

DOCUMENT NO GA 57/6

ASIA 
PACIFIC
BROADCASTING
UNION

ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020



*THE ASIA PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION
IS EXTENDING ITS FOOTPRINT ACROSS THE
GLOBE WHILE PROMOTING ADVOCACY FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT, THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.*

*IT IS CONTINUING TO BOLDLY PUSH FORWARD
ON ITS AGENDA TO SOLIDIFY AND REINFORCE
THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IT ENJOYS
NOT ONLY AMONGST ITS MEMBERS, BUT ALSO
WITH ITS SISTER ORGANISATIONS. THE ABU HAS
BEEN SUPPORTING ITS MEMBERS IN DELIVERING
HIGH QUALITY CONTENT AND WE HOPE TO
BUILD ON THE STRENGTH OF OUR NEWS
EXCHANGES TO DEVELOP NEW SERVICES AND
ADD FURTHER VALUE TO OUR MEMBERS*

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MESSAGE FROM THE ABU ACTING PRESIDENT



Dear ABU friends,

We are looking back at a year that transformed the world - the way we live, work and think. At the same time, the global pandemic has been a catalyst for change for everyone. The media became a lifeline for people around the world while at the same time broadcasters had to quickly adapt their operations and programme schedules to accommodate safety of staff and the loss of live sport and entertainment events as well as programme production. ABU members did this at a break-neck speed and continued to serve their audiences with news that took a priority during the COVID 19 crisis. Many members also entered into broadcast education to compensate for closure of schools and offered top quality classes.

During these difficult times it was heartening to see the solidarity in the ABU family. Members generously shared safety protocols, strategies and programmes through the ABU COVID 19 Content Database facilitated by the long-anticipated Asia – Pacific View content exchanged platform. At the same time, we had to move most of the ABU's activities on-line to overcome the travel restrictions and lock down around the world. Thanks to this switch, the ABU has been able to bring to members a wide range of valuable services such as news and content exchanges, copyright free programmes and concerts, training workshops and master classes, and events online. The global pandemic accelerated the implementation of many of the planned online capacity – building including the launch of the ABU Media Academy, which will spearhead the transformation of training into more tailored service to the need of the individual members.

However, we should not let the pandemic crisis overshadow the tremendous achievements of ABU before it struck. The Tokyo GA was probably the most successful ever in the life of the Union, charting a strategy to keep its services relevant to the evolving needs of members, to support those who need more assistance to navigate the digital revolution. Now, more than ever, the members are united in solidarity, rising collectively to the challenges and changes in technology and the constantly evolving world.

This really is unity in diversity put into practice to serve and benefit the people of Asia – Pacific.

**ABU Acting President
Mr Ibrahim Eren**



WELCOME FROM ABU SECRETARY GENERAL



On behalf of our hard-working colleagues at the ABU Secretariat, I am delighted to present the ABU Annual Report for the 2019 / 2020 fiscal year. This is a landmark year for ABU. It refers to the ABU “Three-Year Action Plan (2019- 2021)”. This year was also marred by the global COVID 19 pandemic, which changed overnight our modus operandi.

The much-used word “unprecedented” is nonetheless the best adjective to describe the recent period for most of us. The inability to travel, meet and interact with colleagues and associates has created an imperative to connect remotely and to find innovative ways to initiate new and strengthen the existing links with members and develop projects. Our technical knowledge and ability to communicate virtually increased exponentially as our members’ thirst for communication and sharing their experiences how to continue to serve audiences in the COVID 19 pandemic crisis has grown.

The priority for us at the Secretariat was to enhance our services and demonstrate that despite the severe restrictions imposed upon us all, we have continued serving our members. As a Union, we engaged our officers and consultants to create webinars and information streams, introduce new content sharing platforms and innovative ways to communicate. We made sure that through our collective efforts to counter the pandemic, we reinforce our strength in unity. In these dark times of adversity, we successfully cemented our professional links and engagement across Asia and the Pacific.

I believe that I express the common feeling of members that the pandemic strengthened our bond, brought us closer together and accelerated the ABU transformation to a truly member and service - oriented Union.

Dr Javad Mottaghi
ABU Secretary - General



SECRETARY - GENERAL'S BRIEF

THREE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

In 2011 we launched short, mid and long - term Action Plans to put the Union on a modern footing and prepare members for the digital age. The short-term Action Plan (2012-2013) resulted in a resounding improvement of the Union operations and finances, ending the deficit, which had burdened the Union for almost seven years, increase of the ABU service to members and involving members in decision – making process of the ABU.

The mid-term Action Plan (2014 – 2015) introduced new initiatives that gave members absolute decision-making power, boosted the international standing of ABU, expanded the ABU and AVN membership and enhanced quality service to members. The long-term Action Plan (2016 – 2021) was modified in its second year and the updated “Three-year Action Plan (2019 – 2021)” completes ABU transformation to a leader in excellence and innovation in the global broadcast media industry, which puts the interests and tailored services to its members at the heart of all its activities.

ABU SERVICES

The last fiscal year marked prioritization and streamlining of ABU events and services. The focus of all activities, initiated and implemented by the Secretariat in collaboration and partnership with members, has been the three areas recommended by the Administrative Council, namely, enhanced quality, more online services and considerable expansion of capacity – building.

In total, the ABU conducted 161 activities in the reported period, engaging over seven thousands of participants from members and partners and reaching hundreds of millions listeners and viewers through the quality programme exchange offered copyright free to members. This is a healthy increase of activities compared with the 133 we conducted in the previous financial year. This is despite the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Union’s collective response to the global crisis was impressive. We moved all capacity building online. In five months (April to August), the ABU conducted 84 webinar and workshop sessions providing “know-how” services to 4728 participants. Our other departments concluded the following;

In addition, AVN conducted 3 Multi – Module Virtual News Workshops (Let’s Get Digital Series) involving 295 participants.

In a matter of days, members created an impressive repository of COVID 19 related programmes for free exchange. That wouldn’t have been possible if we didn’t brought forward the launch of the ABU digital content exchange platform Asia – Pacific View.

Another long planned ABU initiative also came true. The ABU Media Academy was launched on 7th July and organized its first online Forum on 12 August which involved participation of 30 organizations from 25 countries. The Forum marked the introduction of the Academy’s planning & training activities and heard about a range of training initiatives across the region from the participating members.

The ABU will continue to serve its members as a service and member - oriented, forward – looking union.

75 SPEAKERS FROM 20 COUNTRIES

TOPICS:
59 AREAS

PROGRAMME
DEPARTMENT
38

SG’S OFFICE
12

LEGAL DIVISION
4

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS:
4728

TECHNICAL
DEPARTMENT
27

SPORTS
DEPARTMENT
3

NEW INITIATIVES AND SERVICES

The ABU has introduced a number of new initiatives to better serve the interests of members. The Asia-Pacific View (APV) and ABU Media Academy are probably the most ground-breaking initiatives in the last 10 years. They are a game-changer for the mode of delivering content and bring tailor-made capacity building services to our members.

ASIA - PACIFIC VIEW

APV is an online content sharing and exchange platform developed by the ABU for its members. The underlying objective is to provide a means or platform for members to easily and securely upload and share the wide-ranging genre of content within their repositories with other members.

The APV platform will combine and replicate the operation of the existing exchange platforms namely Asiavision (AVN), ABU Sports & Entertainment Network (AXN) and the ABU Music Exchange (AMX), eventually replacing them.

The APV platform utilises state-of-the-art cloud infrastructure and applications to deliver these services using a purpose built and secure portal with an easy to use interface. The platform is available for all ABU members to use in their content sharing and exchange operations.

In addition to the exchange functionality the platform also includes additional features that can be utilised for other media related applications and activities organised by the ABU for its members.



ABU MEDIA ACADEMY

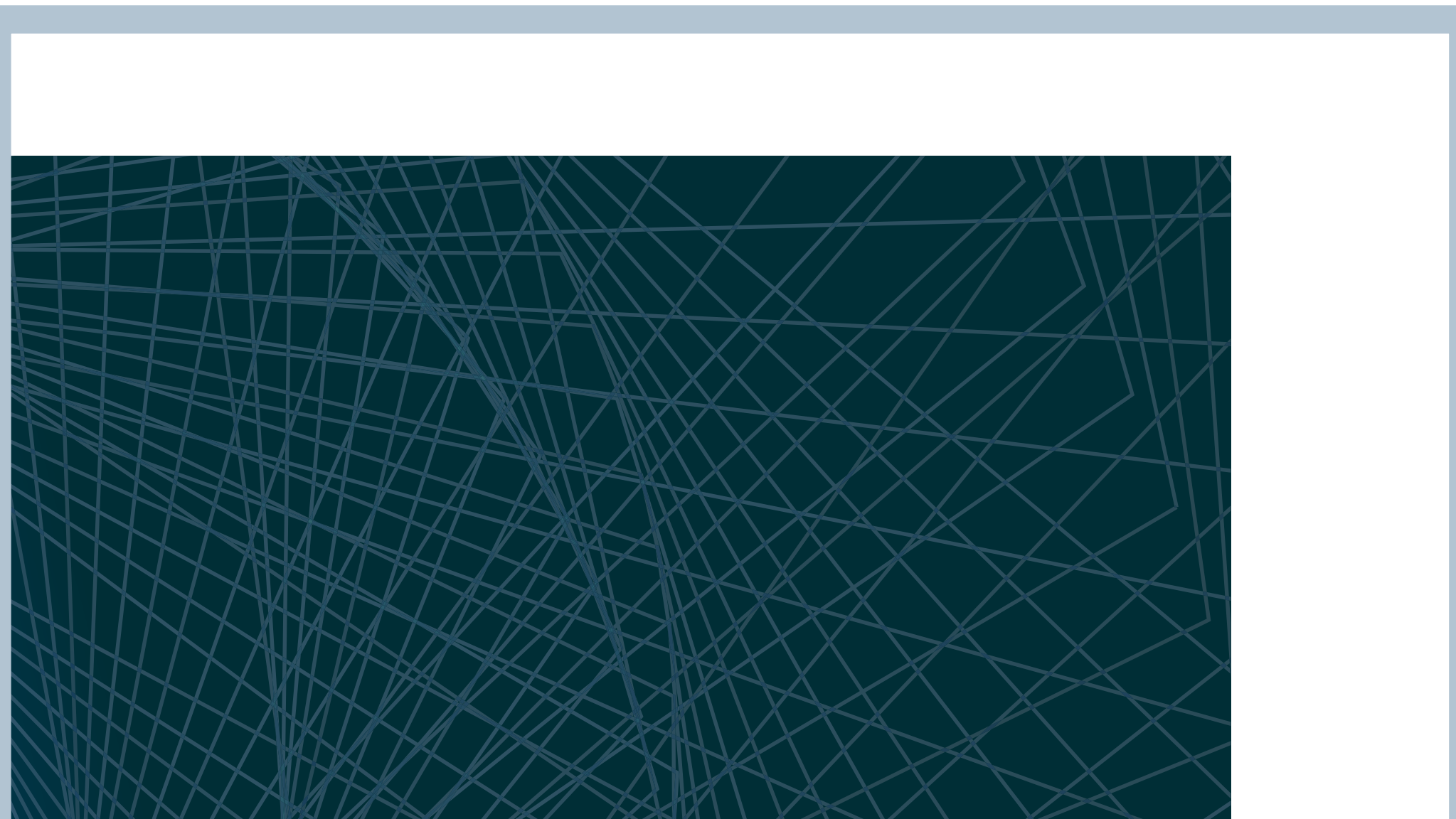


The ABU Media Academy will expand the ability of the ABU to serve members with online as well as face to face training, and will assist members without in-house training capacity to establish their own training centres. Our vision is that all ABU Members will be able to develop their staff to a level where they are multiskilled, adaptable to change and up to date with the latest trends and technologies in our industries.

The long-term goal of the AMA is to develop a comprehensive curriculum of certified courses of media capacity building – from management to technology and content production for multi-platform. Through the Academy, the ABU will also partner with international universities to provide broadcasters the opportunity for higher level studies at recognized centres of higher learning.

Our vision is that all ABU Members can develop their staff to a level where they are multiskilled, adaptable to change and up to date with the latest trends and technologies in our industries.

To achieve this vision, the ABU Media Academy's mission is to partner closely with member organisations to improve their in-house training, give them access to external training by international experts through the ABU Media Academy, and facilitate further study at recognised tertiary institutions for staff and management of member organisations.



COVID 19 RESPONSE

ABU COVID 19 CONTENT DATABASE

Despite the immense challenges of COVID 19 pandemic for broadcasters, the ABU members continued to serve their audiences by providing life-saving information, education for school children and keeping their nation's morale up.

On demand from members, the Secretariat secured copyright free content from members and other sources including UN agencies and partners. We successfully launched the **ABU COVID-19 Content Database**, which already has over 100 features, related not only to the fight of the pandemic but also high quality programmes. This exchange between members is facilitated by the Asia – Pacific View (APV), the ABU online exchange network and content distribution platform.

China Media Group, TRT, NHK, Doordashan India, KBS, Khabar Agency, Rai- Italy and NBT-Thailand all contributed high quality content and programmes.



The screenshot displays the ABU website's COVID-19 resources page. At the top, the ABU logo and navigation menu are visible. A prominent banner reads "ABU SOLIDARITY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19" with a globe icon. Below this, the heading "COVID-19 Resources" is centered. A grid of ten black buttons lists various resources: RAI Guidelines, RRI Song of Hope, ABC Media Advice, JSC Khabar Video, Radio Romania Cultural, DW Corona Newsletter, TRT Transition Strategy, UNESCO WPF Day Toolkit, and ABU Joint Song Project "Heart of the World".

ABU BRINGS ENTERTAINMENT TO MILLIONS IN PANDEMIC TIMES

In partnership with UN agencies and other partners the Secretariat secured (copyright free) eight high quality entertainment programmes which were broadcast by over 50 members.

Shiva Concert (To mark World Environment Day – 5 June) – “Shiva - “Ricky Kej LIVE in India” was an epic concert dedicated to our Environment and Natural World. Recorded LIVE, this concert featured 40 musicians from 6 countries and a 300 member children’s choir. The music from this concert entered the USA Billboard Charts at No. 3 and remained in the Top 10 for 2 weeks. It is organized by Ricky Kej, Billboard #1 Artist (USA) | United Nations “Global Humanitarian Artist” Awardee | UNCCD “Land Ambassador” | UNESCO MGIEP “Global Ambassador for Kindness” | UNICEF “Celebrity Supporter” | Adj. Professor NIAS (at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)

Interdependence (To mark World Environment Day – 5 June) - **The Swiss production company ART for The World** has offered copyright free distribution their 2019 film INTERDEPENDENCE. This is a compilation of contributions of eleven internationally recognized filmmakers, who have joined forces to raise awareness on the Environment and Climate Change. It is a 1h38’ original anthology of 11 short films (docu-fiction, drama, comedy, SF, video-art). Each short format (length 5’- 11’) explores through various stories our urgent need to reduce environmental damage and to preserve our natural resources. The countries reflected are Morocco, Iceland, Portugal, Switzerland, Afghanistan, Chad, China, India, Brazil, Italy and New Zealand.

Global Online Talk Show Food. Fibre. Feed (To mark UN Deforestation Day - 17 June) - The programme inspires to change public attitudes to the leading drivers of desertification and land degradation: humanity’s relentless production and consumption. Food. Feed. Fibre is a mix of video clips introducing forestation programmes in different countries, music and some interviews. It is produced by a Korean company and presented by the Korean TV host Olivia lh.

Children’s Concert “My Earth Songs” (To mark World Music Day (21 June) - Radio version of the fabulous Children Concert “My Earthy Songs”. It featured 27 children songs dedicated to the environment, gender equality and generally the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It is organized by Ricky Kej, Billboard #1 Artist (USA) | United Nations “Global Humanitarian Artist” Awardee | UNCCD “Land Ambassador” | UNESCO MGIEP “Global Ambassador for Kindness” | UNICEF “Celebrity Supporter” | Adj. Professor NIAS (at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore).

ConcertForAHealthyPlanet (To mark the global fight against the COVID 19 pandemic) - **This concert was organised by UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education** for Peace and Sustainable Development in partnership with several UN agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNFCCC, WWF. The event also marked the International Earth Day on 22 April. ConcertForAHealthyPlanet is a collaboration of world renown artists - Five Grammy Award Winners, led by #KindnessAmbassador Ricky Kej, will join 40 musicians from 6 countries.

