



# ASIA-PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020 / 2021**

Document No. GA 58/6

*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.*

*THROUGHOUT THE LAST FEW YEARS AND IN LIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC, ABU HAS BEEN STEADFAST IN ITS SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS IN CAPACITY-BUILDING, SERVICE PROVISION, TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DELIVER THE HIGHEST STANDARD IN THESE EFFORTS AND ADD EVEN FURTHER VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS.*



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# ABU ACTING- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Mr Yang Sung-dong**  
ABU Acting-President, & President and CEO,  
Korean Broadcasting System, KBS Korea

*Dear ABU Family,*

COVID-19 hit the world in 2020 and has changed everything. Within 18 months, it had made hundreds of millions around the globe sick and killed more than 4.4 million men, women, and children. It closed down economies, travel and social life. Yet through it, all ABU members had to focus to provide essential services to listeners, viewers, and online audiences; news and information about what was happening and ways of keeping safe. Broadcasters have worked to bring some normality confused audiences and to make their restricted lives more bearable.

Our members throughout the Asia-Pacific and around the world had to promptly adapt to accommodate the new environment and address the needs and situations of our audiences. It has been a time of learning for us all.

The ABU has found itself at the centre of its members' struggles – witnessing their enthusiastic efforts, hearing their stories, recording their achievements, and sharing solutions and insights to challenges that did not even exist at the start of 2020.

Many of our members have also contributed to serve their nations by working closely with their governments to offer a range of education programmes and services via their assorted media platforms.

We have some members who have discovered new ways of working remotely, of new technologies to make it possible and organisations that have themselves been devastated by infections still struggling valiantly on to fulfil their missions. Their efforts have come together through the lens of the ABU to learn, discuss and enrich each other by sharing and partnering using our communications tools of newsletters, website news posts, magazines and numerous professional developments and learning opportunities.

It is the best time that the ABU themed our 2021 General Assembly: "Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace". We have been forced to live and work in a completely new operating environment. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it necessary for us to change not just the way we work, but also the way we think about the future and prepare for the challenges to come. Indeed, the pandemic has highlighted the role of media as an amplifier of affirmative actions.

In conclusion, I would like to stress three points in my message. First, I am proud of what we all have done over the year to overcome this global crisis and share both the painful and success experiences.

Secondly, I sincerely thank you all for providing assistance to the ABU Secretariat, our office holders, committee members and working party participants for us to bring significant outcomes in these challenging times.

Lastly, on behalf of the ABU, I wish you all a safe and successful future as we hope to lift ourselves out of this uncertainty. I trust we will continue to bring co-operative efforts to deliver the most productive General Assembly and Associated Meetings this year, which will contribute to create a new and sound ABU for all of us. ■

# WELCOME FROM ABU SECRETARY GENERAL

## SECRETARY – GENERAL INTRODUCTION FOR THE ABU ANNUAL REPORT



**Dr Javad Mottaghi**  
ABU Secretary-General

I am pleased and honoured to present the 2020- 2021 ABU Annual Report. As always, the pleasure comes from sharing our achievements with Members and other readers.

I am honoured and proud of the part everyone has played in overcoming so many unforeseeable difficulties to keep the Union running efficiently and effectively during what has probably been the most challenging 12 months in our 57 years of existence.

The credit for this success rests with many people and groups. In no specific order:

To the ABU Presidency, the Administrative Council, committees, study groups, and working parties who have devoted time to the ABU on top of running their own organisations that are coping with the COVID-19 crisis. I have always felt able to ask for their support and it has never been withheld.

To the Secretariat team, from department heads to admin staff who have gone above and beyond everything that was required of them. They continue to provide professional, useful services to Members while themselves having to

deal with logistical problems including working in physical isolation from their homes, often confined overseas and physically remote from their colleagues and support. I have never been more proud of them all.

To our 250 Members across the Asia-Pacific and around the world who have remained supremely supportive of the ABU over a year when they had their own national and organisational challenges to contend with. They have supported all our initiatives and behaved in an exemplary way towards each other, embodying all the cooperative spirit that is the best and most useful aspect of the ABU.

So, despite all the difficulties of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we have managed to achieve much, both in accordance with our Three-Year Action Plan (2020-2022) and also in response to new services and initiatives arising out of the pandemic circumstances.

Some of our most notable successes included:

- We successfully moved our operations online and delivered services from all the ABU governing bodies - from committees, study groups, working groups, bureaux, the PSG and the Administrative Council to the General Assembly. Indeed, we were able to get closer to our Members with regular online video meetings. Even though - like all Members - we suffered from financial constraints, we were able to manage by changing the way we operate, such as running projects online instead of face-to-face.
- We implemented major ABU activities online - including the Digital Broadcasting Symposium, ABU Prizes, Global News Forum, Pacific Media Forum, Pacific Media Partnership Conference, Radio Asia Conference, Women With The Wave, the TV Song Festival, #ABUDigital, the Children's Drama Co-Production, the Children's Media Hub, Copyright Committee, Central Asia Media

Forum, ABU Rai Days and many more.

- We offered impressive online services and training to Members which thousands of participants logged-in to and we offered massive news coverage, including thousands of COVID-19 stories.
- The launch of the ABU Media Academy marked a big step forward in our capacity-building activities adding value to Members and introducing world class training. We also initiated the ABU Academy Forum and established partnerships with international universities around the globe.
- We launched the ABU Solidarity Exchange Network with more than 2,400 content items shared by 47 Members, the ABU Sports Content Exchange Network sharing copyright-free sports content daily from 38 Members and partners, the ABU Music Exchange and the ABU Digital Media Working Group.
- We advanced immensely our work in Climate Action and Disaster Prevention as well in Diversity and Inclusion in the Media with the support of a growing number of international partners. This had been an epic journey of solidarity and togetherness for the Union and a shining example how working together and sharing our collective wisdom we can overcome any challenge.
- And last, but not least, we must applaud the successful launch of Asia-Pacific View (APV), our purpose-built and secure online content-sharing and exchange platform developed by the ABU for its Members. APV uses state-of-the-art cloud infrastructure and applications that combine and replicate the operation of the existing exchange platforms.

By their nature, Annual Reports are a time for looking back over the past 12 months and also throwing our vision forward over the next year and beyond.

One of our greatest planning projects will be to develop and launch a new Three-Year Plan that will make the ABU stronger and will take us into the world of "new normal".

Not to pre-empt next year's Annual Report, but it is worth mentioning that we can look forward to noting several recent achievements, such as:

- ABU Sports successfully covered the Tokyo Olympic Games and was also part of the OBS production team to cover two events of the Paralympics. We will continue focusing on Sports production in future.
- We will launch a major television project entitled ABUTV CON during the first half of 2022.
- We have introduced online elections to the Administrative Council during the second half of 2021 and will continue running online elections for all governing bodies of the ABU.
- We have launched the ABU-UNESCO Together for Peace Media Awards and training program, which will open a new chapter in our service for Members.
- We have developed stronger relationships with international partners, which enable us to deliver a more focused service to certain Members.
- We will continue serving our Members as a member-oriented, service-oriented and forward-looking Union.

The work of the ABU is never finished and can never be paused. We can never indulge in a time of rest or recovery as we must continue our service to Members and support for broadcasting and audiences in the Asia-Pacific region.

Based on our Members' will and support, I am confident in our demonstrated abilities – that the next 12 months and coming years will be even more successful and illuminated by optimism. ■

**Javad Mottaghi, Ph.D., BEng.**  
**Secretary - General**

# ASIAVISION FROM PHYSICAL TO DIGITAL

Asiavision's News Exchange is a vast resource for 32 member broadcasters, ranging from Fiji and Samoa in the east, to Turkey and Iran in the west, including all of South and Southeast Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific.

Using file transfer software, Asiavision members exchange thousands of quality 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.

As COVID-19 devastated countries throughout the region – closing newsrooms and forcing journalists to work from home, the contribution from Asiavision members never waned as they brought a personal focus to the crisis, posting more than 5,000 news stories on the pandemic in 2020-21.

The News Department's strong focus on Media Development continued throughout 2020-21 with virtual conferences and forums and a varied range of webinar workshops and targeted online training.

# 2020/21: THE YEAR OF WEBINAR WORKSHOPS ONLINE EVENTS + TRAINING



# WITHSTANDING THE PANDEMIC: ASIAVISION AND ITS MEMBERS SHIFT TO WORKING-FROM-HOME

In early January 2020, the first Asiavision news stories presaged a global pandemic that is still challenging the world. By March 2020, the Malaysian Lockdown Order required the News Department team at ABU headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to transfer all operations to their homes.

18 months later - in September, 2021 – the team is still working-from-home on their usual seven-day roster, seamlessly compiling Advisories, curating the Brightcove platform, keeping in constant contact with Members and holding regular Webinar Training Workshops as well as Forums and Conferences.

**The coronavirus changed paradigms and challenged even the most resilient as lockdowns across the region required Asiavision Newsrooms to cover the escalating crisis from their living rooms.**

As the Delta wave swept the world in 2021, cases in India sky-rocketed and DDI India overcame severe restrictions to deliver the news. Even though many news staff were off work sick with the virus and others were working-from-home, the DDI newsroom uploaded 63 stories on C-19 in April. Such was the international demand, one single DDI upload was access by 54 Eurovision channels who downloaded the item 323 times.

At the peak of the Delta surge, DDI programming and live bulletins were reduced because many staff were away sick with the virus. From April to July, fewer than 40 percent of DDI's 100 editors and reporters were in the newsroom, the rest - if well enough - worked-from-home.

For TVRI, the deadly Delta wave shut down the newsroom as one million Indonesians caught the virus in a single month. The TVRI offices closed and only a few newsroom crew could go into work. A dozen people in TVRI's Newsroom were infected by COVID-19, including presenters, reporters, cameramen, editors and the Asiavision Coordinator staff as well. In TVRI Centre, at least 42 people died due to COVID-19 and 30 more in branch offices around the country as hundreds of colleagues were infected by COVID-19.

In 2020-21, Asiavision Members uploaded more than 5,600 COVID-19 news stories - around 500 a month. From January 2020 to September 2021, pandemic-related stories totalled more than 11,300. ■





# OUT OF DESPERATION COMES INNOVATION

**PACIFIC MEDIA FORUM  
CONFRONTING COVID-19 CHALLENGES  
AUGUST 3, 2020**

The Leaders Panel - CEO of the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum; Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation's CEO, Francis Herman; and Moderator David Hua, Head of ABC International, Australia - shared their insights and initiatives after the first few months of the pandemic. At the time there were relatively few coronavirus cases in the Pacific but the impact of closed borders was devastating for island countries who depend on tourism for much of their income.

The ABU's Director News, Wendy Everett said: "We are so grateful to the Leaders Panel and all the attendees for being part of the Pacific Media Forum COVID-19 edition - we hope it was a beacon filled with inspiration and information in these very bleak times.

"As well as talking about the issues that Pacific broadcasters are facing right now, we wanted this Forum to be a catalyst for continuing support and action." As the Webinar ended, the BBC World Service offered 10 episodes of a children's current affairs program, free-of-charge. ■



**ABU** **PACIFIC MEDIA FORUM**  
Monday, August 03

**Confronting COVID-19 Challenges**

**avn** **TIMES: Sydney 1100 \* Port Moresby 1100 \* Port Vila 1200 \* Honiara 1200 \* Suva 1300 \* Apia 1400 \* Nuku'alofa 1400**



GLOBAL  
NEWS  
FORUM



ABU/AVN

GLOBAL NEWS FORUM 2020:  
COVID-19 AND THE CHALLENGE  
TO JOURNALISM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1100 (MYT)

# ENSURING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH FOR JOURNALISTS COVERING THE PANDEMIC

GLOBAL NEWS FORUM 2020  
COVID-19 AND THE CHALLENGE TO JOURNALISM  
NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Anthony Feinstein**, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and co-author of 2020 Reuters Institute study which found that one in four journalists was reporting 'clinically significant' anxiety post COVID-19.

Panel: ABU newsroom leaders - CGTN's Head of Domestic News Gathering **Xu Zhaoqun**, DDI's Head of News Operations **Padma Angmo** and FBC's CEO **Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**. NHK's Chief International Correspondent, **Miki Ebara**, moderated a lively presentation-and-discussion session before a Q+A featuring Asiavision Chairman, **Indra Singh**, manager news and sports at FBC Fiji, **Ging Reyes**, Head of News and Current Affairs at ABS-CBN the Philippines; **Prasad Kaushalya**, Assistant Director of English and Foreign News, SLRC Sri Lanka, and **Yukako Gomi**, Deputy Director, Media Strategy, NHK Japan.

More than 60 people in 24 countries from Fiji to Iran participated in the 90-minute session. They heard details from the academic study on how COVID-19 has affected the mental wellbeing of journalists; accounts of how journalists reported from the field in Wuhan when the pandemic first developed; about the challenges of running a massive news operation in multiple languages in India; and how the economic consequences of closed borders are causing serious economic problems in the Pacific. ■



# ONLINE AND ON POINT!

## Asiavision's online training and webinar workshops 2020/21

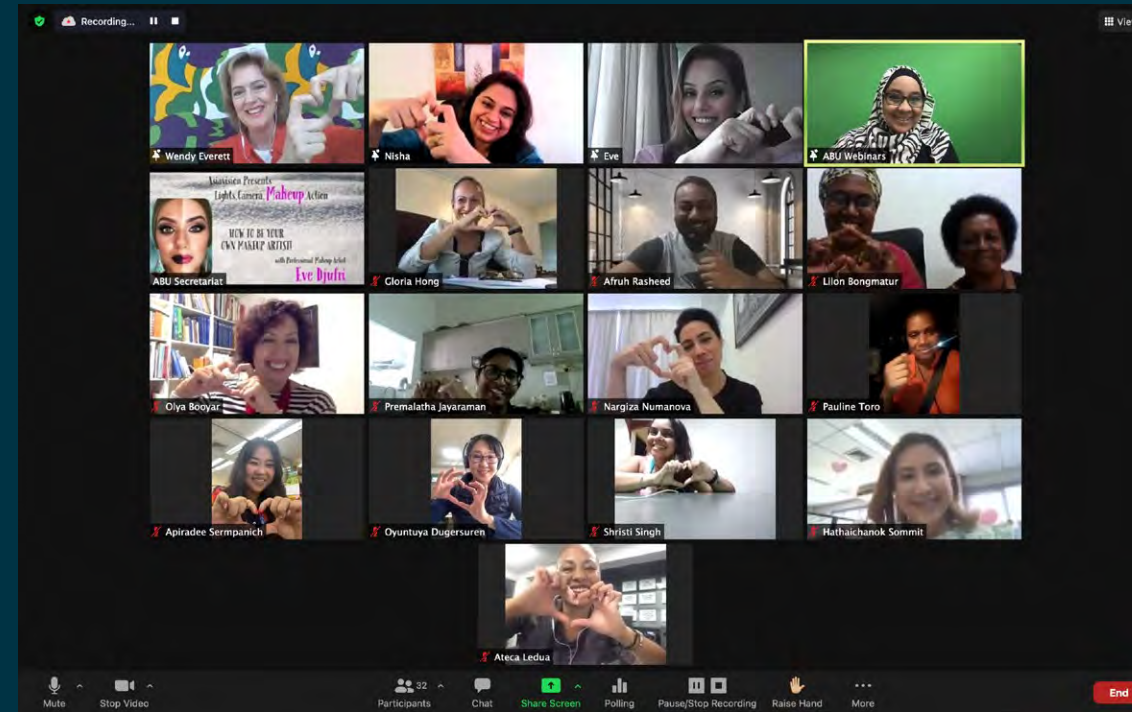
As the COVID-19 crisis continued and borders remained closed, the News Department's **online initiative** to ensure all Members could access training continued through 2020/21.

The focus in the second half of 2020 was Virtual Workshops for participants to access when they had time, rather than appointment training which was difficult to schedule.

