

[View this email in your browser](#)



Your monthly update from ABU News

1 February | 1er février 2026

Editor's note

January was about showing up. And we mean that literally!

A big thank you to the 31 Asiavision members and the 30 non-members who joined us in Kuala Lumpur for the 2026 Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting. Your presence, engagement, and candid exchanges shaped conversations that extended beyond the meeting room.

This meeting wouldn't have landed the way it did without the partners and institutions who collaborated so generously with us. We're grateful to Sarawak Media Group, European Broadcasting Union, BBC Media Action, France Télévisions, University of Wollongong Malaysia, and Shinawatra University for contributing insight, expertise, and real-world perspective.

Couldn't make it this time? We've got you!

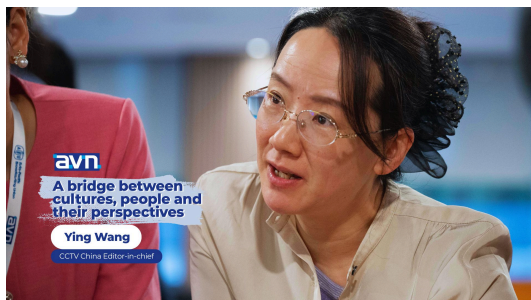
This edition brings the meeting to you in writing. You'll find session highlights, key takeaways, and links to the full articles below so you can catch up on what was discussed, debated, and decided.

This month, for the first time, we published an op-ed on cyberbullying and professionalism, exploring the ethical pressures facing journalists, media professionals, and anyone who puts themselves out on the internet. Scroll down to find out more.

Whether you joined us in Kuala Lumpur or are catching up from afar, this bulletin is designed to keep you informed, connected, and part of the conversation. Let's keep the momentum going!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

2026 Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting highlights



ABU News speaks with AVN members during the meeting.

Catch the interviews on our social channels, packaged and ready for you.

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#)



The human cost behind war reporting

War correspondents are often seen as fearless observers - cameras and notebooks in hand - documenting conflict as the world watches from afar. Yet, behind the headlines lies a deeply human experience shaped by responsibility, resilience, and the realities of war.

Ahmet Görmez, Deputy Director of TRT Türkiye & ABU News Chair, reflected on his years covering conflict in Gaza.

"We try to train them as much as possible," he said, "but the best training is among colleagues. In a war zone, theory doesn't work." No classroom can fully prepare journalists for the chaos and unpredictability of

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

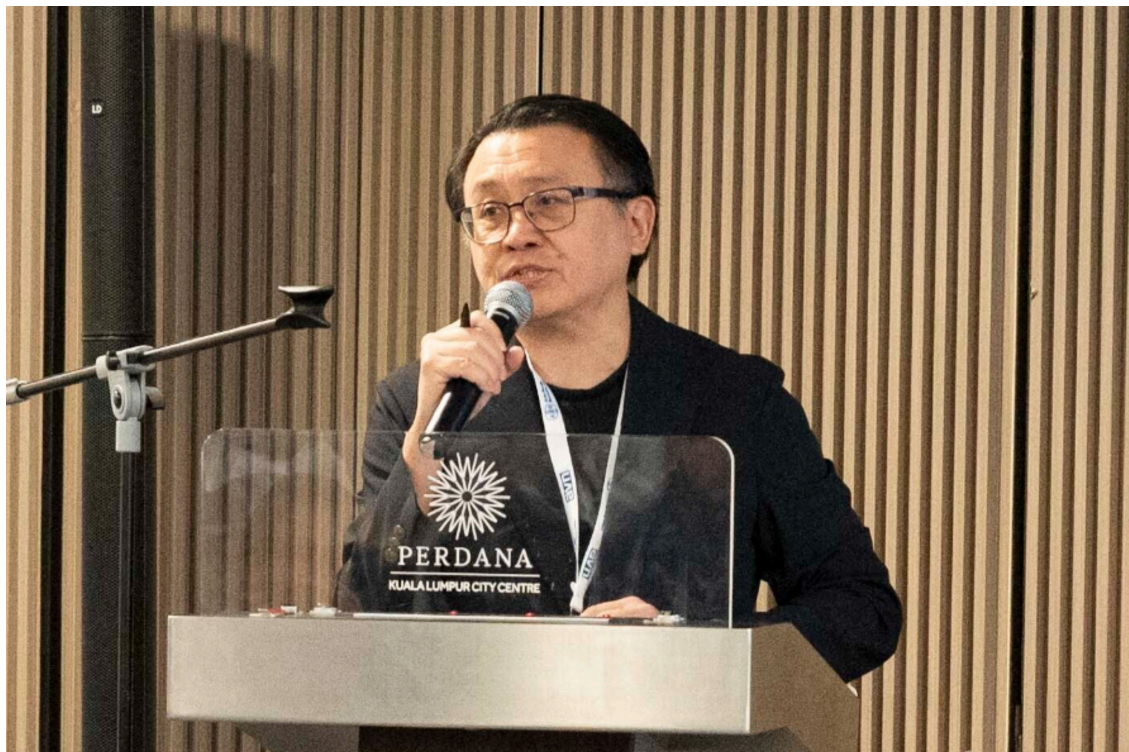
Despite the personal toll, a strong sense of duty continues to draw journalists back to the field. “Every time I go to a war zone, I promise myself not to go again,” Görmez admitted. “But in most cases, I volunteer. I feel very responsible for telling the story.”

