

Q4/  
2024

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

# ABU NEWS

## İSTANBUL 2024



61<sup>st</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY &  
ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

The Nexus of AI,  
Broadcasting, and Society

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# From the editor

Season's Greetings from ABU!

As ABU wraps up 2024, it's time to look back on a year that's been nothing short of remarkable. The final quarter was especially packed with excitement, with a full calendar of in-person events bringing everyone closer together and strengthening bonds within the broadcasting community.

One of the biggest highlights was the 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, hosted by the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) in Istanbul, Türkiye. ABU celebrated 60 years of public service broadcasting in Türkiye, elected a new ABU Vice President, and held the second General Assembly under the leadership of Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem. With key outcomes from ABU's Technical Committees, Programme Committees, and Sports Committees, as well as the exciting ABU Prizes and TV Song Festival, this event truly capped off the year in style.

The 2024 ABU Media & Culture Days conference was another stand-out moment, spotlighting the crucial role public service media plays in preserving cultural heritage in an ever-evolving technological world. The conversations were lively, insightful, and thought-provoking.

To close the quarter, ABU saw the fourth phase of the ABU-led Media Saving Lives Initiative in collaboration with the World Broadcasting Union and UNDRR, presented at COP29. This project brought the powerful voices of journalists from the Global South and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) into the global climate conversation, an achievement ABU is incredibly proud of.

In this issue, ABU celebrates the fantastic work of its members through prestigious awards, groundbreaking training initiatives, and transformative projects that have shaped the industry throughout 2024.

Looking forward, ABU is gearing up for even more exciting developments in Q1 2025, including the Digital Broadcasting Symposium, the Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting, and the Pacific Media Partnership Conference (PMPC). ABU can't wait to share all that's ahead!

On behalf of ABU, we wish everyone a joyful and prosperous New Year. ABU invites you to explore the highlights from an extraordinary final quarter in this edition.

Cheers to an exciting year ahead!

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# New leadership elected at the 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly in İstanbul



The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) has announced its new leadership following elections at the 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly in İstanbul. This year's election introduces a distinguished and diverse leadership team, underscoring ABU's commitment to fostering collaboration across the Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, Director-General of Türkiye's national broadcaster TRT, continues his role as ABU President, alongside Mr. Inoue Tatsuhiko, Executive Vice-President of NHK (Japan). This year, they are joined by two newly appointed Vice-Presidents, who bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives to advance ABU's mission:

- **Ms. Zhou Jihong**, Director-General of the International Cooperation Department of NRTA/ RTPRC-China
- **Dr. Ignatius Hendrasmo**, President Director of RRI-Indonesia

ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem congratulated the new leaders in his remarks, expressing optimism for ABU's future under their guidance. "This is an exciting time for ABU as we advance with new leadership committed to strengthening our bonds across the region. I am confident that they will uphold our core values and drive forward the Union's vision to meet the evolving needs of our members."

With this year's Assembly theme, "The Nexus of AI, Broadcasting, and Society," ABU is addressing these timely issues, creating a roadmap to harness new technologies and engage diverse audiences.

Hosted by TRT, this year's General Assembly has provided a significant platform for these leadership appointments and strategic dialogues. Members have warmly welcomed Ms. Zhou Jihong and Dr. Ignatius Hendrasmo into their new roles and anticipate a collaborative future marked by innovation, inclusivity, and a shared commitment to the role of public service media across the Asia-Pacific. ■■■



# ABU GA61 2024: Sister Unions lead Super Panel on AI

**T**he 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly featured a dynamic Super Panel session led by sister unions, delving into AI's transformative impact on broadcasting and society.

Moderated by Eddie Cheung from RTHK-Hong Kong, China, the session gathered esteemed panellists Gregoire Ndjaka (AUB), Noel Curran (EBU), Rebecca Hanson (NABA), and Ahmed Nadeem (ABU), each bringing invaluable insights from their respective regions.

The discussion explored AI's vast potential in media, focusing on the balance between technological innovation and cultural preservation.

Panellists highlighted proactive AI strategies, copyright protection, and media literacy as critical to ensuring responsible AI adoption.

These insights emphasised the need for a collaborative, ethically grounded approach to AI, where industry leaders advocate for both innovation and societal responsibility.

Held in Istanbul and hosted by TRT, this year's General Assembly commemorates ABU's 60-year legacy of uniting broadcasters across the Asia-Pacific.

With its theme, "The Nexus of AI, Broadcasting, and Society," this GA reflects ABU's dedication to guiding members through AI's opportunities and challenges, shaping a future where public service media evolves responsibly in a rapidly advancing digital age.

This collaborative dialogue aims to help broadcasters harness AI's potential while preserving the core values of public service and fostering media literacy to safeguard audiences in an increasingly AI-driven world.





## 118<sup>th</sup> Administrative Council Meeting

The 118<sup>th</sup> ABU Administrative Council Meeting took place on 20 October 2024, just ahead of the 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly in İstanbul. Chaired by ABU President Prof. Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, Director General of TRT, the meeting focused on pivotal decisions aimed at enhancing the Union's governance and future direction.

ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem presented a detailed overview of the Union's recent activities, including proposed changes designed to boost engagement with ABU members.

With the majority of the 18 elected Councillors attending in person, the meeting reflected the Council's dedication to navigating the rapidly changing media landscape. The Planning and Strategy Group (PSG) had already met on 19 October 2024, laying the groundwork by developing key strategies for the Administrative Council's discussions.

The Administrative Council (AC) members convened to deliberate on shaping policies, reviewing financial matters, and addressing key issues impacting the Union. Their discussions focused on strategic decision-making to ensure the Union's operational efficiency and long-term sustainability. The meeting highlighted the importance of aligning the Union's goals with member needs while tackling challenges collectively.



**T**he Broadcasting for All: Diversity and Inclusion in the Media Forum celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> year at the ABU General Assembly, focusing on the theme “Growing Diversity and Inclusion with Future Media Leaders: Shaping Narratives with Broader Community Content.”

The forum emphasised career development, showcasing two key ABU initiatives. First, the launch of the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Media Awards 2024, recognising excellence in fostering inclusive workplaces and diversity in media. Second, the Media Mentoring Initiative, designed to support women in non-traditional media roles like journalism and digital content creation, through mentorship and leadership guidance.

ABU members were also acknowledged for their contributions to diversity initiatives and content. The Secretary-General reaffirmed ABU’s commitment to shaping a media landscape that reflects and serves all communities, supported by key partnerships with UNESCO, the US Agency for Global Media, and others.

The forum continues to lead the charge in ensuring media is a platform for all voices. ■■■

# Broadcasting for All: championing diversity and inclusion in media





# ABU Technical Bureau Annual Meeting 2024: driving broadcast innovations

On 18 October 2024, the ABU Technical Bureau Annual Meeting was held in İstanbul, Türkiye, hosted by TRT-Türkiye. The hybrid format enabled members to engage both in person and remotely, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas among broadcasting professionals from various regions.

In-person participants included representatives from NHK (Japan), RTPRC (China), PB (India), TRT (Türkiye), NTV (Nepal), TVB (Hong Kong-China), VTV (Vietnam), RTM (Malaysia), and NBT (Thailand). Remote attendees represented Phoenix TV (Hong Kong, China), Mediacorp (Singapore), IRIB (Iran), VOV (Vietnam), KBS (Korea), and MTV (Sri Lanka). Members shared updates on their current projects, discussing advancements and challenges in the broadcasting sector.

The meeting featured reports on ABU activities from Topic Area Chairmen, highlighting ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing broadcasting capabilities in the region. An important announcement regarding the ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium 2025 encouraged active participation. Overall, the meeting proved to be a valuable platform for networking and collaboration, with insights expected to inform future initiatives within the broadcasting community. ■■■



# ABU Technical Committee 2024 Meeting prepares for WRC-27 and future broadcast innovations

On 19 October 2024, the ABU Technical Committee, chaired by Masashi Kamei, focused on preparations for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27). A key recommendation was made to assess WRC-27 agenda items relevant to broadcasters in the Asia-Pacific region, with the aim of securing spectrum access to support the evolving needs of broadcasting services.

The committee also explored discussions on future technological trends that will shape the industry. These included 5G broadcasting, which promises seamless streaming and broader content reach, as well as AI and Big Data, which are expected to enhance predictive analytics and personalised content recommendations.

In response to increasing interconnectivity, cybersecurity was emphasised as a priority, ensuring that both broadcasting systems and viewer data are protected. Additionally, cloud broadcasting was highlighted as a future transition, offering scalable solutions for storage, processing, and distribution.

Further discussions centred on personalised content delivery, where AI and data analytics would be used to curate content tailored to individual viewer preferences.

Multi-platform integration was also a key focus, ensuring that content is delivered smoothly across various devices, from traditional televisions to smartphones and wearables.

The committee's discussions reflect a proactive approach to embracing technological advancements while safeguarding the interests of broadcasters as they prepare for WRC-27 and the future.





# Winners of 2024 ABU Engineering Awards and Technical Review Prizes revealed

The 2024 ABU Engineering Awards and Technical Review Prizes were presented during the ABU Technical Committee Meeting on 19 October 2024 at the Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus.

The ABU Engineering Awards celebrate exceptional contributions to broadcasting engineering, recognising both individuals and organisations across various fields. Five categories of awards were given, including Broadcast Engineering Excellence, Engineering Industry Excellence, SDGs Implementation, Developing Broadcasters' Excellence, and Young Engineers' Broadcasting. Each winner received certificates and trophies during the presentation.

The ABU Technical Review Prizes honoured the top papers published in the ABU Technical Review journal, awarding winners in three categories: Practical Implementation, Research, and Case Studies.

This year the ABU received a record number of nominations from member for the Engineering Awards with a total of 21 nominations. This indicates how much members value such recognition and at the same time this helps to encourage staff of members to work on such innovative projects in the future.

Below are the list of winners for 2024 announced at the Technical Committee.

## **ABU BROADCAST ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023**

– Dr. Peyman Jebelli, IRIB-Iran

## **ABU ENGINEERING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023**

– Mr. Gu Jianguo, RTPRC-China

## **ABU YOUNG ENGINEERS' BROADCASTING AWARD**

– Dr. Cheng Haonan, RTPRC-China

## **ABU ENGINEERING AWARDS ON SDGS IMPLEMENTATION**

– China Broadcast Network co. Ltd.