World Africa Day Concert. Thanks to the generosity of our sister Union – AUB the ABU members had an access to the two - hour concert to mark the International Africa Day (25th May) and mobilize support for the fight against the health and social consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. The concert was organised by the WAN (Worldwide Afro Network) and brought together for the first time about a hundred artists, leaders and innovators from Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Americas and the Pacific. The concert featured world renown singers such as Youssou N’Dour, Oumou Sangaré, Khadja Nin, Angélique Kidjo, Fally Ipupa, Jimmy Cliff, Hiro, Lenine, Baaba Maal, Tiken Jah Fakoly, Jocelyne Beroard, Jacob Desvarieux, Asafu to name but a few.

Pacific Unite: Saving Lives Together programme was envisioned as a regional extension of the One World: Together At Home concept (Global Citizen One World Concert) that was

screened globally in April 2020 to support the UN and WHO’s COVID-19 response. The Pacific broadcast was cross-platform regional special that focused on combatting the rise in misinformation [infodemic] and key messaging on the new normal as we prepare to live in a world with COVID-19. It also highlighted the work of civil society groups, health workers and community workers on the frontlines of the response, as they lead the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The broadcast included addresses by Pacific Heads of State, UN Leaders and Pacific celebrities alongside exciting performances by some of the region’s top artists. It was a true showcase of ‘By Pacific for Pacific’ talent.

Nations United documentary A special, first of its kind programme, created by the United Nations on its 75th Anniversary and to mark 5 years since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the midst of a pandemic radically transforming our world, Nations United tells the story of the world as it is, as it was, and as it could be. The broadcast takes the audience on a dynamic exploration of the times we live in, the multiple tipping points our planet faces, and the interventions that could transform our world over the next 10 years. Using some extraordinary communicators from around the world, Nations United presents the facts and data key to this transformation, and the opportunities we have as a human family to reimagine and reshape the future. It is made up of 4 chapters – covering Climate, Poverty and Inequality, Justice, and Gender.

WORLD - CLASS FORUMS AND CONTENT FROM ABU PROGRAMMING

The ABU takes great pride in offering our members the capability to create and obtain world-class content so they can increase the variety, the quality and the range, of their programming. This includes exclusive sports rights through to our online news exchanges and children's programmes and prize contests.

RADIO ASIA CONFERENCE AND RADIO SONG FESTIVAL



The three-day Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Radio Asia Conference and Radio Song Festival 2019, hosted by Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh TV in Dhaka, concluded on a high note with a Gala performance showcasing the musical talent of the region's outstanding singers.

The theme was "Radio All Around Us: More than just a medium." The three day event included thought provoking sessions, showcases, workshops, a masterclass on media literacy and debate on the value of Radio in the digital age. An exhibition of different radio collectibles and community radio was also showcased at InterContinental Dhaka.

The conference and festival were inaugurated by Dr Hasan Mahmud, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Information and special guests Dr Md Murad Hasan, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Information and while Mr. Abdul Malek, Secretary, Ministry of Information, presided over the three day event.

The Song Festival 2019 Gala took place live with performers from eight nations across the Asia-Pacific region taking to the stage, with special cultural performances from the host country opening and closing the show.

The list of participating nations and their songs are as follows:

- Bangladesh (BTV) – Anupoma Mukti – The Wind of Spring
- Indonesia (RRI) – Debora – Because I Can
- Iran (SMC) -Mohsen Mirzazadeh – Long Sea
- Maldives – Hassan Irufaan – The Surf Monster
- Nepal (Radio Tulsipur) – Prabisha Adhikari – My soul seeks to have you in the dusk
- Sri Lanka (MBC) – Asanka Sahabandu – Southern Skies
- Turkmenistan (TVTM) – Shamyrat Hojagylyyev – Smile My Darling
- Vietnam (VOV) – Dieu Huong – Waiting for Lover on a Wharf

Sri Lanka and Iran returned to the event for the first time since 2014. While the host nation of Bangladesh made their debut appearance at the event.

PMPC

2019's ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference in Samoa occurred at a place and time critical for many reasons. Not only was the theme "Safeguarding Tomorrow: Building media sustainability in the Pacific" directly relevant to many island nations confronting global warming and sea level rises, but the media around the region are facing their own challenges of sustainability in a rapidly evolving digital age.

The great value of the PMPC was that it focused on Pacific Islands broadcasting and new media issues and acted as a bridge with ABU members throughout the Asia-Pacific and globally.

WORKSHOPS COMPLETED ON SIDELINES OF PMPC SAMOA

Two short documentaries on climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness were produced by the ABU/UNESCO/SPREP week-long workshop Samoa entitled: Getting the Message Across. One of the stories covered the preparations to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the 2009 tsunami, which took more than 100 lives. The other documentary focused on a conservation coastal project trying to stop the sea expansion.

The workshop was part of the events connected to the 10th Pacific Media Partnership Conference, generously hosted by the ABU member TV1 Samoa. The workshop "Getting the Message Across on Climate Change" was conducted with participants from Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Kiribati taking part.

A Masterclass as part of the main PMPC conference, was the initial exposure of the workshop participants to a number of key stakeholders within the Climate Change compass. Briefings were offered by representatives of SPREP, the Pacific Office of the UN Environment Programme, the Pacific Disability Forum, the Samoa Disaster Management Office and the Papua New Guinean Meteorological Service.

Further parallel sessions were conducted to increase the knowledge base and initiate content development with contributions from UNESCO, FAO, the Pacific Environment Journalists Network, TV1 Samoa and UNICEF.

Geoff Gooley, Programme Manager Climate Change Centre, CSIRO, presented a synopsis from the 5th Pacific Meteorological Conference (a concurrent event in Samoa) with an in-depth view from the Scientific community on how the media should cooperate and develop scientific data to address the issues of "end-users" – farmers and fishermen, in combating the environmental challenges ahead.

The group was also given an introductory session into Mobile Journalism and the use of recording and editing audio-visual items on mobile phones.

Field exercises saw the participants recording items on location at one of the Samoan villagers devastated by the 2009 Tsunami and at a village struggling to maintain their mangrove area against oncoming high tides and sea erosion.

Recorded items on mainstream video cameras and mobile phones were edited and presented at the end of the workshop with the participants committed to share stories, information and footage in the future and to cooperate on the development of environmental knowledge and expertise in the Pacific and beyond.

The ABU "Getting the message across" workshop was the next step forward in engaging our media members and partners in dealing with our ever changing environment.

The workshop was part of the 10th ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference (PMPC), which is generously hosted by the ABU Samoa member TV1 Samoa.

The TV1 Samoa CEO Faiesea Matafeo, who is also the Chair of the PMPC, said: " We need to campaign to make media a trusted partner, a go-between, people and governments and science community when it comes to communicating climate change challenges and solutions. These are issues that affect all of us. That is why we have to work together".





DRR SUMMIT

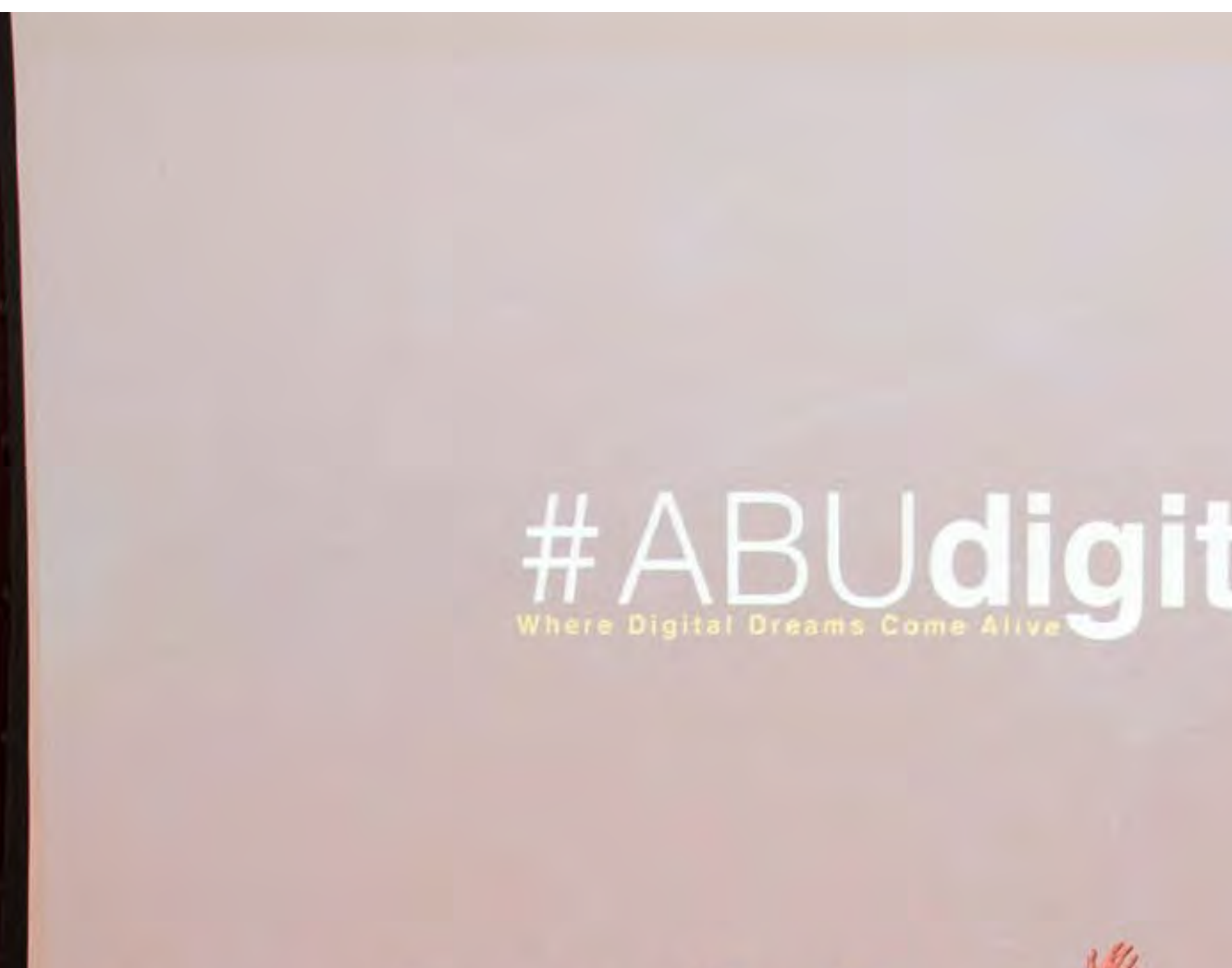
The 5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, 25 – 26 April 2019. It marked the fourth anniversary of the devastating Gorkha earthquake. The ABU flagship initiative was launched in 2014 in Jakarta to facilitate a broad interaction between key players in climate change adaptation and saving lives and livelihoods.

Under the theme Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities, over 200 political leaders, representatives of UN agencies and NGOs, climate change and disaster management experts, scientists and media from the region discussed joint practical media solutions for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.



ABU DIGITAL

ABU's brand new digital content forum #ABUdigital, the first-of-its-kind organised by Programme Department, debuted in Kuala Lumpur on 3-4 July 2019 featuring a series of inspiring talks and presentations on digital concepts and trends from around the world. The two-day comprehensive event made its debut at Connexion Conference & Event Center. It featured expert talks and specialised workshops to provide an exciting learning and networking space for content creators who are interested in the latest digital trends.



ABU MEDIA LAB DAYS

ABU Media Lab Days, the latest edition which was held from December 16-17 2019, is a series of encounters aimed to facilitate creative and meaningful dialogues among ABU members and digital innovators to help them find new inspiration and to discuss new approaches that they are able to use back in their organisations.

The objective of establishing ABU Media Lab Days in collaboration with WAN-IFRA Global Alliance for Media Innovation (GAMI) is to provide ABU members with the opportunity to experiment new forms of storytelling and generate innovative online and digital contents.

This programme is aimed at providing the opportunity for ABU members to innovate with products and formats to find new ways to tell stories for digital immigrants and natives. These encounters are targeted to have a more focused approach on specific storytelling challenges by genre or technological opportunities.

Participating ABU members were RTB-Brunei, Thai PBS-Thailand, NBT-Thailand, ACORAB-Nepal and BBS-Bhutan. In addition, WAN-IFRA Members BERNAMA-Malaysia and Bangkok Post-Thailand also participated along with Chiang Mai University as an observer.



ABU ROBOCON

ABU ROBOCON is an annual robot contest which started in 2002. Under a common set of rules, participants compete with their peers from other countries to create a robot using their creative and technological abilities in an open competition.

The 18th ABU ROBOCON was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 25 August 2019, hosted by MNB, Mongolian National Public Radio and Television. 17 teams from 16 countries and region joined the competition. The theme for the year was "Great Urtuu", which was a relay messenger system innovated by the nomadic Mongolians. Each team used two robots and competed to carry the small tablet called Gerege faster than the other team. The Chinese University of Hong Kong won the Grand-Prix for the first time and the ABU ROBOCON Award, which is presented to the most excellent robot in terms of ingenuity and high technical skill, went to the Lac Hong University, Vietnam.

The 2020 Robocon will be online and organised by Shandong Radio & Television Station (SDRT) which will host the contest from the city of Jimo located in the southwest of the Shandong Peninsula on August 22, 2021 which celebrates the 20th anniversary of ABU Robocon.





ABU PRIZES 2019

ABU Prizes are the most prestigious programme awards in our region that honour the best Radio, Television and New Media contents from our member organisations.

The ABU Prizes 2019 Final Judging took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 24 to 26 September. Final Jury, invited from member organisations, decided 8 winners and commended entries for Radio categories, 8 winners and commended entries for TV categories and 1 winner for New Media category. Judging for New Media category was made online.

All winners were announced at the ABU Prizes 2019 Award Ceremony on 21 November 2019 in conjunction with the 56th ABU General Assembly and associated meetings in Tokyo, Japan. 29 finalists participated in the Radio Category, 31 in the TV Category and 4 in New Media.

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of entries for the upcoming 2020 ABU Prizes reached a record number. As part of the GA the 2020 ABU Prizes Award Ceremony will be online. ABU prizes 2020 consists of a number of entries 174 from TV, 127 from Radio and from New Media: 29, for a total of 330 entries.



PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING - MEMBERS' SHOWCASE EXPERIENCES

The 51th ABU Programme Committee Meeting in Tokyo was full of attractive contents showcased by members.

In the 2-hour long Members' Flagship Programmes session, 13 members went up on the stage and showcased one of their most popular programmes to the audience. The Hosts and Executive Producers of ABU programme activities also made a presentation on the stage on how they were successful and benefited member broadcasters.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Soleman Yusuf from RRI, Indonesia, was elected as the new Chairperson, and Mr. Park Chun Ki from KBS, Korea, was elected as the new Vice-Chairperson. The term of office is two years



ABU TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION





DIGITAL BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM

The ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium is an annual symposium staged by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) to help fellow broadcasters go digital, with the support of the broadcasting industry.

It comprises an international conference, masterclasses and an industry exhibition showcasing the latest technologies and services providing a platform to share expertise and experiences, network with like-minded colleagues, showcase and embrace advancing technologies to help broadcasters make the right decisions.

The 2020 DBS carried the theme “Collaborate and Innovate”, placing importance upon working together and finding innovating solutions to the common problems the broadcast industry is facing.

The topics for the conference and workshops aimed to address the ongoing challenges and help find effective solutions for the broadcasters to remain relevant and make informed decisions. A main aim of the event was to assist Broadcasters in finding creative solutions to challenge the competition they are facing and in addressing the need to move quickly in order to adopt a more media centric approach.

This years’ DBS was highly successful in light of the challenges brought to bear by the Coronavirus outbreak and its impact on air travel and other aspects. Because of the overall success of the event, the ABU would like to extend its appreciation to the industry organisations who sponsored it, the thousands of attendees and the 23 organizations which also supported and attended booths at the exhibition at DBS.

DAB+DIGITAL RADIO BROADCASTING WORKSHOP



A regional workshop on DAB+ Digital Radio Broadcasting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The five-day event started on 8th July and ended on 12th July. Sixteen participants from radio broadcasters and regulators in the Asia- Pacific Region including the Arab States took part in the workshop.

The workshop focused on system architecture, network planning, transmission systems, business cases, and receiver availability for the DAB+ digital radio system. Case studies and design examples of the DAB+ Digital Radio take-up around the world were presented in multiple sessions by expert speakers from the industry over the five days.

The workshop was organized by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) together with the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), Asia- Pacific institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and the global industry forum WorldDAB.



ABU SPORTS





ABU SPORTS GROUP CONFERENCE

The 64th ABU Sports Group Conference and Associated Meetings saw renewed calls from broadcasters to enhance further cooperation. The conference acknowledged that sports broadcasting continues to evolve, often posing serious challenges to broadcasters in terms of increasing rights fee especially, the premium sports and events.