That responsibility often comes with lasting psychological effects. Ordinary sounds can trigger memories of conflict. “I don’t like fireworks,” he said, explaining that they remind him of the sounds of war.

Görmez also emphasised the importance of acknowledging emotional strain. “We are human beings. If you need to cry, you must cry,” he said, noting that journalists process trauma in different ways.

His reflections served as a reminder that war correspondents are not only chroniclers of history, but witnesses to human suffering. Their courage lies not in the absence of fear, but in choosing - again and again - to confront it in order to inform the world.

Read the article on another perspective of his session: [Journalism as modern history: A responsibility to truth](#)



[Why legacy newsrooms still matter](#)

“There’s still a role for traditional newsrooms,” said Mark Tung, Managing Editor at TVB Hong Kong. “To me, the human stories are still the real stories.”

Mark reflected on TVB’s coverage of the Wang Fuk Court fire in Hong Kong, one of the deadliest residential building fires in the city’s history.

When the fire broke out in November 2026, TVB was among the first on the scene, delivering real-time reporting while focusing on the human response to tragedy. Rather than centring solely on the scale of the

The coverage also honoured the sacrifices of ten domestic helpers nine from Indonesia and one from the Philippines who stayed with their elderly employers rather than fleeing the blaze. "They went beyond heroism," Mark said, noting that they paid the highest price.

TVB also told stories that resonated deeply with audiences, including the rescue of more than 400 pets. "Some people questioned why firefighters were rescuing animals," Mark recalled. "But pets are family. You don't leave them behind." The newsroom produced multiple reports highlighting those rescues and the bonds between families and their animals.

Beyond human interest, TVB examined the systemic issues exposed by the tragedy, including poor building maintenance, safety lapses, bid rigging and aging infrastructure. "We had to look critically at where things went wrong," Mark said, emphasising the media's role in accountability and follow-up.

Despite operating in an increasingly digital landscape, Mark reaffirmed TVB's commitment to traditional television journalism. "We are a legacy company," he said. "We may carry a traditional image, but we continue to tell stories that matter."

He encourages collaboration across newsrooms, stressing that legacy media still plays a vital role in documenting society not just through breaking news, but by telling human stories with depth, responsibility and care.



The colossal challenge that modern day mankind faces is an unimaginable threat posed by dangerous climate components. Various sectors of human society confront formidable hurdles in overcoming the ill-effects of climate change and broadcasting media is a key sector among them.

A slow-moving Category 1 Cyclone Ditwah with maximum wind speed of 65 km/h wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka, late November 2025, destroying 647 lives, 183 still missing and causing an economic loss of USD

destroyed many towns, villages, farmlands and infrastructure.



Media response narratives

SLRC and MTV from Sri Lanka showed different approaches over the disaster-media response.