– Radio Televisyen Malaysia

## **ABU DEVELOPING BROADCASTERS' EXCELLENCE AWARD**

– Mr. Nilupa Ranaweera, EBC-Sri Lanka

## **The ABU Technical Review Prize 2024**

### **• Best Article Award | Practical Implementation**

– Ts. Ahmad Shafiq Mirza Bin Mansor, Mardhiah Nasir, Sam Bogoch, RTM-Malaysia

### **• Best Article Award | Research**

– Amir Reza Saadatmand Tale and Dr Mohieddin Moradi, IRIB-Iran

### **• Best Article Award | Case Studies**

– Maryam Sedaghat, IRIB-Iran





# 73<sup>rd</sup> ABU Sports Group Conference resolves to embrace AI in sports broadcasting

The ABU General Assembly Sports Group Conference in Istanbul brought together key participants including Ahmet Ali Temurci, Director General of International Organizations and Foreign Relations (Ministry of Youth and Sports), ABU Sports Group Chairperson Lorraine Yuen, ABU Secretary-General Mr. Ahmed Nadeem, and Emre Botan Kumet, Director of TRT Spor.

Discussions centred on the unifying power of sports and the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in broadcasting. TRT Spor shared insights on how AI technology is enhancing their coverage of major sporting events, streamlining operations, and reducing costs.

Participants agreed that while AI is reshaping the media landscape, it should be embraced thoughtfully to maximize its benefits.

The conference concluded with a call to adopt AI innovations while remaining aware of the potential challenges they bring to the industry.

# ABU Sports Group Committee Meeting 2024: advancing innovative strategies for sports broadcasting

The ABU Sports Group Committee Meeting on 19 October 2024 included 9 committee members and the Chairperson, along with the ABU Secretary-General and the Secretariat, as well as observers from Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT), Bangladesh Broadcasting and Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BBSCL), Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI), Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), and All India Radio (AIR).

Key topics included the final review of the new Terms of Reference (TOR), preparations for the ABU Sports Media Conference (SMC) in Kuala Lumpur 2025, and a financial report from ABU Finance.

The committee also discussed sports rights acquisitions, co-production opportunities under the ABU Sports Events Network (ASEN), ABU revenue from sports production, content sharing, and strategies for addressing long overdue payments.

BBSCL requested assistance with rights acquisition for smaller sports events.

Mr. Cai provided updates from discussions with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Members were encouraged to appoint ABU as their negotiator for major sporting events and reminded of the upcoming election.

The ABU Secretary-General offered advice on managing overdue payments.





## ABU General Assembly 2024: key outcomes from Programme Committee meeting

The 61st ABU General Assembly commenced with a productive Programme Committee Meeting in Istanbul, led by Claire Gorman (ABC-Australia) and Inoue Tatsuhiko (NHK-Japan), and opened by the ABU Secretary-General.

Omer Farouk Tanriverdi, Deputy Director-General of TRT-Türkiye, delivered the keynote, emphasizing the need for broadcasters to embrace technological advancements while maintaining public service values.

Key discussions included a proposal to open the ABU TV Song Festival to radio members, enhancing inclusivity across platforms. Additionally, it was agreed that the ABU Prizes will shift from monetary awards to certificates, focusing on symbolic recognition of excellence.

Day 1 set a collaborative tone, with members exploring new ways to strengthen regional broadcasting.



# Radio Working Party highlights ABU members' radio innovations

The Radio Working Party Meeting, held on 20 October 2024, attracted 74 delegates for a half-day session featuring 14 speakers from 11 ABU member countries. The event kicked off with a keynote address by Mr. Hamit Yaz, Director of Radio at TRT and RWP Vice-Chair, who outlined the radio industry landscape in Türkiye, TRT's recent achievements, and the challenges ahead.

Key presentations included Mr. Mistam, Director of Programming and Production at RRI Indonesia, who highlighted RRI's coverage of the presidential elections and youth outreach programmes. Indra Singh of FBC Fiji discussed the launch of the Pacific Media Academy, while Xuan Hung of VOV Vietnam shared insights into VOV's coverage of Typhoon Yagi.

Other notable contributions came from Florin Brusten of Radio Romania, who showcased multilingual programming for new arrivals, and Syed Tarikul Islam of BCRA Bangladesh, who outlined initiatives on gender empowerment through community radio. Liao Jibo from CGTN China, Dr. Mohsen Sohani from IRIB Iran, Maria Luisa Mazzei from RAI Italy, and Wendy Cheung from RTHK Radio 1 Hong Kong, China, demonstrated AI deployment in radio, from re-creating historic voices to generating compelling new content.





# ABU Prizes 2024 honour excellence in radio, television, and digital media

Recognising outstanding contributions in Radio, Television, and Digital Media, the winners of the prestigious annual ABU Prizes were announced during a gala ceremony on 22 October 2024. This event, a highlight of the 61st ABU General Assembly, took place in İstanbul, Türkiye, showcasing the finest in broadcasting talent from across the region.

Below is the full list of winners:

## Radio Category

- **Radio / Audio Drama:** Voice of Indonesia (VOI) from Indonesia was awarded the prize for “Investigation Dawar Island.”
- **Radio / Audio Podcast:** Voice of Indonesia (VOI) from Indonesia won for “The Everlasting Oral Tradition of Kejung.”
- **Radio / Audio Documentary:** China Media Group-China National Radio (CMG-CNR) from China received recognition for “Ten Thousand

Miles for Home: Protecting the Siberian Crane’s Migration Path.”

- **Radio / Audio News Reporting:** The Voice of Vietnam (VOV World) from Vietnam was honoured for “The Way Home – Na’s Story.”
- **Radio / Audio Community Service Announcement:** Bangladesh Betar (BB) from Bangladesh was awarded for “To Save Loved Ones.”
- **Radio / Audio On-Air Personality:** Voice of Indonesia (VOI) from Indonesia won for “Melodies for Indonesian Children.”
- **Radio / Audio ABU Perspective Award:** All India Radio-AKASHVANI (AIR-AKASHVANI) from India was celebrated for “Whisper of a Wetland: A Vision for Tomorrow.”
- **Radio / Audio Special Jury Prize:** China Media Group-China Radio International (CMG-CRI) from China received the Special Jury Prize for “Girl Rising: Doudou’s First School Days.”

## Commended Entries in Radio

- **Documentary:** Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Australia – Pacific Scientific: The Town in the Shadow of PNG’s Most Dangerous Volcano.
- **Community Service Announcement:** Voice of Indonesia (VOI), Indonesia – Horror of Delayed Payment.
- **ABU Perspective Award:** Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), Hong Kong, China – Learning With AI: Bots V Brains.



## Television Category

- **TV / Screen Drama:** Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) from Germany claimed victory for “The Case of Marianne Voss.”
- **TV / Screen Documentary:** Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) from Türkiye earned accolades for “The Lone Survivor.”
- **TV / Screen Children:** Iran Broadcasting University (IRIBU) of Iran was honoured for “Flight of Memories.”
- **TV / Screen News Reporting:** Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT World) from Türkiye secured the prize for “Rafah Report.”
- **TV / Screen Entertainment:** Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) from Japan won for “MIRADOR: Soundscape Through Japan.”
- **TV / Screen Sports:** Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) from Japan was recognised for “At Home in Kobe: Soccer Star Andrés Iniesta.”
- **TV / Screen ABU Perspective Award:** Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) from Japan was acknowledged for “FRONTIERS: How Smart is AI?”
- **TV / Screen Special Jury Prize:** Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association – Fuji Television Network (JBA-FUJI TV) from Japan received the Special Jury Prize for “Baseball Boys of Ishikawa: Overcoming the New Year’s Day Earthquake.”

## Commended Entries in Television

- **Documentary:** The Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association-TV Asahi Corporation (JBA-TV Asahi), Japan – Fellow Countrymen, Adrift.
- **News Reporting:** China Media Group-China Global Television Network (CMG-CGTN), China – Israel – Palestine Conflict.
- **ABU Perspective Award:** The Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association-Kansai Television (JBA-Kansai TV), Japan – The Indigo: Color Created by BUAISOU.

## Digital Media Category

- **Digital Content Award:** Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS) from Thailand won for their poignant content “The BAG: The Heavy Burden on Children’s Shoulders”.

## Commended Entries in Digital Media

- **Digital Content Award:** RTPRC-China Intercontinental Communication Center (RTPRC-CICC), China – Road to Carbon Neutrality

The gala was a resounding celebration of the industry’s finest and most talented, showcasing the vibrant array of broadcasting content and skill throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. For additional information, including clips featuring the winners and nominees, please visit the ABU Prizes page. ■■■



# ABU TV Song Festival 2024: a celebration of musical diversity and unity

The ABU TV Song Festival 2024, held on 20 October 2024 at the prestigious Lutfi Kirdar International Convention & Exhibition Centre (ICEC) Anadolu Auditorium in İstanbul, proved to be a vibrant showcase of musical talent and cultural exchange. Hosted by Türkiye's Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT), the event featured 11 remarkable artists from 11 countries, each representing the unique sounds and styles of their home nations.

Artists from China, Hong Kong-China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Macau-China, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan took to the stage, mesmerising the audience with captivating performances that transcended language and borders. The festival embodied the spirit of diversity and unity that the ABU stands for, as each artist brought their distinct cultural flavour to the event, fostering a deeper appreciation for the rich variety of music across Asia and the Pacific.

With the stunning Anadolu Auditorium as the backdrop, the evening was a true celebration of creativity, where traditional influences blended seamlessly with contemporary styles, creating unforgettable musical moments. From soul-stirring ballads to energetic pop performances, the artists left a lasting impression on both the live audience and viewers across the ABU region.

The ABU TV Song Festival, now in its 11th edition, has grown into a flagship event that not only showcases talent but also strengthens the bonds between ABU members through the universal language of music. Each year, the festival reaffirms the role of music as a bridge that connects people from different cultures, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration across nations.





## ABU participants discover İstanbul: excursion and TRT 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

Participants of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) will enjoy a captivating excursion through İstanbul, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the city alongside a special celebration.

The day begins with a visit to the iconic Topkapi Palace, where guests will explore the stunning architecture and fascinating history of the Ottoman Empire.

This former residence of sultans, now a museum, offers insights into their daily lives through its exhibition halls, Treasury section, and Harem, as well as breathtaking views from its gardens.

Following the palace visit, the participants will embark on a scenic lunch cruise aboard the Bogaz Boat, sailing between the continents of Asia and Europe.

This unique experience will provide stunning views of İstanbul's waterfront, featuring palaces, historic buildings, and charming mansions along the way.

The day will conclude with a special reception celebrating TRT's 60th anniversary.

