's greatest asset is emotions," he said. "Right now, the human emotion is one AI can't break yet and is likely to be so for many years to come."

But he said it already had a value in things like optimising workflow and reducing time spent on doing certain tasks, a message echoed by Soud





by Russia confirmed how they depended on receiving reliable information from Ukrainian public service media. Evidence showed listenership to Ukrainian public radio had doubled since the invasion. She said culture was never solely to do with art. It was importantly a way of bringing people together to understand their identity.

Tinatini Berdzenishvili, Director General of RTV Georgia said Media and Culture are inherently intertwined, “media shapes the society, which creates the behaviours and in turn creates culture. The new media works in reverse. It’s an interactive chain.” She added that digital media created totally different challenges for PSM, “the new generation is totally omni-media, they are already digital, and they will never consume radio and television content as the generations before them did, so we need to work very fast to understand and deploy new technology to create and re-create culture, for these audiences and the generations to come.”

Muhammed Taha Samasti, Director of Productions at TRT-2, the culture and art channel of TRT Türkiye, showcased a range of their most popular cultural programs, from Cultural Antiquities to Digital Art, the recreation of ancient traditional practices such as creation of colours, to rediscovering old cuisine via novels, to the unearthing of lost history and living stories via archive films.

Other showcases included the ABU’s long-running CARE co-production, Radio Romania’s Work and Live project, ACORAB Nepal’s work in documenting and promoting the cultures of hard to reach Indigenous communities, Uzbekistan’s MTRK & Dunyo bo’ylab demonstrated how the channels work to cover the diversity of the country’s cultural expression, and Carsten Dufner of MDR Germany challenged the delegates to work together on projects that not only promote, but increase diversity and result in more colourful and impactful content for new generations of audiences both in Europe and Asia.

The conference ended with a meeting of the ABU Culture committee where members pitched co-productions and future projects.



Hyder of TRT World who chronicled the evolution of content and culture in an AI World.

Asun Gomez, Director of International Relations at RTVE Spain outlined AI projects the broadcaster has developed, including the regional news automatic subtitling project, speech synthesis, sign language detection and verification. She also showcased Hiperia, the first project about audio-visual content created by artificial intelligence. It is currently on-air and online on Radio 3 Extra, which is the cultural audio-visual content platform of RTVE Radio.

Irina Kornienko, Director of the Ukrainian Culture Channel, Suspilne, said trust in public media was important, and feedback from Ukrainians living in territory occupied

New Developments in AI for Broadcasters

Tracy Gilliam | Chief Strategy Officer, Futuri

November 2023

FUTURI



ABU members have been cautioned that if they don't use artificial intelligence (AI) by 2030 they may become extinct. The advice came from AI expert Tracy Gilliam to an ABU webinar on "New Developments in AI for Broadcasters".

Gilliam, who is Chief Strategy Officer for AI company Futuri, said the field was evolving rapidly.

"It is a very exciting time to be in the radio industry," she said, adding: "If we can use it [AI] to make positive impact."

She agreed that many people's attitudes towards AI had become more positive even over a few short months since the issue was discussed at the ABU CON-FEST and RadioSonic conference in July.

Gilliam said some people in radio saw AI as a way of saving costs with automated systems and artificial characters and voices, but this was a narrow viewpoint.

She said investment in AI enabled broadcasters to save money to re-invest it in improving specific area, importantly in what humans do best - creative thinking.

"People won't be replaced by AI," she said. "But people will be replaced by people who use AI."

ABU members encouraged to embrace artificial intelligence

Gilliam took the more than 70 webinar participants through the advantages of AI, tools that are being developed and how organisations can restructure to work collaboratively with other experts in different areas of the new technology.

Throughout the hour, she constantly reiterated that AI did not replace the best of a radio station's programming, brand or qualities, but enabled broadcasters to concentrate on what they do well to attract audiences, such as hyper-local news and information. AI could be used to perform more mundane, repetitive tasks to free up human creators.

The concept of creating artificial on-air

personalities drew a lot of questions from webinar participants before Ms Gilliam closed her presentation with a summary of the two biggest risks of using artificial intelligence.

The first was the risk of losing audience trust by not being open, honest and transparent about how the station was using AI in important areas that relied on human intervention.

The second risk was in assuming that because AI could generate material in a matter of seconds, it therefore did not need human oversight.

"Humans still need to go through it [AI-generated material] to check it and to make it human," she said.

NEW RADIO

China Media Group (CMG) is always striving for exploring new territory.

- About CMG
- Some Of The Innovations Of CMG Radio



How a Chinese media giant serves the world's biggest Radio audience

One of the world's biggest broadcasters gave ABU members a practical demonstration of how to weave multiple media elements together to enhance programs for audiences.

The presentation from China Media Group's Director of Strategic Development, Fan Xuan, at an ABU webinar titled "New era, new radio" showcased some of the latest developments in CMG Radio including artificial intelligence (AI), multiplatform production and how to enhance outreach and attract younger listeners with themed special programming.

Forty radio producers from 21 Countries joined the webinar by Ms Xuan, who is also Vice-Chair of the ABU Radio Working Party.

Her presentation started with an overview of CMG, its 51 television and 22 radio channels ranging from national to regional and international

services. Its online offering now had more than 25 apps and several websites.

She described how some of the online streams – such as Ethereal Sound and CMG Mobile – offered both audio and video and included live interaction with audiences through social media.

CMG was also proud of the growth of podcasting, which "breaks down the restrictions of time", in scheduling and in the length of the content itself.

She said Ethereal Sound was more than radio, offering over 1,900 frequencies throughout the country, with some 200 million users.

She said AI played an important role in weaving together all this content, although she stressed that human staff were still very important in working on content, with technicians from the different platforms using their specialist expertise to prepare material for their own services.

Producers from NHK-Japan, MNB-Mongolia, TVRI-Indonesia, Thai PBS-Thailand, RTM-Malaysia, and VTV-Vietnam gathered in Tokyo for a meeting of the ABU Kids initiative. The meeting, coinciding with the Japan Prize week, aimed to reshape the future of ABU Kids, under NHK's leadership in partnership with Japan Prize.

Before the formal discussions, delegates toured the NHK Studio, expressing appreciation for the hospitality of the JAPAN PRIZE Secretariat team and acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the Japan Prize. The excellent organization of the event was highlighted, with special commendation for the Japan Prize team's dynamism and creativity.

