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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy April 1st everyone. No pranks today, just a very real look at where we are at as a community.

The US-Israel-Iran conflict has been ongoing for the past month. Beyond the breaking news alerts, we have to talk about the massive toll this is taking on the mental health of our journalists. Reporting from the front lines or even just managing the 24-hour news cycle can be exhausting. Burnout is real and protecting our peace has never been more important.

On top of the conflict, we are literally feeling the heat. A brutal heat wave is gripping the region right now. The UN has also declared that we are officially living through the hottest years ever recorded. Seeing these climate records shatter while we try to navigate a global crisis is a lot to process. These events are creating a socioeconomic ripple effect. As oil prices continue to climb globally because of the war, this is affecting the market trend and also the cost of living that makes every commute and grocery run feel like a mission. We are living in stressful times, but we are navigating it together.

On a much brighter note we are coming off a massive season of celebration. A happy Eid Mubarak to everyone who just finished their month-long fast. The fact that Eid coincided with Nowruz this year was such a beautiful crossover event. For those getting ready to celebrate Easter in a couple of days we hope you have the best time with your loved ones and eating your weight in chocolate.

Whether you are celebrating or just trying to stay resilient in the newsroom, make sure you are checking in on your peers.

Stay safe!

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

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you? As the industry continues to evolve amid rapid technological change, increasing demands, and shifting audience expectations, the wellbeing of those at the heart of news production has never been more important. We are inviting all ABU members to participate in the Future of News Survey 2026, with a focus on mental health and newsroom resilience, two critical pillars shaping the sustainability of our industry.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE SURVEY](#)



FEB 2026 ASIAVISION AWARD WINNER: DD INDIA

The February Asiavision Monthly Award shines a spotlight on storytelling at its most evocative, with DD India earning top honours for its visually stunning feature, *"Ancient winter festival lights up India's Himalayan villages."* Peer-voted, the piece stands out for its striking visuals and its ability to immerse audiences in a remote, resilient community, bringing to life traditions that are rarely seen beyond their local setting. The recognition of this piece reflects the power of broadcast journalism to preserve and amplify cultural heritage, capturing moments that might otherwise remain confined to isolated regions.



ABC NEWS LOOP HAS ARRIVED!

ABC News Loop brings in-depth video journalism directly to social media audiences, meeting viewers where they are with content that is both accessible and substantive. Designed for a digital-first generation, the platform combines sharp storytelling with concise, explainer-style reporting. Its first must-watch feature sees Nicholas Maher unpack the current state of Iran, examining why the situation remains largely unchanged.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)



THAI PBS & THE DIGITAL FIRST REVOLUTION

In a landscape where streaming giants often prioritise profit over substance, Thai PBS is taking a different path. Digital Media Director Kanokporn Prasitphon shares how the broadcaster has spent six years reshaping its culture to become a digital-first powerhouse focused on public interest over commercial gain. With platforms like VIPA and Thai PBS Verify, the organisation is tackling disinformation and changing viewer habits while supporting independent creators.

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CNA'S GROWING EUROPEAN INFLUENCE

As part of the bilateral 'Year of Innovation' between Singapore and Germany, CNA recently took to Berlin to mark its expansion to 180 million homes globally. Through the launch of CNA Originals, the network is meeting a growing hunger in Europe for nuanced, in-depth reporting from Asia. The move has been lauded by industry leaders, including WAN-IFRA CEO Stig Kirk Ørskov, who highlighted the importance of diverse global perspectives in today's climate.

[CNA ORIGINALS LIVE](#) | [CNA INSIDER](#)



JOURNALISM EDUCATION AND THE INDUSTRY

ABU News recently met with the School of Communication and Creative Arts at University of Wollongong Malaysia to explore how to better prepare students for modern newsrooms. As traditional academic models struggle to keep pace, the university is considering flexible pathways such as micro-credentials alongside initiatives like Voice Lah! to equip students with practical, industry-ready skills and strengthen the link between academia and the evolving media landscape.

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FUTURE VOICES & THE NEXT GENERATION OF JOURNALISTS

How do fresh perspectives and ideas find their voice? Believe it or not, it might be in a raucous grandstand on the Australia's beautiful Gold Coast. I had the privilege of working closely with an incredibly talented group of emerging journalists from across Southeast Asia through ABC International's Future Voices program.

Future Voices, supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) ASEAN-Australia Centre, brings together emerging media leaders from Southeast Asia and Australia. After an online phase, participants are immersed in hands-on journalism training in Australia, this time over two weeks in South-East Queensland during the AFC Women's Asian Cup.

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near time, they grew very quickly.

Participants also received hands on mobile journalism training, developing the skills to film, interview and report in fast paced environments. From gathering vox pops to producing match day content on the ground, they were constantly applying what they were learning in real time. Alongside this, they took part in a Leadership and Sports Diplomacy course at Griffith University, earning a micro credential while deepening their understanding of the role sport and media play in shaping narratives across the region.

What made this program different, though, was the people. This cohort is an incredibly skilled group of journalists, thoughtful, adaptable and deeply committed to their craft. In just under two weeks, they built trust, supported each other and created a space where everyone felt seen and valued.

If the growth I saw in those 12 days is anything to go by, the future of journalism in the region is in very good hands.

Written by and based on the personal experience of Esra Ozkul, Social & Video Producer at ABC Australia.

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