The meeting called for the need to work closely with the union, share information and enhance communications. The conference also highlighted the relevance of national and even regional pool to help address the challenges and concerns.

Delivering the opening remarks, the new Chairman of ABU Sports, Mr Kimoon Lee of KBS Korea, shared the recent developments in the Korean Sports market. He said it is time for broadcasters to reflect upon and, plan well ahead of time.



E-SPORTS TAKES CENTRE-STAGE AT ABU SPORTS GROUP CONFERENCE IN TOKYO, 2019.

Electronic Sports or E-Sports, made a major appearance at the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly, the largest gathering of broadcasters from across Asia and the Pacific. The annual première event took place in Tokyo, Japan, from November 17 – 22, 2019, hosted by the Japan's public broadcaster the NHK.

During the GA, the ABU Sports Group conference saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ABU Sports and the Asia's E-Sports governing body, the Asian Electronic Sports Federation, AESF. The MOU is expected to help enhance the parties to co-host forums, workshop and create E-Sports content to guide on proper understanding of E-Sports.

The Sports Group conference also featured keynote addresses on E-Sports by the President of AESF and its partners in Japan. This was

followed by an engaging panel discussion and a demonstration. The sports group members welcomed the ABU sports initiative to get involved in E-Sports, an industry whose total audience could reach over half a billion by 2021.

The Secretary General of ABU, Dr Javad Mottaghi and the Director of ABU Sports Mr Cai Yanjiang also met with the President of the AESF Mr Kenneth Fok and the Managing Director of the Federation Mr Sebastian Lau. The meeting discussed the crucial role that ABU could play in changing the unjust negative perception towards E-sports.

According to AESF the video gaming and E-sports industry is currently worth a whopping US\$5 billion, making it larger in value than both film and music combined.

Based out of Hong Kong, and sanctioned by the Olympic Council of Asia, OCA the AESF serves a primary role of governing, regulating and overseeing the overall development of E-sports in the Asia.



ABU SPORTS AND ITS MEMBERS AT MARITIME SILK ROAD INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUMMIT 27-28 DECEMBER 2019, NANJING

First “Maritime Silk Road” International Media Summit co-organized by the Department of Jianye District, Jiangsu Radio and Television and GobaTV took place at International Youth Conference Centre. Leading delegates from leading television media organizations from countries in Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa attended the event. From the ABU side, members from SLRC Sri Lanka, EMTV Papua New Guinea, RTTL Timor Leste and TVK Cambodia actively participated in this summit.



TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS ON SPORTS BROADCAST

With the collaboration of HBS, our training projects partners, ABU Sports successfully carried out a high-level remote production training workshop in Hanoi in 27-28 Aug 2019. The host member VOV input big efforts to help make it well organized and fruitful. We shall gather the response from participants and further improve in the next edition.

ABU Sports will also work more with Asian leading members to make more training events to meet the requirement of members. In a fast-changing industry, all of us have to learn, adapt and be more competitive in the modern media world.

Except for In-country training, ABU Sports is also seeking partner to establish a training hub in which we shall have themed trainings for members.



ABU LIVE SPORTS DIRECTION TRAINING

The four-day Live Sports Direction training session was organised by ABU Sports and its training partner, Broadcast Academy. It was delivered between 10-13 March 2020 at Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC), Colombo.

The Live Sports Direction training covered the theory of live sports directing and a hands-on session on the EVS lean simulator, familiarising the participants with the art of storytelling and live event broadcasting philosophies. The training also included case studies to engage the participants and discuss specific questions with the trainer.

The training had 22 participants coming from Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka benefitting from this four-day session. 2 women producers from Sri Lanka participated in the training session and were interested in leadership and storytelling approaches.



ABU SPORTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The ABU Sports Achievement Awards is organized by ABU as part of annual Sports Group Conference (SGC) during the General Assembly. The Awards are to recognize and to reward the most impressive sports coverage and feature presented by the ABU member. The Awards shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the terms of the Awards Rules. The project of the ABU Sports Achievements Awards will be further developed and modified and the sports category in the annual ABU Prize will be awarded just as before for the year of 2020.

The categories for awarding separate prizes are as follows:

#	Category	Description	Duration
1	Best Footage	- Long Form: live coverage, sports documentary, magazine show - Short Form: best trailer, teaser and promotional (non-commercial) video sequences <i>** Extreme sports covering the challenges</i>	Long Form: 60 minutes or less (edited) Short Form: 20 minutes or less (edited)
2	Sports Journalism	- Best sports journalism sequence including any in-depth analysis and sports news covering the topics, biopic and interview.	30 minutes or Less (edited)
3	Innovation	- Best program with outstanding technological innovation or with any innovative enhancement of the certain coverage. <i>** Digitally complementary service can be eligible.</i>	30 minutes or Less (edited)

ABU SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK: TOWARDS A VIBRANT CONTENT MARKET

The ABU Sports and Entertainment Network: ASEN, comprised of thirty broadcasters, eight partners including a Broadcasting Union. The latest members to join the network are Brunei, Samoa Turkey. Others include broadcasters are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Arab States Broadcasting Union. Some of the partners include- FISU, the World Archery among others.



ABU Sports & Entertainment Network ASEN

ABU Sports & Entertainment Network : the PLATFORM



The Plan: 2020 & Beyond: Towards an Enhanced Co-operation & Collaboration

A Diverse & a Varied Content X-Change Platform among & between members

- Drive member Registration/Subscription to at least to 50... End 2020
- Encourage Member's Contribution (News VNR's- Sports & Entertainment related Content)
- Produce a Monthly Magazine Show content contributed by members (End of 2020)

Co-Production Between ABU/Members- Under "Eyes on Asia"

- Themed: Art, Culture, Sports & Entertainment
- Themed: Exotic Eco-friendly Destinations Food & Culinary Culture
- Project being propose under the Maritime Silk Route of the Belt & Road Initiative

Strategy:

- Members Participation & Involvement –
- Enhance Partnership – IFS & Partners to source Free Content
- ABU Sports to plan, coordinate and Manage Activities & Projects

ASEN Activity as of May 2020

Content X-Change & Shared

- Daily News VNRs of International events to Olympic Qualifiers
- Youth Olympics News
- Universiade Napoli News & Daily Highlights, FISU Basketball & Soccer Championships (2019)
- World Rally Championship Newsfeeds
- World Archery News & highlights 2019/2020
- UWW Asian & European Championships News
- Asian LeManns and TCR Series Highlights
- Freeride World Tour VNRs and B-rolls
- GKA Kite World Tour
- Wrestling PanAm Olympic qualifiers,
- Equestrian events 2020/2019 & Monthly Archery Show
- ASBU Arab Shooting Championships
- Antarctic expedition
- Le Tour De Lankawai
- Weekly Sports Magazine Show – SportsMax
- Judo Athletes & Covid-19 Lockdowns
- Various Member Contributions

ABU Sports & Entertainment Network



ABU NEWS AND ASIAVISION



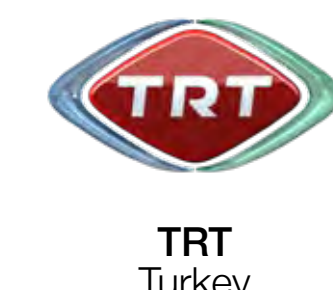
The Asiavision news exchange platform is a vast resource for 32 Members, ranging from Fiji and Samoa in the east, to Turkey and Iran in the west, including all of ASEAN, much of Central Asia and the Pacific.

The platform uses file transfer to exchange thousands of television news stories a year – around 1,500 a month - with an emphasis on same-day stories. As most Members are national broadcasters, this crucial resource provides a unique collection of international news from an Asian perspective.

From early January, Members contributed hundreds of coronavirus-related news stories each week, making Asiavision a significant resource in the coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with the file-based News Exchange, the ABU's News Department also focuses on media development. With the pandemic closing international borders from early 2020, Asiavision's two flagship meetings – the Global News Forum/News Group Meeting and the Coordinators Meeting – were cancelled, along with several regional and in-country workshops that were in the planning stages.

The News Department put its efforts into a model of online training that recognised the immense pressure Asiavision newsrooms were under covering the COVID-19 crisis and the restrictions imposed by unreliable internet and reporters working-from-home. Asiavision developed a series of Virtual Workshops with videos for participants to view in their own time, along with assignments and personal feedback from the trainer.



ABU GLOBAL NEWS FORUM 2019

TRUST AND TRUTH IN JOURNALISM

TRT, Turkey hosted the 2019 Global News Forum in Istanbul on July 30 and 31 at Swissotel, The Bosphorus, with a total of 125 delegates from 34 countries attending.

The Forum was opened by Ibrahim Eren, Chairman and Director General, TRT, and Acting President of the ABU, and Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, Dr Javad Mottaghi.

With its theme Trust and Truth in Journalism, the Global News Forum saw newsmakers deliberate on the key events that shaped the media landscape in the past year. Case studies on the Khashoggi killing and the Christchurch Massacre were followed by panel sessions on 'The power and peril of global journalism – what will change for journalists after Khashoggi's death?' and 'The Christchurch Massacre and media responsibilities'.

Other panel sessions included 'Why the coverage of humanitarian crises, conflicts and natural disasters is an ethical issue' and 'The role of public media organisations in a Fake News world'.

In an innovation for this 5th Global News Forum, the Asiavision Secretariat delivered live coverage throughout on its social media platforms. Through live Tweeting and immediate video highlights on Facebook, the online conversation was joined by followers from the Pacific to the Americas, including NGOs, Sister Unions, Member broadcasters and big-name news wires. The Twitter conversation garnered 94,800 impressions and AVN's new Facebook page reached more than 10,000 users.



ABU NEWS GROUP MEETING 2019

RENEWING THE FAMILY SPIRIT AMONG ASIAVISION MEMBERS

The 2019 ABU News Group Meeting was held in conjunction with the Global News Forum in Istanbul, hosted by TRT, Turkey. A total of 59 delegates from 28 countries attended.

The Meeting featured expert presentations and special panels on issues that resonated across newsrooms, starting with a presentation on ‘Building Newsroom Leadership’ from Regina ‘Ging’ Reyes, Senior Vice-President News at ABS-CBN in the Philippines.

Discussing their broadcasters’ innovative ideas for ‘Making the Most of All Broadcasting Resources’, delegates heard from Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, CEO of the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, and Marah Capuyan, head of DZMM TeleRadyo, ABS-CBN, the Philippines.

An Open Forum on ‘Social Media Abuse of Journalists – Where to Draw the Line’ was hosted by Master-of-ceremonies, Maria Ramos, an anchor and presenter at TRT World. On the panel were News Group Chairman, Indra Singh, Manager News and Sports at Fiji’s FBC, and Thepchai Sae Yong, Executive Advisor at Thai PBS.

The special discussion heard concerning stories about online abuse that cut to the heart of media freedom and the safety of journalists doing their jobs. The Meeting agreed to form a Task Group to formulate a declaration by public broadcasters in Asia and the Pacific to confront the abuse faced by journalists on social media.

The Meeting featured the signing of an agreement between the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) and the ABU, to exchange news stories each month. Asiavision has similar relationships with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU).





ASIAVISION REGIONAL WORKSHOP, 2019

NEWS STORIES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: MOBILE JOURNALISM (MOJO) TRAINING

Take 23 keen journalists from throughout Asia and the Pacific, give them internationally-recognised trainers and a competition to strive for ... and you get an unforgettable three days in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

The specialist Asiavision training in Mobile Journalism was designed to cover filming, editing and sending the final product to multiple platforms, including social media and traditional TV broadcast systems.

High-profile mobile journalists Yusuf and Sumaiya Omar, founders of Hashtag Your Stories, also coached participants on how to increase their social visibility and their broadcaster's social audience through various techniques of aggressive social branding.

MOJO (Mobile Journalism) is a particular focus in 2019/20 and beyond so Asiavision Member newsrooms become adept at shooting and editing news stories on smart phones – for speed, to make the best use of limited newsroom resources and to ensure a range of multimedia and digital content.

The training is part of the News Department's strategy to develop newsroom skills so the quality of upload improves and same day stories are a feature of Asiavision's news exchange platform.

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AVN SKILLS TRAINING 2019

TVRI TAKES THE LEAD WITH MOJO TRAINING FOR 50 JOURNALISTS

With MOJO (Mobile Journalism) training one of the top priorities of Asiavision's Training and Development Strategy, Indonesia's TVRI was the first broadcaster to take up the skills training that was developed in-house.

TVRI hosted two, two-day workshops in Jakarta for 51 reporters. The participants came from Papua to Bali to South Kalimantan and most of Java's districts. With many of them working in Indonesia's rural areas where there are limited facilities, using MOJO gives them resources at their fingertips.

The workshop was headed by trainer Hashim Ahmed Hakeem and facilitated by Asiavision's Project Manager, Shabana Jan.

The reporters learned to shoot and edit news stories on their smart phones for television and social media broadcast, ensuring they can now contribute news stories faster and much more efficiently.



ASIAVISION ONLINE TRAINING 2020

NEWS DEPARTMENT PIONEERS VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS FOR ALL-MEMBER ACCESS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

With Asiavision's Training Strategy and its plan for In-Country Training and Regional Workshops on hold for the duration of the coronavirus emergency, the News Department developed an initiative called Let's Get Digital, featuring Virtual Workshops for participants to access when they have time.

The innovative model features a low-tech solution to the many problems of accessing training during the pandemic – newsrooms under immense pressure, journalists working-from-home with limited internet bandwidth, appointment training out of the question and the 11-hour time difference between Asiavision Members.

Asiavision's Virtual Workshop model features a 10-minute instructional video that each participant can look at in their own time, along with an assignment to practise the skill and personal feedback from the trainer.

The first Virtual Workshop was Script Writing – the skill Members say is most needed by their newsrooms. Asiavision produced a five-module series designed to teach journalists how best to write television news stories to vision.

More than 100 people from 21 countries signed up for the initial launch. Since then, two separate newsrooms have run in-house training based on the Script Writing course. In coming months, it is hoped more newsrooms will follow through in the same way.



A FOCUS ON DEVELOPING BROADCASTING SKILLS WHEN WORKING FROM HOME

The coronavirus pandemic challenged newsrooms across the world to deliver increased and breaking content when many staff were working-from-home. The News Department developed a Virtual Workshop series Versatile Video that focused on improving video content when WFH – skills that are transferable back to the newsroom setting.

The four-part series started with GO LIVE! Anytime, Anywhere featuring well-known Malaysian television, radio and digital entrepreneur Kartini Ariffin sharing her expertise, teaching how to report news on Facebook Live with confidence.

This live reporting skill linked to the next Virtual Workshop in a three-part Creative Videos From Home series – Professional PTCs. To take visuals to the next level, video-journalist Hashim Hakeem showed journalists how to make their own 'green screens' and put a professional chromakey behind them when doing a Piece-To-Camera from home.

Virtual Workshops on Adding Overlay and Verifying Video rounded out the Creative Videos From Home series. As with all Asiavision Virtual Workshop, the instructional videos were linked to an assignment to practise the skill and personal feedback from the trainer.

ASIAVISION STATISTICS

Asiavision's 32 Members exchanged 17,616 news stories on the Brightcove platform in the 12 months from July, 2019 to June, 2020.

This was a mighty effort as Asiavision newsrooms were under significant pressure from January, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This compares well to the 2018/19 figure of 17,911.

The months when the totals rose above the 1,500 mark were March and January, 2020, and November and October, 2019.

TOTAL ITEMS EXCHANGED 2019-2020: 17,616



JANUARY-JUNE, 2020: TOTAL COVID-19 RELATED NEWS STORIES EXCHANGED: 4,626

- June: 732
- May: 904
- April: 1,105
- March: 1,167
- February: 514
- January: 204

TOP FIVE MEMBERS 2019-2020 NEWS STORIES EXCHANGED

- CCTV, China: 1,967
- VTV, Vietnam: 1,939
- NHK, Japan: 1,746
- IRIB, Iran: 1,581
- MCOT, Thailand: 1,258

TOP FIVE MEMBERS COVID-19 RELATED NEWS STORIES EXCHANGED (MARCH-JUNE, 2020)

- CCTV, China: 493
- VTV, Vietnam: 478
- MCOT, Thailand: 361
- NHK, Japan: 291
- IRIB, Iran: 260

ASIAVISION MONTHLY AWARDS

The Asiavision Monthly Award recognises the Member who made the best contribution to the News Exchange during the month. It can be awarded for a single story or for a series of connected news items. A number of factors are considered including the speed of the upload, quality of the vision and the script. The story or stories need to show a high level of professionalism and include all the ethical components of good news writing including accuracy, attribution, verification and objectivity.