The Japan Prize celebrated its golden jubilee this year, receiving 391 entries from 55 countries and regions. The Japan Prize Film Festival week, held from November 18-23, brought together creators of educational content from around the world. They engaged in screenings, talk sessions, and workshops, reinforcing the festival's commitment to media that encourages learning, reflection, empathy, and action.

A focal point of the festival was the Grand Prix Japan Prize 2023, awarded to "Two Kids a Day". This documentary explores the persistent Israel-Palestine conflict, seeking solutions for the future of the children involved.

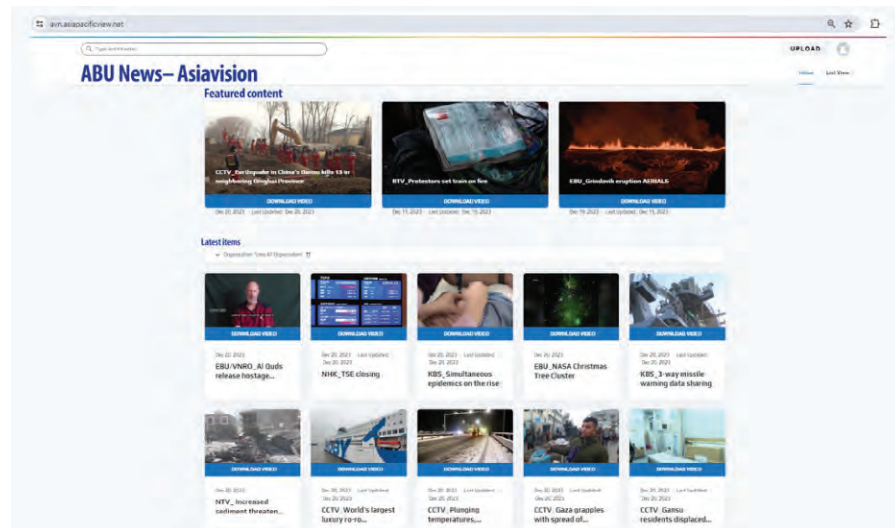
Since 2003, the Japan Prize's Proposal Division has supported program production in underserved regions. This year's finalists included two from ABU member countries, MNB-Mongolia and TVRI-Indonesia. The Best Proposal Award was won by Ariunjargal Luvsantseren of MNB-Mongolia for "My Home", a project highlighting the impact of climate change in Mongolia and the proactive steps taken by children to address it.

The ABU Kids initiative, strengthened by its association with NHK and the Japan Prize, looks forward to fostering greater collaboration through co-production and program exchange, aiming to make a positive impact on children's media content globally.

ABU Kids initiative reimagined at NHK Tokyo gathering



Members welcome new Asiavision platform



The new Asiavision platform was launched in December, with CCTV, NHK, NTV, BTV, TV5, FBC and Thai PBS among the first members to use the new version of Asia-Pacific View (APV).

The video news exchange platform is designed to meet the specific needs of all Asiavision members.

Members say it is “quick and hassle free,” “easy to use,” and “looks a thousand times better,” than its predecessor.

About 16,000 video news stories are uploaded to Asiavision every year for members to use.

Asia-Pacific View is an exchange platform developed by ABU Technology, to cater to the needs of the various content exchanges available to ABU members.

ABU News: 57 members and counting



ABU News delivered services to 57 ABU members in 2023, including the Asiavision video news exchange, workshops, webinars and capacity building.

Beneficiaries ranged from Hope Radio in Kiribati, MBC Mauritius and BTV Bhutan, through to the 31 members of Asiavision.

Workshops were provided on news gathering and production, mojo journalism, climate reporting, the opportunities and risks of generative AI, live crosses and investigative journalism.

Webinars focussed on news values and good journalism, and tips for reporting COP28.



SAFETY GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS

ABU News launches journalist safety guides

ABU News [has produced three guides](#) on journalist safety to help reduce risks for reporters and crews covering natural disasters, demonstrations, riots and in large crowds.

[Journalist Safety – Protests](#) is for reporters and crews covering protests, demonstrations and riots. It emphasises the importance of preparation, clear identification, protective clothing and emergency contacts. The guide also encourages journalists to familiarise themselves with the local area, laws and security environment before the event, and to remain neutral and observant while it is underway.

[Journalist Safety – Disasters](#) is for reporters and crews in disaster zones. It recommends specialised disaster reporting training, risk assessments and protective gear. Journalists are advised

to have an evacuation plan in place and to work with a “buddy” to ensure mutual safety.

[Journalist Safety – General](#) offers advice ranging from understanding local laws to having secure transport, maintaining digital security and prioritising mental health.

Members are encouraged to assign responsibility for risk reduction and to prioritise journalist safety – especially when planning reporting assignments.

A 2022 UNESCO report on journalist safety found more than 30 percent of all journalist killings occurred in the Asia Pacific region. It also noted an increase in the number of journalists killed while covering protests.

The guides can be downloaded from the ABU website and shared with colleagues.

2023 Asiavision Monthly Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Asiavision monthly awards. Here is the full list for 2023:



January 2023: DD India - Piece-to-Camera Reports

DD India started the year by winning the January award for its diverse piece-to-camera reports covering major events such as G20 meetings, Republic Day celebrations, and cultural features.



August 2023: NTV Nepal - Coverage of Upper Dolpa Food Crisis and Floods

NTV Nepal earned the August award for its exceptional coverage of the Upper Dolpa food crisis and floods in rural Nepal. The channel's innovative reporting techniques and dedication to remote area coverage were particularly noted.



February 2023: TRT Türkiye - Coverage of Breaking News

TRT Türkiye was awarded in February for its exhaustive coverage of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, delivering continuous updates under challenging circumstances and providing crucial information on rescue and relief efforts.



September 2023: CCTV China - Coverage of Asian Games Lead-Up

CCTV China was awarded for its comprehensive coverage of events leading to the Asian Games in Hangzhou, including bilateral government meetings, further cementing its reputation for detailed international reporting.



March 2023: MTV Sri Lanka - Coverage of Protests in Colombo

MTV Sri Lanka's coverage of protests in Colombo, including the use of water cannons and subsequent student protests, earned it the March award. The channel's frontline reporting provided a compelling view of the events.