SLRC was vested upon responsibility for issuing warnings, taken care of requests by the affected communities, be a communicator between the authorities and the general public. SLRC fulfilled those tasks while taking care of many challenges, including some of their staff who were also affected by the disaster.

MTV had a mixed approach in disaster broadcasting as its activities divided into two major paths. While conducting its emergency broadcasting activities with the support of key resource personnel, the institution dedicated a vast amount of its human and other resources to expedite the much-needed aid to the affected communities.

Presented by Arush Balalla of SLRC [right] and Jeffry Jebadarshan of MTV [left].



Why newsroom labs matter in the age of AI

1. Newsroom labs need to be treated as core infrastructure, not side projects

Journalism graduates are struggling with digital skills and news judgement because much of their training remains theoretical. Dr Muhammad Naim Muhamad Ali, communication lecturer at University of Wollongong (UOW) Malaysia argued that newsroom labs must be embedded as a serious, structural component of journalism education, not treated as student clubs or one-off workshops.

2. Graduates are now competing with AI, not just with each other

GenAI can already summarise, script and deliver content at scale. Graduates must learn not only how to use AI responsibly, but how to add human judgement, context and editorial value: skills that cannot be automated.

3. Universities face an AI paradox

While universities often discourage generative AI to preserve critical thinking, newsrooms are rapidly adopting it. This gap leaves graduates underprepared for real newsroom environments and highlights the need for closer industry–academic collab.

4. Journalism is undergoing “creative disruption,” not gradual change

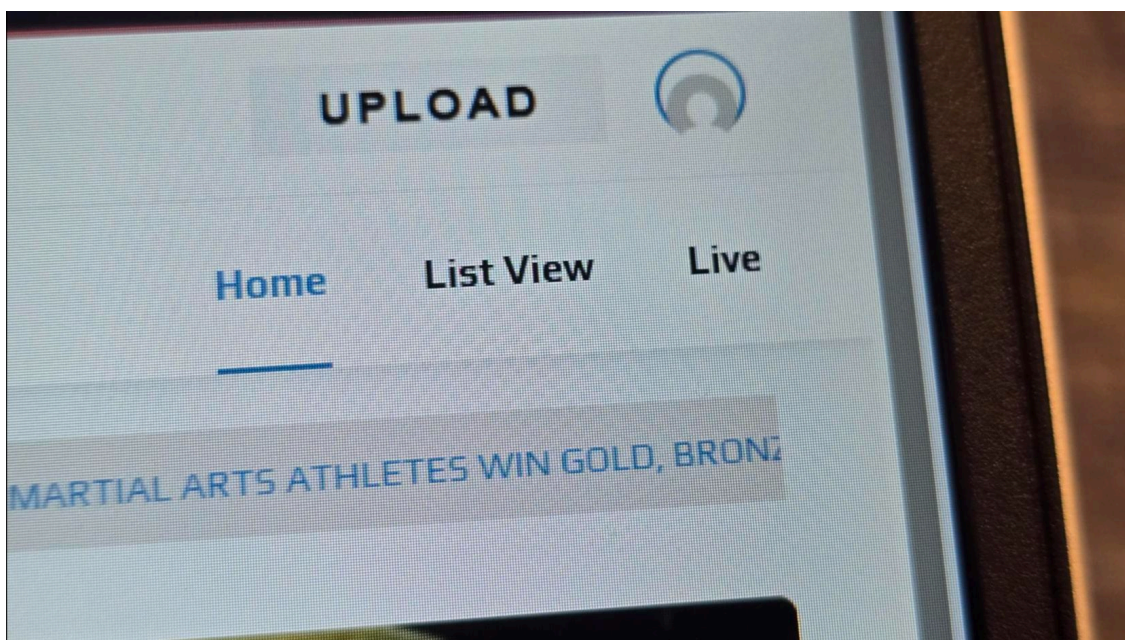
Shorter formats, platform-specific storytelling and participatory audiences have fundamentally reshaped newsroom practices. Newsroom labs provide a protected space to experiment with these changes without the pressures of daily production.

5. Newsroom leaders have a role to play, now!

Dr Muhammad Naim urged editors and media organisations to adopt journalism students and institutions, even without funding. Mentorship, exposure and collaboration can bridge the gap between education and industry and help build a more resilient future workforce.