ASIAVISION MONTHLY AWARDS WINNERS: JUNE 2020 – JULY 2019

June 2020	SLRC	Sri Lanka's indigenous Vaddah tribe ends COVID-19 lockdown
May 2020	IRIB	Kabul maternity hospital attack & Pakistan International Airlines plane crash Lahore
Apr 2020	KBS	Two technology stories about scientific advances for people with disabilities
Mar 2020	NHK	Japan postpones the Olympic and Paralympic Games to 2021
Feb 2020	RTM	Resignation and replacement of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed
	MCOT	27 dead in mass shooting in Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima province
Jan 2020	IRIB	United States drone attack kills Iranian Force Commander General Qasem Soleimani
	CCTV	Outbreak of a novel coronavirus in Wuhan spreads across the world
Dec 2019	SBCL	State of Emergency and curfew in Samoa to counter the measles epidemic
	MRTV	Myanmar on trial at the ICCJ, The Hague, for alleged genocide of Rohingya minorities
Nov 2019	MCOT	Comprehensive coverage of the 35th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok
Oct 2019	NHK	Extensive coverage of the Imperial Enthronement including live satellite/cloud feeds
Sept 2019	VTV	Community initiative turns waste into reusable bags
Aug 2019	IRIB	Coverage of conflict in Jammu and Kashmir and 30+ correspondent contributions
July 2019	NHK	Arson fire at an Anime studio in Kyoto that killed 33, wounded 35
	CCTV	Comprehensive coverage of monsoon floods and landslides across China



ASIAVISION ANNUAL AWARDS 2019

Recognising excellence in news shared among Members of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union's news exchange platform. Awarded at the News Group Meeting, Istanbul, July 2019.

Best Breaking News:

SLRC, Sri Lanka (Easter Sunday bombings, Colombo, April 2019)
 VTV, Vietnam (Kim/Trump Summit, Hanoi, February 2019)

Best Vision:

TRT, Turkey (The Shepherds' Journey to Mount Nemrut, 2019)

Best Story:

CCTV, China (Chinese President Xi's State Visit to North Korea, June 2019)

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

MASSIVE CAPACITY – BUILDING ONLINE

The monthly webinar series was launched on 16 December 2016 following the success of the annual Webinar month run by ABU Technology and Innovation since 2011. The objective is to facilitate online sessions on various topics, provide a forum to discuss issues concerning broadcasters and share knowledge and best practices on changing media trends.

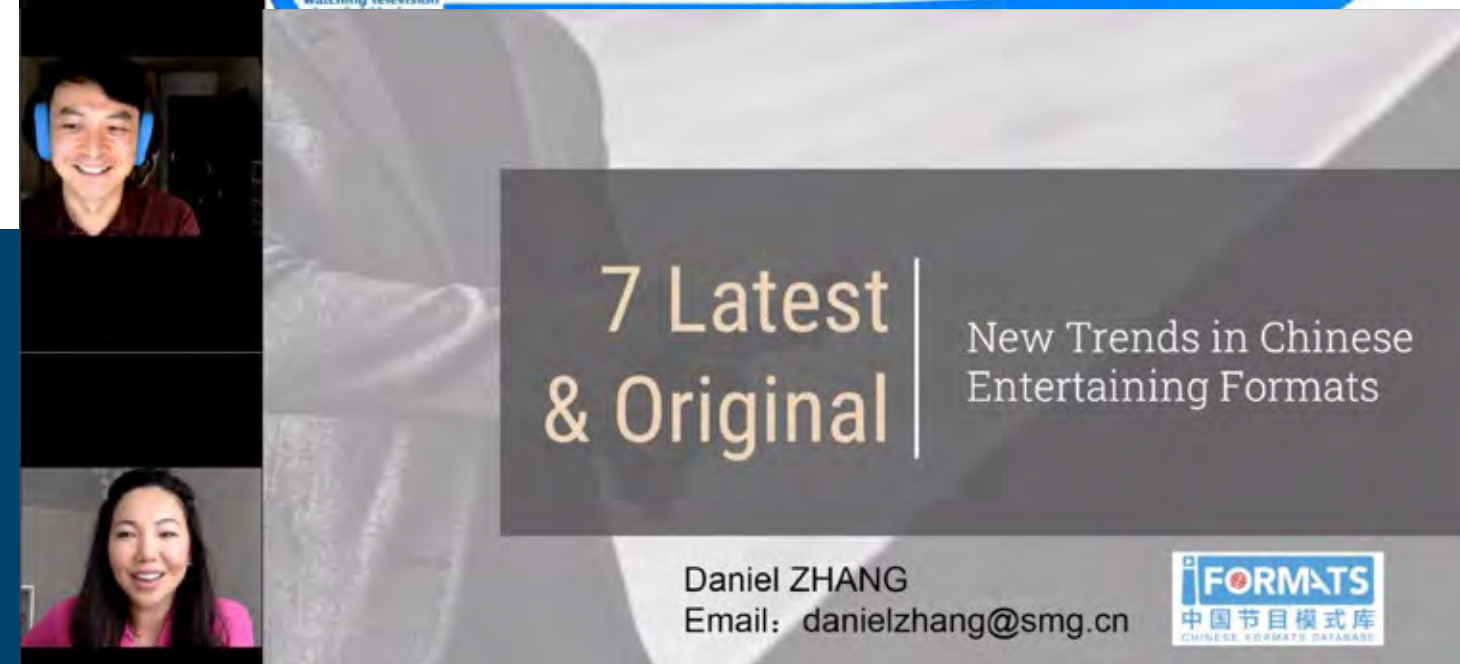
Since the COVID 19 regional lockdown prevented travel, all capacity building activities were moved online. The massive virtual training programme of webinars and courses offered by the departments was made possible by the launch of the Asia – Pacific View digital content exchange platform.

Within the period of April (when the ABU could no longer hold face to face events or workshops), up until August 2020, the ABU conducted 84 webinars with no less than 4,728 participants attending these webinars.

In the period of April – July 2020 alone, the Secretariat had offered multiple webinars covering topics in news, programme production, sports, technology and management. More than 3000 media professionals from Asia-Pacific, Central-Asia, Africa and Europe benefited from the expertise and experience of more than 50 tutors.

More than 1000 media professionals from ABU member organisations and partners participated in an impressive line-up of webinars by ABU's Programme Department as part of the Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The topics were many and varied – from member organisations discussing the challenges the public service broadcaster faced in covering the pandemic – Rai Italy, ABC Australia, CGTN China – to skills based webinars on every facet of TV & Radio production, to Masterclasses, dedicated ABU Prizes webinars, covering natural and unfolding disasters, to content and advertising strategies and even free online tools that can be used to produce Radio from anywhere.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM: MEDIA MUST STRENGTHEN SOCIETIES, MEDIA 2020 DELEGATES TOLD



The media have a great duty to strengthen trust between people, welcome diversity and end conflicts between “us” and “them”, delegates of the ABU East-West media dialogue have been told.

The fifth Media 2020 Dialogue, taking place in Bucharest, Romania, was officially opened on 3 October by Mr Valer Daniel Breaz, Romania’s Minister of Culture and National Identity.

He stressed to the more than 80 delegates from 20 countries, that the importance of the media transmitting correct information, not fake news, which had a very negative impact on people. He said the issue of copyright was also very important to Romania to protect the creators of intellectual property, and his country was working to support the directive on copyright in the European Commission.

He said it gave him great pleasure to see so many media people at the conference, making connections and working together to combat disinformation and other issues, fostering understanding and cooperation between east and west.

The Union’s Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi reminded delegates that the world was living in uncertain times.

“People are not seeing serious action to resolve or prevent conflicts,” he said. “People are not seeing serious action on climate change and disaster preparedness. The public are fed up with the black and white views of politicians and certain centres of power. We actually live in a world where nothing can be taken for granted.

“Despite all these uncertainties, I believe the media can strengthen dialogue among nations to make the ‘other’ a part of ‘us’.

“Audiences need impartial, independent, accurate and reliable news and current affairs. They depend on us and media professionals if we tell the truth to our audiences and if we can win their trust.”

The conference host, Mr Georgică Severin, President Director General of Radio Romania, said that since its inauguration in 2015, Media 2020 had opened a new communication horizon between the Asia-Pacific and Europe in the field of broadcasting.

“One edition after another, we have learned to look together at the future,” he said. “Focusing on what unites us and on our common goals has been one of the major gains of this conference so far. This is why we have chosen to focus at the current edition on the theme ‘What Unites Us: Crossing Borders in the Digital World’.

“In a global context where we all must face a series of common difficulties, starting from political and economic issues to the new digital age, sharing our experiences and good practices is a must; it is my strong belief that only together we can overcome them.”

The conference to promote dialogue between Europe and the Asia-Pacific is hosted alternate years by Romania and an ABU member country. The year 2020 was initially chosen as a target year and Dr Mottaghi said he hoped the series could continue for many years to come – “though perhaps after next year the name will have to change as we set a new path into the third decade of the 21st Century”.

The debate sessions focused on the future of public media in the digital era, strategies to protect copyright and fight fake news, adapting radio to the new digital context, 5G technology, promoting cultural diversity and collective memory between the East and the West.

During the conference, Radio Romania and BBC Radio signed a bilateral agreement to develop a creative cooperation partnership between the two broadcasters, involving the exchange of ideas and good practices, common solutions to fight disinformation, capitalising on modern storytelling, tighter cooperation and creative solutions to attract new generations to public media. The agreement follows those already signed between Radio Romania and Radio France and RAI, Italy.

MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT

ABU CAMPAIGN SAVING LIVES: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



CAPACITY – BUILDING IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONTENT PRODUCTION

Following the 5th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change Adaptation and DRR in Kathmandu and the launch of the UNESCO Handbook “Getting the Message Across: Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” for Journalists reporting on Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific held in April 2019, ABU conducted 3 Regional workshops under **ABU/UNESCO project - Building the Capacity of the Pacific Media to Cover Climate Change**. The workshops were held in Suva (Fiji), Apia (Samoa) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) with a main objective to train broadcasters and journalists utilising the suggestions, knowledge and specified targets established during the Nepal meetings.

The first ABU / UNESCO / Fiji workshop “Developing Climate Change and Sustainable Development Content” was held in **Suva, 30 April – 4 May 2019**, and involved 13 participants representing the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (radio and television), Fiji Television, Radio Vanuatu and Vanuatu Broadcasting and TV Corporation. Running concurrently with the workshop was the Inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM), facilitated by the University of the South Pacific (USP) with more than 300 participants attending. The organisers cooperated with the ABU to allow the workshop participants to attend the 3-day conference and to collect video and audio materials of the speakers and sessions – all related to Climate Change issues. The conference at USP Campus therefore, became the practical location for the ABU workshop.





that substantial positive steps had been taken in the profile-raising of Climate Change issues. The up-coming Apia workshop was discussed and the roles of the Fijian participants agreed as potential group leaders.

The Apia (Samoa) workshop “**Producing Climate Change and Sustainable Development Content**” was held from 5 – 9 August, 2019 and involved participants from Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu. This was a practical, hands-on workshop aiming to provide the participating editors/producers/journalists with knowledge to cover the complex issues of climate change, disaster preparedness and sustainable development. Additional aim was to upgrade the participants’ production skills by “learning on the job”. The workshop’s programme was designed in two parts – theory and content production. During the Theory Days the participants were introduced to climate change, climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster preparedness for sustainable development by stakeholders in climate adaptation and DRR such as representatives of Met Offices, Disaster Management Authorities, scientists, Red Cross, community level NGOs.

It included the training module based on the UNESCO Handbook. The production days focused on research, field trip to location, shooting, editing, and training in different production techniques. On the first day, attendees had an opportunity to listen to speakers and presentations at the ABU PMPC meeting where major stakeholders in Climate Change and DRR projects took part in a “Masterclass” session. The afternoon session brought invited speakers from UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO and the Red Cross to give further perspectives on reporting environmental issues and the interaction required between the media and the relevant organisations – NGO’s and Governmental. **Other partners in the implementation of the project were TV1 SAMOA and SPREP**

The third ABU / UNESCO workshop – “**Twinning Workshop between the journalists from Sub – Sahara Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific**” was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 12 October. The workshop involved Twenty-two broadcast and print journalists from fifteen countries, representing Southeast Asia, Sub-Sahara Africa, and the Pacific., The workshop was supported by UNESCO through a grant from the Malaysian Government to promote ion of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and South – South cooperation between media professionals.

Following the first workshop, **ABU organized two webinars sessions on June 27 and July 29** respectively. **The first webinar** was conducted with potential participants who would attend the Apia workshop to offer an orientation regarding their expectations and previous experience. The principles of the UN Handbook were discussed along with some of the broadcast weaknesses of Islands such as Kiribati within Climate Change reporting. The necessity for increasing an ideas exchange and an improved networking system between the Pacific Islands broadcasters was emphasised and also noted as a priority for the Apia workshop.

The second webinar was conducted with participants from the initial Suva workshop. The public and corporate reaction to “Tales of Resilience” was discussed with an overall conclusion



The six-day workshop had three parts: **Information sharing sessions** with technical and media specialists from the Malaysian Meteorological Department, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, (UNDRR), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). **Shooting on location** - the participants formed four production teams and were able to film and record under the consultants' guidance interviews with farmers, agricultural and food security experts, environmentalists, and providers of tourism services, on the issues and challenges of climate change, climate change adaptation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Post-production – each group was given the task to produce two stories from the two-day shoot. By the end of the workshop the four teams developed their scripts, edited and voiced over six stories (rough cut). On the last day the produced stories were screened for a critical review and feedback from the consultants and participants. Participants were advised to adapt for their countries and finish at least two short features, when back in their own countries. Some of the print journalists published articles on climate change adaptation and DRR.

The Africa/Asia Twinning experiment, as described by the participants, was “an outstanding event in the development of environmental reporting”. The unanimous conclusion of the workshop was that the exchange of ideas and experiences had improved their awareness of Climate and DRR issues and given them a focus and impetus toward future productions.

There is a need of a massive, long – term programme of capacity building for key media organisations in different countries. That would help media, especially public service broadcasters designated to be focal points of dissemination of early warning messages, to fulfil their mandate to save lives and livelihoods and advance their countries' sustainable development by building climate and disaster knowledgeable, resilient communities. The initial workshops have produced encouraging results but the challenge is to maintain a momentum and to secure organisational support for those individuals who have grasped the importance of responsible and engaging environmental reporting.

ABU will continue efforts towards encouraging media outlets to establish “Environmental Units” and this is an initiative that a number of ABU members are engaged in developing.



ABU SYNDICATED COVERAGE OF COP25

With the support of UNDRR the ABU organised a syndicated coverage of the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid in December 2019. The five member ABU team filed over 80 features – from coverage of major issues to interviews with politicians and UN dignitaries. The daily reports were distributed through the Asiavision platform to AVN members and sister unions.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONTENT DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

The SG Office organised an online workshop “Reporting on the Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction” to engage and educate broadcasters and other communication stakeholders in their requirements and obligations to address climate and environmental issues. The three – part series attempted to highlight the relationship between events, communicators and audiences as our world attempts to deal with an increasing number of natural and man-made disasters.

The sessions covered the ABU perspective during the past decade highlighting the ABU Media Summits on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Prevention since 2014 in Jakarta to Kathmandu in 2019 and used the dozens of workshops and courses conducted by the ABU during that period, to provide guidance and advice to broadcast members throughout the region and beyond. There was an emphasis on the requirement to work with Government Departments, NGO's and other stakeholders, with the media playing a vital and integral role in disaster risk procedures. DRR initiatives, developing projects and new plans were outlined with an aim to incorporate these initiatives into broadcast strategies in the future. The two huge crises of our time, Covid 19 and the Climate Change will dominate our strategies and working patterns for the foreseeable future and so the ABU aims to be at the forefront of these initiatives.

ABU CAMPAIGN BROADCASTING FOR ALL: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE MEDIA

WOMEN WITH THE WAVE

At the 56th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, the 8th Women With the Wave: Broadcasting for All, Diversity and Inclusion in the Media Forum was held on 19 November 2019.

Delegates heard from over 30 moderators and speakers from 16 countries.

The keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony was Ms Kathy Matsui from Goldman Sachs Japan, who provided a snapshot of gender and diversity data in Japan, comparative with world statistics.

Global and regional representatives from the OECD, UNESCO, UNI MEI, EBU and the ABU provided insights to the raft of gender and diversity activities taking place to enhance gender equality and diversity and inclusion in the media and society.

The ABU's Gender and Diversity Champions for Media Strategy session heard from three Champions who updated the Forum on their leadership activities.

The remainder of the day's sessions focused on four key areas of diversity – Diversity in action: Focus on Strategies and Content in the Media. Key areas of Gender, Disability, Cultural & Religious Diversity and Generational Diversity which featured leaders and practitioners from ABU broadcasting organisations, agencies and consultancies.