October 2023: Ariana TV (ATN) Afghanistan and CCTV China

Ariana TV won the October prize for its prompt coverage of the Herat province earthquake in Afghanistan, providing vital updates. CCTV China shared the award, recognized for its extensive reporting on Israel's response to the Hamas attack and the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.



April 2023: CCTV China - Coverage of Unrest in Sudan

CCTV China's April award was for its vivid reporting from Khartoum, Sudan, capturing the impact of conflict on the local population's daily life, including their struggles for food and medical care.



November 2023: VTV Vietnam - Stories on Climate Change

VTV Vietnam received the November award for its enlightening series on Vietnam's environmental challenges. These reports, leading up to COP28, covered critical issues like water resource management, environmental degradation, and carbon financing, highlighting the regional importance of these concerns.



May 2023: TVB Hong Kong, China - Impartial Factual Reporting

TVB Hong Kong was recognized in May for its balanced coverage of changes to Hong Kong's legislative and district councils, providing a clear understanding of the city's political shifts.



December 2023: Pasifika TV, New Zealand - Coverage of COP28 Climate Conference

In December, Pasifika TV of New Zealand was recognized for its outstanding coverage of the COP28 UN Climate Conference in Dubai. The channel's daily reports provided an in-depth look at the conference from a Pacific and global viewpoint, effectively voicing Pacific concerns in the global climate change discourse.



June 2023: VTV Vietnam - LGBTQ Pride Coverage

VTV Vietnam received the June award for its sensitive and engaging coverage of LGBTQ pride, highlighting the channel's dedication to covering significant social issues.



July 2023: NHK Japan - Fukushima Water Release Coverage

NHK Japan's detailed reporting on Japan's plan to release water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant earned it the July award. The coverage included international concerns, demonstrating NHK's commitment to comprehensive reporting.



ABU News reinforces partnership with ASBU

ABU News took part in the Arab States Broadcasting Union's 19th Standing Committee on News, held in Tunis, Tunisia on 16 October 2024.

The ABU was represented at the meeting by Asiavision's Senior Editor, Ahmed Afruh Rasheed, where he discussed the close cooperation between the two unions' news exchanges and ways to further enhance the exchanges between the two organisations.

News leaders from across the Arab region gathered in Tunis for the meeting, where members emphasised a common need for sovereignty over their content, free from foreign censorship.

Held against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, members agreed on the urgent need for a platform where content is not governed by the laws of countries outside the Arab region.

The union stressed that although the conflict is close to the hearts of many in the region, where stories often tend to be driven by emotion, broadcasters should prioritise truthful and objective reporting.



Technical Bureau sets tone for ABU General Assembly 2023

The annual meeting of the ABU Technical Bureau was held on 17 October, 2023 online as an integral part of the ABU General Assembly.

TC Chairman Hamid D Nayeri from IRIB-Iran chaired the meeting.

ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem welcomed the Bureau members and hoped that the meeting would be productive in every aspect.

The bureau discussed several agenda and got updates on the progress of different tasks and action items carried since the last General Assembly, notably ABU Decisions on Implementing Attendance Policy for Bureau Meetings.

The annual meeting also took review of topic areas and terms of reference in all four areas- Production, Transmission, Training & Services and Spectrum.

RSF and 16 partners unveil Paris Charter on AI and Journalism

On November 10th, 2023, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and 16 partner organisations including the ABU published the [Paris Charter on AI and Journalism](#), on the occasion of Paris Peace Forum. Work on the Paris Charter on AI and Journalism was [launched in July 2023](#) in partnership with civil society organisations, experts in artificial intelligence, media representatives and journalists.

The charter was written by a commission that was brought together by RSF and was chaired by Maria Ressa, a journalist who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021. The commission comprised 32 prominent persons from 20 different countries who are specialists in journalism or AI. The goal was clear – to determine a set of fundamental ethical principles to protect the integrity of news and information in the AI age, when these technologies are poised to transform the media industry.

Many organisations came together in an unprecedented manner to support the efforts of the commission and RSF. They included leading organisations that defend journalism and the media (Committee to Protect Journalists, Canadian Journalism Foundation, DW Akademie, European Journalism Centre, Ethical Journalism Network, Free Press Unlimited, Global Forum for Media Development, International Press Institute, Pulitzer Centre, Thomson Foundation), a federation of journalists (European Federation of Journalists), an organization that represents public service media (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union), an ICT research center (Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa) and investigative journalism consortia (Global Investigative Journalism Network, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project).



In response to the turmoil that AI has created in the news and information arena, the Charter defines ten key principles for safeguarding the integrity of information and preserving journalism's social role. Inter alia, the core principles state:

- Ethics must govern technological choices within the media;
- Human agency must remain central in editorial decisions;
- The media must help society to distinguish between authentic and synthetic content with confidence;
- The media must participate in global AI governance and defend the viability of journalism when negotiating with tech companies.

"AI exacerbates what is already an existential moment for journalism. While it promises new opportunities, it also brings significant threats to the integrity of information. Technological innovation doesn't inherently lead to progress: it must be steered by ethics to truly benefit humanity. To safeguard the right to information, journalists and news organisations must join forces to ensure ethics guide the governance and use of the most transformative technology of our time. The Paris Charter on AI and Journalism is a significant step towards this goal."

Maria Ressa

Rappler founder and CEO, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

"Artificial intelligence could provide remarkable services to humanity but it clearly has the potential to amplify the manipulation of minds to proportions unprecedented in history. The Paris Charter is the first international ethical benchmark for AI and journalism. Factual evidence, a clear distinction between authentic and synthetic content, editorial independence and human responsibility will be the primary guarantees for the right to reliable news and information in the AI era. More than ever, journalism requires a sound and widely recognised ethical foundation. Together with our partners, we call on reporters, editors and news organisations around the world to take ownership of these principles, to proclaim them, and to implement them in what they do."

Christophe Deloire

RSF Secretary-General

Technologies based on artificial intelligence offer unprecedented new perspectives but also pose unprecedented challenges for journalism.