This milestone marks decades of impactful broadcasting and storytelling, allowing guests to honour TRT's significant contributions to the media landscape in Türkiye and beyond. This excursion promises to be a memorable blend of culture, history, and celebration. ■■■





## ABU 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly concludes with members' appreciation and gratitude to TRT

The 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) concluded in Istanbul, marking a meaningful step in ABU's governance and future planning. Set within the timeless setting of Istanbul, TRT's showcases offered attendees a closer look at Türkiye's cultural richness and TRT's capabilities as it celebrated 60 years as a valued ABU member. The curated experiences offered members memorable insights into TRT's journey and the ongoing strength and unity shared by both TRT and ABU.

Professor Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, Director General of TRT, continues to serve as ABU President, alongside Mr. Inoue Tatsuhiko, Executive Vice President of NHK-Japan. The leadership team now includes newly appointed Vice-Presidents: Ms. Zhou Jihong from NRTA/RTPRC-China and Dr. I Hendrasmo, Director General of Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI). The ABU Administrative Council also welcomed new representatives, including Prasar Bharati, India's national broadcaster, contributing valuable insights to support broadcasting standards across the region.

The assembly underscored ABU's commitment to addressing the evolving challenges in broadcasting. The theme "The Nexus of AI, Broadcasting, and Society" facilitated discussions on artificial intelligence and digital innovation. ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem expressed gratitude to members and TRT for hosting, reflecting optimism about the organisation's future. The assembly concludes with a strengthened commitment to regional collaboration and a dynamic vision for broadcasting. ■■■

# ABU hosts World Broadcasting Union Meeting during 61st General Assembly in Istanbul

**A**BU proudly hosted the World Broadcasting Union (WBU) Meeting alongside the 61st ABU General Assembly & Associated Meetings in Istanbul on 21 October 2024. The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) had the distinct privilege of organising this significant gathering at the state-of-the-art headquarters of Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT). The warm hospitality of TRT set the stage for a productive and engaging event, bringing together global broadcasting leaders.

Key figures from the world's major broadcasting unions attended the meeting, including: Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman, Director General of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU); Mr Noel Curran, Director General of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU); Ms Rebecca Hanson, Director General of the North American Broadcasters Association (NABA); Mr Gregoire Ndjaka, CEO of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB); and Mr Ahmed Nadeem, Secretary-General of the ABU. Additionally, representatives joined virtually: Ms Sonia Gill, Secretary General of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), and Dr Oswaldo Quintana Cardona, Director General of the International Association of Broadcasting (AIR).

The WBU meeting was a symbol of the unity and shared commitment of broadcasters worldwide in shaping the future of the industry. Hosted during the week of the ABU's 61st



General Assembly, the event underscored the collective role broadcasters play in advancing the media landscape.

Following the meeting, leaders from the sister unions were given a tour of TRT's impressive facilities. This tour, hosted by TRT, provided an insightful glimpse into their newsroom and studio operations, including the renowned TRT World studios. The leaders saw first-hand the sophisticated equipment and cutting-edge technology that powers TRT's global broadcasts.

The visit highlighted TRT's advanced production capabilities, showcasing modern equipment, innovative broadcasting tools, and a seamless workflow that ensures high-quality news content reaches a global audience. This experience fostered a deeper appreciation for how technology and journalism converge, and further strengthened the bonds of collaboration between the broadcasting unions. ■■■

## Bangladesh Betar appointed Mr. Md. Salah Uddin as Director General



**B**angladesh Betar, the state-owned radio broadcaster, recently appointed Mr. Md. Salah Uddin as its new Director General. With a remarkable career that spanned over 30 years, Mr. Salah Uddin brought a wealth of experience as a seasoned broadcaster and respected leader in the field.

Mr. Salah Uddin, a member of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Information) cadre, began his broadcasting journey on 26 January 1991 as a Programme Organiser at Bangladesh Betar. Born on 30 November 1965 in Bhola, a prominent district in southern Bangladesh, he came from a well-regarded Muslim family. His academic achievements included an Honours and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka, which equipped him with strong analytical and programme-making skills.

Throughout his extensive career, Mr. Salah Uddin held various roles within Bangladesh Betar, including Regional Director, Additional Director General, and Head of the Programme Wing. His commitment to excellence and innovation drove the creation of modern programmes that resonated with audiences across generations, fostering a close connection between the radio and its listeners.

Bangladesh Betar expressed confidence that under his leadership, the broadcaster would continue to progress and excel, furthering its mission to serve the people of Bangladesh.



## President Marcos appoints Oscar Orbos as PTNI acting chair

**P**resident Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has appointed Oscar Orbos as the acting chairperson and member of the Board of Directors of the People's Television Network, Inc. (PTNI), the Presidential Communications Office announced on 5 October 2024.

Orbos previously served as executive secretary and transportation secretary under president Corazon Aquino and also held elected roles as Pangasinan congressman and governor.

Joining him at PTNI, political analyst Antonio Contreras has been appointed acting vice chairperson. Additionally, Katherine Chloe S. De Castro was named director general of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and lawyer Francis Carlo D. Tapanan as Director IV of the National Printing Office.



## SBS: Tig Terera embraces diversity in Australia

**W**riter and director Tig Terera, born in Zimbabwe and raised in Australia, created the SBS TV series *Swift Street*, a tribute to the diverse inner-Melbourne community of his childhood. Arriving in Australia under unusual circumstances—travelling in the cockpit of an aeroplane—Tig’s life has been filled with unique experiences.

In a recent episode of *My First Year in Australia*, hosted by comedian Suraj Kolarkar, Tig discusses the challenges of navigating multiple cultures and the inspiration for his work. He reflected on building a diverse network, stating, “I’ve cultivated this amazing friendship circle... I don’t think there’s



anywhere else in the world where you can get that melting pot.”

*My First Year in Australia* shares stories of individuals adapting to life in a new country. Listen on the SBS Audio app, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or any preferred podcast platform. ■■■

## MEASAT’s Ahmad Faisal Hartono honoured with APSCC young talent award



**M**EASAT Global Berhad (MEASAT) celebrated a new achievement as Senior Engineer Ahmad Faisal Hartono received the 2024 APSCC Young Talent Award in Bangkok, Thailand.

Faisal is the fourth MEASAT engineer to earn this honour, joining a distinguished group of previous winners from 2018, 2019, and 2022.

The APSCC Young Talent Award recognises exceptional young professionals under 35 in the Asia Pacific satellite and space sectors.

The award highlights individuals demonstrating innovation, leadership, and significant contributions, fostering a strong talent pipeline within the industry.

As part of his recognition, Faisal was awarded a full scholarship to attend the 2025 Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program (SH-SSP) in University of South Australia in Adelaide, Australia.

This sought-after programme will offer him the opportunity to expand his expertise and engage with global leaders in the space field.

Since joining MEASAT in 2023, Faisal has contributed significantly to the satellite sector.

He leads a project on space debris with the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), recently presenting his work at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2024 in Milan, underlining his dedication to space safety and sustainability. ■■■

# Sakamoto wins NHK Trophy with world-leading score

**T**hree-time world champion and two-time Olympic medallist, Sakamoto, delivered a remarkable performance at the NHK Trophy, securing her second Grand Prix victory of the season with a world-leading score of 231.88.

The Japanese skater dominated the event, finishing ahead of Chiba Mone (212.54), the reigning Four Continents champion, and Aoki Yuna (195.07), who took third place. American Alysa Liu finished fourth with a score of 190.75.

Sakamoto's win, coming just two weeks after her victory at Skate Canada, qualifies her for the 5-8 Grand Prix Final in Grenoble, France.

After setting the world lead in the short programme, she delivered a flawless free skate to All That Jazz, earning a career-best 152.95.



Reflecting on her performance, Sakamoto expressed her satisfaction: "I'm really happy with the performance tonight. I maxed out. This is the absolute best I can do at the moment." She also shared how her approach had changed, saying, "I went full throttle from the start, which I think led to the score today."

With her flawless performance, Sakamoto surpassed all expectations and left herself in awe, commenting, "I'm shocked myself. I couldn't be happier." ■■■



**T**he World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) has announced the television broadcast partners and streaming services for the WBSC Premier12 2024 in Japan, presented by RAXUS.

Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) and TV Asahi have secured the TV rights to show Japan's games during the tournament, while Prime Video and J SPORTS will provide streaming services. J SPORTS will also cover matches on BS/CS satellite channels.

Both TBS and TV Asahi will deliver free-to-air coverage of Japan's matches in the Opening Round and, if the team qualifies, the Super Round.

TV Asahi will broadcast the inaugural Group B game between Japan and Australia on 13 November

## Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) set for WBSC Premier12 2024 Coverage in Japan

2024, along with Japan's games against Cuba and the Dominican Republic on 17 and 18 November 2024. TBS will air Japan's contests against Korea on 15 November 2024 and Chinese Taipei on 16 November 2024.

J SPORTS will provide live broadcasts and streaming of 25 games during the Opening Round, including all Group A matches and Group B matches where Japan is not playing.

They will also broadcast the three day games of the Super Round. Additionally, Nippon Broadcasting Corporation has acquired radio coverage rights, announcing play-by-play coverage of Samurai Japan's games in the Premier12, starting from the Super Round, if Japan qualifies.

The III WBSC Premier12 will open on 9 November 2024, featuring the top 12 teams from the WBSC/KONAMI Men's Baseball World Rankings, with Japan facing a competitive lineup in Group B. ■■■

# Radio Televisyen Brunei 2024 badminton championship: engineering a crowned champions

**E**ngineering A emerged as the champions of Radio Televisyen Brunei's (RTB) 2024 Badminton Championship after a thrilling final match held on 10 November 2024 at the Youth Centre. RTB's Acting Deputy Director (Development) Md Zulkarnain bin Haji Brahim @ Ahmad attended as the guest of honour, presenting awards to the winning teams and participants.

The championship, which began on 1 November 2024, featured eight teams from Radio Television Brunei divisions: D3P (representing Policy & Planning, Marketing & Promotion, and Research & Development), Engineering A, Engineering B, TV Programming A, TV Programming B, Radio Programming A, Radio Programming B, and News & Current Affairs.

The tournament included categories such as Men's Doubles Open A, Men's Doubles Open B, Veterans' Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed

Doubles. Engineering A secured the top position, with News & Current Affairs and TV Programming A as runner-up and third place, respectively.

Engineering A was awarded the Challenge Trophy, a Companion Trophy, medals, and certificates. The championship fostered team spirit and promoted an active lifestyle among RTB staff. ■■■



## RTHK achieves streaming milestone for Paris Olympics with Mediatech and Vindral

**T**he Paris Olympics showcased a new standard for live streaming globally, with Hong Kong's Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) meeting high viewer expectations through a synchronized, low-latency experience.