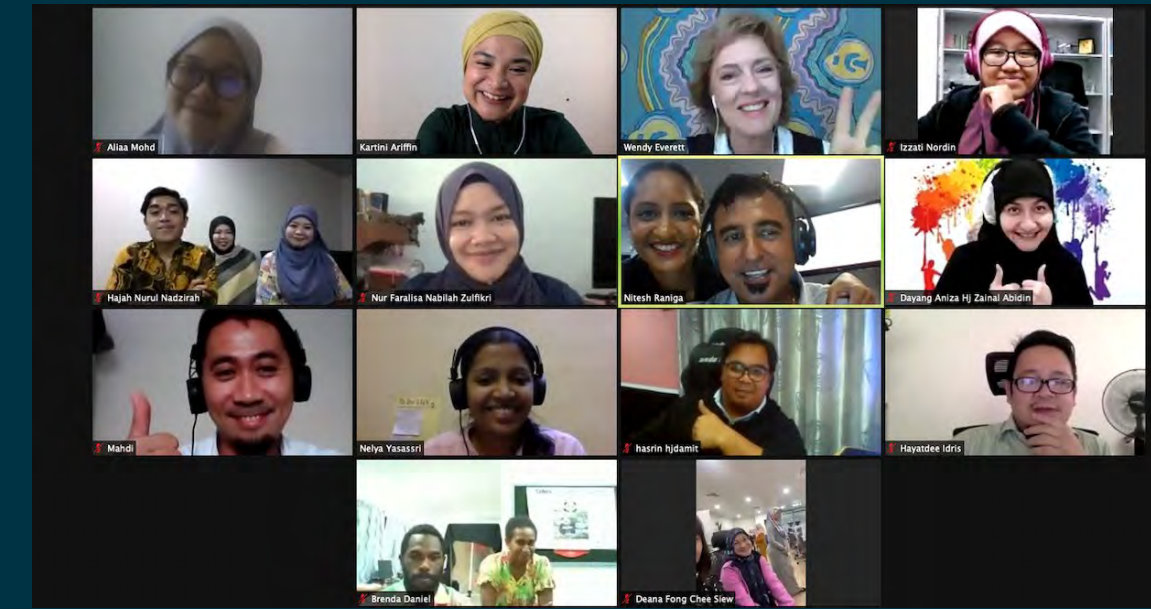
Among the workshops – a five-part Script Writing series and the four-part Versatile Video series which included Creating Videos from Home (Professional PTCs, Adding Overlay and Verifying Video) plus GO LIVE! Anywhere Anytime for skills in live-stream presentation.

Asiavision then introduced Targeted Training so individual Members could hold structured workshops in their newsrooms for journalists, producers and editors. Each week participants received feedback on their assignments from senior trainers around the region. Among the ABU Members who took advantage of this innovation – RTA Afghanistan, TV5 Mongolia and MTV/MBC Sri Lanka.

In 2021 and with newsrooms around the region in disarray, the training shifted to Webinar Workshops. Although these were live, they were also recorded and made available on the Asiavision Website for everyone and anyone to benefit from – still.



Asiavision's Webinar Workshops started with **How To Be Your Own Makeup Artist** with Jakarta-based professional Eve Djufri. With more than 80 registrations, there was huge interest in this workshop as it's quite a challenge being camera-ready when working-from-home or solo in the field.



In March, the digital focus continued with a three-hour Zoom workshop - **Creating Content for Social Media** - with Malaysian digital entrepreneur Kartini Ariffin.

Using the latest e-tools for online learning including polls, Google Jam Boards, breakout rooms and a vibrant Chat Feed, Ms Ariffin led an informative and highly-interactive workshop for more than 50 people from 10 countries who learned how to create a Content Plan for Social Media for their broadcasters.



Ms Ariffin followed up with a four-hour interactive session – **Perfect Your LIVE Presentation Skills** – using breakout rooms so more than 30 participants from nine countries could practice their live piece-to-camera skills to stream their news on social media.



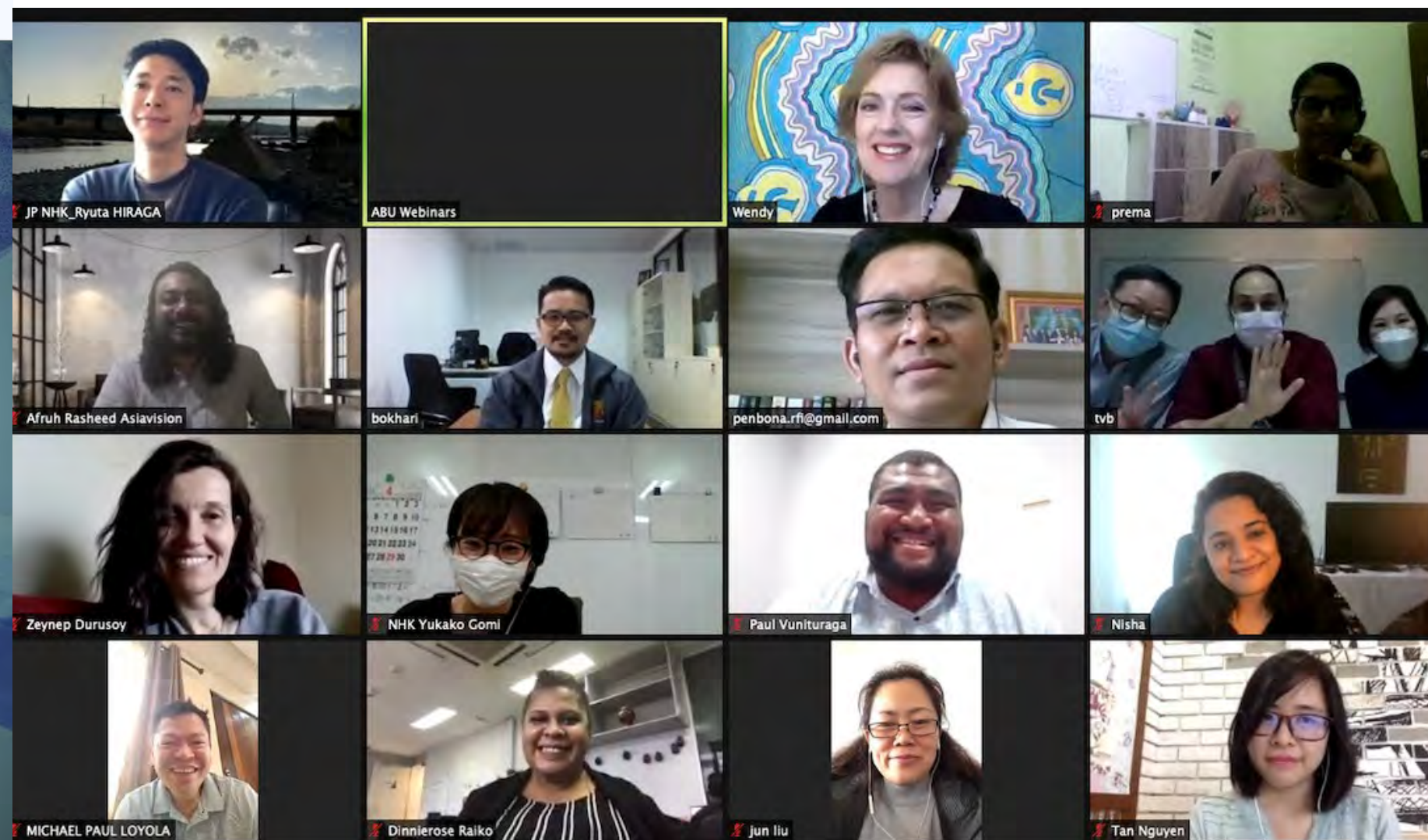
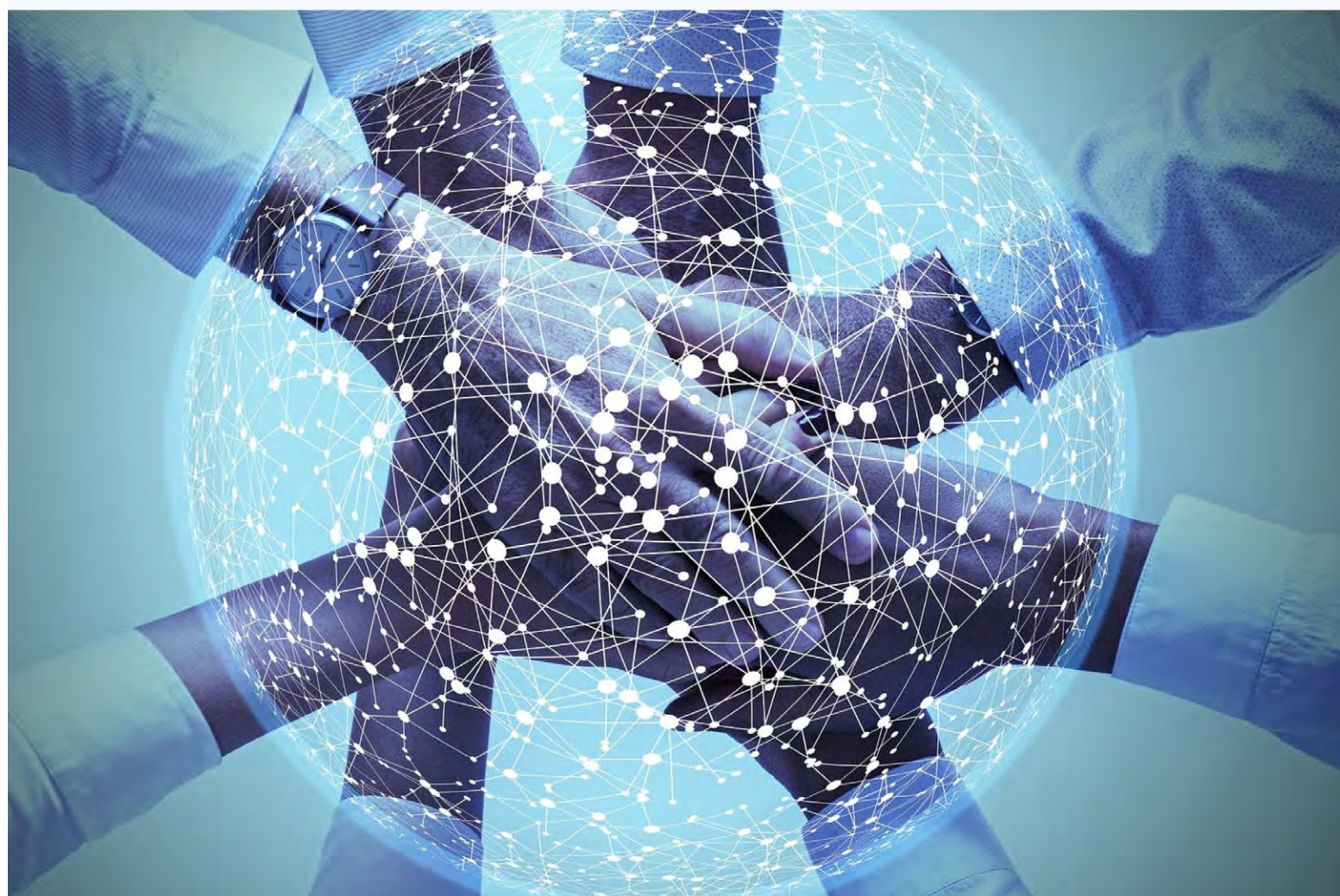
Yusuf Omar

There was huge interest in well-known social media guru Yusuf Omar's Webinar Workshop – **How to Reach Younger Audiences** – when he shared his Top 10 tips to target younger audiences. With the session open to all ABU Members, there were registrations from 25 countries, from the Pacific to the Middle East and Europe, with all of Asia and South Asia in-between.

# ASIAVISION EDITORS-IN-CHIEF MONTHLY MEETING



## ASIAVISION'S EDITORS-IN-CHIEF BRAINSTORM ACROSS THE TIME ZONES WITH COVID-19 NEWS COVERAGE A PRIORITY



With the challenges of reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic a significant issue through 2020/21, the ABU's News Department initiated monthly online meetings for newsroom heads to plan coverage and give support.

As well as discussing upcoming coverage, the Editors-in-Chief monthly webinars are a chance to exchange ideas and network, to talk about innovations and to share best practices from the hard-won lessons of COVID-19.

All Members are encouraged to take part, but for each broadcaster, the leader attending is different – ranging from News Editors, International Desk Producers, Newsroom Managers and sometimes, an Editor-in-Chief.

The Forum is held on a Wednesday early in the month and the first meeting on March 3 was very well attended with 28 participants from 13 countries. The numbers were high for the second meeting on April 1 with 21 participants from 11 countries and the strong support continued in the leadup to the Tokyo Olympic Games. With many Members not having Broadcast Rights, Members brainstormed strategies to help news coverage.

The Meetings are held at 1300 MYT so the full spread of Asiavision Members can attend – from 0800 in Istanbul to 1800 in Samoa, with Asia in the early afternoon.

Since January 2020, Asiavision has been ensuring Members get the most up-to-date and relevant information on the COVID-19 pandemic through excellent Member contributions and exchanges with Sister Unions – in total, more than 5,600 news stories in 2020/21 and, from the start of the pandemic in January 2020 to August 2021, more than 11,300 stories have been shared on the News Exchange.

Other initiatives to help Members cover the pandemic include a special section topping the Daily Advisories that details the COVID-19 stories first, along with updated tables of C-19 cases and death tolls, vaccination rollouts and border openings across Asiavision countries.

# ASIAVISION STATISTICS

**Asiavision's 32 Members exchanged 16,142 news stories on the Brightcove platform in the 12 months from July, 2020 to June, 2021.**

This annual total compares with the 2019/20 figure of 17,616.

The months when the total was above the 1,500 mark were June, 2021 and July, 2020.

The continuing global pandemic forced many Asiavision Newsrooms to require journalists to work-from-home for months and some had to close altogether for a while but still they continued their mission to report and to share content with fellow Members.

As the COVID-19 outbreak took centre stage, Asiavision Members excelled in sharing the situation in their own countries and others where they had reporters, to ensure the News Exchange had a complete picture of the global situation.

During the year 2020/21, Asiavision Members shared more than 5,600 COVID-19 stories.

In line with Asiavision newsrooms starting to return to full strength, the trajectory is heading upwards in the second half of 2021. The July 2021 total of 1,605 total uploads is the highest for two years. The August 2021 total of 1,573 continues this trend.

## TOTAL ITEMS EXCHANGED 2020-2021: 16,142

2021	2020
June, 2021 <b>1,514</b>	December, 2020 <b>1,165</b>
May, 2021 <b>1,296</b>	November, 2020 <b>1,250</b>
April, 2021 <b>1,442</b>	October, 2020 <b>1,420</b>
March, 2021 <b>1,394</b>	September, 2020 <b>1,404</b>
February, 2021 <b>1,089</b>	August, 2020 <b>1,439</b>
January, 2021 <b>1,163</b>	July, 2020 <b>1,566</b>

## TOTAL ASIAVISION COVID-19 NEWS STORIES FROM THE START OF THE PANDEMIC IN JANUARY, 2020 TO AUGUST, 2021: 11,327

JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021  
TOTAL COVID-19  
RELATED NEWS STORIES  
EXCHANGED: 5,615

- June / **510**
- May / **512**
- April / **457**
- March / **422**
- February / **370**
- January / **477**
- December / **428**
- November / **392**
- October / **409**
- September / **452**
- August / **544**
- July / **642**

## TOP FIVE MEMBERS 2020-2021 NEWS STORIES EXCHANGED

- VTV / **2,497**
- CCTV / **2,403**
- NHK / **1,871**
- IRIB / **1,612**
- DDI / **925**

## TOP FIVE MEMBERS COVID-19 RELATED NEWS STORIES EXCHANGED 2020-2021

- CCTV / **930**
- VTV / **880**
- NHK / **511**
- IRIB / **498**
- DDI / **331**



# ASIAVISION ANNUAL AWARDS 2020

Annual Awards 2020 showcase Asiavision's finest

The annual gala event celebrating the best of Asiavision Member contributions was live streamed on January 27, 2021. Members were recognised in seven different categories, including two new awards – Climate Change and Pacific Reporting, along with Coverage of the Year for COVID-19 reporting.