At a time when deepfakes could amplify disinformation and shatter public trust in all audio-visual content, and when language models are liable to increase productivity at the expense of the integrity of news and information, media affirm by endorsing this Charter that they will not allow new technology to divert them from their mission of serving the public interest. The Charter promotes an approach in which human judgment and journalistic ethics constitute the pillars of journalism's social function as a trusted third party.

Unlocking the Future of Video: Adding Next Generation Video Codecs to the DVB Toolbox

ABU ABUTechnologyWebinar

Peter Siebert

Jan Outters (Ateme)

**Unlocking the Future of Video:
Adding Next Generation Video Codecs to the DVB toolbox**

Supported by
BTS
IEEE Broadcast
Technology Society

DVB's Building Block principle

DVB-C	DVB-C2	DVB-C1	DVB-C1D
DVB-CSA	DVB-CSA2	DVB-CS	DVB-CS2
DVB-DASH	DVB-DATA	DVB-HE	DVB-GSE
DVB-H	DVB-II	DVB-IP TV	DVB-IM
DVB-MABR	DVB-MPE	DVB-MPEG	DVB-NGH
DVB-NIP	DVB-RCS	DVB-RCS2	DVB-S
DVB-S2	DVB-S2X	DVB-S1	DVB-S1M
DVB-S2S	DVB-S2M	DVB-S2U	DVB-S2B
DVB-T	DVB-T2	DVB-TA	DVB-TDM
DVB-TVA			

ETSI TS 101 154

Central specification
for DVB deployment

Join us on 21 November, Tuesday at 1500 MYT (0700 UTC)

To unravel the future landscape of video delivery, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) in cooperation with the IEEE Broadcast Technology Society recently orchestrated a groundbreaking webinar titled "Unlocking the Future of Video: Adding Next Generation Video Codecs to the DVB toolbox." This virtual event, deemed essential for professionals engaged in broadcasting, streaming, and telecommunications, streamed live on November 21, 2023, capturing the attention of industry experts and enthusiasts worldwide.

The webinar served as a comprehensive platform for exploring the latest advancements in video compression technologies, spotlighting the highly

efficient VVC (Versatile Video Coding) codec and AVS3. Participants were also taken through to invaluable insights into the potential deployments of these cutting-edge technologies, with a keen eye on the future of video delivery.

The session was skillfully presented by Jan Outters, the Director of Technology & Standards at Ateme. Dr. Peter Siebert, Vice President at the IEEE Broadcast Technology Society, lent his expertise as the moderator, ensuring a seamless and informative experience for the attendees.

The webinar attracted an impressive turnout of over 115 participants hailing from 39 countries across Asia-Pacific and beyond.



ABU Sports marks strong presence at 19th Asian Games, Hangzhou 2022

The Asian Broadcasting Union (ABU) has made a significant impact at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou 2022, showcasing a strong presence for the first time at such a large-scale multi-sport event. A total of 107 ABU personnel were deployed across various sporting events, highlighting their commitment to covering the Games.

Breakdown of ABU Personnel and Roles

1. **Cricket Coverage by DD India:** A 28-member production team from India's national broadcaster, DD India, managed cricket coverage. The team consisted of roles including directors, producers, camerapersons, graphic artists, editors, and sound technicians.
2. **Sepaktakraw Production by RTM:** Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) contributed 17 professionals for



Sepaktakraw coverage, marking their inaugural participation in such a prominent event.

3. **Squash Crew from Multiple Countries:** The squash production squad, comprising 28 individuals, was a collaboration of crew members from Singapore, Malaysia, and Cambodia.
4. **English Commentary Team:** ABU Sports enlisted 30 top-tier commentators from around the world for English commentary.
5. **ABU Sports Personnel:** Additionally, 4 personnel from ABU Sports were deployed for overall coordination and management.

The team's efforts commenced on 19 September, with the DD India team beginning their cricket coverage at Zhejiang University of Technology's Pingfeng Cricket Field. The Sepaktakraw and Squash crews joined later in the week.

ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem visited the operations in Hangzhou, meeting with the DD India cricket coverage teams and other members, including the team from KBS, South Korea. His visit underscores ABU's dedication to exceptional sports coverage and support for its production teams.

ABU Sports Director praised the crew for their outstanding work. The Indian team expressed their appreciation for the valuable practical learning and exposure provided by ABU during the event. David Turner, the team leader from New Zealand, thanked ABU for offering a rare opportunity to its members for gaining experience in covering large-scale sporting events.

ABU Sports has had an active involvement in past Asian Games, such as Incheon 2014 and Jakarta-Palembang 2018, includes distribution and multi-feed production.

The 19th Asian Games, co-hosted by Hangzhou and five other cities in east China's Zhejiang Province, concluded on 8 October. The event featured approximately 12,500 athletes from 45 countries competing in 40 sports, across 61 disciplines and 481 events.

ABU Sports & Entertainment Network, ASEN sees increasing activity:

ABU Sports & Entertainment Network, ASEN saw an increasing activity this past quarter. The platform saw uploads almost on daily basis. The latest event distributed by ASSEN is the E1 World Championships 2024/2025 season.

The content uploads of almost 300 media files were mostly long duration event highlights and shows. The sports magazine SportsMax, continue to be a weekly feature for several members. Regular users include FBC Fiji, MBC Mauritius, EMTV Papua New Guinea, TVRI Indonesia, PSM Maldives and RTM Malaysia, ATN Afghanistan, and DD India among others.

The platform also saw 60-minute event highlights of:

- 2023 Pacific Games, 2023
- 2023 Asian Archery Championships in Bangkok,
- 2024 Asian LeManns Series,
- Dubai Electric Scooter Cup 2023,
- Hyundai World Archery Season Review and Top 10 Highlights.

Other Highlights of 30 minutes and less include:

- Youth Sailing World Championship,
- Oman Desert Marathon,
- The Beach Volleyball King & Queen of the Court Finals,
- Wrestling World ranking Series,
- GKA Freestyle Kite World Cup,
- Africa Eco Race 2024,
- Longines FEI World Cup,
- Malaysia-International Regatta

Among members, CCTV China and TDM Macau continue remain the leading contributors with over 100 Sports related News.

Regular users include ATN Afghanistan, BTV Bangladesh, CCTV China, TDM Macau, FBC Fiji, DD India, TVRI



Indonesia, KTRK Kyrgyzstan, LNTV Laos, RTM Malaysia, PSM Maldives, MBC Mauritius, TV5 Mongolia, MRTV Myanmar, EMTV Papua New Guinea, NBT Thailand, VBTC Vanuatu, ASBU among others.