As the Olympics rightsholder in Hong Kong, RTHK partnered with local engineering consultancy Mediatech Limited and transmission vendor Vindral to ensure a seamless streaming service across different viewing environments, from home audiences to public venues.

Vindral's cutting-edge delivery solutions enabled RTHK to synchronize the numerous live feeds from the Games, providing consistency across all streaming experiences.



Mediatech's elastic backend system, meanwhile, facilitated the ability to scale on demand, allowing the platform to accommodate large fluctuations in viewership without compromising quality.

"With Vindral, the Mediatech solution can resize to accommodate changing viewership, ensuring a seamless experience for large audiences," explained Raymond Mo, Mediatech's Founder and Managing Director.

RTHK representatives expressed pride in delivering Olympic content at a new level of quality, remarking that the collaboration had provided audiences with a superior viewing experience.

Vindral's CEO, Daniel Alinder, shared his enthusiasm for the ongoing partnership with Mediatech, stating that they look forward to further expanding the service across the Asian region. ■■■



## China Media Group strengthens China-Italy ties with cultural event in Milan

Marking 20 years of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership, over 200 guests from various sectors gathered in Milan for a cultural event hosted by China Media Group (CMG).

The event showcased new joint programmes and partnerships with Italian media, signalling a new phase in Sino-Italian cultural and media collaboration.

Italy's Minister of Tourism, Daniela Santanchè, highlighted the growing popularity of Italy among Chinese tourists and the increasing interest of Italians in visiting China. She stressed the importance of bilateral exchanges in fostering economic growth, mutual understanding, and strengthening traditional ties between the two nations.

CMG Vice President Xing Bo emphasised CMG's commitment to deepening cooperation with Italian media, focusing on programme production, media technology innovation, and talent exchange.

This collaboration was reinforced by partnerships with Milano Finanza and Telespazio, which will promote content sharing and joint productions.



## Radio Television Brunei celebrates Qistina Yus as Bintang Harmoni 2024 champion

Nur Qistina Adriana binti Mohammad Yusirwan, known as Qistina Yus, triumphed in the Bintang Harmoni 2024 finals on 28 October 2024, held at the Jerudong Park Amphitheatre. Organised by Radio Television Brunei (RTB), the competition awarded her the top prize of BND2,000, alongside a trophy and certificate.

Abdul Wafi bin Ismail, known as Pipo Ismail, secured second place with a prize of BND1,500, while Nurul Syuhada binti Mustapha, or Nurul Mustapha, took third, winning BND1,000. Seven other finalists received BND500 consolation prizes, and a Best Performance Award was presented, including a BND300 cash prize and certificate.

The event highlighted RTB's commitment to promoting local talent, providing a valuable platform for Bruneian artists. The Permanent Secretary (Civil Service Governance) at the Prime Minister's Office, Ajman bin Haji Meludin, presented the awards, joined by RTB Acting Director Pengiran Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad Kifli and other senior officials. ■■■



## Prasar Bharati to introduce OTT platform showcasing archival content



**P**rasar Bharati is set to launch its own OTT platform, featuring content with significant archival value, according to Mr Sanjiv Shankar, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Speaking to Akashvani News in Patna, Mr Shankar confirmed that all preparations for the platform's launch have been completed, offering viewers a "rich treasure trove" of historical media content.

Mr Shankar also reviewed the progress of the Swachhata Campaign 4.0 in various media units of the ministry, reinforcing efforts towards cleanliness and public awareness. ■■■

## ABC and New Caledonia launches media partnership TV

**T**he Australia–New Caledonia Media Partnership has been launched with the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and New Caledonian broadcasters NC La 1ère and Caledonia TV.

This landmark agreement, developed by ABC's international division, aims to enhance cross-cultural exchange and strengthen cooperation

between the public service media organisations of both countries.

The partnership, celebrated at a reception in Nouméa hosted by Australia's Consul-General Ms. Annelise Young, focuses on content sharing and collaboration.

Key elements include the broadcast of ABC Australia's regional news programme The Pacific on NC La 1ère, along with the exchange of digital news and video footage.

This enhanced collaboration will benefit the audiences of ABC, NC La 1ère, and Caledonia TV by providing greater coverage of regional issues and news.

ABC International Head Claire M. Gorman called the partnership a significant step in strengthening ties with Pacific broadcasters. Bénédicte Gambey, Regional Director of NC La 1ère, and Pierre Welepa, General Director of Calédonia TV, both emphasised the importance of this agreement in maintaining regional connections and showcasing New Caledonian identity and culture across the Pacific. ■■■



## Radio Nepal and NTC sign agreement on business and critical messaging



**R**adio Nepal and Nepal Telecom (NTC) have signed an agreement to broadcast business-related information and other essential messages. Radio Nepal's Executive Director, Amar Dhoj Lama, highlighted the importance of delivering content in national languages to ensure accessibility for all citizens. He also described the partnership as a key milestone in effectively reaching the public.

Nepal Telecom's Managing Director, Sangita Pahadi, praised Radio Nepal for its crucial role in disseminating information, particularly in remote areas, and acknowledged its contribution to enhancing NTC's service delivery. ■■■

## Voice of Vietnam (VOV) wins ABU News Reporting Prize for Asiatic Black Bear Rescue Story



**T**he Voice of Vietnam (VOV) has won the 2024 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) prize in the News Reporting category. The award, presented during a ceremony in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 22 October 2024, celebrates the team's work, *The Way Home – Na's Story*, which chronicles the rescue of an Asiatic Black Bear from two decades of captivity in Vietnam.

VOV reporter Nguyen Xuan Hung, accepting the award on behalf of his colleagues, shared, "I'm lucky to be here, in beautiful Istanbul, representing my country, my colleagues, and the Voice of Vietnam, knowing that all of them deserve to stand here today, to receive this honour. I'll leave you with a promise – to use my luck, my knowledge, and everything I've learned from TRT, ABU, and all of you here today, to report the news better."

The documentary highlights the dedicated efforts of veterinarians and rescuers from the international animal welfare organisation Four Paws International, whose commitment inspired Hung to cover the story. In keeping with tradition, Na, the rescued bear, was given a new name, symbolising her fresh start and life with a new family at the sanctuary in Vietnam's Ninh Binh province.

This year's ABU Prizes saw a competitive pool of 342 entries, with 110 in the radio category. ■■■

## Capital Maharaja Group marks 76th anniversary of UDHR

The Capital Maharaja Group (CMG) celebrated the 76th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) under the theme Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now. The event brought together government officials, diplomats, human rights advocates, and senior executives to reflect on progress and reaffirm commitments to human rights.

The Chairman, Mr. Sashi Rajamahendran and Group Director of CMG Suresh Srinivasan highlighted CMG's dedication to equality and justice. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk, delivered a video message urging collective action, while UN Senior Human Rights Advisor, Laila Nazarali delivered keynote speech and emphasised the private sector's role in advancing Sri Lanka's human rights agenda.

The United Nations Human Rights Day celebration featured Mr. Ahmed Nadeem, ABU Secretary-General, delivering special remarks. He highlighted the media's role in advancing human rights and



fostering inclusivity, highlighting ABU's Diversity and Inclusion Task Group. Mr. Ahmed Nadeem also praised CMG for hosting key ABU meetings and winning the Diversity and Media Inclusion Award at the ABU General Assembly in Istanbul this year.

In his address, Mr. Ahmed Nadeem stated, "Broadcasting has a unique role in shaping a world where equality and fairness are not merely ideals but realities. It is our responsibility to amplify voices, foster dialogue, and promote human rights through the stories we share." He also highlighted the importance of broadcasting integrity, fairness, and the media's critical role in countering misinformation, especially with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.

CMG reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to human rights advocacy. The event concluded with a multilingual song celebrating unity and inter-university debates, with ANC Education emerging as the English Medium winners. ■■■

## ABS-CBN News wins Bantog Award for science and technology

ABS-CBN News has been named the most outstanding science and technology advocate at this year's Bantog Awards for Science Communication, presented by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Science editor Anjo Bagaoisan and lead science reporter Raphael Bosano accepted the award in Pasay City, with Bosano also winning the Best Science and Technology News Story (text format) for his articles on news.abs-cbn.com.

The CHEST team at ABS-CBN has expanded its storytelling beyond television, using mobile video and online explainers to cover climate, health, environment, and science topics. Bagaoisan affirmed their commitment to reaching audiences across various platforms.

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum acknowledged the vital role of media during climate-related disasters, stating that accurate reporting helps Filipinos make informed decisions. The Bantog Awards featured over 90 entries, with 12 winners selected from 63 nominations. The awards were last held in 2018, recognising ABS-CBN reporters Michael Delizo and Bettina Magsaysa. ■■■



## Media Prima shines at ASA 2024 with 17 awards

**M**edia Prima TV Networks celebrated a remarkable achievement at the Anugerah Seri Angkasa (ASA) 2024, hosted by the Communications and Digital Ministry, where it secured an impressive 17 awards. Among the accolades, 8TV's documentary series Taste Of Memory (Season 2) was awarded Best TV Documentary, alongside a RM150,000 Creative Content Fund.

Additionally, TV3 presenters Fiza Sabjahan and Fedtri Yahya were honoured with the titles of Best TV Presenter and Best TV Commentator, respectively. The station's renowned programmes, Anugerah Juara Lagu (AJL) and Majalah 3 (M3), received recognition for their significant contributions to broadcasting.



In the New Media category, TV3's drama series Doh, aired on Tonton, and the Siti Mimah podcast also garnered awards. Each winner at ASA 2024 was awarded trophies, certificates, and a cash prize of RM5,000, marking a successful night for Media Prima. ■■■



## AFTRS and RMIT launch short courses to boost Victorian film industry skills

**F**our new short courses designed to meet the Victorian film industry's most pressing skills needs are launching this December, thanks to a new partnership between the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and RMIT University's School of Media and Communication.