The Awards showcased the scope, the depth and the breadth of the thousands of news stories shared by Members on the Asiavision platform.



**THE WINNERS:**

**Outstanding Reporting of a News Story:**

- TVB Hong Kong (Legislative Council vandalism, July 2019)
- VTV Vietnam (Hanoi night hero, May 2020)

**Outstanding Visuals for a News Story:**

- TVB Hong Kong (Polytechnic University clashes, November 2019)

**Outstanding Reporting on Climate Change and Adaptation**

- VTV Vietnam (Shopping bags from waste, September 2019)

**Outstanding Reporting from the Pacific:**

- SBC Samoa (Deadly measles outbreak, November/December 2019)

**Outstanding Coverage of a News Event:**

- NHK Japan (The Royal Enthronement, October 2019)

**Outstanding Coverage of Breaking News:**

- IRIB Iran (Major General Soleimani Assassination, January 2020)

**Coverage of the Year 2020:**

- CCTV China (COVID-19 coverage)

There were more than 100 entries for this year's Awards. ABU Director News Wendy Everett said it was gratifying that Breaking News Coverage was the most competitive category with the judges considering eight nominations.

"The competition for the Breaking News category shows the value of Asiavision's news exchange during breaking world events" she said.

"The Awards themselves showcased best practice and are a wonderful window to the work of the ABU's News Department and Asiavision Members."

The Top Six winners were:

- VTV Vietnam:** 4 Nominations and 2 Wins
- IRIB Iran:** 4 Nominations and 1 Win
- NHK Japan:** 4 Nominations and 1 Win
- TVB Hong Kong:** 3 Nominations and 2 Wins
- CCTV China:** 1 Nomination and 1 Win
- SBC Samoa:** 1 Nomination and 1 Win

These Asiavision Members received two nominations: **KBS Korea, MCOT Thailand and FBC Fiji.**

These Members were nominated for one award: **ABS-CBN Philippines, TV5 Mongolia, C.N.A. Singapore, EMTV Papua New Guinea, SLRC Sri Lanka, PNN Cambodia, TRT Turkey and RTM Malaysia.**

For more please see: <https://www.abu.org.my/2019/05/09/abu-asiavision/>

On Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x\\_3x6gZG\\_l&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x_3x6gZG_l&feature=youtu.be)



# ASIAVISION MONTHLY AWARD WINNERS: JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

The Asiavision Monthly Award recognises the Member who made the most valuable contribution to the News Exchange during the month. It can be awarded for a single story or for a series of connected news stories. A number of factors are considered including how soon after the event the news story is available on the Brightcove platform, the 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. There is strong competition for the Award each month and several Commendations are given to the runners-up.

## JANUARY-JUNE 2021

### JUNE 2021

#### IRIB Iran

Comprehensive coverage of Iran's Presidential Elections

#### CCTV China

China's National Space Program and Mission to Mars, continuing coverage

### MAY 2021

#### IRIB Iran

Coverage of violent clashes between Israelis and Palestinians on the Gaza Strip

### APRIL 2021

#### TVRI Indonesia

Comprehensive coverage of the ASEAN Leaders Meeting in Jakarta

#### DDI India

Extensive coverage of COVID-19 case surge as the pandemic devastates India

### MARCH 2021

#### CCTV China

International China coverage including sanctions, sand-storms and Hong Kong laws

### FEBRUARY 2021

#### NHK Japan

Military coup in Myanmar, continued and comprehensive coverage

### JANUARY 2021

#### CCTV China

Rescue operation in Shandong Province for 22 workers trapped in gold mine blast

## JULY-DECEMBER 2020

### DECEMBER 2020

#### KBS Korea

Coverage from the front line as Korea battles a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic

### NOVEMBER 2020

#### VTV Vietnam

Coverage of the 37th ASEAN Summit, associated meetings and RCEP trade agreement

### OCTOBER 2020

**VTV Vietnam** Natural disaster coverage as storms cause massive flooding in the central provinces

**TVT Turkey** Rescue efforts after a Magnitude 6.6 earthquake hits Izmir Province

### SEPTEMBER 2020

#### NHK Japan

Extensive coverage of Japan's governing party's leadership change

### AUGUST 2020

#### SLRC Sri Lanka

Continuous and up-to-date coverage of the Sri Lankan General Election

### JULY 2020

#### RTM Malaysia

Former Prime Minister Najib Razak's conviction and sentencing for abuse of power



## The ABU CEOs TALK

30th MARCH 2021

MOVING AHEAD: MEDIA LESSONS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

COMMUNICATION  
FOR THE NEW  
NORMAL

# ABU CEOS TALK - MOVING AHEAD: MEDIA LESSONS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES HELD ON 30TH MARCH 2021



**Panellist**

Top: Mr Ibrahim Eren, ABU President, Chairman and Director General, Turkish Radio Television Corporation (TRT), Turkey; Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, ABU Vice President, Prasar Bharati CEO, India; Mrs Nedra Weerasinghe, Group Director- Electronic Media Business MTV/MBC - The Capital Maharaja Group, Sri Lanka; Ms Sheena Hughes, Director-General, EMTV, Papua New Guinea; Mr Hirosuke Usui, Senior Expert of Media Strategy & Planning Office, TBS, Japan; Mr Peter Limbourg, Director-General, Deutsche Welle, Germany

Bottom: Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary - General; Mrs Ambreen Jaan, PBC Director General, Pakistan; Mr Yerlan Bekkhozhin, Chairperson of the Executive Board, Khabar Agency, Kazakhstan; Mr Alexey Nikolov, Managing Editor, Russia Today Channel, Russia; Mr David Jordan, Director of Editorial Policy & Standards, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), United Kingdom

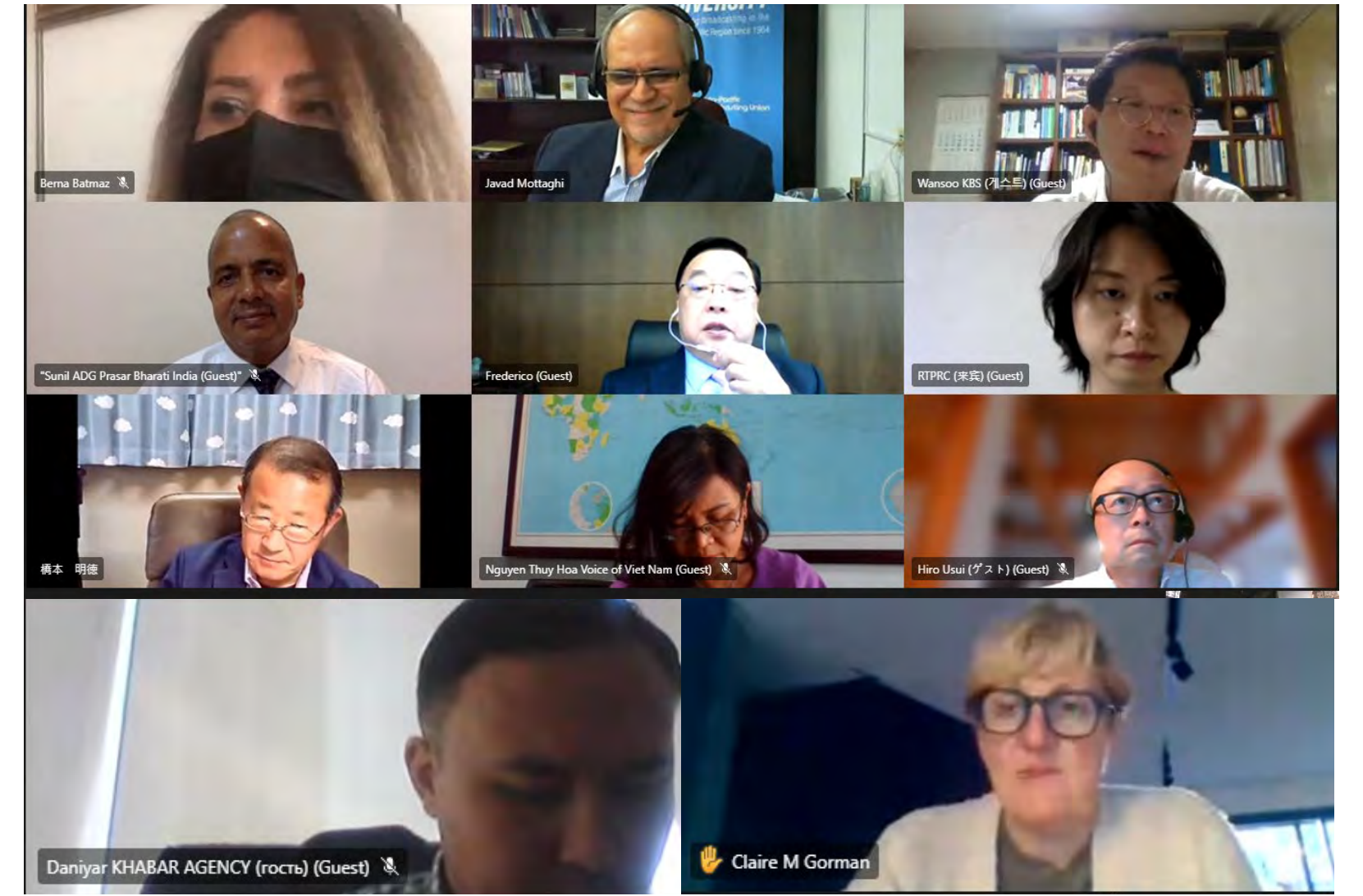
The ABU Secretariat held a high-level and high-profile conversation in the ABU CEOs Talk series on 30th March 2021. The discussion was conducted entirely online in two sessions under the theme MOVING AHEAD: MEDIA LESSONS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES to allow for the views and perspectives of more members on the role of media beyond the current crisis to be heard.



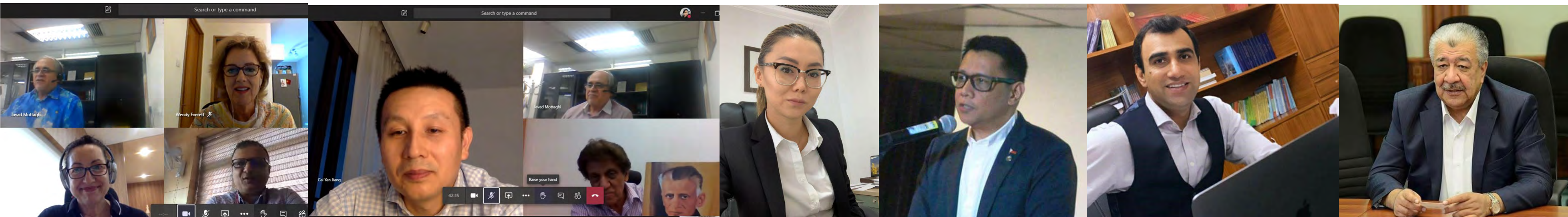
111th Admin Council Meeting

# ABU ONLINE MEETINGS ENSURES FLOW OF INFORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERSHIPS

The ABU conducted many online meetings in the 2020-2021 Annual Reporting term.



ABU's PSG Meeting Successful

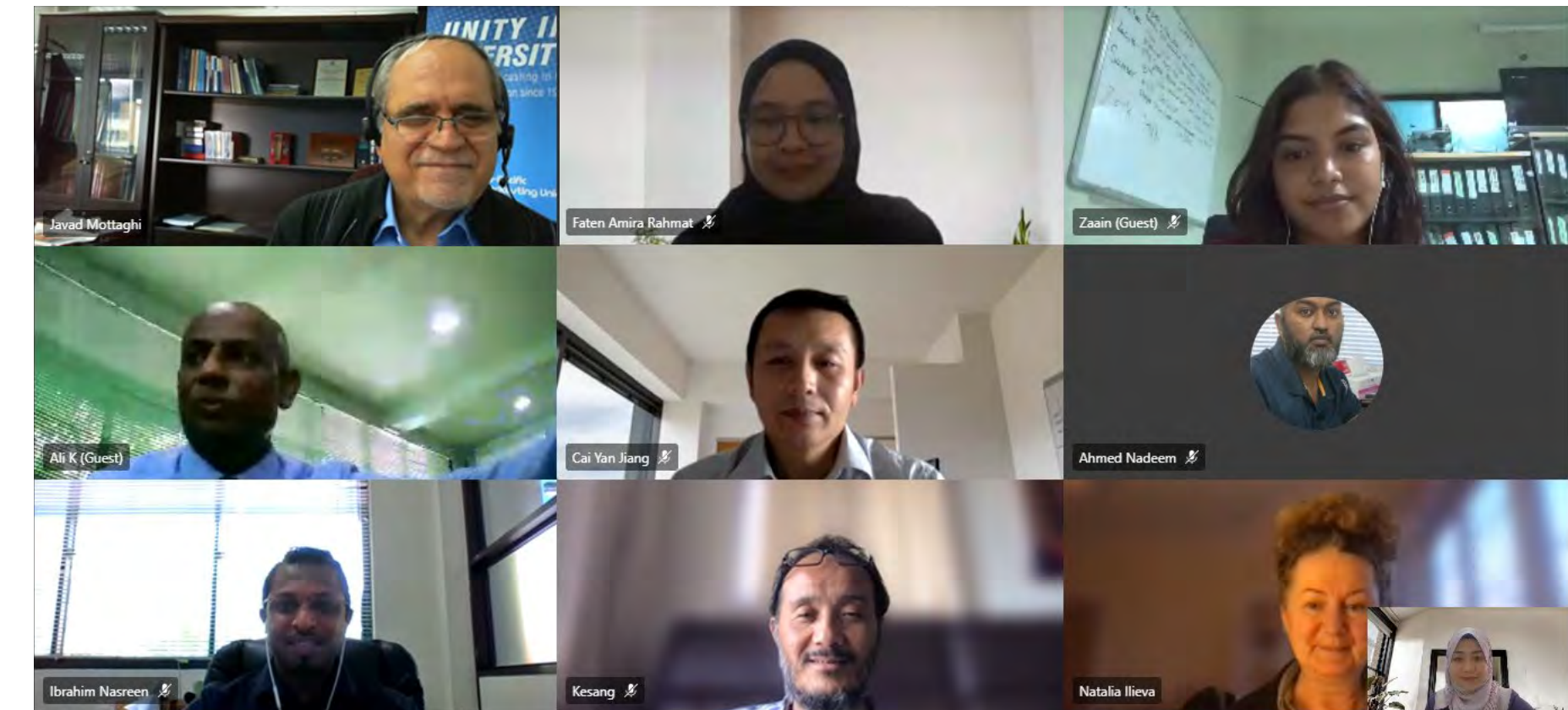


ABU Secretariat always in touch with CEOs through Online Meetings





Meeting with Pakistan Television (PTV)



Meeting with PSM, Maldives



Meeting with RTTL Timor-Leste



Meeting with President of VOV Mr Do Tien Sy and ABU Secretary General, Dr. Javad Mottaghi

# GOVERNANCE



Top: Chairman and Director-General of TRT Turkey and ABU President Mr Ibrahim Eren; Mr Yang Sung-dong, ABU Vice President and President and CEO of KBS Korea.

Right: Professor Dr Nguyễn Thế Kỳ, President of VOV, Vietnam



## ABU HOLDS 57TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS ONLINE - DECEMBER 2020

In 2020, the COVID 19 the pandemic swept the world and changed lives forever. ABU members however, rose to this challenge and continued to provide audiences with vital life-saving information, education and entertainment. How to serve the public during a global crisis naturally was the focus of the 57th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, which for the first time in the history of the Union was organised online as a virtual event.