35 ABU members are registered to the platform as of the end of 2023. ABU Sports & Entertainment Network plan to be an alternative source of diverse sports related content for its members.

Pacific broadcasters trained for pivotal regional events

60 broadcasters from 13 stations across 10 Pacific nations have successfully completed Pacific Cooperation Broadcasting Limited's (PCBL) 2023 Pacific Regional Journalism Training Programme. This eight-week programme centred on regional issues and sports reporting, along with technical training.

This training initiative serves as a precursor for the broadcasters to cover significant events such as the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS) Leaders Meeting 2023, the SOL23 Pacific Games.

Natasha Meleisea, CEO of PCBL, emphasised the importance of "Story Sovereignty", a term signifying the control and stewardship of Pacific narratives by Pacific authors. "Successful candidates are being sent to report on events of significance to the Pacific, through a Pacific lens," Meleisea said.

Stanley Simpson, Director for Mai TV and facilitator for the sports journalism segment, is optimistic about the unique



storytelling opportunities presented by the SOL23 Pacific Games. He hopes to see the narratives go "beyond the usual" sporting action to encapsulate "epic, emotional, historical stories" that will capture not just local, but also regional and international attention.

A talented team of 11 individuals, categorised into three groups,

represented the broadcasters at these events. Their coverage was shared across the Pasifika TV network as well as ABU's Asiavision news exchange, and comprises media veterans such as journalists, producers, and camera operators. "It is fantastic to have a diverse group that will bring combined and balanced perspectives in their stories," Meleisea added.

First-of-its-kind vertical feed redefine cricket broadcasting at World Cup

The International Cricket Council (ICC) in collaboration with Disney Star, has launched an additional vertical video feed for all 48 matches of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

The vertical video feed, a first for the sport, provided cricket fans with a viewing experience that complements modern mobile usage. With a focus on intuitive and easy viewing, the vertical format is optimised to allow fans to engage with the content in the most convenient handheld position, making the sport more accessible and enjoyable for on-the-go viewers.

The production utilised a curated array of vertically oriented cameras along with the standard world feed cameras to deliver an immersive experience. Match graphics and bespoke production enhancements were tailored specifically

for the vertical format, offering fans an engaging viewing context.

One of the most exciting elements of this new feed is the split-screen feature. By offering a more contextual understanding of the game, the split-screen will add an extra layer to the viewing experience. This feature allowed fans to feel closer to the action and their cricketing heroes, establishing a deeper connection with the game.

Traditional technical and editorial storytelling tools like ball tracking, player tracking, and field plot were also customised to fit the vertical video format.

A number of ABU members including ATN Afghanistan, PTV Pakistan, and MTV Sri Lanka are official broadcasters of the games.



Nobel Peace Prize laureate calls for action to curb disinformation



Journalist, CEO and Nobel laureate Maria Ressa has told a United Nations conference urgent steps must be taken to reduce disinformation.

Speaking at a high-level session of the UN Internet Governance Forum moderated by the ABU's Director of

News, Deborah Steele, Ressa said lies spread faster than facts. "If more lies spread than facts, you don't have facts, you can't have truth, you can't have trust."

She said the problem was undermining the integrity of elections, and

was exacerbated by the speed of developments in generative AI and other technologies.

Ressa criticised social media platforms for responding with 'the three D's: deny, deflect and delay'.

The other panellists were the European Commission vice president for Values and Transparency Vera Jourova, Randi Michel from the White House National Security Council, Professor Tatsuhiko Yamamoto from Keio University Law School and Nic Suzor from the Meta Oversight Board.

The IGF is convened annually by the UN Secretary-General and was hosted by the Government of Japan this year in Kyoto. More than 8,000 participants from 170 countries took part.

'Saudia Alaan' channel launched to reflect 'Saudi Vision 2030' progress



The Saudi Broadcasting Authority has launched a new state-owned 'Saudi Now' TV channel, aimed at promoting national events in line with the government's Vision 2030.

The ceremony, held under the patronage of the Minister of Media and Chairman of the Board of Directors of SBA, Salman bin Yousef Al-Dosari, witnessed significant attendance from the channel's partners.

"Saudia Alaan" channel is an extension of the SBA's network and serves as an official national platform specialized in broadcasting the events and important occasions hosted by the Kingdom in line with its ambitious Saudi Vision 2030.

The launch of the channel comes at a time when the Kingdom is witnessing a significant increase in the number of events, exhibitions, and conferences, as a result of the qualitative leaps brought about by Saudi Vision 2030.

Regional radio stations & personalities win big at the national commercial radio & audio awards



Popular radio duo Jimmy Smith and Nath Royce (100.9 Hobart, SCA) have been named the Best On Air Team in the provincial category. The duo, who were the Number One breakfast show in Hobart, moved to the national Hit Network in August 2022.

The winners of the national awards were revealed at a gala event attended by 1,000 radio personalities and executives from across the country. The ACRA Awards celebrate excellence in commercial radio broadcasting and audio across entertainment, news, talk, podcasting and sport. This year the awards also celebrated a century of radio in Australia.

Ford Ennals, Chief Executive Officer of Commercial Radio & Audio, organisers of the Awards, has congratulated all finalists and winners on their achievements.

Two legends of Queensland radio were inducted into the Hall of Fame at tonight's ceremony: Laurel Edwards (4BC, Brisbane, Nine Radio) and Steve 'Pricey' Price (Triple M Townsville SCA).



TV program jointly produced by China and Indonesia starts broadcast



A television program called "Hello! China" which was jointly produced by China Media Group (CMG) and Indonesia's Nusantara TV (NTV) began broadcast on November 14, 2023. CMG's Vice President Hu Jinjun and NTV's President Nurdin Tampubolon attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches.

Hu Jinjun stated this year marks the 10th anniversary since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed, and Indonesia was the place where President Xi Jinping first proposed the idea of jointly building the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road. As a participant, witness, and storyteller of the BRI, CMG has had a good cooperative relationship with Indonesian media. "Hello! China" is a successful collaboration between CMG and NTV, aiming to help more Indonesians gain an in-depth understanding of China and Chinese culture. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the promotion of cultural exchanges and friendly interactions between the two countries.