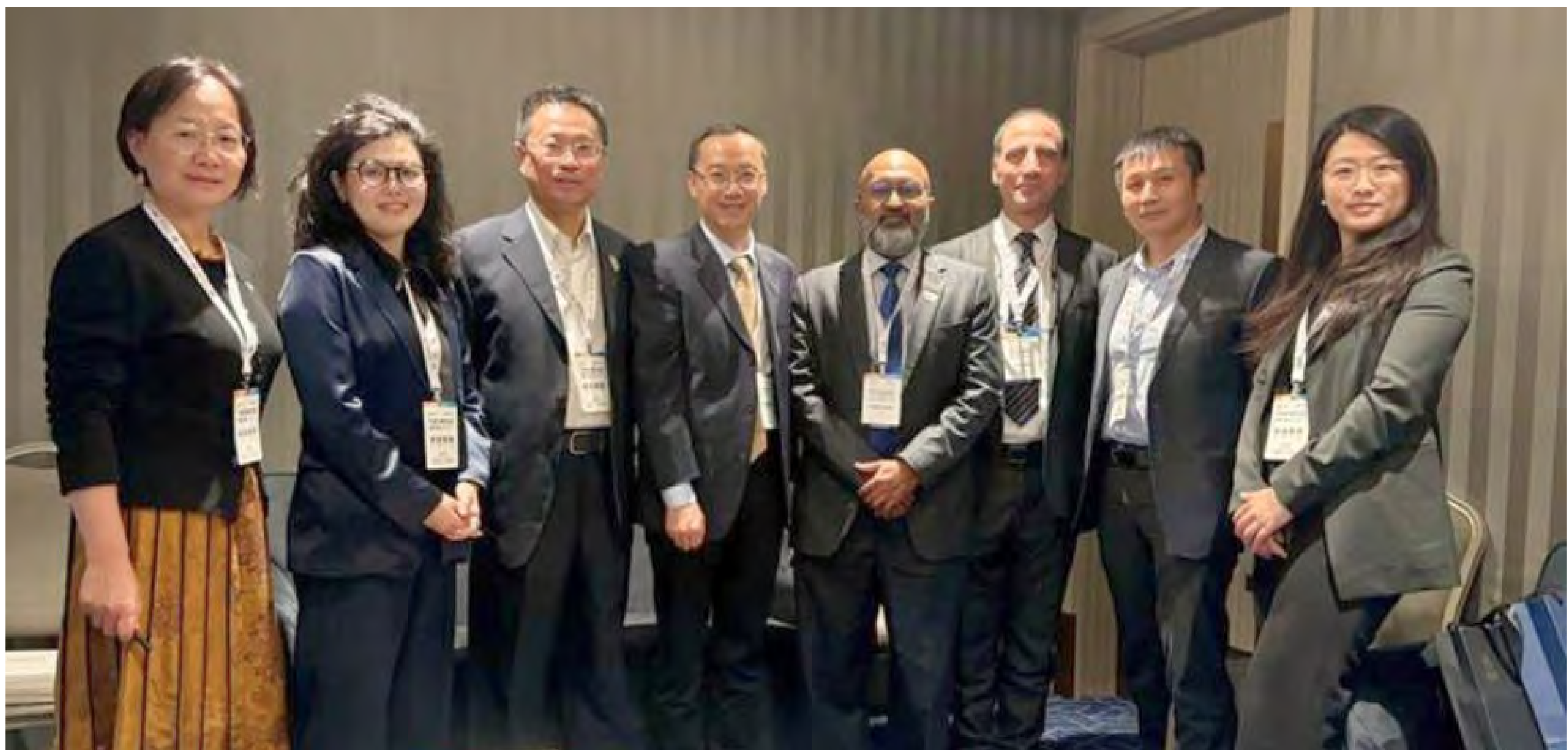
Developed in collaboration with VicScreen, the training sessions begin with a five-day Production Accounting Intensive, followed by Intro to Producing & Screen Business, Assistant Directing Fundamentals, and Locations Department Intensive.

The Production Accounting Intensive course offers participants essential skills to prepare for screen industry careers, covering accounting technologies, production stages, and financial reporting requirements.

RMIT Dean of Media and Communication, Lisa French, expressed her enthusiasm, noting the institution's dedication to addressing critical skills gaps and supporting industry growth.

AFTRS CEO added that the collaboration unites industry expertise and world-class facilities to address workforce needs, bringing government, education, and industry together.

For more information on the courses and how to register, click [here](#). ■■■



## ABU Secretary-General meets With China Media Group (CMG) to discuss future collaboration

During the 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly & Associated Meetings in İstanbul, Türkiye, the ABU Secretary-General welcomed a delegation from China Media Group (CMG), led by Mr. Liao Jibo, Director of CGTN Audio Programming Department. The meeting provided an opportunity for a productive exchange on ongoing and future collaboration between ABU and CMG.

Mr. Jibo expressed his appreciation to the ABU Secretary-General for ABU's support and participation in CMG's activities over the years. Both sides acknowledged the value of continued cooperation and discussed potential areas of future collaboration, with a focus on technical and sports-related initiatives.

The conversation highlighted shared interests in expanding technical cooperation and engaging in sports broadcasting, areas that both organisations see as important to their future efforts.

The ABU Secretary-General expressed a positive outlook on the possibilities for future cooperation, reinforcing the Union's dedication to supporting its members and strengthening ties across the region.



**D**uring the 61<sup>st</sup> ABU General Assembly in Istanbul, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Radio and Television of the People's Republic of China (RTPRC), led by Ms. ZHOU Jihong, Director General of the International Cooperation Department. This MoU focuses on a licensing agreement for broadcasting Chinese television programmes, marking a significant step in enhancing media exchange between ABU members and China.

The aim is to provide diverse programming options for broadcasters in the Asia-Pacific region, reflecting ABU's commitment to facilitating cultural exchange and cooperation among its members.

ABU Secretary-General Ahmed Nadeem remarked, "This MoU with RTPRC-China offers our members an opportunity to broaden their programming options with content from China, fostering greater understanding across our region."

The signing of this MoU underscores ABU's efforts to equip its members with resources that promote cross-cultural understanding and the sharing of diverse content, thereby strengthening ties between broadcasters across the region.



## ABU signs MOU with RTPRC-CHINA on license agreement



## ABU Secretary-General highlights media's role in uniting the Global South

**M**r. Ahmed Nadeem, Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), has emphasised the critical role of media collaboration in creating impactful content and delivering creative storytelling to unite the Global South, amplify its voice, and achieve common goals.

In a video message to mark the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Global Video Media Forum (VMF), held on 3-4 December 2024 in Quanzhou City, Fujian Province, China, Mr. Nadeem highlighted the importance of cross-cultural communication. The forum, themed "Intelligence Without Frontiers, Vision Beyond the Horizon – Media's Role in Communication and Cultural Exchange," explored the evolving role of media in fostering global understanding.

Organised annually by the CCTV Video News Agency (CCTV+) since 2011, the VMF focuses on video content innovation and communication trends, providing an interactive platform for media professionals worldwide to exchange ideas and insights.





## ABU holds webinar for TVRI World staff

**A**n ABU webinar on newsroom management was part of a two-day TVRI World staff retreat which combined staff meetings with training, coaching and outbound activities.

The webinar by ABU Director of News, Deborah Steele, was requested by TVRI to help extend the capacity of the TVRI World team.

It discussed ways to access performance against TVRI World's strategic objectives, newsroom and program priorities, the allocation of resources, audience behaviour, ways to improve audience engagement, the importance of teamwork and the responsibility of each staff member to contribute to TVRI World's future success.

The TVRI World retreat was held in Bogor, south of Jakarta, on 29-30 November. It was opened by TVRI's President Director, Iman Brotoseno, and other speakers included a political expert and an official from Indonesia's foreign ministry.

"TVRI World regularly provides training and team building exercises and it was a pleasure to contribute to this event," said Deborah. "Their staff are always enthusiastic and keen to learn. The focus this time was to support TVRI World to take the next step, building on their success since launching in 2021." ■■■

## Members invited to share Innovations in News



**A**ll ABU members are invited to contribute to the next ABU News report called *Innovations in News*.

Like *The Future of News* report this year, it will be published as a book and available online. Each author or organisation is invited to select their own topic. A photo and profile of each author will be published alongside the essay, project summary or list.

Possible topics include:

- Generative AI in the newsrooms
- Media literacy projects to counter disinformation
- Winning audiences in the digital age
- Targeting audiences under 27
- Journalist safety
- Improving the quality of reporting on a particular topic eg climate change
- Journalist education
- Innovations in solutions journalism
- Innovation in journalist recruitment
- Building audience engagement through community activities
- Cultural and/or operational changes in the workplace

The deadline for submissions is 14 March 2025 and the maximum word count is 1000 words. Submissions and any questions about the report should be sent to the ABU's Director of News, Deborah Steele, at [deborah@abu.org.my](mailto:deborah@abu.org.my). ■■■



## MCOT, Thai PBS & TVB win Asiavision awards

**M**COT and Thai PBS won the Asiavision award for October for their extensive coverage of a school bus fire in which 23 people died, including 20 young children. Their reporting on the tragic event resonated across the Asia-Pacific region, becoming the most downloaded content on Asiavision in October.

MCOT and Thai PBS uploaded nine stories on the incident, leading to 49 downloads by Asiavision members including CNA Singapore, MRTV Myanmar, RTB Brunei, TDM Macau, TRT Türkiye, TV5 Mongolia, TVB Hong Kong, TVRI Indonesia, VTV Vietnam, PSM Maldives, and ABS-CBN Philippines, as well as Eurovision (EBU). The coverage showed the scale of the tragedy and its impact on the community.

In November, TVB Hong Kong won the Asiavision monthly award for its on-the-ground reporting of the US presidential elections.

TVB's correspondents provided Asiavision members with valuable insights on voter concerns on key policies such as education, immigration, trade and bilateral relations. The reports also highlighted the implications for China-US trade and explored the perspectives of Asian-Americans.

TVB's coverage concluded with watch parties featuring input from businesses in the US, China and Hong Kong on the election outcomes. ■■■



# 2024 ABU Media & Culture Days explores the role of PSM in preserving cultures

The 2024 ABU Media & Culture Days took place on 27-28 November in Guangzhou, China, under the theme “Creating and Conserving Living Cultures: The Role of PSM”. Organised in collaboration with Radio Romania and the Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival, the event brought together public service media (PSM) professionals and cultural advocates to explore how PSMs preserve cultural heritage and identity in an increasingly globalised world.

The event opened with a high-level roundtable featuring Dana Popescu (Lyon University), Peixin Cao (Communication University of China), and

Suranga Jayalath (CMG-Sri Lanka), who examined the roles of education, regulation, and traditional media in cultural preservation. Ms Tian Mei of CMG showcased how generative AI is being used to preserve history and culture through innovative TV production.

Akim Mogaji (Walk the Doc and ABU Doc) and Yunfei Ge (CGTN) highlighted visual storytelling’s power to showcase cultural traditions. Dr Dan Santa (Radio Romania) underscored the importance of broadcasting oral histories, while Fan Xuan (CMG) shared examples of cultural content spanning generations. Florin Brusten (Radio Romania) presented Radio Teri, a service providing children in oncology wards with engaging archival content.