Under the theme “Media in time of Crisis: Creativity and Innovation for Multiplatform” the virtual gathering took stock of members’ actions, innovative approaches and creativity during this unprecedented crisis. The over twenty meetings and sessions, which constituted the GA and Associated Meetings, were conducted daily from 16th November to 17th December 2020. This was a multi-stakeholder online event which saw the ABU family exchange experiences on how they dealt with the COVID 19 pandemic – from rearranging operations and working from home, to launching educational broadcast channels. The GA’s plenary sessions were held on 15th and 16th December and the Super Panel Forum on 17th December.

The prestigious ABU Prizes Awards Ceremony and ABU TV Song Festival also ran as virtual events and were streamed live. The General Assembly sessions were held on 15th, 16th and 17th of December. Preceding the main event were the annual meetings of the ABU Sports Group, Programme and Technical Committees, the Women With the Wave Forum, the Quality Management Workshop, and the sessions of the different governance bodies.



The 57th GA unanimously elected Mr Ibrahim Eren, Chairman and Director-General of TRT, Turkey as new ABU President. The NHK Japan's Executive Vice President Masagaki Satoru and Prasar Bharati's CEO Mr Shashi Vempati were elected as ABU Vice – Presidents. Mr Eren said that he was “filled with pride” to be elected.

Mr Eren also stated “As never before, media organizations around the world had to shoulder the heavy burden of responsibility to provide curated and reliable information,”. He said; “The jump in our ratings proves beyond doubt that ABU members rose to this challenge. I’m sure it is safe to say that how our members served their people during COVID-19 has re-awakened people to the vital role of media in their societies.”

In the Planning and Strategy Group Meeting as part of the GA, Mr Frederico Rosario, the Group Chairman, reported that the ABU Secretariat had presented a new structure of the General Assembly and Associated Meetings, which further reduces its duration. We had planned to test the new five-day format in 2021 but we will now plan to implement this from 2022. The new structure brings

down the duration of the GA and Associated Meetings to only 5 days, compared to the current length of 6 ½ days introduced in 2017 in Chengdu. The idea behind this proposal was that the 6 ½ days duration was working well but members would prefer shorter GAs.

He added that the Planning and Strategy Group had endorsed the Secretariat's recommendation to reduce the total duration of the GA and Associated Meetings to 5 days. The Administrative Council had approved to take this recommendation forward. For the first time in the history of ABU the GA and Associated Meetings would be less than a week long. This ultimately would reduce the financial costs to GA hosts and would also reduce the members' expenses for traveling to GAs.

ABU Technology and Innovation Mr Ahmed Nadeem presented on the progress to date and functionality of the new content exchange and sharing platform for ABU Members, Asia-Pacific View (APV). The new cloud-based platform brings together all existing content and music exchange platforms under a common umbrella. APV also has additional features and functions in addition to the main

content exchange module, including distribution of content to specific members/users; screening of programs (for example to facilitate judging of the ABU Prizes) and live streaming.

Steve Ahern, Head of ABU Media Academy reported that the ABU Media Academy had achieved many milestones in its first six months of operation to fulfil the objectives of the Three - Year Action Plans. The newly established ABU Academy developed and delivered series of training workshops and webinars since July 2020 including: Train the Trainer, Disinformation Verification Techniques, Children's TV Drama Scripting, TV & Radio Interviewing.

In addition, former Director of Programme Department Mr Koichi Okumura presented the launch and progress to date of the new ABU solidarity initiative for members – the ABU COVID 19 Content Database. Mr Okumura reported that ABU members contributed 1240 features of copyright free content including music, documentary, news programme and animation to the ABU Solidarity campaign through the ABU Content Exchange Network.



Top from left: ABU President Mr Ibrahim Eren, TRT-Turkey Chairman and Director General; and Mr Iman Brotoseno, TVRI President Director, Indonesia; Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, ABU Vice-President and CEO of Prasar Bharati, India; and ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi

Bottom from left: Dr Wilasinee Phiphitkul, Thai PBS Director General, Thailand; Mr Satoru Masagaki, NHK-Japan Executive Vice-President; and Mr David Anderson, ABC Managing Director, Australia; Mr Yang Fuqing, Deputy Controller of CGTN China's English Channel; and Mr Marcello Foa, RAI-Italy President

# SUPER PANEL FORUMS HELD AT ABU 57TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ABU General Assembly Super Panel Forum Entitled “Not Business as Usual: Broadcasting in Extraordinary Circumstances” – given in 2 parts, accurately described a year unlike any other for Public Service Broadcasters on the frontline of distributing accurate news and science-based information to audiences during the many months of lock-down in 2020.

In the first part of the forum, ABC Managing Director, David Anderson, spoke for everyone when he detailed the two principles behind the ABC’s approach – to keep staff safe and to keep essential services on air, at a time of great need for Australia.

The ABC was able to keep its news and radio services going as usual, with 80 percent of staff working-from-home: “*We needed to produce some technical miracles to make that happen within a week and part of the challenge [now] is to hold onto that innovation into the future,*” Mr Anderson said.

The Thai PBS Director General, Dr Wilasinee Phiphitkul, said that her organisation also faced the spread of Fake News and disinformation as the pandemic took hold. She said that Thai PBS was a founding member of a network of media and non-

government organisations to ensure that information about the pandemic was fact-checked

NHK’s Executive Vice-President Masagaki Satoru said that the most important lesson Japan’s public broadcaster learned from the pandemic was that it needed to deliver reliable and useful information that people could trust and to give it from a broad point of view – the micro as well as the macro perspective.

In Indonesia, TVRI made specific efforts to maintain and improve creativity and skills during the pandemic. Head of TVRI, Mr Brotoseno said TVRI held workshops with content creators, film makers and production managers for all program and news teams. Mr Brotoseno said that there was no change to TVRI’s mission or vision and Indonesia’s national broadcaster remained focused on providing educational content, information, healthy entertainment and most importantly being an adhesive tool for national unity: “*We as a broadcast media must remain a balancing medium.*”

“*This is a moment when all public broadcasters can collaborate. We all have a common interest. It is a global problem that needs a global solution and the global citizens deserve the fact that we*

*can all take science to them,*” Mr Anderson said, in closing.

Other ABU leaders contributed details of how their organisations tackled the challenge of broadcasting news about the pandemic and countering misinformation.

As in Part 1, Part 2 was moderated by Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General.

Mr Ibrahim Eren, ABU President, TRT Chairman and Director General, Turkey, began by saying that TRT Turkey launched its distance learning channel, EBA TV, on the 3rd week of March 2020. 2 schools in Ankara and Istanbul were transformed into studios, and over 10 of the TRT old studios were also used for this purpose.

As the ABU President, he hoped that content sharing between members will be elevated. He said that when content was shared, broadcasters have more content and audiences. He said: “*collaboration with other public broadcasters have become more than easier during COVID-19 .... and this was important for public broadcasters, as a way of serving the public by sharing and allowing them to reach other broadcasters’ content*”.



Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, ABU Vice President, Prasar Bharati CEO, India said that during the pandemic, there had been an innovation in content development, where they had experimented with new formats and fusions with different modes. An example was having visually enhanced radio programmes to make them more interesting and accessible to a wider population.

As ABU Vice President, he looked forward to the continued partnerships with other unions. He pointed out that the digital platform created by the ABU Secretariat for content exchange *"was a very unique and game-changing platform for spurring collaborations, and was a vehicle to increase collaborations both within the union and across the unions"*. He said that an outcome of this could be getting different broadcasters to work together in creating a magazine that offers insights on significant developments within the region.

Mr Marcello Foa, RAI President, Italy, said that the pandemic had made them stronger than before, as public service broadcasters have become the trusted source for the public, which include the youths. They had been able to rapidly resume their productions in the creative sector and also support other sectors which had been severely affected by the pandemic.

Mr Yang Fuqing, Deputy Controller of CGTN English Channel, China, said that there were several differences in media coverage during the pandemic in comparison to their daily routine work. There were constant visits made by their journalists to hospitals to interview doctors, patients and family members. There had been also a faster media convergence as they had employed digital media, for example the use of small portable devices and smartphones in reaching out to their audiences.

Mr Abdelrahim Suleiman, Director-General of Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), said that during the pandemic, they had a responsibility in fostering trust amongst their viewers, whilst at the same time dealing with protecting employees and other challenges. This was the reason why international cooperation amongst media organisations was important because they would be able to share experiences, solutions and best practises.

Mr Georgica Severin, Director-General of Radio Romania, said that the biggest challenge during the pandemic was how to keep close to their audience. As schools were closed, they offered programmes for their students via radio. They also invited musicians to perform live concerts online. In terms of culture, they delivered powerful messages from cultural personalities to offer support to the public at large.

Mr Gregoire Ndjaka, Director-General of African Broadcasting Union (AUB), said that just like the public, they were also confused and sceptical during the pandemic, nevertheless, they supported their audiences to the best of their capacity as a public service broadcaster and continued to collaborate with other media organisations in the spirit of solidarity.

Ms Asun Gómez-Bueno, Director of International Relations of Radio & Television of Spain, said that during the pandemic, they provided information in terms of safety measures against COVID-19 and also psychological support for their employees and relatives. They also modified and increased their programmes to offer better coverage to their audiences.

Ms Melissa Fleming, Under Secretary-General of United Nations, said that the media has the power to save lives by providing accurate and science-based health information and guidance. They should also inspire solidarity stories of solutions and messages of hope to lead the change for a better and greener world. With the latest discovery on vaccines, the media now plays a greater role in educating the public on their safety. She added that the UN appreciates the value of media organisations and the work they do in raising awareness and understanding on key issues such as climate change, human rights and sustainable development, and she looks forward to more collaborations towards this effect.

# HISTORIC 109TH ABU ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE 26-27 AUGUST 2020

The ABU Administrative Council successfully held its mid-year meeting online in two sessions on 26 and 27 August 2020. 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 union during the challenging period of COVID 19 era.

With most of the activities of the Union moving online, a big part of working in the new normal would be played by the various departments of the ABU Secretariat and its 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 Administrative Council recognized 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 services including capacity – building programme.

In his closing remarks of the meeting, the ABU Acting President Mr İbrahim Eren stated: “The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing its spread across the world. The effects of the virus demonstrate that the ongoing outbreak is more than a health crisis and it affects us all. The best way to combat common problems and challenges is to work together.”

He also added that during these difficult times, media organizations- especially public service broadcasters, as trusted sources of information, bear a great responsibility. Therefore, more than ever it is time to strengthen our cooperation through the implementation of joint initiatives and actions under the ABU’s umbrella. ■





# ABU HOLDS ITS ONLINE MID-YEAR PLANNING AND STRATEGY GROUP MEETING ON 4TH JUNE 2020



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 also reviewed the Secretariat's Organisational Structure. Dr. Mottaghi reported that the media environment has been constantly changing. For several years the ABU Secretariat has been able to adjust to these rapid changes by recruiting multi skilled staff. However, with the introduction of the "Three – Year Action Plan" the Secretariat needs to adjust its organisational structure in order to continue serving ABU members in the rapidly changing media environment.

Dr Mottaghi said that in consultation with the Directors and Senior Officers, the Secretariat has decided not to bring a sea change, but minimal change. He added that one position was added to the current structure, that of Manager Content in Sports Department. Dr. Mottaghi informed that the Secretariat will recruit a second Officer ICT Support, so the IT Departments would have an IT Manager and two Officers ICT Support. In this way the IT Department would be able to cope with the huge increase of on-line services offered by ABU, a trend that is expected to continue in the future. Dr Mottaghi also added that the Secretariat added the position of "Head of ABU Media Academy" to the SG's Office. This position has been recommended by the PSG and approved by the Administrative Council at its last meeting in Tokyo in 2019. It has also been approved by the ABU General Assembly in Tokyo. The ABU Secretary – General reported that in the ABU Programme Department, he has added a position for Media Project Manager as it was essential to strengthen the Programme Department in media and TV activities.

The PSG endorsed the new organisational structure of the Secretariat. The PSG is a consultative body that advises the Secretariat and Administrative Council on strategic issues and developments. The successful 2020 mid – year PSG meeting is part of the recent drive from the Secretariat to streamline face-to-face gatherings and move more activities on-line. It followed a very successful online Sports Group conference in May 2020. In the future, more smaller governance meetings such as Technical and Programme Bureau meetings will be held entirely online.

## 58<sup>TH</sup> ABU GENERAL ASSEMBLY & ASSOCIATED MEETINGS



ABU  
VIRTUAL EVENTS  
9 – 26 Nov 2021

MEDIA RESET:  
SERVING THE PEOPLE,  
PLANET AND PEACE

# MEDIA RESET: SERVING THE PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE"

For a second year running all of us are forced to live and work in a completely new, and until recently, almost unimaginable environment. The COVID 19 pandemic, which spread to all corners of the world, is still raging and it looks like the so-called "new normal" is here to stay. We had to change not just the way we perform our activities but also the way we think about the future and prepare for the challenges to come. That is why the theme of our next General Assembly: "Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace" is very timely. The pandemic was a wake-up call for humanity. It focused global attention on the climate emergency, loss of biodiversity, food and water security and highlighted the role of media as an amplifier of positive action. ■

# ABU PROGRAMMING

## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING SEES LIGHT BEYOND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID pandemic naturally overshadowed the 52nd ABU Programme Committee meeting, held online on December 3rd, 2020 due to ongoing travel restrictions around the region but it did not dampen the spirits of the 131 who attended. In welcoming the delegates, Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi said: "It is time for the Programme Committee to look beyond the pandemic." The Committee Chairperson Mr Soleman Yusuf and Vice Chairpersons Mr Keizo Izuta and Mr Park Chun Ki, followed this sentiment in their opening remarks. We had 4 speakers from 3 organisations, ABC (Australia), CGTN (China), and NHK (Japan) shared their experience on how they managed to produce and deliver the contents to their audience. At the end of the meeting, director of ABU programming Mr Koichi Okumura thanked the members for their generous gratitude to his term of 2018-2020. Mr Yasu Nagahata was introduced as his successor. He has been a long time a producer and developer of programmes, mainly in entertainment, at NHK.



Mr Koichi Okumura



Mr Yasu Nagahata

# ABU PRIZES 2020

ABU Prizes are the most prestigious programme awards in our region that honour the best Radio, Television, and New Media content from our member organisations. Streamed simultaneously on ABU Facebook page, YouTube and Zoom, it marks the first time ever in the history of ABU that the ABU Awards Ceremony was organised virtually – on December 10th hosted by Iman Corinne Adrienne and Sharizan Borhan.