Nurdin Tampubolon said that since 2019, NTV and CMG have engaged in meaningful and effective cooperation. He looked forward to further strengthening collaboration with CMG in the future, and actively contributing to friendly relations, and mutual understanding between the people of both countries. (Source: CGTN)

Global Media Congress hosts round table on "Television & Broadcasting: New Horizons" in Abu Dhabi

The Global Media Congress, under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE, has hosted a round table discussion titled "Television & Broadcasting: New Horizons".

Held in Abu Dhabi, the event aimed to bolster the UAE's position as a pivotal hub for the media industry, providing a platform for networking and aligning with the shift towards digital and online media.

The round table, a highlight on the second day of the Congress, saw the convergence of officials and professionals from major media institutions. They engaged in insightful dialogues on the evolving landscape of the media sector, addressing the integration of new technologies, tools, and creative methods in news delivery and content production.

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union's (ABU) Secretary-General, Ahmed Nadeem, emphasised the critical role of the public sector in maintaining services overlooked by the private sector, notably in upholding credibility. This statement underscored a key theme of the discussion: the coexistence and competition between private and public media, and the strategies for public media services

(PMS) to retain their audience in an increasingly digital age.

Key topics explored during the session included new concepts and trends in TV and broadcasting, the future of digital radio and television broadcasting, and the ethical considerations in radio and television across multiple platforms. Challenges surrounding funding these media forms were also a primary focus.

Notable speakers at the event included Gregoire Ndjaka, CEO of the African Broadcasting Union (AUB); Simon Spanswick, CEO of the Association of International Broadcasters (AIB); Nicolas Schonfeld, Executive Director at RED TAL, Latin America; Claire Cordelia Grant, President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union; and Dr. Ridha Najar, ASBU Academy Manager at the Arab States Broadcasting Union.

The round table provided an invaluable opportunity for global media professionals to explore the future and sustainability of broadcasting in an age where digital and online media are rapidly becoming dominant. The session underscored the importance of aligning with ongoing global trends while maintaining the unique values and services offered by public broadcasting sectors.

Commercial Radio celebrates 100 years with record Survey 7 audiences

Almost 100 years on since commercial radio launched in Australia, the number of listeners keeps climbing, with GfK Radio Survey 7 showing a 50,000 jump in commercial radio listeners to 12.2 million year-on-year.

Younger audiences are also falling in love with radio, with the 18-24 demographic up 5,000 year-on-year to 1.4 million, with time spent listening each week up 2 hours 15 minutes to 11 hours 44 minutes.

"After 100 years of commercial radio in Australia, it is still a much-loved part of our everyday lives – with 12.2 million listeners," said Ford Ennals, CEO of Commercial Radio & Audio.

"This survey has delivered excellent results for the growth of DAB and also shows that all audiences, young and old, love radio."

Survey 7 delivered a record high result for commercial DAB stations, with a 4.4% year on year increase of listeners aged 10+ to 2.9 million.



"The digital radio revolution rolls on, with listeners turning into commercial DAB-only stations hitting a record high of almost 3 million listeners, and commercial radio streaming audiences at 3.1 million," Mr Ennals said.

"We are seeing younger audiences discovering commercial DAB-only stations, with the 10-24 demographic growing by 5.5% to a record high of 870,000."

More than 26% of commercial radio listeners are now listening via streaming each week.

Survey 7 also showed the car is the most popular place to tune in, with in car

listening increasing by 0.6% year on year to 9.7 million. Time spent listening in car also grew by 8 minutes to 5.5 hours.

Breakfast radio remains a staple, continuing to grow audiences with a year-on-year increase of 1.9% to 8.6 million.

Survey 7 also delivered strong growth for Drive audiences, up 1.8% compared to this time last year to 7.4 million.

Commercial radio audiences were at record levels for this survey when comparing previous Survey 7 results. Commercial radio was launched in Australia 100 years ago on 23 November 2023.

Shandong Radio & Television in China establish International Communication Centre to enhance its service



Ahmed Nadeem, Secretary-General, ABU

The ABU Secretary General congratulated Shandong Radio and Television, China for the successful launch of Shandong International Communication Center. In a video message, Mr Nadeem highlighted the important role played by Shandong Radio and Television to enhance its services to the audiences.

ABU Secretary General said, "We look forward to a collaborative effort between the ABU and Shandong Radio and Television Station. Together, we will continue to foster cultural exchanges and promote diverse programming initiatives. This partnership holds the promise of enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between our organisations".

The Secretary General also expressed hope, the ongoing partnership will result in valuable contributions to the growth and development of media in the region.

November marked the inauguration of the Solomon Islands' first national television service, the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) TV Service. SIBC's SBD18.5M TV Service was officially launched on 17 November by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, MP, who is also the Minister responsible for SIBC, 71 years after the founding of the national radio broadcaster.

"Today is a historic day as SIBC launches its television service," stated Prime Minister Sogavare. "We are also here to officially initiate SIBC's coverage of the 17th Pacific Games." He congratulated SIBC on this milestone, adding that the launch aligns with the National Broadcasting Policy's vision of "a peaceful, united, and progressive Solomon Islands engaging with, enjoying, and learning from broadcasting that is accessible to all."

The Prime Minister's mission is to provide a policy and framework where broadcasting is available, affordable, and accessible to everyone in the Solomon Islands, supporting equal participation in the nation's social, cultural, economic, and political life. He recalled a meeting with the SIBC board in early February, where he affirmed the government's support and pledged assistance for SIBC to launch the country's first national TV service in time for the Pacific Games.



Solomon Islands launch country's first TV Service

"Today, we witness the fulfilment of that assurance," he remarked. "This event also demonstrates the strong partnership and determination of the DCGA and SIBC to serve our people." He expressed profound gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which funded the majority of the SBD18.5 million project, and acknowledged the technical assistance received from MMG Communications Limited of New Zealand.

Emphasizing the significance of the new national TV service, PM Sogavare highlighted SIBC's responsibility to deliver content with utmost professionalism. "The government will

continue its support, expecting SIBC to perform its duties professionally and ethically. Ultimately, it is the people we serve who matter most."