RTHK’s Wendy Cheung shared AI-driven initiatives, including a campaign featuring iconic presenter Candy Chea. Asuncion Gomez Bueno (RTVE) introduced Spanish audio drama innovations, while TRT’s Hamit Yaz and Ersoy Haktanir detailed their modern approach to radio drama through podcasts and theatre. TRT World’s Saim Kurbas emphasised making culture accessible and relevant globally via social media and AI.

Day one concluded with a tour of the Guangzhou Documentary Centre, showcasing China’s vibrant film and documentary culture. Day two featured a cultural excursion to the Cantonese Opera Art Museum and Guangzhou’s old city.

The 2025 Media & Culture Days will be hosted by the Capital Maharaja Group in Colombo, Sri Lanka. ■■■



# ABU DOC 2024 to feature at Walk the Doc International Documentary Festival

The ABU is partnering with its member, Happy Campers Productions, to include ABU's Documentary Screening & Exchange Meeting in the Walk The Doc International Documentary Festival's lineup, taking place from 19 to 21 November 2024 at Stadium Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Walk The Doc, an innovative platform set to transform the world of documentary filmmaking, reintroduces itself

as a hub for content creators. Organised by Walkabout Asia, this platform offers filmmakers a unique avenue to produce captivating documentaries centred around the themes of tourism, the environment, and sustainability.

This three-day event brings together young documentary makers to enhance their skills and connect with industry professionals. Moderated by Lee Gyunhub from KBS Korea on the first two days and Rosli Mohd. Nordin from IPPTAR Malaysia on the final day, 10 documentaries from the region will be screened over the three days of the meeting, showcasing diverse stories and innovative filmmaking.

Participating organisations included NHK (Japan), RTM (Malaysia), TRT (Turkey), KBS (Korea), PB (India), TVTM (Turkmenistan), Media Prima Berhad (Malaysia), IRIB (Iran), CGTN (China), and RT (Russia).



The 3rd edition of Walk The Doc Festival, held from 19–21 November 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, was a testament to its mission of building a learning community through the art of documentaries. This year's festival took place at the iconic Stadium Merdeka, a venue steeped in historical significance as the site where Malaysia declared its independence in 1957. As a symbol of unity and progress, the stadium provided an ideal backdrop for an event dedicated to celebrating powerful stories that transcend borders.

Each year, the festival gathers content creators, documentary experts, and decision-makers from broadcasters, streaming services, and social networks to share their knowledge and experience. The event offers a platform for thought-provoking panel discussions, masterclasses, and workshops aimed at inspiring and educating the next generation of documentary filmmakers. Among the distinguished speakers at this year's festival was Ms. Ece Soydam, an award-winning wildlife documentary filmmaker from Türkiye. She shared behind-the-scenes stories from her documentaries "Wolf and Secrets of the Forests: The Caracal," providing attendees with an insightful look into the world of wildlife filmmaking. Also featured was Mr. Teremoana Seguin from Harbour Rights, a distribution company in Hong Kong, who led a session on Documentary Distribution Networks in Asia, offering valuable insights into the regional distribution landscape.

One of the highlights of Walk The Doc Festival 2024 was the continuation of the Small Story Big Impact Program, which aims to support new and emerging documentary filmmakers. This unique initiative provided RM5000 grants to eight selected



## Walk The Doc Festival 2024: celebrating documentary storytelling

filmmakers, enabling them to create micro-documentaries focusing on untold stories from Downtown Kuala Lumpur. These intimate films, which captured the city's rich cultural, historical, and human experiences, premiered during the festival. The filmmakers were mentored by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Chris Schueler, who helped guide them in crafting their narratives, ensuring that the stories were told with authenticity and emotional depth.

Walk The Doc Festival also hosted the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Documentary Exchange, an event that brought together documentary filmmakers, broadcasters, and media



## Truth and Post-Truth in Media and Society

- Intentional lying is as old as civilization itself
- We have entered a new / old era where truth, objective facts, and science are increasingly under assault
- Misinformation abounds, and scientific evidence is often supplanted by alternative facts, pseudoscience, fake news, and conspiracy theories



professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region. This year's exchange featured participation from leading broadcasters such as NHK (Japan), TRT (Türkiye), RTM (Malaysia), RT (Russia), KBS (Korea), Media Prima (Malaysia), CGTN (China), and IRIB (Iran). United by their commitment to crafting impactful narratives, the delegates engaged in discussions about the future of documentary filmmaking, focusing on collaboration, innovation, and the sharing of powerful stories that reflect the diverse cultures and issues of the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to the main festival activities, all ABU Doc delegates were invited to join an educational excursion organized by the festival. The excursion included visits to two iconic locations in Kuala Lumpur, RTM Media City and the Merdeka 118 Tower. At the RTM Media City, delegates had the opportunity to explore Malaysia's national broadcaster's state-of-the-art broadcasting facilities, offering a glimpse into the production processes behind the content that reaches millions across the nation. The visit to Merdeka 118, the second tallest building in the world, provided delegates with breathtaking views of the city and served as an inspiring reminder of Kuala Lumpur's unique blend of tradition and modernity.

The festival closed with a landmark moment: the launch of Walkabout Asia, a travel documentary streaming platform designed to showcase the diversity and beauty of Asia through authentic storytelling. The platform offers viewers access to a curated collection of travel documentaries, produced by Asian filmmakers. Walkabout Asia

provides regional filmmakers with an avenue to reach a global audience, celebrating the unique narratives and cultural richness of the continent.

Walk The Doc Festival 2024 was a remarkable celebration of documentary storytelling, fostering collaboration and excellence in the field. Through its thought-provoking programs, support for emerging filmmakers, and commitment to cultural exchange, the festival continues to play a pivotal role in advancing the art of documentary filmmaking in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

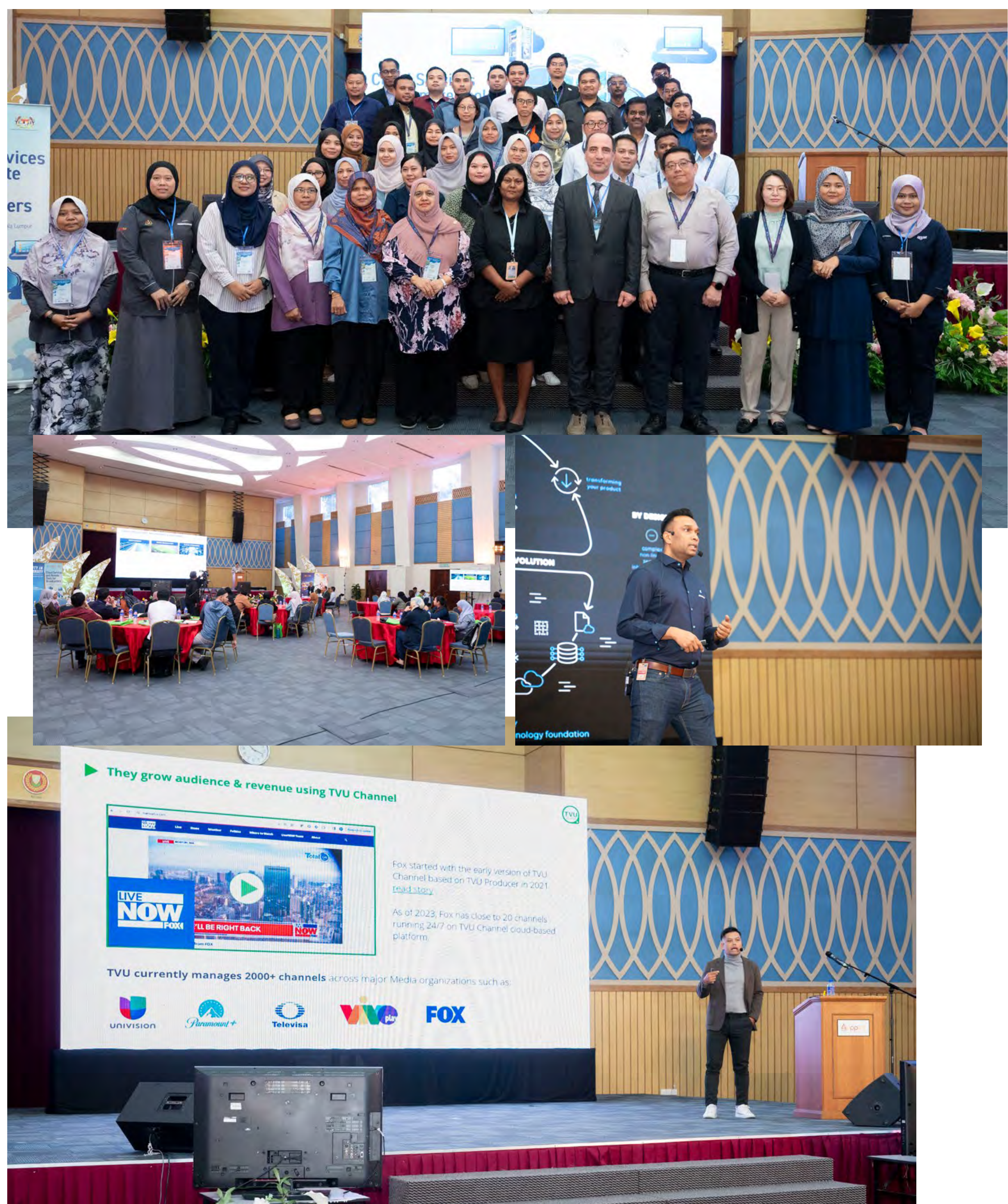


The ABU Technology and the Institut Penyiaran dan Penerangan Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR) are jointly organising the Workshop on Cloud Services and Remote Tools for Broadcasters, which is being held from 26–28 November 2024 at Cendekiawan Hall, Angkasapuri, Kuala Lumpur. The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Sumathy Vaidappan, Head of the Creative Industry at IPPTAR, followed by the opening remarks of Dr. Veysel Binbay, Director of Technology & Innovation at ABU.

This workshop focuses on the key highlights of cloud services and remote tools for broadcasters, offering in-depth discussions and practical demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies shaping the future of media and broadcasting. The event features distinguished expert speakers from leading industry organisations, including Harmonic, Skyline Communications, IPSB, AWS, Benchmark Systems, TVU Networks, and RTM, are sharing their expertise and innovative approaches to cloud services and remote broadcasting solutions.

The 3-day workshop consists of six comprehensive sessions, with 60 participants in attendance, both local and international. This workshop serves to reinforce the collaboration between ABU and IPPTAR, furthering innovation within the broadcasting sector. It provides an important platform for equipping participants with the necessary tools and insights to address the evolving demands of the media industry.