ABU received a record number of 330 entries for ABU Prizes in 2020, the highest ever since the inception of the awards in 1964. The breakdown of awards received for categories include 127 for Radio, 174 for TV and 29 for New Media. These are the winners of 2020:

- **Radio Drama:** The Days of Depression – A Shogi Master’s Invisible Opponent / Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)
- **Radio Docudrama:** Punk in a pandemic / Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
- **Radio Documentary:** Facing the bombers / British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- **Radio News Reporting:** First in the World: China’s Coronavirus Vaccine Enters Phase 2 Clinical Trial / China National Radio (CNR)
- **Radio Community Service Announcement:** Drunk No Drive / National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT)
- **Radio On-Air Personality:** 2020 Hit FM Music Awards / China Radio International (CRI)
- **Radio ABU Perspective Award:** My 92 days in Wuhan / China National Radio (CNR)
- **Radio Special Jury Prizes:** SCRATCH -Discrimination and the Heisei Era- / TBS Holdings, Inc. (TBS)
- **TV Drama:** Everybody is perfect / Radiotelevisione Italiana S.p.A (Rai)
- **TV Documentary:** Meeting You / Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC)
- **TV News Reporting:** Watchers of Lawmakers : Legislators and Awards / Korea Broadcasting System (KBS)
- **TV Children:** Meet...Harriet Tubman / Der KinderKanal von ARD und ZDF KiKA (KIKa)
- **TV Entertainment:** You Can’t Ask That: Autism Spectrum / Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
- **TV Sports:** The Australian Dream / Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
- **TV ABU Perspective Awards:** Tokyo Rats: Kabukicho’s Poisonous Beauty / Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)
- **TV Special Jury Prizes:** The Third Coal Mine / Chin Media Group (CMG)
- **Digital Content Award:** Experience Tokyo Megaquake / Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)

## ABU PRIZES 2020 AWARD SPONSORS



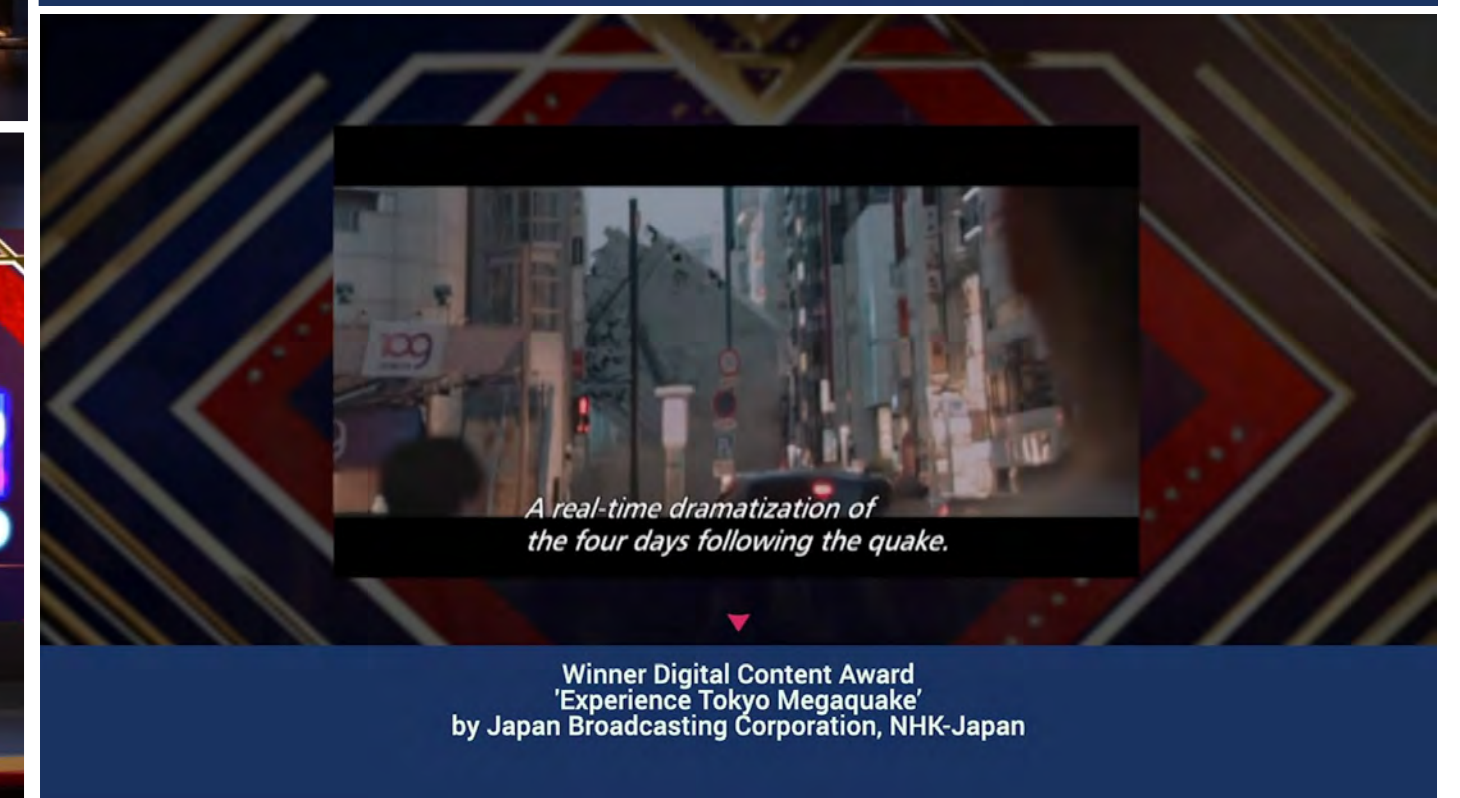
From left: Iman Corinne Adrienne, Sharizan Borhan



Winner Radio On-Air Personality  
'2020 HitFM Music Awards'  
by China Radio International, CRI-China



Winner TV Entertainment  
'You Can't Ask That: Autism Spectrum'  
by Australian Broadcasting Corporation, ABC-Australia.



A real-time dramatization of  
the four days following the quake.

Winner Digital Content Award  
'Experience Tokyo Megaquake'  
by Japan Broadcasting Corporation, NHK-Japan

# ABU TV SONG FESTIVAL 2020 – MUSIC THAT CONNECTED MEMBERS

The ABU TV Song Festival took place on December 14th, 2020 and featured 15 performances from ABU member countries. It was streamed simultaneously on ABU Facebook Page, YouTube and Zoom to a virtual audience of more than 13,000 on the combined platforms. The webcast performance of popular music of top and solo group talents from an array of national music scenes, represented the geographical and cultural expanse of the Asia-Pacific region and was a success with the robust cooperation of the ABU member organisations.

The Festival included spectacular performances of the following artists, in order of performance:

1. TAEMIN / Republic of Korea (KBS)
2. OYKU GURMAN / Turkey (TRT)
3. Epo D'Fenomeno / Indonesia (TVRI)
4. Ilyosbek Arabov / Uzbekistan (MTRK)
5. Akashvani Vadya Vrind / India (DD)
6. AUF ISMAIL / Brunei (RTB)
7. Sonam Gonpo / China (SRT)
8. Du'ong Hoàng Yên / Vietnam (VTV)
9. HATSUNE MIKU / Japan (NHK)
10. Sean Pang / Macau-China (TDN)
11. Germano Guilherme / Macau-China (TDN)
12. Sindhu Malla / Nepal (Radio Tulsipur)
13. Begmyrat Annamyradov / Turkmenistan (TVTM)
14. Tokosouwia Local String Band /Vanuatu (VBTC)
15. FLOOR 88 / Malaysia (RTM)





# ABU ROBOCON 2020

Due to the pandemic situation of 2020, the originally scheduled 'ABU Robocon 2020 Fiji' in August, to be hosted by Fiji Television, became the 'ABU ROBOCON FESTIVAL', an online showcase of robots made by university students under the ABU Robocon 2020 competition theme 'Robo Rugby'. It was held on December 12th, 2020.

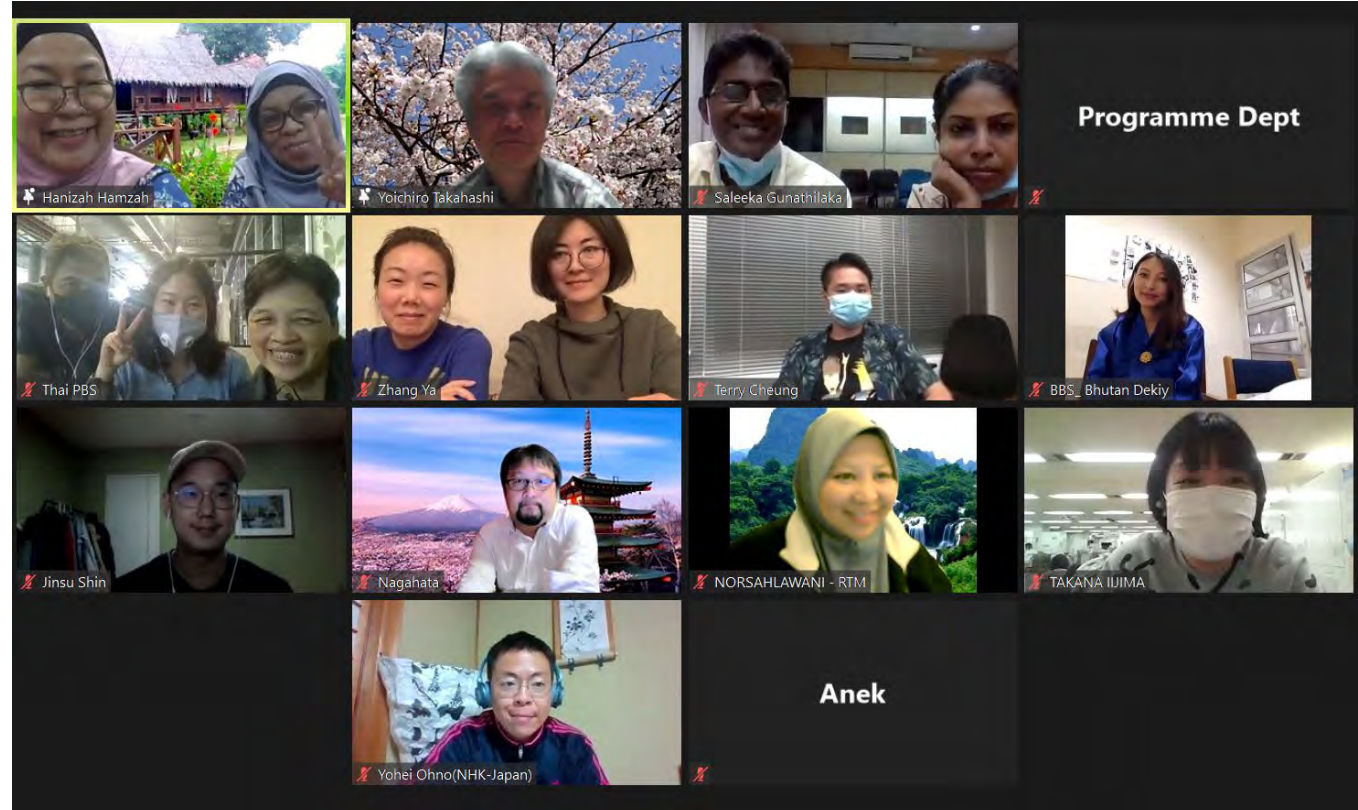
As many as 21 representative teams from China, Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam took video clips of their hand-made robots and shared them on the website. More than 40,000 viewers on YouTube, Facebook, and nico nico video, enjoyed the event. The Best Awards and the Best Presentation Award were chosen by all participants voting at the end of the event. In addition, Special Awards were presented by 7 Special Sponsors from Japan. Participants were nervous at the beginning but as they warmed up they became all very cheerful and praised each other's' ceaseless passion for Robocon in the difficult time. Robocon 2021 will also be held online, hosted by Shandong Radio and TV, on December 12, 2021.



# THE 16TH SERIES DRAMA CO-PRODUCTION MEETING

The 16th Series screening which was to be held in July 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic and was held online on April 6th and 7th, 2021 under the Series leadership of Mr Yoichiro Takahashi as the Executive Producer from NHK, Japan. Participating organizations were NHK-Japan, TVRI-Indonesia, SLRC-Sri Lanka, THaipBS-Thailand, MRTV-Myanmar, RTM-Malaysia, CCTV-China, RTB-Brunei, RTHK-Hong Kong, BBS-Bhutan, and EBS-Korea. Ten completed episodes were screened and exchanged.

The Producers' Choice Award of the 16th Series went to Mr. Jinsu Shin of EBS-Korea for MANGO IS A PENGUIN NOT AN OWL. Second place was awarded to NHK-Japan's AYATORI from the works of Mr. Yohei Ono and 3rd place to Ms. Deki Zangmo from BBS-Bhutan, for KIRA. ABU Children's Drama Co-Production is an annual co-production initiative developed in co-operation with members. Now in its 17th year, this co-production allows the participating organisations through its producers/directors that participated in this co-production to produce children's stories that are attractive to even those who live in various countries, as well as being exposed to the standard of international production.



# CHILDRENS MEDIA HUB

This new TV project of 2021-2022 is a Series of Workshops with different trainers on children's content and topics. From Storytelling to Animation, Sound Design, and Casting we aim to send trainers to groups of children's content makers in ABU member countries. It is a separate project from ABU KIDS (childrens' content exchange, previously known as ABU Childrens' Item Exchange). A special webinar was held on July 26th, 2021 with an award-winning media expert who spoke on the topic of "Key elements for selling your concept, the pitching process". Further webinars/workshops are scheduled to be hold in August and September, 2021 and in the Spring of 2022.





# #ABUDIGITAL 2021

The online edition of ABU's premier digital media show #ABUdigital offered a brand-new virtual experience to its delegates on May 26th and 27th, 2021. Presented in an engaging talk show format hosted by Malaysian multi-artist and creative entrepreneur Ms Nini Marini, the event featured two-days of inspiring global cases from nearly 20 speakers from Australia, China, France, India, Ireland, Japan, Qatar, Singapore, Turkey, the UK and the US on how new digital experiences, products, audiences and strategies are shaping the world of media. More than 400 media professionals from over 40 countries and territories joined and enjoyed the event virtually this year.





# ABU NEW MEDIA TASK GROUP RE-BRANDED AS DIGITAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP

The ABU New Media Task Group, formed in 2016, was re-branded as the ABU Digital Media Working Group with members adopting the proposed changes in its latest meeting held online on June 22nd, 2021. It aims to share experiences, update members on digital activities and initiatives from the past year, discuss challenges and share strategies and priority areas among members. The rebranding comes as part of the efforts to further expand the roles and responsibilities of the Group to better assist ABU members in navigating the shifts in the global digital media landscape. 24 representatives from 14 ABU Members joined the online meeting and the next meeting of DMWG is scheduled to take place online in October 2021 ahead of the ABU General Assembly in late November.



# ABU RADIO FACEBOOK GROUP NOW HAS 358 ACTIVE MEMBERS

It was formed in 2018 to communicate and share with ABU Members our common interest in radio and audio production. It's a place where group members should feel free to discuss issues, post photos and share related content. It's also a way for the ABU to keep in touch with our radio members in the Asia-Pacific and around the world. While aimed primarily at ABU members, we also invite specialists from outside the ABU who can contribute towards the development of radio in our region.

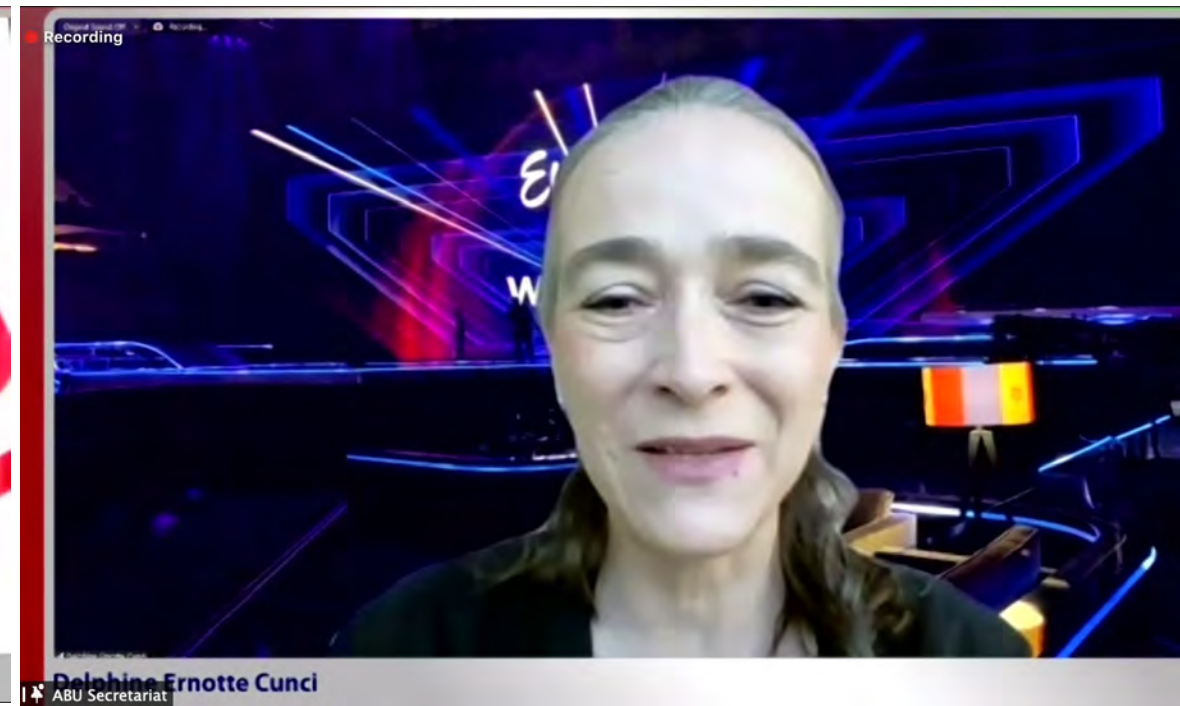


# ABU-RAI DAYS 2021

ABU and forum partners RAI Italy staged the third, hybrid edition of the very successful ABU-Rai Days on June 14th and 15th. Four high-level sessions were held over the two days, capturing some of the challenges PSM face at present in areas as diverse as staffing, technologies, journalism, trust, audience and stakeholder relations, program production, financing and, of course, diversity itself. The great strength of the ABU-Rai Days Dialogues are how they bring together experts with practical knowledge of the subjects able to share real-life, workable solutions to common problems. The event had almost 300 registrations with around 130 participants logged in to the dialogue from around the world in each different session. The forum was recorded in full, and the recordings will remain as a continuing resource for ABU Members and partners unable to take part and for our colleagues into the future.