He affirmed the citizens' right to information, stressing that SIBC's adherence to a code of ethics ensures this. The Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics, he noted, states that "public enlightenment is the precursor of justice and the foundation of democracy," and outlines the principles of ethical journalism: seeking truth and reporting it; minimizing harm; acting independently; and being accountable and transparent.



Telstra Broadcast Services announce Strategic Alliance with BT to Enhance Global Network Connectivity

Telstra Broadcast Services (TBS) and BT have entered into a strategic alliance to enhance global network connectivity. The initial five-year agreement delivers expanded media and broadcast network footprint across Asia-Pacific and key regions worldwide.

A news release from Telstra Broadcast Services says, the move will bring together each company's global media network teams, pooling their vast network infrastructure and localised expertise.

"Our priority at TBS is to offer a world-class global content delivery service for our customers, including the largest distribution network with the most flexibility and options for organisations to connect to the world," the release stated.

TBS, an affiliate member of ABU, continues to build a strong team of media and broadcast specialists in the Asia-Pacific region to provide customers localised knowledge and support.

Telstra Broadcast Services (TBS) helps broadcasters, media and entertainment companies around the world via its robust, high-capacity global media networks and suite of innovative managed services.

Malaysia hosts 5th ASEAN-China Media Week

Breaking with tradition, the 5th ASEAN-China Media Week was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, marking the event's first-ever departure from China.

Organized through a collaborative effort between the Malaysian Ministry of Communications and Digital, China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA), and the people's government of southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the 5th ASEAN-China Media Week included participation from broadcasters across the ASEAN media landscape.



The opening ceremony was attended by Ahmed Nadeem, the Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

Dignitaries in attendance included Ahmad Fahmi Mohamed Fadzil, Malaysia's Minister of Communications and Digital, who presided over the ceremony, accompanied by Datuk Suhaimi Sulaiman, Director General of Radio Televisyen Malaysia. The event was also graced by Yang Xiaowei, Vice Minister of the National Radio and

Television Administration of China, alongside other distinguished guests.

The ASEAN-China Media Week serves as an invaluable platform for fostering exchanges and collaboration in the broadcasting and audio-visual sectors between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This year's move to Malaysia enhances the event's reach and underscores its growing importance on the international stage.

Documentary on Palestinian kids wins Japan Prize Grand Prix

A documentary film featuring Palestinian children detained by Israeli soldiers has won the top ranking Japan Prize for the year. The prizes are awarded to creators of outstanding educational materials.

There were 391 entries from 55 countries and regions for the 50th round of the international contest sponsored by NHK. The awards ceremony was held on Thursday in Tokyo.

The Grand Prix went to "Two Kids a Day," produced by an Israeli filmmaker. The film depicts conditions in the West Bank, where about 700 Palestinian youngsters are arrested by Israeli soldiers every year. This works out to two kids a day on average.

The documentary is the story of Palestinians who were detained for years on charges of throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

It contains video footage shot during their interrogations and interviews with them after their release, along with interviews with former members of the Israeli military.

The aim of the film is to explore how a cycle of hatred between communities in the region has come into being.



In the category for production plans from countries and territories where resources are scarce, the top prize was taken by "My Home," a TV series envisioned by Mongolia's national broadcaster.

The series is set to focus on natural disasters such as drought and heavy snowfall with the goal of raising awareness among children.

NHK will broadcast some of the creations that received prizes on its educational channel next month.

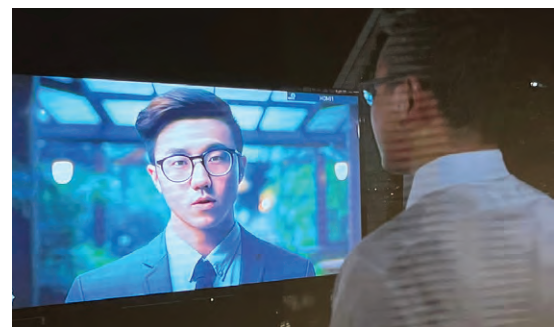
At the Japan Prize Film Festival week

from 18 – 23 November, creators from Japan and abroad who are active with quality educational content around the world gathered in Tokyo for screening of award-winning works, hold various talk sessions and workshops. Since its establishment in 1965, the competition has supported the power of the media by awarding outstanding works that foster people's aspirations to further learn, reflect, empathize, and take action for the betterment of the world. Hanizah Hamzah, ABU's Head of TV, and several ABU members participated in this event in Tokyo, Japan.

(Source: NHK World)



TPBS World hosts AI conference



Thai PBS World hosted a conference in Bangkok this week called AI and the Future of Newsrooms.

Speakers included the President of the Thailand Development Research Institute, Dr Somkiat Tangkitvanich, and the Thai PBS Director of Digital Media Kanokporn Prasitphon.

Fellow ABU members NHK, CGTN and KBS also made an important contribution with presentations from Takahiro Mochizuki, Senior Research Engineer at NHK Science and Technology Research Laboratories, engineer Naoki Nakatani from the NHK Media Innovation Centre, senior CGTN reporter Yang Chengxi and Sungho Jeon, the Director of Terrestrial UHD systems at KBS.

Delegates heard how generative AI tools have made possible the automatic generation of subtitles, transcripts, translations, articles and scripts, text to speech voiceovers in multiple characters and languages and summary videos for social media, as well as video upscaling, sign language avatars and templates to optimise the use of space on vertical screens.

Discussion included the impact of AI on newsroom jobs and roles, the need for each organisation to have clear guidelines for staff on the appropriate use of AI, and the risk of disinformation, deep fakes or content "hallucinations".

The ABU recently took part in a Reporters Without Borders initiative on a charter for the use of AI. [The Paris Charter on AI and Journalism](#) defines principles on AI that journalists and producers can apply to their work.

ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 addresses future of space-, sea- and land-based radiocommunications

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) opened on November 20, 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, bringing governments together for negotiations on the allocation of radio-frequency spectrum.

Much of the technology in everyday life uses radio-frequency spectrum allocated by ITU's world radiocommunication conferences. Ensuring that the Radio Regulations reflect the changing demand for spectrum use is critical for the efficient operation of existing and future radiocommunication services and equipment.

The decisions made at WRC-23 are set to reshape the landscape of broadcasting, addressing crucial

topics such as spectrum allocation, technological advancements, and regulatory frameworks. These outcomes will directly influence the ability of ABU members to deliver high-quality, innovative broadcasting services to audiences across the Asia-Pacific region.

