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ABU Technical Bureau Annual Meeting 2026
16 October 2026 | Online

The ABU Technical Department successfully organized the ABU Technical Bureau (TB) Annual Meeting 2026, held online on 16 October 2026. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Masashi Kamei from NHK-Japan, Chairperson of the ABU Technical Committee.

The meeting opened with a welcome address by Mr. Ahmed Nadeem, Secretary-General of the ABU. Mr. Kamei followed with opening remarks, expressing his sincere appreciation to all Bureau members for their active participation and their continued commitment to the technical advancement of the region. He noted that this was the second meeting of the current Technical Bureau structure, which serves as the governing and decision-making body in the technical field.

Following the opening, Bureau members engaged in introductions and provided status updates on the progress and activities of their respective organizations. Updates highlighted recent initiatives, ongoing technical developments, and the shared challenges faced in the rapidly changing media and broadcasting environment. Members emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in advancing innovation and addressing practical needs.

Transition in the Technology Division

Mr. Nadeem informed the Bureau of a transition period within the ABU Secretariat following the conclusion of Dr. Veysel Binbay's tenure as Director of Technology. He announced that the application process for the new Director is still open until 31 October 2026. In the interim, Mr. Indra Singh, Director of News, has stepped in to assist the Technology Division until a replacement is found. Mr. Singh briefly addressed the Bureau, expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the technical team.

Review of TB Tasks and TC 2026 Programme

Mr. Putera Afiq Zulfaqar presented the review of TB Tasks and Action Items. He introduced two new initiatives: a proposed **Technical Bureau Booklet** to consolidate all relevant documents, roles, and responsibilities into a single reference for new members, and a **Guideline for Hosting a Physical TB Meeting** to encourage members to volunteer as hosts by clarifying that the host is only required to provide a meeting room for 20 people and lunch, with no obligation to cover travel or accommodation.

Mr. Adil Siddiqui then presented the Programme and Agenda for the upcoming Technical Committee (TC) 2026 Meeting in Colombo. He outlined the two-day schedule, including the opening addresses, the Engineering Awards, the Keynote Presentation by Masakazu Iwaki (NHK Foundation), and the various TC proceedings. He also detailed the topic for the invited presentations: *"AI in Broadcasting: From Experimentation to Real-World Deployment,"* featuring speakers from KBS, NHK Foundation, RTHK, and TRT. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to swap the order of the host presentation and the invited presentations to better accommodate the schedule.

Changes to Topic Areas and Terms of Reference

Mr. Siddiqui also presented the Review of Topic Areas and Terms of Reference, detailing the changes in Project Managers and Co-Project Managers across various study groups.

This item prompted significant discussion from the Topic Area Chairpersons regarding member participation. **Dr. Hirokazu Kamoda** (Distribution) and **Dr. Li Leilei** (Spectrum) both noted that they had received almost no contributions from Project Managers outside of NHK and RTPRC, respectively, forcing them to compile their reports from other sources. **Mr. Kazim Pektaş** (Production) echoed this concern, stating he only received two contributions. Mr. Kamei acknowledged these challenges, thanking the Chairpersons for their efforts and suggesting that the Bureau discuss how to better engage members and encourage contributions during the next mid-year meeting.

Media Provenance and Future Activities

Mr. Putera Afiq Zulfaqar presented the proposed ABU Recommendation on Media Provenance. He explained that following the success of the Media Provenance Summit in Tokyo, the Secretariat has drafted this recommendation to encourage members to adopt provenance technology to combat misinformation and deepfakes in the generative AI era. The draft document, which includes references to the IPTC C2PA implementation guide, will be circulated to Bureau members and presented for approval at the TC Meeting in Colombo.

The Bureau also reviewed the Proposed TD Activity Calendar for 2027. Mr. Putera Afiq Zulfaqar outlined the planned schedule of workshops, webinars, and training programs, including the Engineering Fundamentals courses and the DBS 2027.

DBS 2027 and Future Meetings

Updates were provided regarding the Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS) 2027, scheduled for 22–25 March at the Royale Chulan in Kuala Lumpur. The Bureau discussed the upcoming event's structure and called for active participation from members.

Furthermore, the Bureau addressed the dates and venue for the 2027 Mid-Year Bureau Meeting. Mr. Putera Afiq Zulfaqar highlighted the declining interest in hosting the mid-year meeting. He presented the new hosting guidelines, emphasizing that the host's only

requirements are a meeting room, basic AV equipment, and lunch, to make the prospect less intimidating. Mr. Masashi Kamei encouraged members to consider hosting, noting it as a good opportunity to showcase their organization and learn about the latest technology in the region.

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Kamei, who thanked everyone for attending and reiterated the importance of the upcoming TC Meeting in Colombo. Mr. Nadeem also expressed his enthusiasm for the Colombo meeting, noting that the local hosts, including Eng. Tharanga Silva and Mr. Kapila Dasanayake, were preparing a welcoming excursion for all participants. The meeting ended with a virtual group photo.