Ibrahim Eren, ABU President and Chairman & Director General of TRT Turkey



Delphine Ernotte Cunci, President of the European Broadcasting Union and France Télévision



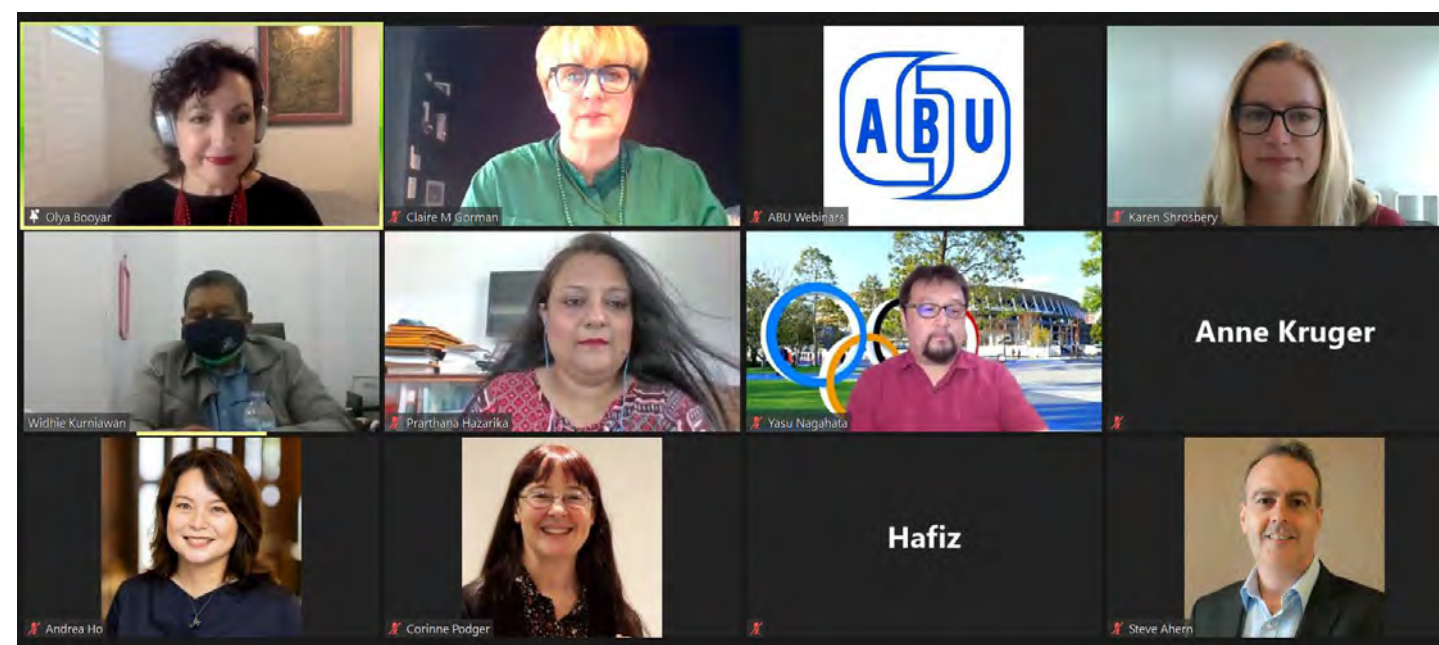
From top: Shashi Vempati, ABU Vice-President and CEO of Prasar Bharati; Masagaki Satoru, ABU Vice-President and Executive Vice President of NHK Japan; Lim Byung-Kul, Executive Vice President of KBS Korea; Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General.



# COVID CRISIS MADE ABU RADIO WORKING PARTY MEETING SPECIAL

The Radio Working Party turned the COVID crisis into a strength by holding one of its best-attended General Assembly meetings online on December 1st, 2020. More than 120 members logged into the meeting, and 118 participants stayed until the very end. RWP was chaired by Ms. Claire Gorman from the ABC – Australia.

# RADIO WORKING PARTY HOSTS INAUGURAL MID-YEAR VIRTUAL MEETING

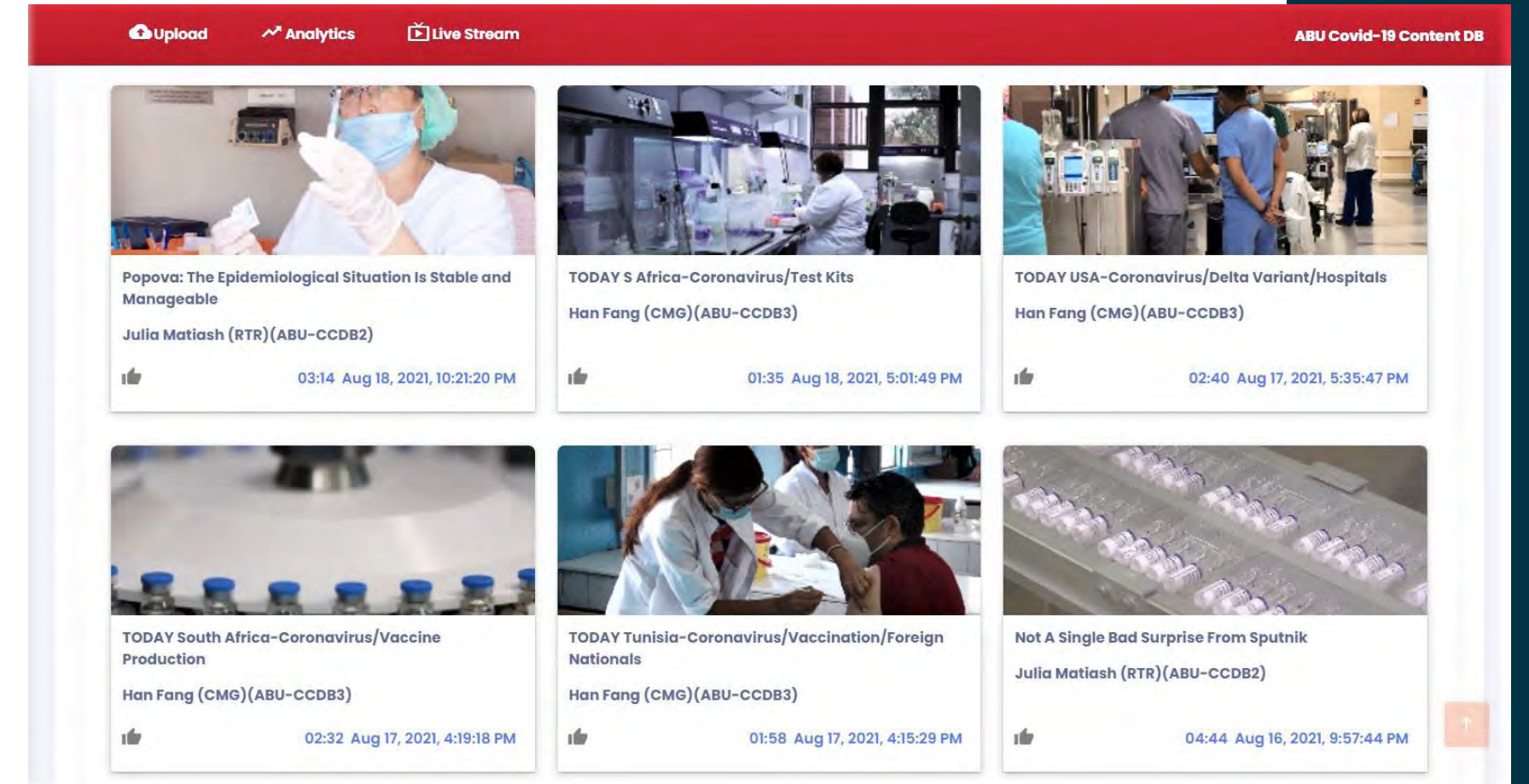


Radio experts from around the world joined 75 ABU Radio Members for the Radio Working Party's inaugural mid-year virtual meeting. Aimed at addressing pressing issues for members, presentations ranged from building trust by fact checking through how to achieve great sound quality to presentations of the latest production technologies for individuals and small stations. Other topics covered during the two hours included the future of Radio Studios, news, sport, investigative journalism, content ideas for digital platforms, advertising, music programming and social audio. The next Radio Working Party meeting will be held November 10, 2021, in conjunction with the ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

# COVID-19 SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

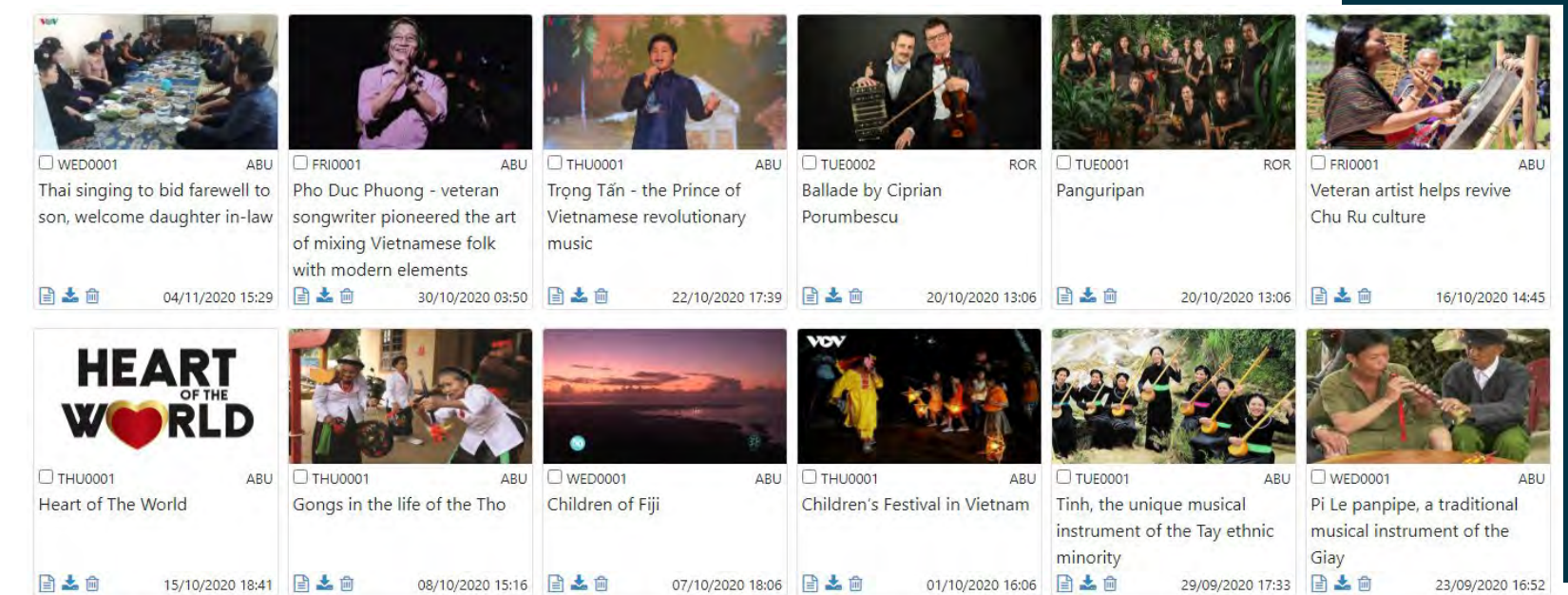


Despite the immense challenges of COVID-19 pandemic for broadcasters, the ABU members continued to serve their audiences by providing life-saving information, education for school children and keeping their nation's morale up. The ABU COVID-19 Content Database has 2214 items, and 47 members registered under Asia-Pacific View (APV) solidarity platform.



# ABU MUSIC EXCHANGE

The AMX, or ABU's Music Exchange, is an interactive platform that celebrates the diversity of traditional and contemporary music in the Asia-Pacific and around the world. AMX offers the opportunity for members to share and give access to wide range of copyright-free music content for their programs. AMX members can get instant access to hundreds of concerts, folk, rock, jazz, classical and other music recordings. This platform is designed exclusively for ABU members. The AMX now has 24 members who, in the past 12 months exchanged 262 music programs and items. Members include: The Voice Of Vietnam, Norfolk Island Broadcasting Service; PSM Maldives, All India Radio, Bangladesh Betar, PBC Pakistan, ROR Romania, JBA Japan, RRI Indonesia, MRTV Myanmar, MNB Mongolia, TDM Macau, KBS Korea, RTHK Hong Kong, LNR Lao, MBC Sri Lanka, SBCL Samoa, TVTM Turkmenistan, Thai PBS, RTB Brunei, NBT Thailand and RTR Russia.



# MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



## ABU MEDIA ACADEMY



The formation of the ABU Media Academy has been one of the highlights of this year.

The Academy was formed as a result of an initiative of the Admin Council at the 2019 General Assembly to consolidate and expand the ABU's training activities under one brand. Internationally recognised trainer and media expert Steve Ahern was engaged to start the Academy in July 2020, with part time assistance from Ruchi Malhotara.

In its first year of operation, the Academy has expanded the ABU's training offerings to new levels, opened an online learning platform and developed an online resource library. To ensure it is in tune with members' needs, the Academy has held regular meetings of the Academy Bureau and Forum groups, to formulate training priorities.

In the past year the Academy has run 40 online training sessions for 1848 participants, with an average of about 25 countries participating in each session.

Some highlights include:

- A 6 week online tv journalism training course for AsiaVision members
- A Train the Trainer course for all ABU Members and ABU staff
- Verifying fake content webinar
- Radio and Television Interviewing 2 week course
- Sales techniques for broadcast and digital 4 week course
- Latest techniques in TV Documentary making
- Developing and Pitching new TV and Film projects webinar





Kara Koroi in the Gold FM studios, with her acceptance letter from AFTRS.

The Academy has connected with a range of international universities seeking partnerships that will benefit members.

Australia's elite media university, AFTRS, has given one free place in its Radio Content and Programming course and one free place in the Screen Business course. After reviewing many applications AFTRS chose Karaliana Koroi, the Program Director of Fijian Broadcasting Corporation's Gold FM for the radio course and Nguyen Phuong Thao, a producer from the Vietnam Agricultural TV channel VTC16 for the Screen Business Course. In September, in conjunction with the highly regarded Canadian Management University HEC, we will offer members an Authentic Leadership and Management course.

The Academy has also contributed to the expansion of teaching expertise inside ABU with internal sessions on course design and online training delivery. Video editing training is also planned for when covid lockdown restrictions lift.



Dr. Mehdi Rahimian (left) and Dr. Neyestani, from IRIB.

Academy Head Steve Ahern has taken part in several conferences and inhouse training webinars for Member organisations and is ready to contribute his expertise on request to any member. The Academy has been involved with several ABU funding submissions and will deliver the training component of the UNESCO Together for Peace Initiative later this year.