# ABU and IPPTAR host workshop on Cloud Services and Remote Tools for Broadcasters





## ABU supports as attending partner at the Asian Esports Games 2024

The curtain closed on the Asian Esports Games 2024 in Bangkok on 1 December 2024, leaving behind unforgettable moments and remarkable victories. Hosted by the Thailand Esports Federation (TESF) with the support of the Asian E-Sports Federation (AESF) and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the event celebrated the rising prominence of esports across Asia.

Team Thailand triumphed with two gold medals, leading the medal tally, while Indonesia followed closely with one gold. The women's esports event in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) made history with the largest-ever participation of national women's teams, underscoring the growing role of women in competitive gaming.

The event also featured a workshop focusing on the mental health of athletes, showcasing a commitment to safeguarding wellbeing in esports.

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) attended the event as a key partner, further solidifying its commitment to supporting international sports events and fostering unity through esports. ■■■

## ABU brings Asian Esports Games 2024 Bangkok to members

The Asian Esports Games will be held from November 25–29 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. Organised by the Thailand Esports Federation (TESF) with the support from the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and the National Sports Development Fund of Thailand (NSDF), the competition is supervised by the AESF.

In a significant development, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) has been given free rights and content delivery by AESF, enabling ABU members to broadcast the event at no additional cost.

The event will bring together over 25 national teams from AESF members associations across Asia, showcasing the best of esports talent.

The tournament will feature three popular titles:

- **Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (Female event)**  
Competition Dates: 25–27 November 2024

- **eFootball Mobile (Individual event)**  
Competition Dates: 27–28 November 2024

- **Arena of Valor (Open event)**  
Competition Dates: 28–29 November 2024

To ensure fans don't miss the action, the event will be live-streamed on digital platforms, including YouTube, Twitch, and Facebook, through the official channels both of AESF and TESF. ■■■

# ABU distributes 2024 Men's World Floorball Championship for free

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) will distribute free coverage of the 2024 International Floorball Federation (IFF) Men's World Floorball Championship (WFC) to its members.

Scheduled to take place from 7 to 15 December 2024 in Malmö, Sweden, this year's tournament will feature the top 16 floorball nations competing in 48 action-packed matches, promising an exhilarating showcase of the sport's best talent. With high-quality production standards, the event is set to captivate global audiences.



The previous edition of the championship in 2022 drew record-breaking viewership, reaching millions across more than 70 territories. Broadcast partners such as beIN Sports (USA), CBC (Canada), RMC (France), Yle (Finland), SRF (Switzerland), and SVT (Sweden) delivered the event to a wide international audience, further elevating the popularity of floorball.

The upcoming championship in Sweden is expected to set new records in attendance, revenue, and global viewership, thanks to the nation's passionate fanbase and extensive promotional efforts. ■■■

## ABU Sport Department enhances content distribution and sports collaboration

In line with its commitment to delivering content-driven opportunities, the ABU has facilitated access to several key sports events for its members.

**Live or delayed broadcasts and highlights were provided for:**

- **Sepak Takraw League 2024 (GP):** MBC (Mauritius), FBC (Fiji), ATN (Afghanistan), PTNI (Philippines), and Papua New Guinea.

- **Asian Le Mans Series 2024-2025:** TVRI (Indonesia), RTM (Malaysia), and MBC (Mauritius).

- **IFF Men's World Floorball Championship 2024:** ATN (Afghanistan), FBC (Fiji), and PTNI (Philippines).

The ABU Sports Department is also exploring new collaborations, including the Dakar Rally and Volleyball Women's World Championships, to expand access for members.

ABU is working with the Organising Committee and host broadcaster of the Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 to serve as the sole overseas partner for world feed production, continuing its legacy in global sports broadcasting.

At the Asian Esports Games 2024 in Bangkok, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)'s growing presence was highlighted by Mr. Izzuddin's representation. OCA News and AESF News articles underscored ABU's role as a key partner in international sports events.

These initiatives reflect ABU's ongoing commitment to providing valuable opportunities and quality content for its members. ■■■



# ABU Media Academy and VTV host workshop in Hanoi

The ABU Media Academy in collaboration with Vietnam Television (VTV), successfully concluded a five-day workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam. The event brought together over 30 participants from esteemed member organisations of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), including Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), People's Television Network (PTNI), Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), and the host broadcaster, Vietnam Television (VTV).

The workshop underscored ABU's commitment to nurturing the professional growth of its members. It served as both a platform for skill enhancement and a forum for collaboration, innovation, and shared learning experiences.

A team of outstanding trainers which are Peter Herbert, David Balfour, Krista Jordan, and Josephine Kiss from Australia led the sessions with expertise, enthusiasm, and engaging teaching methods. Their efforts ensured each session was highly relevant and valuable to the participants.

Over the week, attendees engaged in a variety of individual and group activities designed to develop skills, foster teamwork, and stimulate creative thinking. The participants' active involvement and energy contributed significantly to the workshop's dynamic and productive atmosphere.

The event concluded with a certificate ceremony celebrating the participants' accomplishments. It is hoped that the skills and knowledge gained will be effectively applied in their professional roles, benefiting both individuals and their organisations.

The ABU Media Academy expressed its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the workshop—the trainers, participants, and the hosting team at VTV. The Academy looks forward to witnessing the positive impact of this training and remains steadfast in its mission to support members in their pursuit of growth and excellence. ■■■





## Malaysian Bar Sports Law Summit 2024

*The Inaugural*

**Guest of Honour**  
**YBM HANNAH YEOH**  
 Minister of Youth & Sports

Date : 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Thursday  
 Time : 8:30am - 2:00pm  
 Venue : Auditorium, Badminton Academy  
 of Malaysia, Bukit Kiara



Scan the QR Code to register.  
 Registration Fee includes lunch

Organised by:  
**SeLPC**  
 PRACTICE COMMITTEE  
 MALAYSIAN BAR



# ABU Legal Division engages with external stakeholders for the benefit of ABU Members

The ABU Legal Division, represented by Dr. Seemantani Sharma, ABU Legal Manager, has been actively engaging with external partners to support ABU members. On 28th November 2024, Dr. Sharma participated in an event titled “Organising Major Sports Events and Promoting Sports Tourism” at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The event, a five-day gathering organised by UKM and its partners, featured Dr. Seemantani in the seventh session, which focused on the Sports Organising Committee.

On the same day, Dr. Seemantani also attended the inaugural session of the “Malaysian Bar Sports Law Summit 2024”, where she networked with sports lawyers and esports professionals. The guest of honour at the summit was YBM Hannah Yeoh, Minister of Youth & Sports. Throughout the event at UKM and the Malaysian Bar, she engaged with multiple stakeholders, exploring potential collaborations that could benefit ABU members.

Dr. Seemantani recently participated remotely in the 9th Session of the WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property (IP) and Frontier Technologies, held on 5th and 6th November 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. During the session, she highlighted that ABU’s members are among the world’s leading content creators, making ownership issues related to AI-generated content highly pertinent. The discussion centred on key concerns about who holds the rights to AI-created works and whether these should be protected under intellectual property laws—issues of significant importance for ABU’s broadcasting community.

The ABU Legal Division remains committed to advocating for the interests of ABU members on legal and regulatory matters at various international forums and bodies. ■■■



# ABU Legal Division attends WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property (IP) and Frontier Technologies

**D**r Seemantani Sharma, ABU Legal Manager, attended the 9th Session of the WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property (IP) and Frontier Technologies remotely. The session took place on 5 and 6 November 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, and examined the potential for IP protection of AI-generated works, as well as the complex questions around authorship of such content.

During the session, the ABU Legal Division highlighted that ABU's members are among the world's leading content creators, making ownership issues of AI-generated content highly relevant. The session explored key concerns over who holds the rights to AI-created works and whether these should be safeguarded under intellectual property laws, topics of crucial importance for ABU's broadcasting community.

Through its participation, the ABU Legal Division continues to monitor global legal and regulatory developments in AI and generative AI. This helps ensure that ABU members are well-informed on these evolving issues, enabling them to navigate the opportunities and challenges presented by frontier technologies. ■■■

# Amplifying global south voices: COP29 syndicated coverage



**T**he COP29 Syndicated Coverage initiative showcased the power of collaborative journalism at the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. For the fifth consecutive year, this global effort highlighted voices from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in key climate discussions.

Organised by members of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBUs) as part of a joint ABU/AUB project and supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the initiative involved ten media professionals from LDCs and other Global South nations. Representing Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, these journalists produced 182 stories, including daily wrap-ups, VIP interviews, and thematic reports on climate finance, gender equality, youth engagement, and the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The stories were distributed through a wide network of regional broadcasting unions and platforms such as Asiavision, AUBvision, Arabvision (ASBU), Eurovision News (EVN), COPEAM, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), and Pacifika TV, reaching an estimated audience of nearly one billion people. This figure includes direct viewership as well as secondary audiences through social media, documentaries, and current affairs programmes inspired by COP29.

Member broadcasters praised the programme's impact, highlighting the effectiveness of syndicated coverage in amplifying underrepresented voices. The initiative provided journalists with valuable international exposure, enabling them to produce stories reflecting the realities of their communities. It also bridged resource gaps, allowing coverage of critical issues such as climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development.

The success of COP29 Syndicated Coverage demonstrates the importance of collective reporting models in addressing global challenges. By connecting broadcasters across continents, the initiative informed action on climate change and fostered a sense of shared purpose in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The COP29 team comprised ten skilled media professionals from Algeria, Cameroon, Fiji, Italy, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the UK, and Uzbekistan. The team included three women and seven men, with production and distribution supported by three experienced COP consultants. Interviews with key figures, such as Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Henry Gonzalez from the GCF, were coordinated with the GCF and UNDRR, based on member broadcasters' requests.