Participants heard about policies and initiatives in the workplace and viewed examples of content and accessible services that covered all the areas of diversity, reflecting the people and issues across the Asia-Pacific area. The next edition of this event will be 10th Women With the Wave Forum to be held on 5 March 2021 in Malaysia.



ABU/UNESCO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROJECT 2019-2020

The Media Diversity and Inclusion Survey was completed by 12 ABU media organisations. The second stage of the Project confirmed five ABU Members committed to develop tailored Diversity and Inclusion Plans for the organisations, which include:

1. Turkish Radio Television
2. Radio Republic Indonesia
3. Fijian Broadcasting Corporation; 4. Vanuatu Broadcasting & Television Corporation
4. Voice of Vietnam

These broadcasters participated in four webinars on Diversity and Inclusion in the Media, which focused on all aspects of the development of Diversity and Inclusion Plans and are in the process of providing documentation in relation to their current policies and processes and working with the ABU to develop and launch their plans, taking into consideration the global pandemic's effects on corporations and travel restrictions, for the remainder of 2020. The webinars which proved to be very popular were offered also to other ABU members and shared with the members of the Africa Union of Broadcasting.

COMMUNICATION IN THE NEW NORMAL

As is the ABU's tenacity in serving its members no matter what the cost, the ABU has taken a challenge and made it into an opportunity. Since the pandemic brought about a new normal in working and communicating with colleagues, the ABU has adapted and succeeded. The ABU has taken its approach to communicating regularly with members and moved everything online.

ABU SECRETARIAT CONNECTS WITH MEMBERS THROUGH ONLINE MEETINGS

Due to the new normal and like many organisations around the world, the ABU has taken to maintaining its strong ties with members utilizing the latest in workplace communications technology.

Modern technology has enabled the ABU Secretariat to connect and see each other and discuss perspectives of cooperation. The ABU Secretary General, in conducting his online meetings with members, reported that the ABU is now in a position to offer more trainings and advisory service to address member needs in news, technology, and programming. In the meetings convened he reminded members that the ABU can offer more and better online services and face-to-face in-country workshops, once COVID-19 disappears.

In catching up with individual members on their needs, the ABU has reaffirmed its commitments to listening to members even though in person meetings are on hold. The secretariat has conducted numerous online meetings so members voices and expectations can be heard, addressed and acted upon.

Forging ever-stronger partnerships, discussing strategies surrounding events and initiatives, various projects, the exchange of content, partnerships between members and just exchanging pleasantries and personal updates with members were all items discussed in the conferences. ABU takes great pride in knowing how its members are fairing in the new operational normal!

ONLINE MEETINGS IN JUNE-AUGUST 2020

PSM, Maldives – 23 June, 2020

Participants from PSM: Mr Alee Khalid, Managing Director; Mr Ibrahim Nasreen, Chief Commercial Officer; Zaain Zaheen, Senior International and Public Relations Executive

PBS, Philippines – 24 June, 2020

Participants from PBS: Mr Rizal Giovanni Aportadera Jr, Director-General; Mr Ariel Arturo V. Gumabon, MBA, Chief-of-Staff, Office of the Director General; Ms Rochelle Confesor, Executive Assistant | Radio Host, Office of the Director General

Khabar Agency, Kazakhstan – 25 June, 2020

Participants from Khabar Agency: MS Dinara Abakaeva, Head of International Relations Department; Mr Daniyar Tussupbekov, Manager of International Relations Department

MTRK, Uzbekistan – 25 June, 2020

Participants from MTRK: Mr Alisher Khadjaev, Chairman; Mr Gayrat Samatov, PA to the Chairman, Head of Department; Mr Laziz Djuraev, Deputy Head of International Relations Department

RNE, Nepal – 29 June, 2020

Participants from RNE: Mr Ashok Banskota, Executive Director; Mr Janardan Bista, Chief Editor & Chief of Training and International Relations

RRI, Indonesia – 29 June, 2020

Participants from RRI: Mr Rohanudin, President; Mr Ariza Dinga, Head of International Relations Department

Prasar Bharati – 1 July, 2020

Participants from Prasar Bharati: Shri. Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharati; Shri. Sunil, ADG (IR), Prasar Bharati; Shri. Raman Kumar, Director (IR), Prasar Bharati.

RTA, Afghanistan – 6 July, 2020

Participants from RTA: Mr Ismail Maikhail, Director-General; Mr Hematullah Niazmand, Foreign Relations Director; Mr Mustajab Malikzada, RTA Social Media Director

HUM TV, Pakistan – 7 July, 2020

Participants from HUM TV: Mr Akhtar Azeem, Senior Vice President

SLRC, Sri Lanka – 8 July, 2020

Participants from SLRC: Dr Nihal Jayathilaka, Chairman; Mr Palitha Senarath Yapa, Director/Sports; Mr Prasad Kaushalya Dodangodage, Director, News

Central Asian members/Russia/Belarus – 9 July, 2020

Participants from members:

- KTRK, Kyrgyzstan: Ms Nazik Chonoeva, Head of International Relations and Protocol Department, ABU liaison officer; Ms Svetlana Akmatolieva - Commissioning Editor and news anchor of “Ala-Too 24” news channel.
- MTRK, Uzbekistan: Mr Khaidar Khasanov - First Deputy Director of the ‘Uzbekistan 24’ TV Channel; Mr Anvar - Deputy Head of the Department for Coordination and Planning of Television and Radio Programs; Mr Mr Laziz Juraev - Deputy Head of International Relations Department; Mr Nodir Uljabaev – Senior Manager of International Relations Department BTRK, Belarus: Mr Kirill Babkin, Head of International Relations Department
- Khabar Agency, Kazakhstan: Mrs Zhunussova Aigul, Programme Editor; Mr Daniyar Tussupbekov, Senior Manager of International Relations Department
- VGTRK (RTR), Russia: Mr Petr Fedorov, RTR Deputy Director General, Director of Foreign Affairs; Ms Julia Matiash, Director of «Sovtelexport»; Mr Alexey Perevoshchikov, ABU Liaison Officer, Deputy Director of RTR Foreign Affairs; Mr Vladimir Fessik, Deputy Director of RTR Foreign Affairs, Head of RTR International Relations; Mr Vladimir Zhdanov, Deputy Director of RTR Foreign Affairs; Mr Maxim Nikishkin, Head of Informational and Analytic Section, RTR International Relations

VBTC, Vanuatu - 14 July, 2020

Participants from VBTC: Mr. Francis Herman, CEO, Ms. Lilon Bongmatur, HR Officer, Ms. Malonie Albert, Head of News, Mr. Rick Malau, Executive Producer Television, Mr. Samuel Taffo, Executive Producer Radio

SBC, Samoa - 14 July, 2020

Participants from SBC: Ms Faiese Matafeo, CEO, Mr Anthony Roebeck (Head of Operations)

MNL, PNG – 14 July, 2020

Participants from MNL: Ms Sheena Hughes, CEO, Mr Tau Gima (Content), Mr Morley Lewago (HR)

AUB – 14 July, 2020

Participants from AUB: Mr Gregoire NDJAKA, CEO, Ms. Evelyne Faye, Head – Marketing, Communication & Sales Dept., Ms. Audrey Kamsu, Coordinator - AUB PE Network, Ms. Irene Gaouda, Journalist & Researcher, Ms. Margaret KOMOL, Executive Assistant

ASBU - 17 July, 2020

Participants from ASBU: Eng. Abdelrahim Suleiman, ASBU Director General; Eng. Bassil Zoubi, ASBU Director of Technolog; Mrs. Moufida Limam, Chief - ASBU Director General’s Office; Prof. Ridha Najar, ASBU Training Academy Coordinator; Eng. Samir Jemai, ASBU Head of New Media office; Mr. Ahmad Alachkar, Head of ASBU News Unit; Mrs. Asma Said, Head of TV Programmes Unit; Mrs. Feten Fradi, ASBU Director General’s Office,

TVTM, Turkmenistan – 28 July, 2020

Participants from TVTM: Mr Arslan Ashirov, Chairman; Mr Annasahet Kakayev, Deputy Chairman; Mr Mukam Yazmuradov – Editor-in-chief of Altyn Asyr Channel; Mr Dovran Gyypgulyyev; Ms Maya Saparova – International relations department.

TBC, Tonga – 31 July, 2020

Participants from TBC: Ms Viola Ulakai, Chief Executive Officer

VOV, Vietnam – 6 August, 2020

Participants from VOV: Mr Ngo Minh Hien, Deputy President; Ms Nguyen Thuy Hoa, Director - International Cooperation Department; Mrs. Nguyen Thu Ha, Deputy Director - International Cooperation Department

TVRI, Indonesia – 11 August, 2020

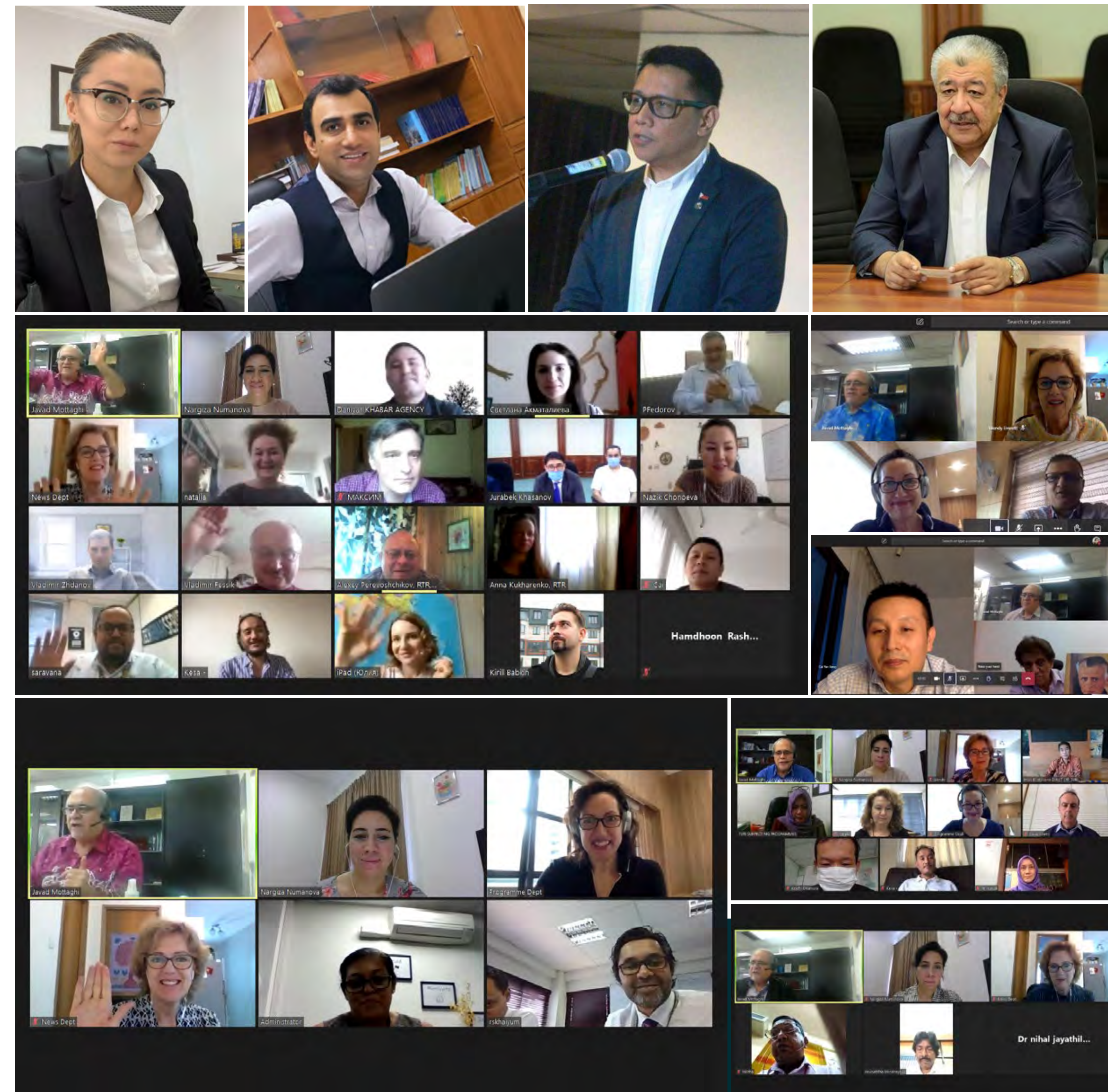
Participants from TVRI: Mr Iman Brotoseno, President Director; Ms Lisa Setyadeviani, Division Head for News & Programmes Support; Ms Yurika, Sub Division Head for Co- Production and International Affairs

Fiji TV, Fiji – 11 August, 2020

Participants from Fiji TV: Ms Karen Lobendahn, Chief Executive Officer; Ms Takena Alexander, Manager HR and Company Secretary; Lisa Lave, Manager Sales and In-house; Mr Rakesh Chand, Manager Content and Pacific Services; Mr Robert Van Santen, Manager Engineering and Pactok; Mr Dreu Vukailagi, Manager News Current Affairs and Sports.

MTV/MBC, Sri Lanka– 18 August, 2020

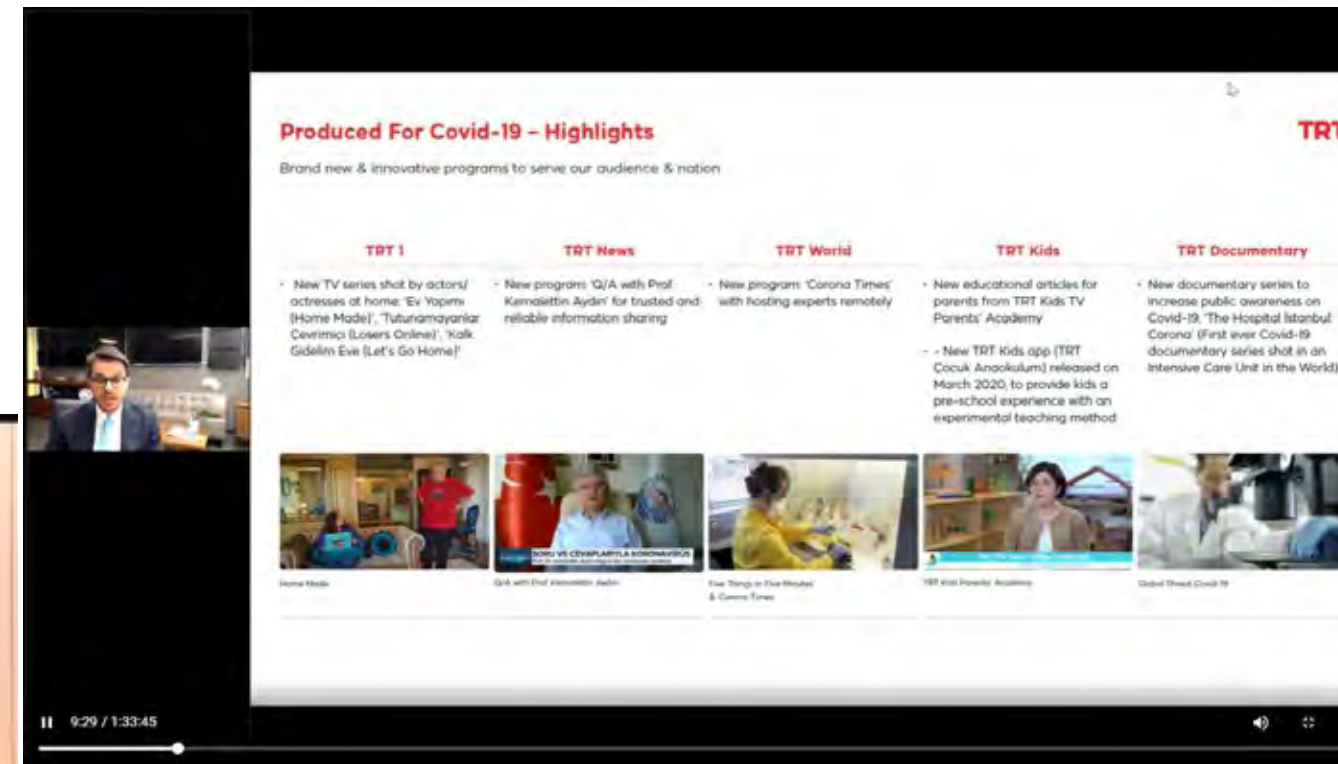
Participants from MTV/MBC: Mrs Nedra Weerasinghe, Group Director; Mr Suranga Jayalath, ABU IPLC Chairperson/ Legal and Group Director; Ms Damayanthi Pathirana, Director - Acquisitions & Programmes, LO/a focal point



ABU MEDIA CEO'S TALK "SERVING THE PUBLIC DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND"



The Panellists second from top left: Mr Ibrahim Eren, ABU Acting President, Director General and Chairman, TRT, Turkey; Mr Masagaki Satoru, Executive Vice President, NHK, Japan; Mr Sun Yusheng ABU Vice President, Vice President CCTV & Executive VP CGTN, China; Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharati, India; Mr David Anderson, Managing Director, ABC, Australia; Mr Lim Byung-Kul, Executive Vice President, KBS, Korea and Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General



The CEOs of six major broadcasters in Asia – Pacific shared their organisations' experiences during the pandemic in an invigorating discussion online, joined by over 250 participants from across the world.