As it goes into its second year, the ABU Media Academy plans for more courses to serve member needs and will continue to expand its offerings at the highest levels to give members the skills they need to thrive in this fast changing media environment. ■



Steve Ahern in conversation with Mark Llewellyn



Francis Herman the CEO of Vanuatu Broadcasting Corporation chairing the Academy Forum

# ABU ACADEMY IDENTIFIES PRIORITY AREAS AND EXPLORES NEW EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

ABU Academy has continued to identify new training needs and focusing on priority areas of Cinematography, Journalism, Management and Children’s Media.

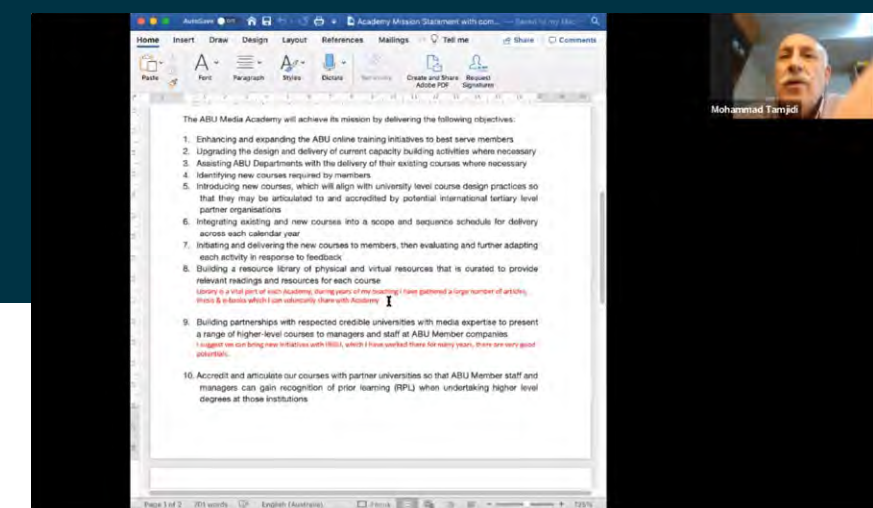
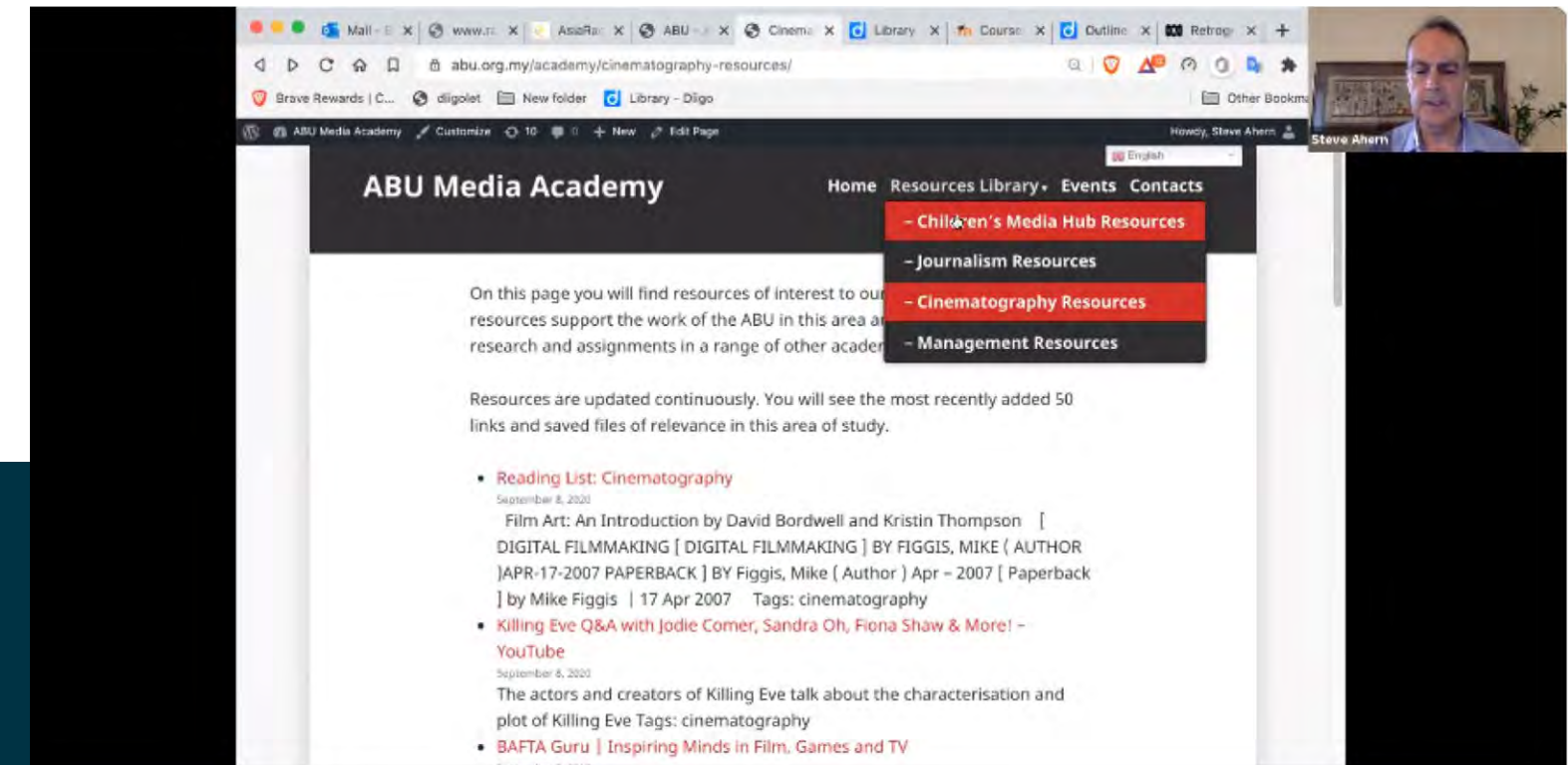
The academy has also developed a resource library that can be accessed from the academy website at [www.abu.org.my/academy/resources-library](http://www.abu.org.my/academy/resources-library). An annotated range of links have already been added, and we are looking for more, so if you have written or found an interesting article in the priority curriculum areas, please send it to [academy@abu.org.my](mailto:academy@abu.org.my) and it will be added to the list.

As well as the website, it has built up online courses using the Moodle Learning Management System. This allows the Academy to progress beyond delivering just webinars and move to more complex higher level online remote training, with additional resources that are only available to those enrolled in courses.

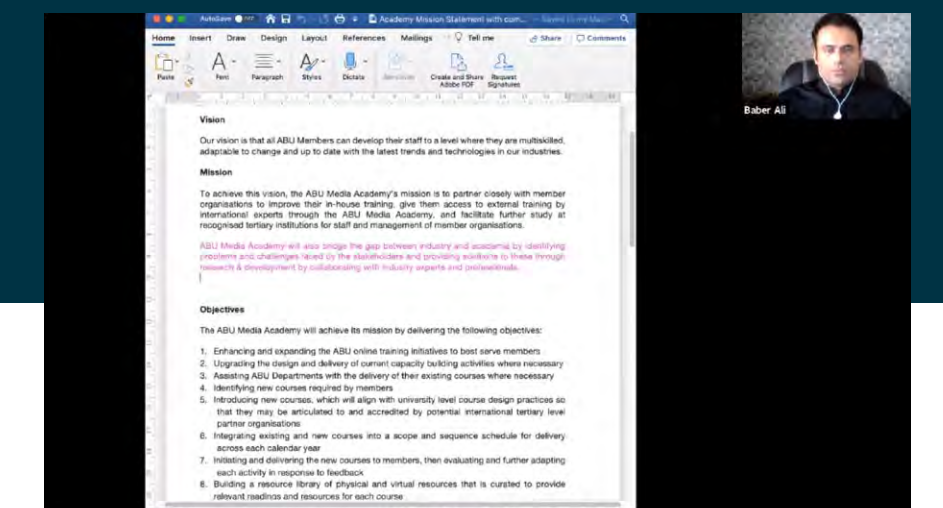
In line with the ABU’s Three Year Action Plan, the academy initiated partnerships with international universities for articulation of courses and recognition of prior learning for course credits.



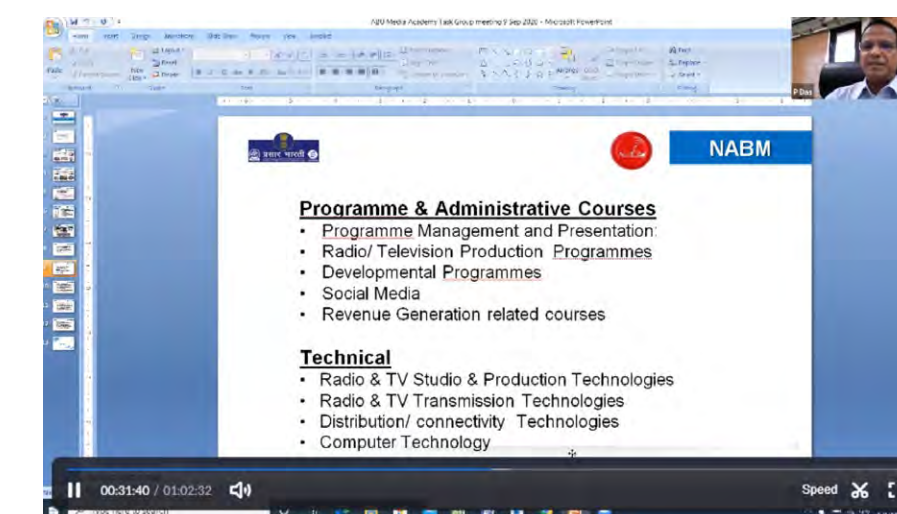
From top: RTR, Russia; QMC, Qatar; FBC, Fiji; NIMC, Bangladesh; Pathshala, Bangladesh; PBC, Pakistan



IRIB, Iran



VUTV, Pakistan



Prasar Bharati, India

# SOCIAL MEDIA, SALES AND SCREEN WISDOM IN ABU MEDIA ACADEMY COURSES

The ABU Media Academy delivered a range of online courses and webinars in areas such as social media, sales and screen production. Here are some tips from these engaging training courses.

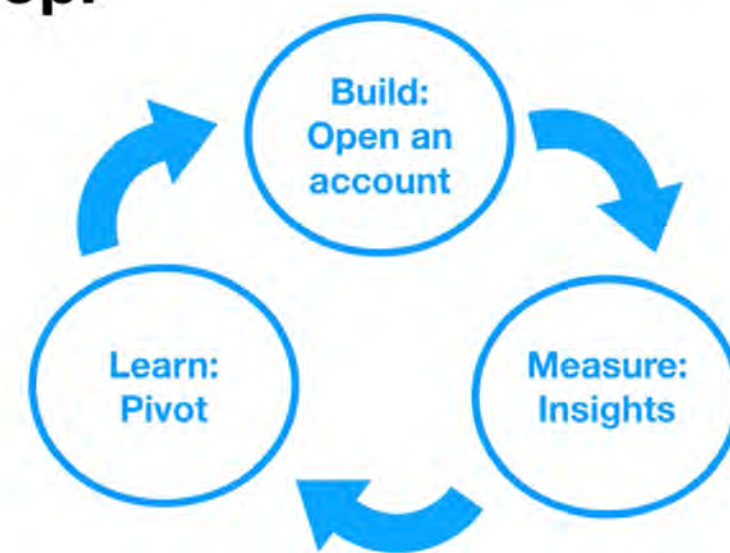
## Social Media

On social media audiences want:

- Bite size information
- Lots of visual content
- They want to be entertained
- They want short explainers to inform them

## Entrepreneurial mindset

- Trial and error: dare to fail
- Take it seriously: dedication!
- Startup loop:

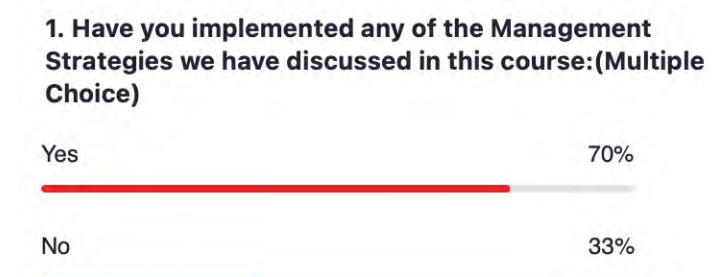


# NEWSROOM MANAGER COURSE IMPROVES LEADERSHIP SKILLS



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing poll results



90 participants registered for the course, which was developed by the ABU's News Department and the ABU Academy and delivered online in June.

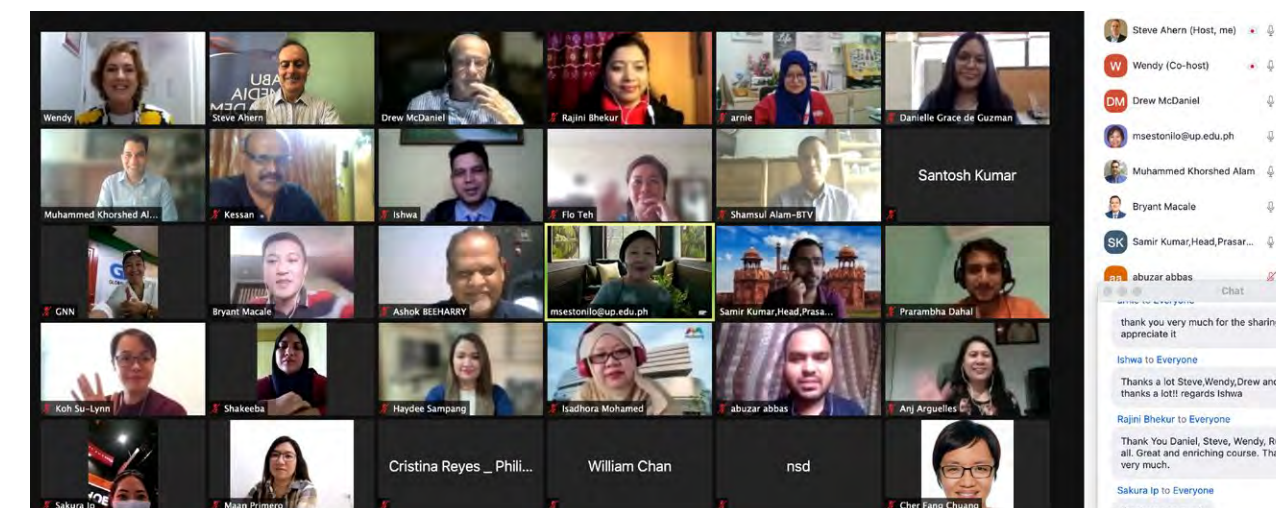
Four webinars, as well as further research and activities on the Academy Learning Platform delivered training aimed to upgrade the skills of news managers. Professor Drew McDaniel from Ohio University was the main lecturer, along with the ABU's Head of News Wendy Everett and Academy Head Steve Ahern.

The last session of the course featured a 30 minute Q&A with ABC Australia's Director of News Gaven Morris, who discussed the strategy behind the evolution of the ABC News Department from a broadcast to a digital newsroom.

Course content also explored the effectiveness of transactional and transformational management styles in the modern news environment and analysed changing audience consumption habits.

John Kotter's Eight Step process of leading change was examined as an effective model for change management:

- Create a sense of urgency
- Build a guiding coalition
- Develop a change vision
- Communicate the vision for buy-in
- Empower broad action
- Create short-term wins
- Don't let up
- Create a new culture







# AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP COURSE PREPARES THE NEXT GENERATION OF MEDIA LEADERS

Which management style is best for modern media organisations?

Traditional, Formal or Charismatic?

This was one of the questions explored in the Authentic Leadership course, conducted remotely for the ABU by the HEC business school in Canada.

Forty middle and upper level managers from ABU organisations were enrolled in the course, which ran for 14 weeks.

Participants learnt that there are pros and cons for each style of management. Traditional style management provides known



expectations, but may not be adaptable enough for the fast changing contemporary media environment. Formal management is extremely efficient, but is easily dehumanised. Charismatic management is valued today in some organisations, but is it appropriate for all types of media companies.