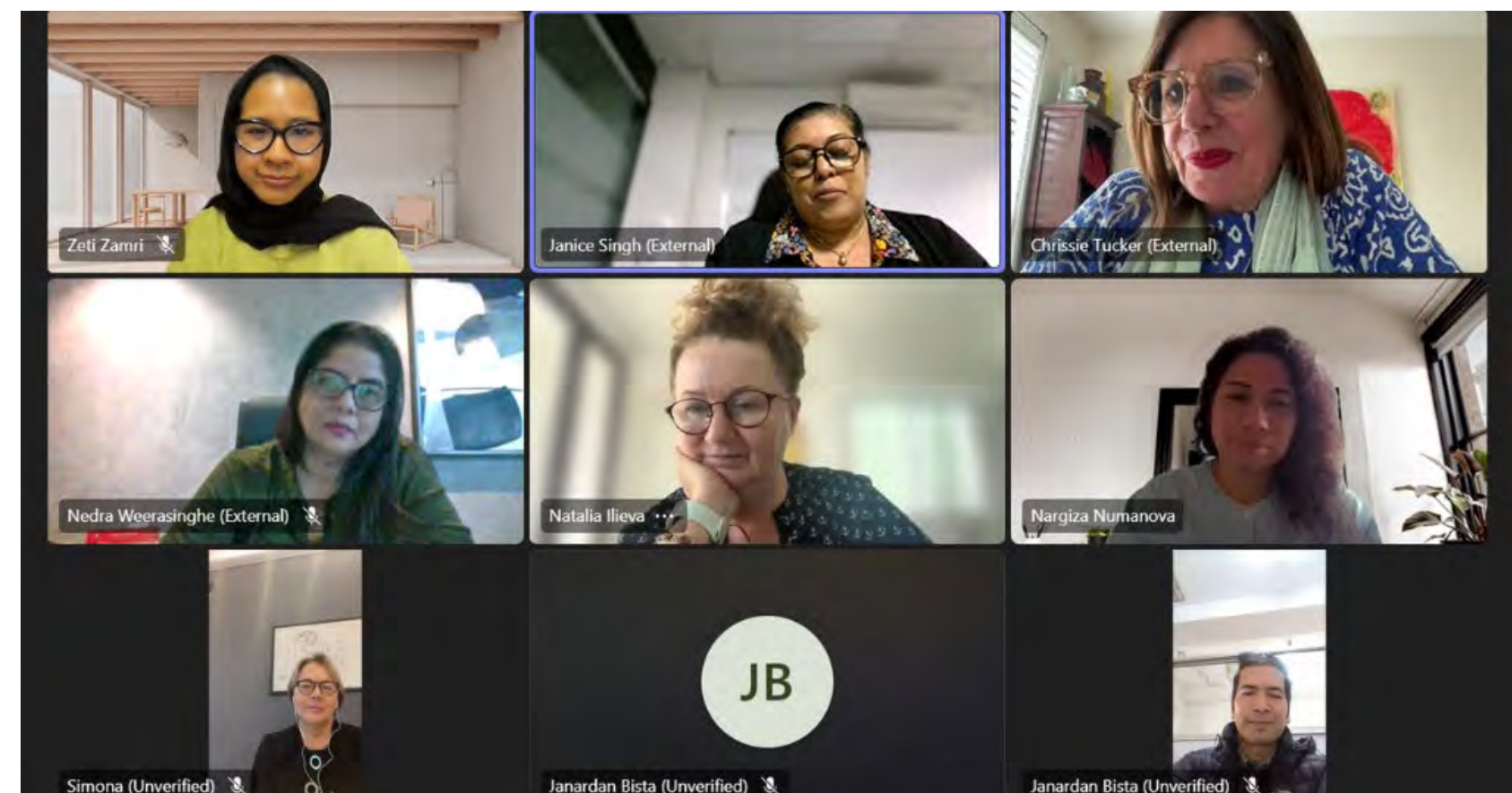
As climate action intensifies, the COP29 Syndicated Coverage model underscores the power of collective storytelling, ensuring that Global South voices remain central to the global conversation on climate change. ■■■

# ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group (DITG) holds online meeting

The ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group (DITG) held its final meeting for 2024 on 25 November 2024, chaired by Chrissie Tucker, with eight participants joining via Teams. The meeting primarily focused on reviewing the Broadcasting for All Forum, which took place in Istanbul as part of the 61st ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

The DITG reflected on the successful completion of two major initiatives for 2024: the ABU Media Mentoring Programme, which offered valuable support to media professionals in enhancing inclusive practices, and the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Media Awards 2024, which recognised excellence in promoting diversity and inclusion in broadcasting. Both projects were introduced this year and received positive feedback from ABU members.

Looking ahead to 2025, the DITG reviewed the progress of the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Media Action Plan 2021-2025, highlighting the remaining actions to be completed before the plan's deadline of 30 June 2025.



A new action plan will be developed next year to evaluate ABU's work in gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, with a focus on advancing the goals of the ABU Broadcasting for All campaign.

DITG members shared updates on their respective diversity and inclusion efforts at Radio Nepal, RAI in Italy, MBC in Sri Lanka, and FBC in Fiji.

These reports underscored the global impact of ABU's initiatives, with members actively working on fostering inclusivity within their organisations and communities. ■■■

## Advancing gender equality and inclusion in media: ABU's groundbreaking initiative

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) continues to spearhead efforts for gender equality, diversity, and inclusion (GEDI) within media organisations across the region. Recognising the underrepresentation of women in media content, management, and decision-making roles, ABU has launched a transformative project aimed at driving institutional change in GEDI policies and practices.

In collaboration with UNESCO and leveraging insights from

previous gender-sensitive surveys, the initiative empowers media organisations to develop and implement bespoke Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plans. These plans are designed to reshape organisational mindsets, secure leadership commitment, and allocate resources to achieve sustainable GEDI advancements.

The project initially targets media members in Indonesia and Malaysia, including RRI, TVRI, RTM, Media Prima, and others, with plans to involve

relevant government ministries. Key activities include workforce surveys, capacity-building workshops, policy reviews, and the formulation of actionable plans.

Building on past successes in countries such as Fiji, Bhutan, and Vietnam, the initiative seeks to address gaps in GEDI representation by embedding policies that guarantee equal opportunities for women, minorities, and marginalised groups, both on and off screen.

This pioneering project underscores ABU's enduring commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable media landscape, paving the way for a future where media authentically represents the diverse voices of society. ■■■

World  
Broadcasting  
Unions



UNDRR  
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

## WBU/UNDRR Media Saving Lives Initiative



Asia-Pacific  
Broadcasting Union

## Phase 5 – Strengthening Global Media's Role In Disaster Risk Reduction

# ABU continues its transformative global initiative “Media Saving Lives”

**T**he Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) continues to drive its transformative global initiative, “Media Saving Lives”.

Leveraging the extensive network of the World Broadcasting Unions, broadcasters from Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean will collaborate on a series of television productions. These stories will shine a light on the unique risks and potential solutions in their regions, underscoring the stark contrast between the devastating consequences of under-preparedness and the life-saving impact of effective early warning systems for tsunamis and storm surges.

The “Global Tsunami Co-Production” is designed to enhance the production capacity of young professionals in broadcasting organisations, equipping them with the skills to create impactful content on disaster risk reduction (DRR). This initiative also seeks to deepen broadcasters’ understanding of DRR issues, fostering collaboration across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean. ■■■



# avn. 2025 Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting

16-17 January 2025 • Hanoi, Vietnam

## Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting 2025: open for registration

**T**he 2025 Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting will be hosted by Vietnam Television (VTV) in Hanoi on 16-17 January 2025.

With the theme "Going Global – News for an International Audience", the meeting will feature training on producing multiplatform news for global audiences. Key highlights include the launch of the ABU News Mentoring Program, the 2025 Future of News survey, and a review of Asiavision's performance over the past 12 months, along with planning for the year ahead.

VTV, recognised as one of Asiavision's top members, uploaded more stories than any other member last year. The broadcaster consistently provides high-quality vision, shares compelling human interest stories of international appeal, and delivers excellent coverage of headline news. Notably, VTV won the September Asiavision award for its coverage of Typhoon Yagi.

Registrations are now open! Each Asiavision member is entitled to sponsored travel, covering flights and accommodation, for one representative. The

meeting is also open to all ABU members.

For more details and to register, visit [2025 Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting](#). For any enquiries, please contact Nerina Rosli at [nerina@abu.org.my](mailto:nerina@abu.org.my).

Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future of international news! ■■■



# Register now for the Pacific Media Partnership Conference 2025

The Pacific Media Partnership Conference (PMPC) 2025 will take place from 11 to 13 February 2024 at the Suva Civic Centre, Fiji. Co-hosted by the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation (FBC), the conference will celebrate the 70th anniversary of FBC Radio, the launch of FBC's Media Academy, and World Radio Day 2025. This year's theme, "Pacific Cultures in a Global World," highlights the importance of preserving cultural heritage while embracing innovation.

We will engage in discussions on how digital platforms can preserve indigenous cultures, explore the role of generative

AI in news, and share strategies for emergency broadcasting and OTT monetisation. The conference will also revisit key issues from 2024, including budget challenges, media freedom, and ensuring gender diversity in leadership roles. With expert speakers, workshops, and masterclasses, PMPC 2025 offers a comprehensive programme to address the evolving needs of Pacific media.

This is an invaluable opportunity for us to connect, learn, and shape the future of media in the region. Register now to secure your spot at this exciting event: [Pacific Media Partnership Conference 2025](#) ■■■

**DBS 2025**  
ABU DIGITAL BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM

# PERSONAL-CAST: INTERACTIVE BROADCASTING, TAILORED FOR YOU

REGISTRATION  
OPEN

24 - 27  
FEB 2025

WYNDHAM  
ACMAR HOTEL

## Register now for ABU DBS 2025: Personal- Cast-Interactive Broadcasting Tailored For You

International Conference, Industry Exhibition, Focused Workshops, and Masterclasses, drawing participants from across the region and beyond. DBS 2025 presents an excellent opportunity to showcase your products and services. It offers unparalleled access to both local and international markets, enhances brand visibility, helps identify potential agents and distributors, and provides a platform to benchmark your offerings.

The ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS) 2025 will take place from 24 to 27 February 2025 at the Wyndham Acmar Hotel, Malaysia. This annual flagship event serves as a vital platform for broadcasting professionals to explore the latest advancements in digital broadcasting technologies across the Asia-Pacific region.

DBS 2025 will offer a range of workshops, masterclasses, exhibitions, and expert-led sessions, providing attendees with valuable opportunities to expand their knowledge and engage with cutting-edge innovations. The event will be held as an in-person gathering, featuring the theme “Personal-cast: Interactive Broadcasting Tailored for You.”

This comprehensive 4-day event encompasses an

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for organisations wishing to enhance their brand visibility, connect with key players in the broadcasting industry, and showcase their products or services to an international audience.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the region's premier digital broadcasting event! Hurry and get in touch with us at [dbs@abu.org.my](mailto:dbs@abu.org.my), and feel free to share your area of interest in DBS 2025. The early bird rate will be available until 31 December 2024.

For further information on sponsorship or to register for the event, please contact [dbs@abu.org.my](mailto:dbs@abu.org.my) or visit <https://dbs.abu.org.my/>.

Join us at DBS 2025 and help shape the future of digital broadcasting! ■■■

*Our deepest condolences  
on the passing of*



*Allahyarham  
Dato' Hj. Jaafar Kamin*

Former ABU President and Director General of RTM

6.8.1943 - 6.12.2024

Asia-Pacific of Broadcasting Union