More interesting reads on 2026 AVN Coordinators' Meeting:

1. [Navigating legal & ethical issues in news exchange](#) presented by Dr Seemantani Sharma, ABU Legal Manager.
 2. [AVN content for podcasts](#) presented by Andrew Davies, ABU Head of Radio
 3. [Post-reality](#) presented by Kati Bremme, Head of Innovation & Foresight at France Televisions.
 4. More coming soon. Just keep your tab open on [ABU News updates](#).
-

Monthly highlights

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Asiavision has officially transformed its service delivery. Moving beyond traditional file-sharing, the platform has launched a suite of real-time live feeds and integrated audio features.

The announcement was made during the 2026 Asiavision Coordinators' Meeting signaling a major leap toward instantaneous, global news broadcasting.

ABU Director of News, Indra Singh, said that these tools are designed to match the accelerating pace of modern journalism.

"This is a transformative shift for us," Singh stated. "By enabling the seamless uplink of live video, we are giving our members the power to broadcast breaking news as it unfolds. This will be invaluable for securing immediate, high-quality content from partners during rapidly developing stories."

The Three Pillars of the Upgrade

The platform's evolution centres on three core enhancements designed for maximum flexibility:

- **Direct-to-air capability:** This flagship feature allows members to provide real-time feeds that can be aired or recorded instantly - eliminating the wait times associated with manual file uploads.
- **Dual-platform accessibility:** To ensure reliability, Asiavision retains its file-sharing roots. Members can still access downloadable links via the Asia Pacific View platform if they miss a live window.
- **Specialised audio integration:** In a first for the region's dual-service broadcasters, the platform now includes dedicated tools to support those managing both television and radio outputs simultaneously.

This upgrade isn't just about technology; it's about impact. Member newsrooms can now bridge the gap between "receiving" news and "broadcasting" it, ensuring that the Asia-Pacific voice is the first to be heard during major events.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

upcoming month AVN Awards

To foster greater participation within the AVN community, we are pleased to announce that the Monthly Asiavision Award will now be decided by you, our members.

Our new selection process is simple: each month, the three most-downloaded stories will be shortlisted, and members will be invited to vote for the winner. This change empowers our members to take ownership of the awards and provides a platform for valuable peer recognition within the network.

[AVN members, do expect an email notification from us today to draw your votes!](#)



[Congratulations December AVN Award winners!](#)

ABC Australia

Coverage of: The mass shooting at a Bondi Beach Hanukkah festival on 14 December 2025. The attack, carried out by two gunmen, resulted in at least 15 deaths and dozens of injuries. Authorities and world leaders have condemned the act as a terrorist and antisemitic attack.



NHK Japan

Coverage of: A powerful earthquake in northern Japan on 8 December 2025. A 7.5 magnitude struck in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Aomori Prefecture, Sanriku, Japan. The earthquake generated tsunamis that reached heights of up to 70 cm (28 in) along the coast of northern Japan.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

what happens to professional judgment?

This op-ed examines cyberbullying, professionalism, and why journalism may have lost the pause

Meme was AI-generated.

Training & opportunities



We are calling for essay contributions for the **2026 Future of News Report: Mental health and leadership in Newsrooms**. This will be our third edition of its kind. It will be launched at the 2026 Global News Forum in Sydney, Australia. This is your opportunity to share your work to audiences across Asia, the Pacific and beyond. Read our previous reports The Future of News Report: [2025](#) | [2024](#)

Upcoming events



ABC Australia will host the 2026 Global News Forum (GNF) this September in Sydney.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Contributors:

Indra Singh

Prasad Dodangodage

Premalatha Jayaraman

Amira Ismail

ABC Australia

NHK Japan

VoiceLah! University of Wollongong Malaysia

asiavision@abu.org.mywww.abu.org.my/asiavision

Monday to Friday: 0730 hrs - 2100 hrs KL

Weekends and holidays: 1000 hrs - 1900 hrs KL

This email was sent to nerina@abu.org.my[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union · 2nd Floor, IPPTAR Building · Angkasapuri · Kuala Lumpur, 14 50614 · Malaysia