The CEOs briefs were followed by a lively Q&A session. The participants wanted to know among other things what medium was more effective in reaching broader audiences; what has been the impact on the Covid-19 pandemic on the quality of content and what public service broadcasters should do to keep the record ratings they had during the pandemic in the so called "new normal" post-pandemic life.

In their final remarks, the six CEOs united behind the view that the pandemic has shown the value of public service broadcasters to their nations. They should come together in times of crises to counter disinformation and provide accurate, objective information. The future of public service media depends on ability to build trust with the audiences and that is their responsibility. The collaboration between ABU members must go beyond the COVID 19 crisis and follow new ideas together with the other broadcasting unions so there is a collective action not only to fight the current pandemic but any future challenges to come.

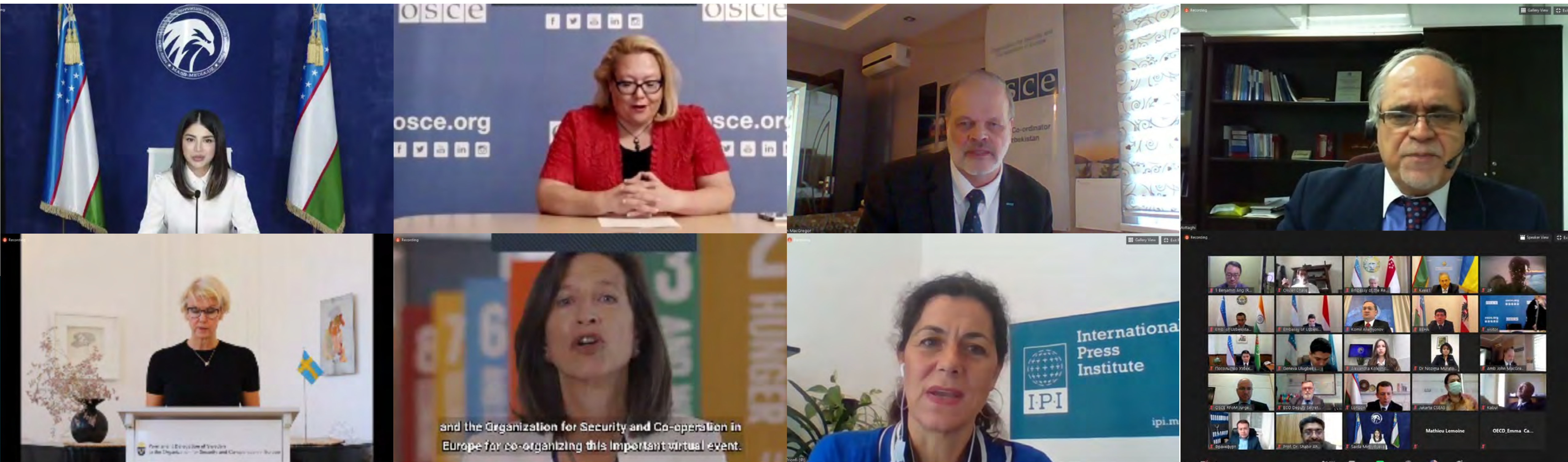


TVTM TURKMENISTAN ONLINE MEDIA FORUM ON THE PERMANENT NEUTRALITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKMENISTAN

The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography hosted a virtual international media forum on 16 September in Ashgabat. It was organized in partnership with ABU on the occasion of 25th anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan. Mr Ibrahim Eren, Acting President of ABU and Chairman and Director General of the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT), said that from the very beginning Turkmenistan has chosen this political course to promote global peace and stability, and to reinforce the importance of coexistence and sustainable development. The other ABU contributors to the Forum were Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati India; Mr Alisher Khadjaev, Chairman, National TV and Radio Uzbekistan (MTRK); Ms Nedra Weerasinghe, Group Director, Electronic Media Business Capital Maharaja Group, Sri Lanka, Mr. Gregoire Ndjaka, Director - General, African Union of Broadcasting and Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary - General.



Speakers: Mr Ibrahim Eren, Acting President of ABU and Chairman and Director General of the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT); Mr Alisher Khadjaev, Chairman, National TV and Radio Uzbekistan (MTRK); Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati India; Ms Nedra Weerasinghe, Group Director, Electronic Media Business Capital Maharaja Group, Sri Lanka, and Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary - General.



CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION (IDUAI). “SAVING LIVES, BUILDING TRUST, BRINGING HOPE”

To launch the 2020 International Day for Universal Access to Information and its themes, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe office in Uzbekistan organized a high-level online panel, “Access to Information – Saving Lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope!”. It took place online on 28 September. The panel opened with statements from Komil Allamzhonov, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Public Foundation for Support and Development of National Mass Media, Ambassador John MacGregor, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and several representatives of governments on the importance of the day, as well as interventions from UN partners, followed by an Open Talks session.

The ABU was represented by Dr. Javad Mottaghi who said: “Information has often been described as the “oxygen of democracy. Without it, citizens cannot fully participate in 6 decisions that affect their lives”. He added that it was the duty of traditional media and specifically of public broadcasters to guarantee that the information that the audiences get is scientifically proven, that it was based on facts, not fiction. “That is why it is so important to guard the global institution of public service broadcasting as one of the crucial gatekeepers of universal access to information”.

PARTNERSHIPS

WORLD BROADCASTING UNIONS COOPERATION

The Heads of ASBU, ABU, EBU and AUB met during the ASBU GA and exchanged views on all matters related to their partnership. The four Heads of Secretariats looked at the outcome of various WBU initiatives, such as the Broadcast Treaty meeting in Geneva, Challenges and Opportunities in Sports rights Acquisition, common actions on climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction. The joint actions were further developed in the consequent meetings of the leaders of the broadcasting unions during the AUB GA in Morocco, EBU GA in Oslo and the ABU GA in Tokyo among other matters.

The WBU also held an online meeting in June 2020 focusing on COVID-19 pandemic experiences and future cooperation plans. All unions supported a joint statement on the important role of broadcasters in the crisis and the need for media freedom/independence of broadcasters.



STRENGTHENING ABU/ASBU PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting in Tunis in December 2019, the ASBU and ABU agreed that the ASBU will join the ABU Sports Content Exchange Network and will operate through its News Centre in Algeria. Additionally, ABU/ASBU will continue their partnership with ASBU News Centre in Algeria .

This commitment was further reinforced during an online meeting between ABU and ASBU management teams.

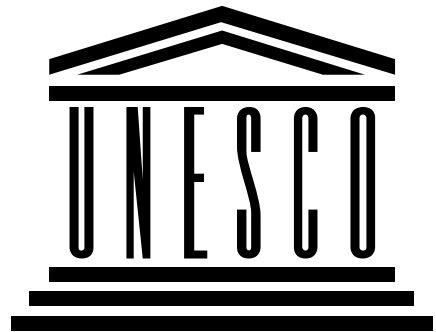
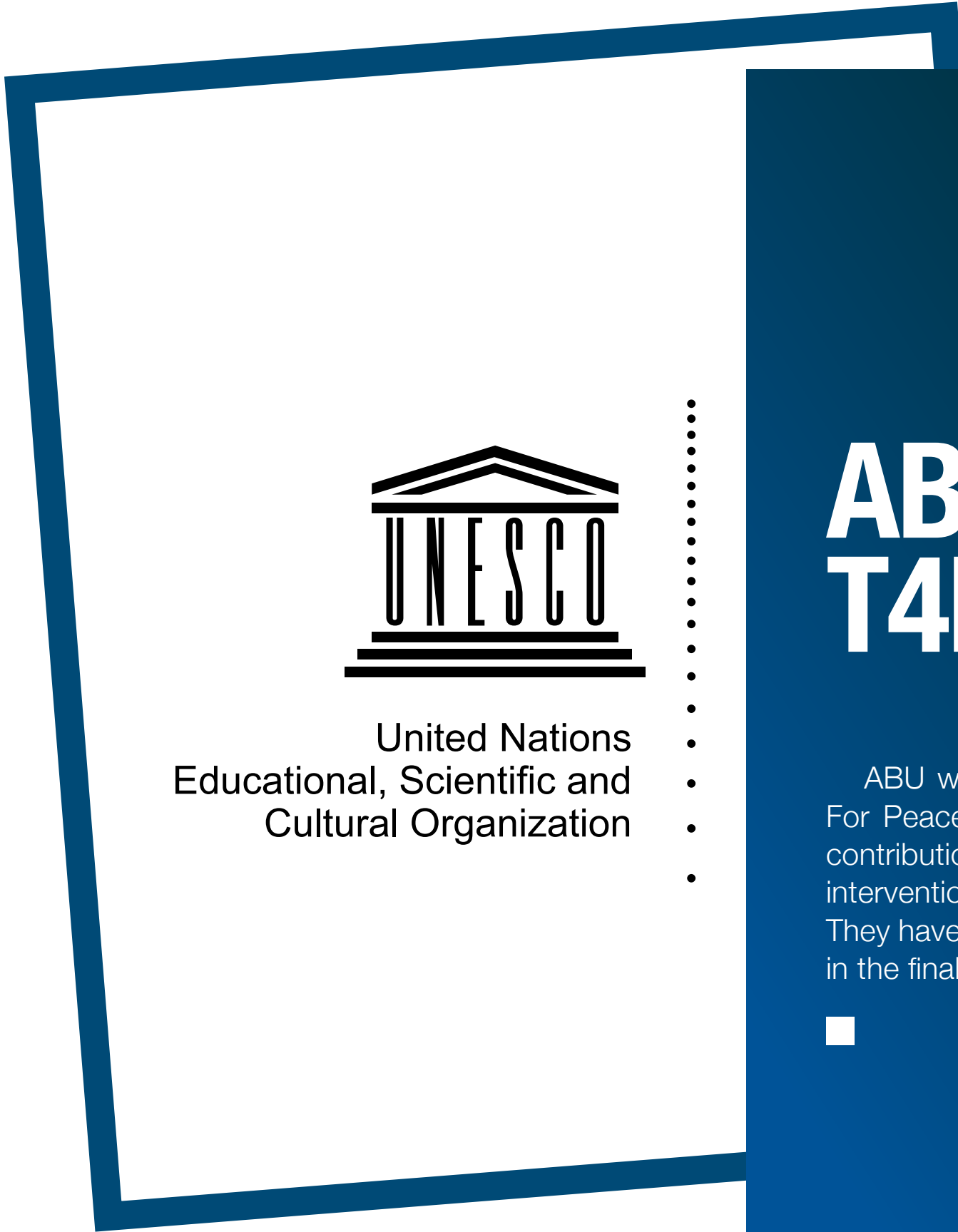


MAMI MIZUTORI
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL
UNDRR-SWITZERLAND

WBU/UNDRR GLOBAL MEDIA FOR DRR INITIATIVE

In conjunction with the ABU Tokyo GA, the ABU President Ryuichi Ueda and Secretary -General Javad Mottaghi, ASBU Director -General Abdulrahim Suleiman, AUB CEO Gregoire Ndjaka and EBU Eurovision Services CEO Marco Tinnirello held a highly productive meeting with Mami Mizutori, the UN Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The result of this constructive discussion for future cooperation between the WBU/ UNDRR Global Media for DRR Initiative. The project aims to utilise the unparalleled reach of media to disseminate early warnings for pending disasters and educate people on DRR measures during the “quiet” time between disasters. A special role is given to the Public Service Media, which remains the most trusted as the COVID 19 pandemic showed. The WBU/ UNDRR Global Media for DRR Initiative will engage the WBU networks and will provide comprehensive training for over 100 Radio and TV organisations globally. Among them 40 ABU members are earmarked to receive capacity – building in making their network resilient, developing Standard Operational Procedures for Disaster Broadcast and Newsroom training. The project was developed in February 2020 and was launched in October with first phase of implementation focusing on the membership of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union. ■



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

ABU/UNESCO T4P

ABU was invited to join the expert group of the Together For Peace(T4P) project initiated by UNESCO. As part of its contribution ABU developed several proposals for media intervention to build peace in the minds of men and women. They have been approved in principle and will be incorporated in the final integrated proposal.



256 MEMBERS
IN 69 COUNTRIES

Covering eight regions: the Pacific, Asia (South-East, North, South, Central), Middle East, Europe, North Africa, and North America.

55 Full Members
in 41 countries

65 Additional
Full Members
in 32 countries

45 Associate
Members
in 28 countries

83 Affiliate
Members
in 31 countries

8 Institutional
Members
in 5 countries

6
NORTH
AMERICA

33
EUROPE

14
MIDDLE
EAST

170
ASIA

6
AFRICA

27
PACIFIC

GOVERNANCE



ABU'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS IN TOKYO

A truly massive meeting of members from around the world was successfully staged during an engaging, entertaining and most of all, enlightening, ABU General Assembly in Tokyo in 2019.

Over 600 top executives from leading broadcast companies in Asia-Pacific and beyond gathered in Tokyo for a week of networking, sharing experiences and learning under the theme Building Trust: Enhancing Audience Experience.

The highest governance body of the Union convened on 21 and 22 November, with key issues about the future of the Union high on the agenda. How not to leave any member behind the digital transformation, how to help Asia-Pacific broadcasters navigate the challenges in the industry brought by the digital revolution and social media that have changed the way people work, live and interact.

However, the most important ABU annual gathering started with ABU Sports Group Conference, Radio Working Party and Programme Committee Meeting to be followed by Technical Committee Meeting, 8th Women With the Wave Forum, a Quality Management Workshop and Masterclass on Ethical Journalism.

The meetings included discussions on programming, technical, sports, news and copyright issues. More than 600 delegates from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond took part.



Ms Takaichi Sanae, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan

Mr Ryoichi Ueda, ABU President and President, Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK)

TWO-PART SUPER PANEL FORUM OF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

An intensive Super Panel Forum focused on the future role of broadcasters in an ever-evolving and competitive landscape.

The first session included a panel titled “Mass Media: Does it still Matter?” moderated by **Ms Miki Ebara**, Chief International Correspondent, NHK WORLD-Japan. Four speakers looked at how broadcasters can connect better with their audiences in the face of declining television viewership, especially among young people.

Panelists included:
Mr Michael Slonim, President of VICE Digital APAC
Mr Al Tompkins, Senior Faculty, The Poynter Institute, USA
Mr David Hua, Head of International Strategies, ABC, Australia
Mr Kabul Budiono of TVRI-Indonesia

A panel of CEOs shared their experience and insight in the second part of the Super Panel Forum which was titled “Beyond Broadcasting: New Era of Unlimited Possibilities”, moderated by the Director General of TRT-Turkey and Vice President of the ABU, **Mr Ibrahim Eren**.