By adapting to and leveraging the resolutions of WRC-23, ABU members can enhance their infrastructural capabilities, embrace new digital technologies, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in the broadcasting sector, aligning with global standards while catering to the unique needs and challenges of their diverse audiences.

Overall, 4,000 participants are expected for WRC-23, including delegates from ITU Member States and ITU Radiocommunication Sector Members representing international organizations, equipment manufacturers, network operators and industry forums attending as observers.

The conference, organized every three to four years by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), will review and update the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of spectrum and geostationary and non-geostationary satellite orbits.

TRT World Forum 2023 explore International Security to AI, Climate, Role of media & Public Broadcasting

Leaders, academics, politicians, think tank experts, journalists gathered in Istanbul, Türkiye for the 7th TRT World Forum.

Themed "Thriving Together: Responsibilities, Actions, and Solutions" the forum offered insights and perspectives on pressing global issues. Opening the forum, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, Turkish media is striving to be a voice of the oppressed.

The Director General of TRT Türkiye, and, ABU President Mehmet Zahid Sobaci said, Türkiye aims to amplify the voices of the oppressed. He said, TRT's global reach comes with a vision-strong broadcast, strong impact, so that the rights and cause of the oppressed are heard.

The ABU Secretary-General is one of the speakers on the panel "Public Broadcasting in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities". Ahmed Nadeem said, the biggest challenge facing public service broadcasting is, that it is beginning to lose connection with the public.



(Picture Courtesy TRT)

"Public broadcasters need to transform, re-invent, and create values that the audiences need" he said. ABU Secretary-General also underscored the need for enabling policies in the region.

One of the topics highlighted was the increasing global prevalence of fake news, and disinformation, which can trigger violence in times of crises. Turkish Communications Director Dr. Fahrettin Altun said, public broadcasters are crucial in fighting disinformation.

More than 150 speakers: academics, politicians, experts, journalists, from across the world gathered for the 2023 forum. Key topics included international security, energy and climate, economy, technology, artificial intelligence, media and public broadcasting.

So far, the past editions of TRT World Forum have brought together more than 8,500 guests and 651 speakers in total.

TRT Türkiye wins International Emmy Award for News and Current Affairs



Turkish Radio Television Corporation's (TRT) international English news channel TRT World's documentary "Off the Grid," featuring the episode "Ukraine Wartime Diaries," has won the International Emmy® for Current Affairs at the 2023 International Emmy® for News.

"Off the Grid" is a character-driven current affairs and investigative documentary series that presents compelling human stories from across the globe. The "Ukraine Wartime Diaries" episode examines how Ukrainian civilians' lives transformed after the withdrawal of the Russian troops from areas liberated by Ukrainian forces and illustrates devastating aspects of the war.

Becoming Türkiye's first Emmy® Award Winner in the aforesaid category, TRT has once again proved internationally its commitment to excellence in journalism and storytelling and determination to deliver high-quality content that informs and engages audiences around the world.

Capital Maharaja Group in Sri Lanka celebrated the UDHR75

The Capital Maharaja Group CMG, organised series of programmes to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The events highlighting the significance of human rights culminated on December 10 with the finals of a debate competition.

The 75th anniversary this year, focussed on three objectives. Educating and increasing global knowledge of UDHR, promoting attitudinal change to counter increasing scepticism on human rights, and to offer concrete knowledge and tools to help people better fight for their rights.



The Chairman, and the Managing Director of CMG Sashi Rajamahendran highlighted the consequences of a world devoid of universal human rights.

The ABU Programme Director, Yasu Nagahata was invited to the event. Nagahata commended CMG's continuous work on human rights

and said, the event provided for a meaningful opportunity to draw attention to human rights.

CMG activities to mark UDHR75 included inspiring speeches, to cultural performances, and a passionate debate between university students.

ABC joins the Australian Podcast Ranker, as podcast popularity soars in 2023

AUSTRALIAN PODCAST RANKER 2023 INSIGHTS

946m
PODCAST DOWNLOADS
UP 25% COMPARED
TO LAST YEAR

THURSDAY
BIGGEST DAY OF THE WEEK

95%
OF LISTENING HAPPENS
ON A MOBILE DEVICE
(SMARTPHONES & TABLETS)

8am
TOP HOUR OF THE DAY
FOR LISTENING



A record 105.2 million podcasts were downloaded last month as measured by the Australian Podcast Ranker, released by Commercial Radio & Audio (CRA) and Triton Digital, partly due to the new addition of ABC. ABC has debuted on the Australian Podcast Ranker as third biggest publisher, behind ARN and SCA.

"ABC is a prolific podcast producer, and it is a boost for the industry to have them participate in the Australian Podcast Ranker," Ford Ennals, CRA CEO said.

Annual insights showed 946 million podcasts were downloaded in 2023, as measured by the Ranker, which is a 25% increase from 2022.

The top five most popular podcast genres in 2023 were Society and Culture with 4.07 million average monthly listeners, Comedy (4.05 million), True Crime (3.78 million), News (3.69 million) and Sports (2.81 million).

The Australian Podcast Ranker is an industry initiative commissioned by CRA and published by Triton Digital.



ABU Appoints Faten Amira as New Finance Manager

The ABU in December 2023 appointment of Faten Amira as its new Finance Manager. Faten brings over a decade of experience in the finance sector, having begun her career with Ernst & Young as a Financial Auditor.

Her tenure at Ernst & Young provided her with substantial expertise in financial auditing and regulatory compliance. Faten then moved to Media Prima Berhad, concentrating on management reporting and budgeting for television networks.

Following this, Faten joined the finance team at ABU, managing a broad range of financial accounts. Her career later took her to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where she specialised in revenue management.

The Secretary-General expressed confidence that Faten's diverse experience and previous expertise in financial management at ABU will be invaluable to the organisation.

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*Estimates based on the typical leasing rates, content format, modulation density and power rates. Variations in any of these factors can impact savings and costs.

**Assumes a leasing plan successfully negotiated with no upfront payments. Leasing plans under this program only available in the USA but MDCL savings are applicable worldwide. Customer is responsible for existing Tx decommissioning and new Tx installation.