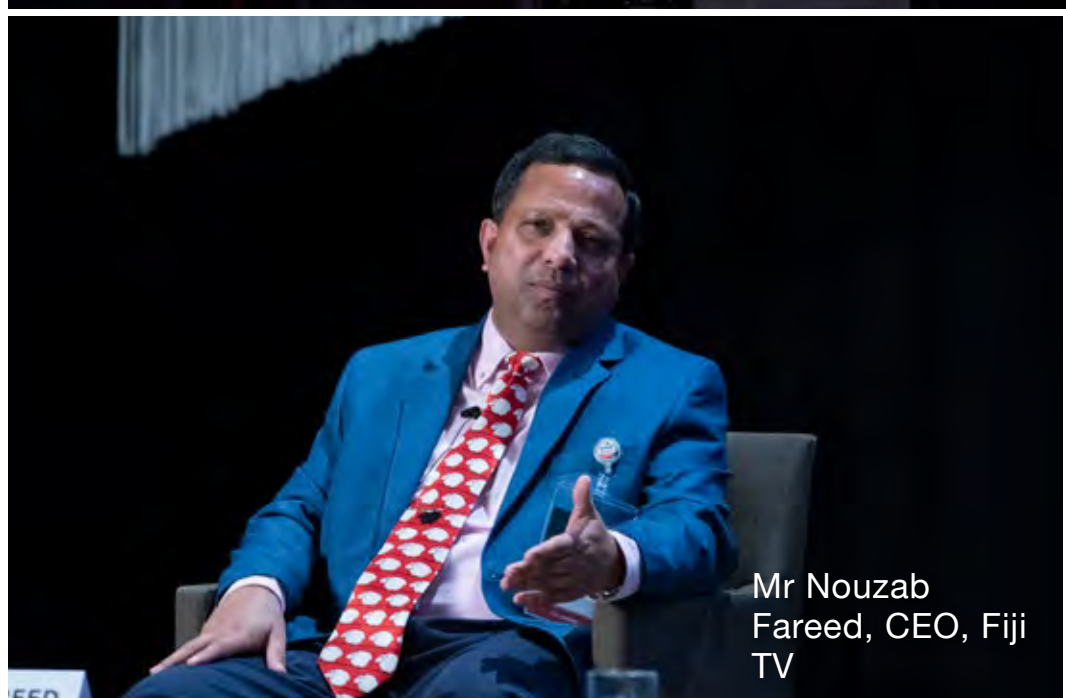
The Panelists were:
Mr Ryoichi Ueda, ABU President and President, Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK)
Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and Chief Executive Officer, Korean Broadcasting System (KBS)-Republic of Korea
Mr David Anderson, Managing Director, ABC, Australia
Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati, India



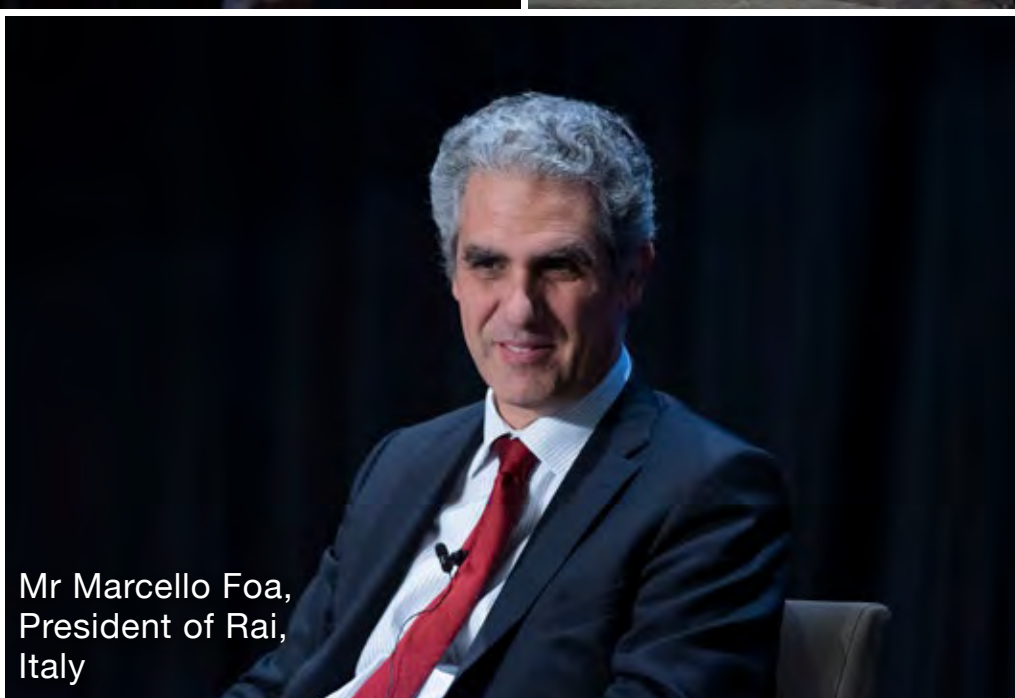
From left: Mr Ibrahim Eren; Director General of TRT-Turkey and Vice President of the ABU; Mr Ryoichi Ueda, ABU President and President, Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK); Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and Chief Executive Officer, Korean Broadcasting System (KBS)-Republic of Korea; Mr David Anderson, Managing Director, ABC, Australia; Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati, India



From left: Ms Miki Ebara, Chief International Correspondent, NHK WORLD-Japan; Mr Kabul Budiono of TVRI-Indonesia; Mr Al Tompkins, Senior Faculty, The Poynter Institute, USA; Mr David Hua, Head of International Strategies, ABC, Australia; Mr Michael Slonim, President of VICE Digital APAC



Mr Nouzab Fareed, CEO, Fiji TV



Mr Marcello Foa, President of Rai, Italy



Mr Helmy Yahya, President Director, Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI)

PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION FORUMS DELIVERED ENGAGING AND ENLIGHTENING DIALOGUES AT ABU GA 2019

A panel discussion and Q&A session provided enlightening topics for discussions during the 2019 GA.

Part 1: PSM#Digital
 Moderator: **Ms Nedra Weerasinghe**, Group Director, MTV Channel (Ptv) Limited (MTV)

Speakers:
 Mr **Ulrich Wilhelm** Chairman of ARD, Germany
 Mr **Hirosuke Usui**, Senior Expert/Deputy President, Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings,

Part 2: Media Climate Action: The New Generation of Greens
 Moderator: **Russell Isaac** - Media Consultant

Speaker: **Mami Mizutori**, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Part3: Public Service Media: Diversity and Inclusion
 Moderator: **Mr Nouzab Fareed**, CEO, Fiji TV

Panelists:
 - **Mr Marcello Foa**, President of Rai, Italy
 - **Mr Helmy Yahya**, President Director, Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI)



From left: Ms Nedra Weerasinghe, Group Director, MTV Channel (Ptv) Limited (MTV); Mr Ulrich Wilhelm Chairman of ARD, Germany; Mr Hirosuke Usui, Senior Expert/Deputy President, Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings,



Russell Isaac - Media Consultant, and Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT ABU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

ABU President Mr Ryoichi Ueda convened a press conference at NHK hall in Tokyo to announce the 2019 ABU General Assembly as well as the ABU TV Song Festival, its first-ever time conducted in Japan. Mr Ueda opened the press conference with an overview of the ABU GA and commented on the effect continuously evolving technology and social media had on broadcasting as we now know it. He remarked that people have more choices at their disposal regarding how they consume information and entertainment and they now seek diverse audience experiences through different platforms. Broadcasters must offer variety and use the latest technology and platforms to amplify the audience experience, he stated.

He placed high value on the General Assembly, on ways in which the Union's members can benefit from the diversity present in its membership and emphasised that the members present at the GA share, learn and overcome challenges together.

ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi expressed his thanks to NHK for being excellent hosts. He said he was happy to be having the GA in Tokyo again, since the last GA was held in 2010. He went on to say the GA is an invaluable opportunity for members to discuss, network, learn and share with fellow broadcasters: "Our members are extremely varied in culture, religion and economies but face common challenges and the GA is the forum for them to benefit from each other."



Photos courtesy of NHK



108TH MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ON 19 NOVEMBER 2019 IN TOKYO

The ABU Administrative Council held its 108th meeting on 19 November 2019 in Tokyo as part of the 56th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings. CEOs and Director – Generals from 17 ABU members attended this high level Broad Meeting. The Administrative Council approved the report of the Secretary – General for the fiscal year of 2018- 2019. It also approved the 2018- 2019 financial reports and the budget for 2019- 2020 fiscal year.

The ABU Administrative Council on 19th November 2019, was attended by CEOs and high-ranking representatives from 16 ABU members including CEO of Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan, DD India, Radio Television Malaysia (RTM), National Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA), Media Niugini Limited, Papua New Guinea (MNL), Radio and Television of the People's Republic of China (RTPRC), Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Nippon Hoso Kyokai, Japan (NHK), Khabar Agency, Kazakhstan, Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), Teledifusao de Macau (TDM), HUM Network Limited, Pakistan (HUM TV), MTV Channel (Pvt) Limited – Sri Lanka, Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and Vietnam Television (VTV).





ELECTIONS TO ABU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

On the final day of the ABU General Assembly convened in Tokyo on 22nd November, the ABU full members re-elected KBS Korea and RRI, Indonesia to serve the ABU Administrative Council for another term of three years from January 2020. National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan was elected as a new member of the ABU Administrative Council for three years, from January 2020. In addition, Nepal Radio was elected to serve as a member of the Council for two years.

ELECTION OF THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT

ABU's Full Members also elected Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and CEO of KBS Korea as a new ABU Vice President with immediate effect. Mr Yang Sung-dong will continue to serve as the Vice President for three years from January 2020. The ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi expressed his great appreciation for the support and contribution of former ABU Vice-President Ms. Supriya Sahu, formerly Director General, Doordarshan – India, who stepped down in 2019.

ABU President Mr Ryoichi Ueda congratulated Mr Yang Sung-dong on his election to the position of Vice President. Mr Yang Sung-dong stated: "I am honoured to have the chance to serve as Vice President and hope to demonstrate my leadership ability in this role and help the ABU achieve its goals." He went on to say that he hopes to share the expertise of KBS Korea with other members.

Mr Ibrahim Eren of TRT Turkey and Mr Sun Yusheng will continue to serve as ABU Vice Presidents within their term of office.



ABU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT ABU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Highlighting the latest research projects under development within NHK Research Laboratories. These looked at advanced terrestrial transmission technologies, live production with IP, new viewing experience with AR and broadcast video, and details on the development of integral 3D video technology.



PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The ABU Programme Committee meeting occurred on the side-lines of the General Assembly with an agenda that included two thought-provoking panel sessions. If there was an overall theme running through both sessions, it was the need for broadcasters to find new ways to engage with younger viewers.

The Committee started with a special session of Future Co-Productions for Creating Innovative Contents where five panellists from Asia and Europe shared their views on how best create co-productions to provide an alternative to emerging new global players.



NHK SHOWCASE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Alongside this year's ABU GA, hosts NHK ran daily showcases of the latest NHK content and technology developments.

The first showcase was a chance for delegates to get to know more about NHK's programs and to meet NHK producers and directors. It featured screenings, presentations, workshops and networking events. It also featured a presentation on "A Stranger in Shanghai", a drama based on the writings of the famous Japanese writer, Ryunosuke Akutagawa.

The second showcase focused on the latest technology developed by NHK. "8K Living Room" allowed delegates to experience 8K ultra-high definition images and 22.2 multichannel sound, as well as presentations of many other cutting-edge technologies such as AI, AR, and VR.

Both showcases ended with a meet-and-greet social gathering and networking opportunity for delegates.





GA 2020 ONLINE

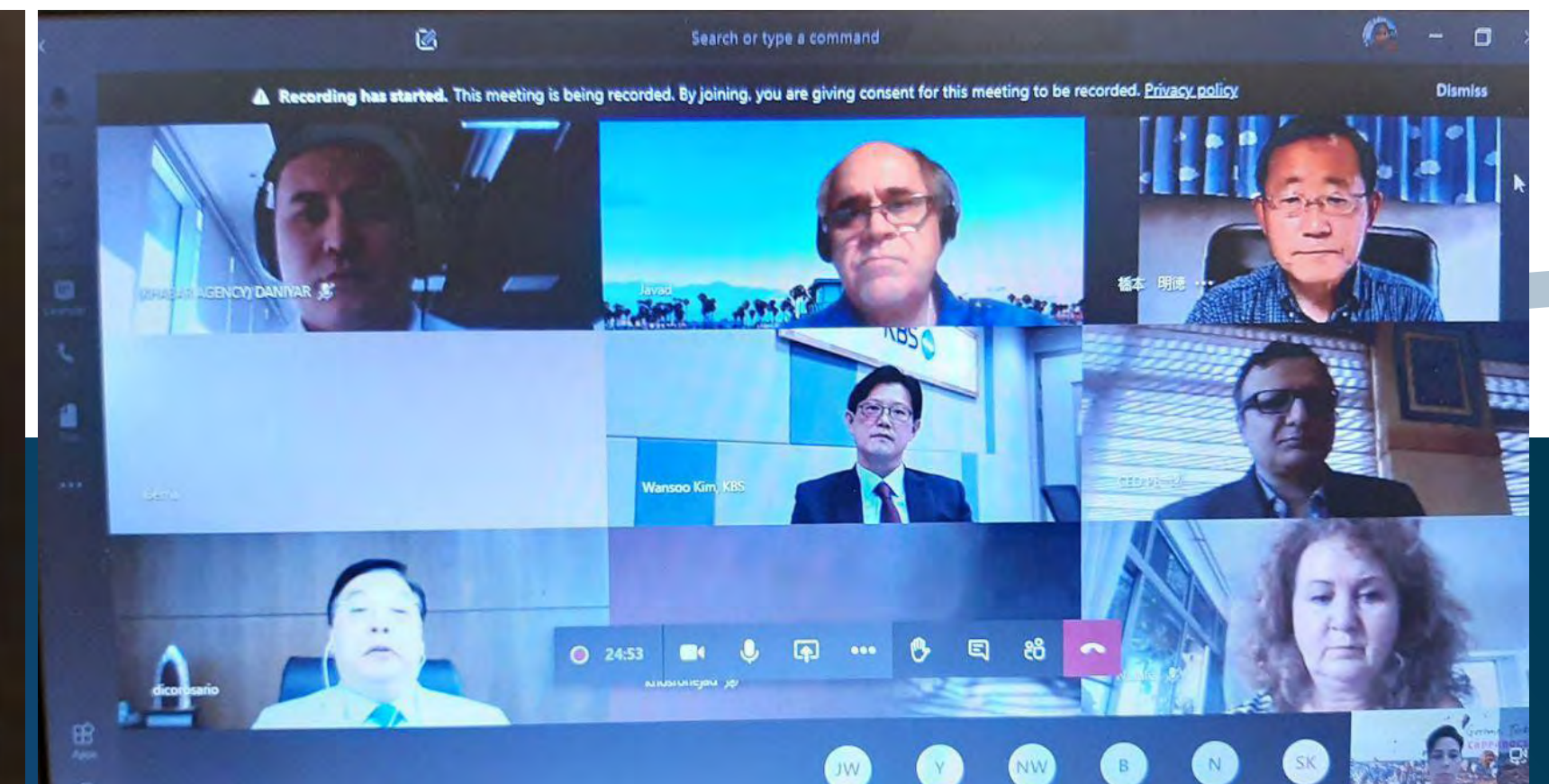
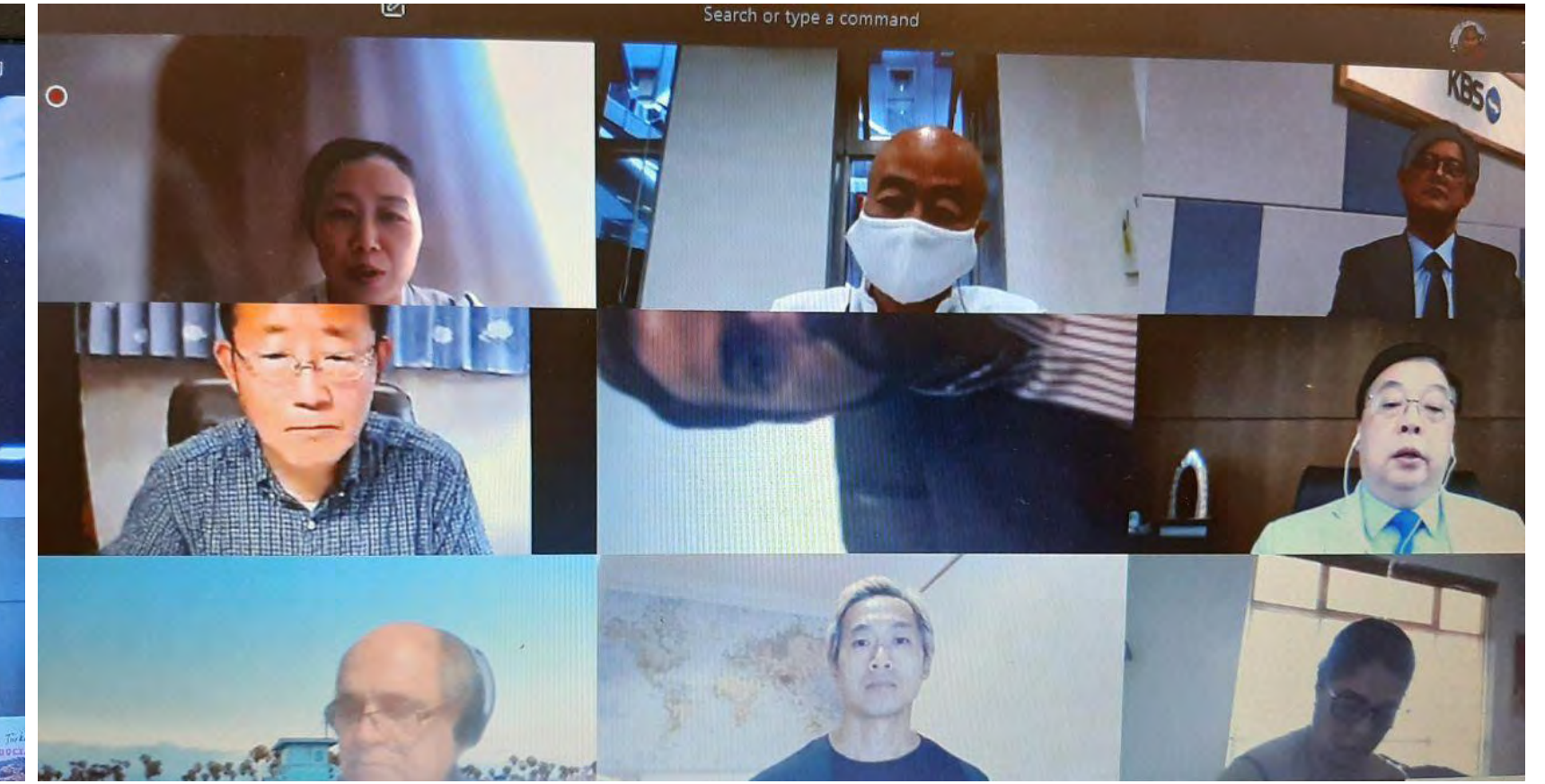
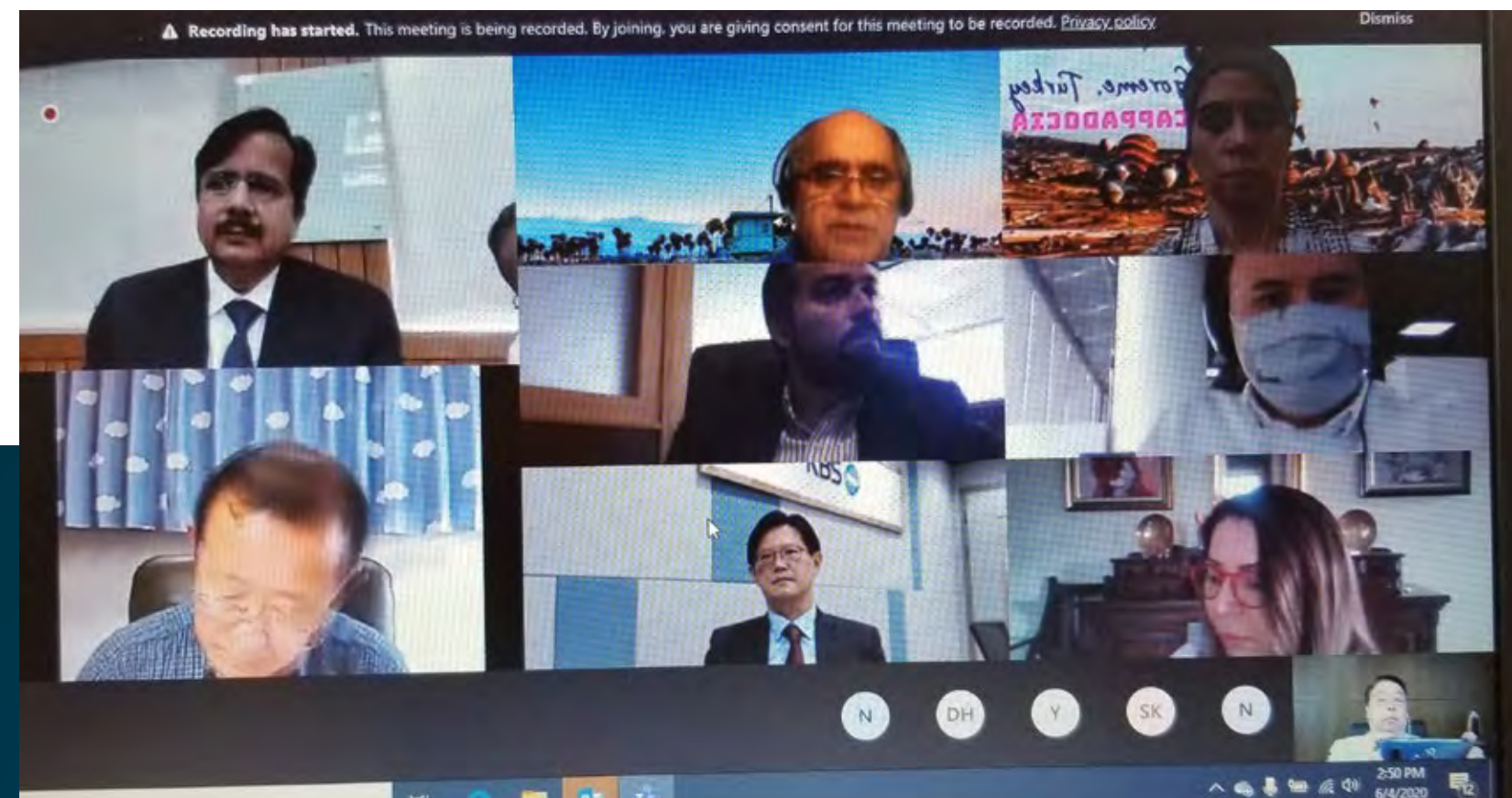
The 57th ABU General Assembly & Associated Meetings will be convened in all all-online format: “MEDIA IN TIMES OF CRISIS: CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION FOR MULTIPLE PLATFORMS”. This virtual event promises to be a fruitful and informative online exchange of dialogue between the members of our family.

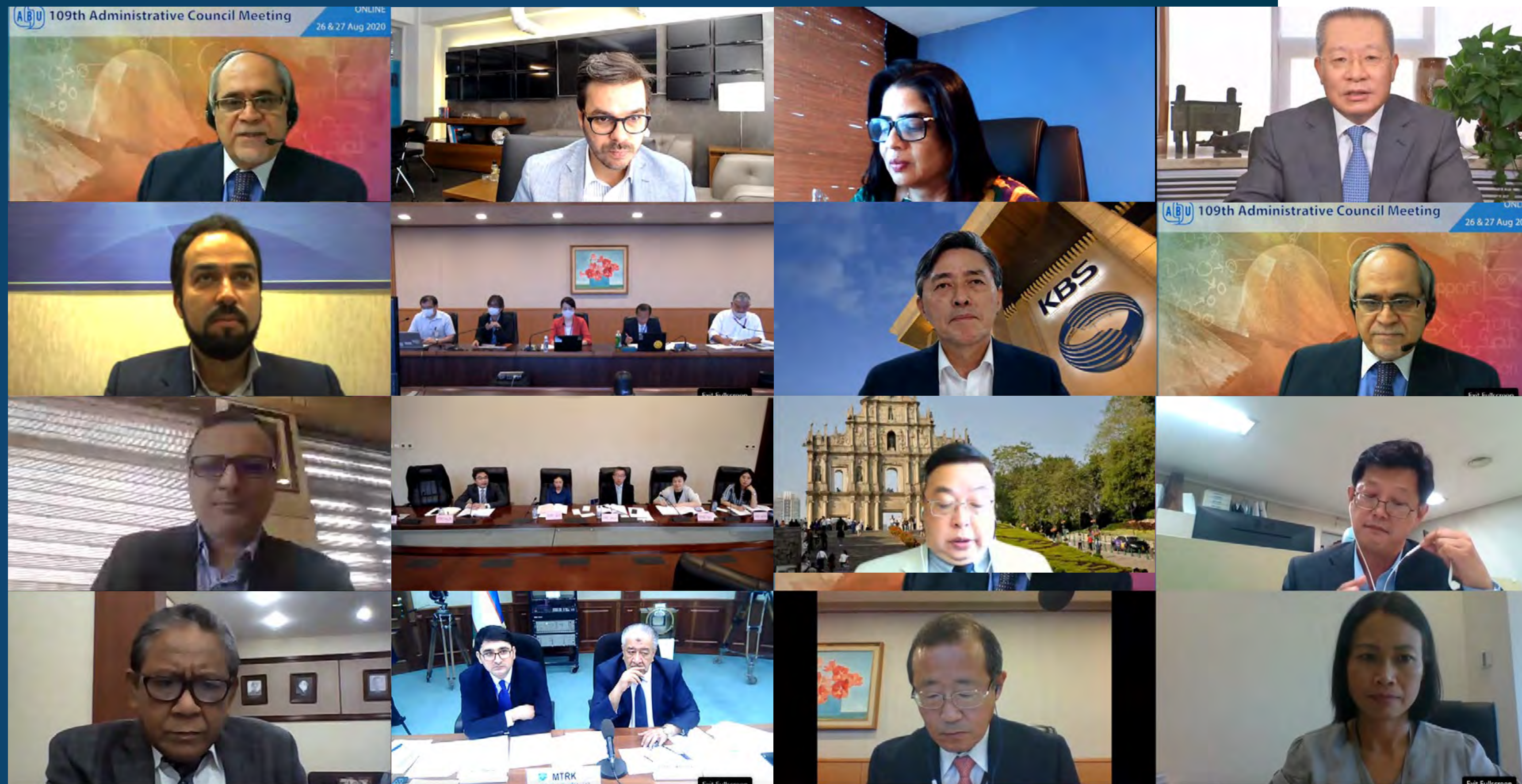


ABU PSG HOLD FIRST EVER ONLINE MEETING

The Planning and Strategy Group (PSG) held its first ever gathering online. The mid-year PSG meeting took place on 4th June 2020 with 17 members participating. In a very well-organized two hour discussion, the participating members covered matters from the launch of the Asia – Pacific View platform, to the expansion of the ABU Alumni Club.

The PSG is a consultative body that advises the Secretariat and Admin Council on strategic issues and developments.





109TH ABU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE

The ABU Admin Council successfully held its mid-year meeting online in two sessions on 26 and 27 August. This was the first virtual Board meeting ever, in the 56th year history of the Union. Although the travel restrictions kept the Councillors thousands of miles away from each other, the 109th Admin Council meeting consisted of lively discussions and charted the course of the ABU strategy for the post-COVID 19 era; stated Mr Ibrahim Eren, the ABU Acting President and TRT Chairman and Director General.

With most of the activities of the Union moving online, a big part of working in the new normal would be played by the recently launched content exchange platform Asia-Pacific View and the ABU Media Academy.

Securing the financial sustainability of the Union and measures to ease the financial burden of members were also on the Agenda. The Admin Council recognised the great efforts undertaken by the Union to serve members during the crisis by providing them with high quality copyright free content and organising massive online capacity – building programme.

4TH ABU INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING



The 4th ABU Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC) took place on March 2nd and March 3rd, 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was hosted by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union. This year's meeting was the fourth meeting of the copyright committee since the change of its name to "Intellectual Property & Legal Committee" in 2016. The theme for this year's IPLC was "International Conventions and Broadcasters' Rights: The Future."



FINANCE

FINANCE COMMENTARY

The Secretariat successfully ended its 2019/2020 Financial Year as at 30 June 2020 with a surplus of \$ 251,581. The surplus was achieved on the basis of ABU activities, lower provision for doubtful debts and savings on expenditure during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period imposed by the Government of Malaysia in March to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There was a slight reduction in operating income compared to previous year due to a substantial reduction in the interest earned on fixed deposits due to Bank Negara Malaysia's cut in the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) rates from 3.00% in January 2020 to 1.75% in September 2020 causing the FD rates offered by the Banks to reduce drastically. Major project such as the Digital Broadcasting Symposium also contributed to a slight negative income as sponsors withdrew before the event could commence.

During the financial year, operating expenditure were also lower with a reduction in ABU activities expenses, travel costs and provision for doubtful debts. At the same time, the Union has introduced stringent measures to manage expenditure efficiently and prudently.

There are many challenges ahead in the years to come as more members experienced financial problems as a result of the global pandemic. The Secretariat will continue to follow up vigorously and courteously with members who have long overdue arrears to ensure that the Union has adequate fund to fund its operations.

Despite challenging times, the Secretariat will continuously strive towards delivering its objectives for the benefit of the members. This was achieved through the creation of more online workshops, seminars and the recent establishment of a Media Academy to enhance training programmes and innovative activities. Virtual Conferences are also organised to keep members informed of the activities of the Union.

The Union will always maintain a healthy financial position to meet all its objectives and at the same time provide excellent services to the members.

NB. The Final Audited Reports will be tabled at the Administrative Council and General Assembly Virtual Meetings in December 2020



BALANCE SHEET

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.2020	30.06.2019
	<i>Audited</i>	<i>Audited</i>
Fixed Assets	29,979	37,711
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank Equivalents	9,551,658	9,455,656
Accounts Receivable and Accruals	1,777,629	1,741,871
Sports Events In Progress	-	-
Total Current Assets	11,329,287	11,197,527
Total Assets	11,359,266	11,235,238
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payables and Accrued Expenses	1,704,082	1,552,594
ABU Activities Fund	6,250,739	6,120,560
Grants Received for ABU Projects	228,975	245,814
Sports Events Completed and In Progress	53,673	446,054
Total Current Liabilities	8,237,469	8,365,022
Union's Reserve		
General Reserves	2,870,216	2,709,793
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	251,581	160,423
Total Reserve	3,121,797	2,870,216
Total Liabilities and Reserve	11,359,266	11,235,238

NOTES

Despite of the pandemic and other challenges during the financial year under review, the Secretariat is pleased to announce that a surplus of US\$ 251,581 was achieved for the year ended on 30.06.2020.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.2020	30.06.2019
	<i>Audited</i>	<i>Audited</i>
Members' Subscription Fees	1,822,663	1,784,066
Interest Received	133,968	171,490
Revenue from ABU Activities	(4,745)	24,670
Other Income	30,228	20,626
Total Operating Income	1,982,114	2,000,852
ABU Activities	188,225	263,162
Staff Costs	1,008,491	1,028,635
Travel Costs	27,748	39,808
Provision for Doubtful Debts	115,791	303,170
Professional plus Audit Fees	22,367	13,966
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	12,673	16,108
Other Office Expenses	96,949	120,436
Total Operating Expenses	1,472,244	1,785,285
Exchange (Gains)/Loss	258,289	55,144
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	251,581	160,423

NOTES

The Secretariat continues to provide quality deliverables to its members without sacrificing most of its objectives despite of the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed in the country for a period of 3 months during the financial year under review.

Although the operating income had slightly been reduced but due to the savings achieved in the operating expenditure and also the reduction of the allowance of doubtful debts, the Union managed to achieve a not unsatisfactory surplus of US\$ 251,581.

The pandemic is not expected to be under control in the immediate foreseeable future. Thus far, the Union has been very successful in its organisation of virtual meetings to carry out its daily activities including utilising various online platforms to approach members who have payments in arrears to pay up in order to improve the Union's financial resources.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.20	30.06.19
	<i>Audited</i>	<i>Audited</i>
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	251,581	160,423
Provision for Doubtful Debts	115,791	303,170
Depreciation	12,673	16,108
Interest Income	(133,968)	(171,490)
Staff Gratuities Benefits Provisions	54,483	94,599
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	25,225	163,939
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors and other Receivables	(128,262)	(608,609)
Increase/(Decrease) in Activities Fund	130,179	(305,693)
Increase/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities	(264,567)	80,030
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors and Other Payables	(55,141)	154,822
Increase/(Decrease) in Exchange for Debtors and Creditors	15,376	(20,413)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	23,370	(133,114)
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Gratuities Paid	(56,395)	(90,539)
Interest Received	133,968	171,490
Acquisition of Tangible Assets	(4,941)	(13,437)
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	72,632	67,514
Net Variation in Cash and Bank Equivalents	96,002	(65,600)
Cash and Bank Equivalents at end of period	9,551,658	9,455,656
Cash and Bank Equivalents at beginning of period	9,455,656	9,521,256
Net Variation in Cash and Bank Equivalents	96,002	(65,600)

NOTES

The positive cash flow achieved for the year was partly due to the reduction in expenditure because of the pandemic at the later part of the financial year

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA FORUM**
2ND HALF 2021 (TBC), TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
- **ABU DIGITAL 2021**
26-27 MAY 2021, (KUALA LUMPUR), MALAYSIA
- **CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRR SUMMIT**
DATES TBC, MALDIVES
- **GLOBAL SUMMIT ON MEDIA FOR CHILDREN**
6-8 JULY 2021, JAKARTA, INDONESIA
- **THE GLOBAL NEWS FORUM**
12-14 JULY 2021, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA
- **RADIOASIA CONFERENCE AND MEDIA 2020**
DATES TBC, BALI, INDONESIA
- **PACIFIC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE**
16 -18 AUGUST 2021, VANUATU
- **58TH ABU GA 2021**
26-31 OCTOBER, 2021 HANOI, VIETNAM

Please note: In case of further date confirmations, changes or updates, ABU Secretariat shall inform accordingly. ■

FORWARD LOOKING INITIATIVES INTRODUCED IN 2020