In the course, the PODC management process was taught by Professor Othon A. Leon. It is a 4 step process which encompasses: Planning, Organising, Leading and Controlling. It guides managers to first plan, then clearly organise their staff in a way that can achieve the plan. After that comes the right kind of leadership to inspire staff to implement the plan and building in oversight and checking processes to control the implementation of the company's plan.

Effective leaders need a combination of personal and managerial skills, according to HEC Professor Alain Gosselin. They must know themselves and their management style to be effective, and they also require political skills and efficient decision making methods. Good managers can manage change, coach their staff to perform well, settle conflicts, negotiate effectively and communicate clearly.

Good managers must also build their expertise across all the technical areas of management such as finance, human resources, marketing and other areas, but they do not have to be specialists in all these areas.

Other important elements for leadership success are: to know the business environment, understand the culture of their organisation, think strategically and know how to prioritise key issues.

ABU Media Academy Head Steve Ahern gave lectures on some of the key management priority areas for media, including researching audiences, changing consumption behaviour, programming philosophies and managing mobile journalism and social media content. In these lectures Steve taught how new audience segments can be identified and targeted, how radio and tv programming should change to adapt to new consumption methods and he discussed effective policies for the successful use of mobile and social media in news and programs.

Participants will gain a certificate from HEC when the course is completed and their study will be recognised towards other HEC courses. ■

# ACADEMY DRILLS DEEP INTO SCREEN PRODUCTION SKILLS

Working with other ABU Departments, the Academy has brought a range of new topics to members in targeted training courses and webinars.

Two high-level video webinars were delivered by Alexander Lopera, a professional video editor based in London who answered editing questions and gave live demonstrations of his video editing software to show participants exactly how to solve the problems they were facing. The courses were attended by 159 participants.

A webinar on planning for outside broadcasts by Hassan Jamalnik from London Television Training School on September 9 was attended by 130 participants.

The video recordings of five webinars were edited and uploaded to the Academy Learning Platform and are now available to anyone who wants to view these webinars on-demand any time in future. The lesson topics are:

- Six Fundamentals of Adapting Books for the Screen
- Building Successful On Demand Video Services
- Virtual Production is Revolutionising Production and Training
- The Changing Face of the Screen Media Market in APAC
- Women Behind the Camera

In conjunction with the Pacific Media Conference, the Academy also organised a one-hour training session on Sales, delivered by Pat Bryson.

The Academy delivered two courses, responding to requests from VBTC for training in Radio and Television presentation. Steve delivered the radio training and guest lecturer Brad Smart delivered the television training. Those courses are also now available on-demand at the Academy Learning Platform. ■

# IN THE EYE OF THE STORM: PACIFIC BROADCASTING CHALLENGES IN THE PANDEMIC

This year's ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference held on 21 September 2021 and focussed on how broadcasters can continue serving their audiences at a time when the region's populations are being crushed by COVID and broadcasters themselves are short of staff and funds in plummeting economies.

More than 100 delegates gathered virtually and heard from several of the Pacific Islands' radio and TV CEOs describing the current challenges they face with the COVID-19 pandemic and the kinds of assistance that would help them maintain services in the face of restrictions on travel and serious economic downturns in local economies, especially those islands that rely heavily on tourism.

While Fiji had suffered badly from COVID – with more than 500 deaths around 50,000 people infected since the pandemic started – many of the island states had remained COVID-free but still suffered economically and now struggled to maintain services.

The conference also heard from frontline journalists of the challenges faced in maintaining quality output at a time of fake news and misinformation about COVID and in a third session a dialogue was established between the broadcasters and some of the region's key development agencies committed to supporting them. There was a palpable sense that real action would result from their partnering.

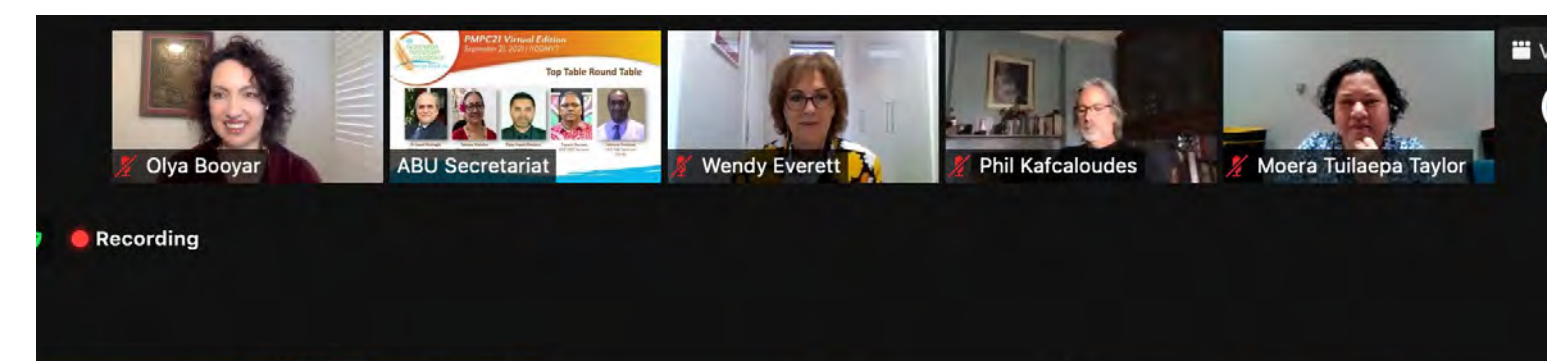
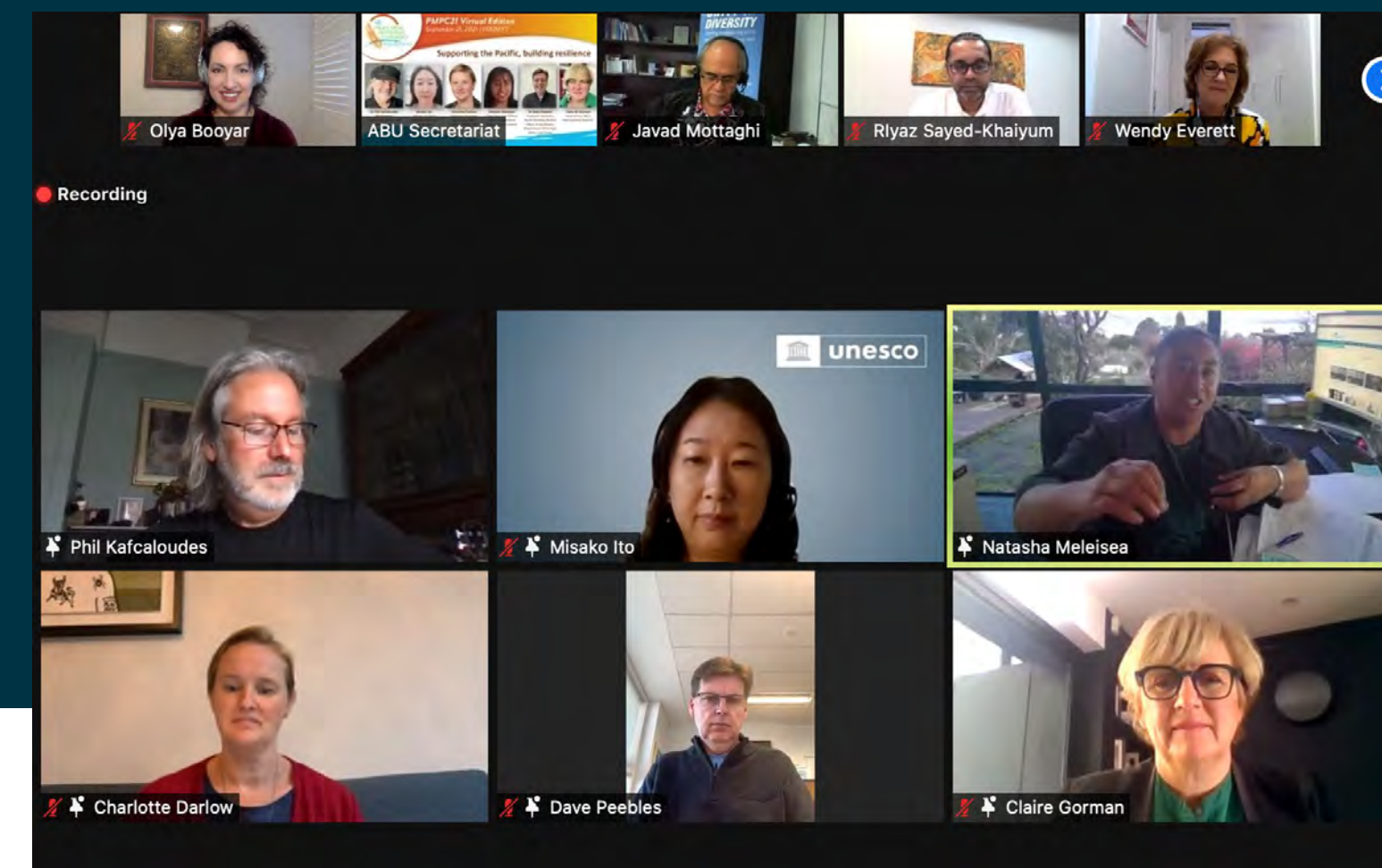


## PMPC AGREES TO FORM A NEW BODY TO HELP PACIFIC BROADCASTERS IN CRISIS

The ABU is setting up a special committee to help members spread across the Pacific Ocean who are delivering some of the most remote radio and television services on earth.

Proposing the new group at the virtual Pacific Media Partnership Conference, ABU Secretary-General Dr Javad Mottaghi acknowledged that although the Pacific Islands broadcasters worked cooperatively together, the sheer magnitude of distances between them meant they faced challenges not seen elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific.

He urged the Pacific Islands members to utilise the new body as a conduit for the growth and development of broadcasting in the region – by tapping into the relevant funding, training, content and technical assistance available to broadcasters so that they can build a sustainable future. The new committee will work to implement initiatives under the PMPC and Dr Mottaghi invited Australia and New Zealand to participate as part of the ABU Pacific family. ■



# ABU GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTIVITIES IN MEDIA WORKPLACES, CONTENT AND SERVICES



The ABU implemented innovative and practical activities to empower ABU members in the Asia-Pacific through its strategic Broadcasting for All: Gender and Diversity in the Media program, which focused on gender equality, diversity and inclusion in media workplaces, content and services.

The newly formed ABU's Diversity and Inclusion Task Group (DITG) has the purpose of oversight of diversity and inclusion activities through the ABU's first-time Diversity and Inclusion Media Action Plan 2021-2024. The Plan includes objectives, and detailed actions under the focus areas of Leadership, Communication and Strategy & Projects. Both the DITG and the Plan were progressed through the year and ready for formal implementation from July 2021.

Leadership continued to play a role, with the ongoing support of the ABU CEOs and senior executives who are part of the Union's Gender and Diversity Champions for Media Strategy. Membership of the Group continues to attract new participants each year.

The ABU expanded its international networking, in the area of diversity and inclusion, with membership and participation in formal and informal connections with other unions and media organisations through meetings, sharing of information and webinar presentations.

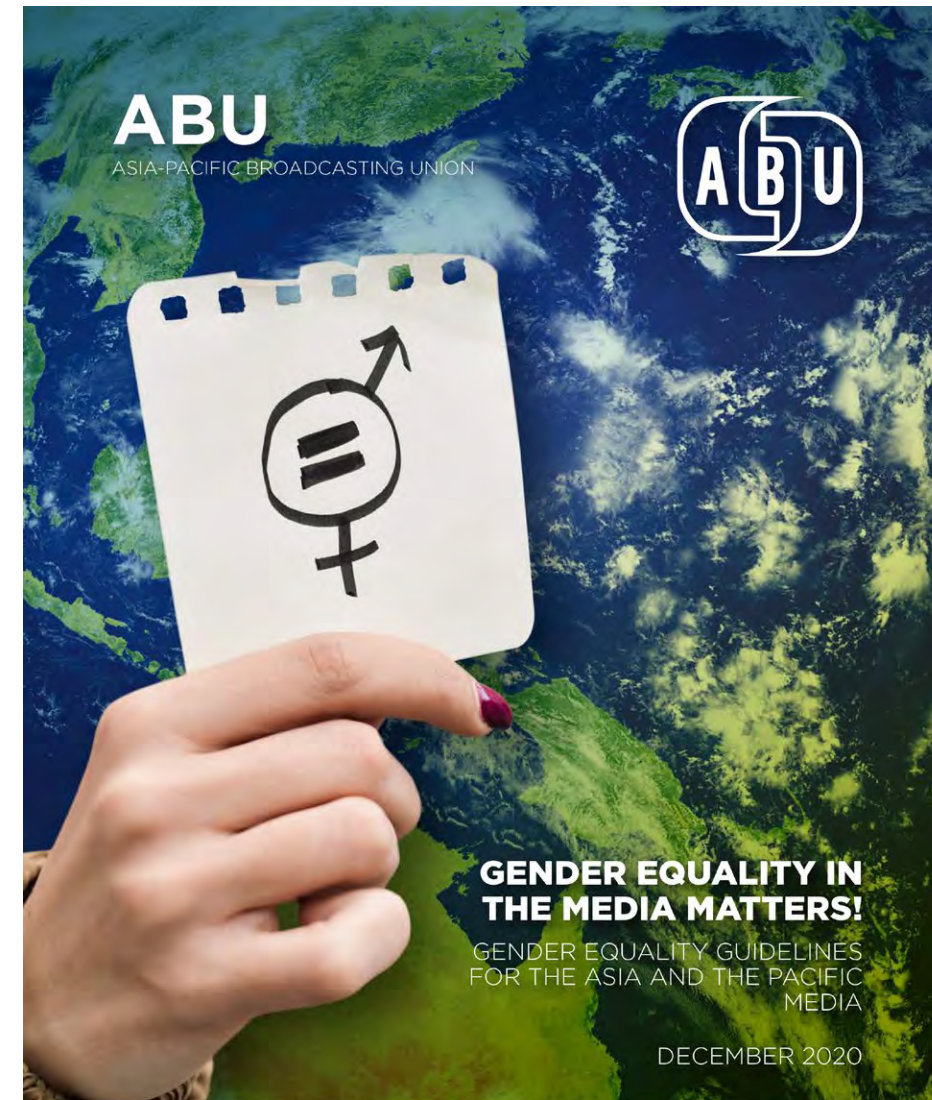
In June 2021, the ABU was accepted as a Signatory to the Charter of the Generation Egalite for Gender Equality, an initiative of the French Government Ministry of Culture. The ABU developed formal commitments related to gender equality as part of this Charter, along with reporting requirements.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROJECTS

Major projects that were undertaken during 2020-21, were rolled out with funding support from UNESCO.

The ABU's "Media Strategy for Gender Equality in Employment and Content in Asia Pacific" project was approved and funded by UNESCO for implementation during 2019 and 2020. It was specifically aligned with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) in close consultation with the Adviser for Communication and Information in Southeast Asia (UNESCO Bangkok).





ADAPTED FROM  
**THE EBU GENDER EQUALITY GUIDELINES FROM PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA**  
 DECEMBER 2019 REPORT

With the support of  
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
 Sustainable Development Goals



As part of this project, in the second half of 2020, five ABU broadcasters developed first-time Diversity and Inclusion Plans, tailored to their organisations under broad templates and launched in early 2021. These broadcasters were provided with remote support to develop their three-year Plans, determine the business case and communication strategy and finalise and launch for implementation from January 2021 to December 2023. The participants were: Bhutan Broadcasting System, Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Republic Indonesia, Vanuatu Broadcasting & Television Corporation and Voice of Vietnam.

The other major project supported by UNESCO, completed at the end of 2020, was the adaptation of the European Broadcasting Union's All Things Being Equal Gender Equality Guidelines from Public Service Media (launched in 2019).

The ABU's version, Gender Equality in the Media Matters! Gender Equality Guidelines for the Asia and the Pacific Media – the workplace, was specifically aimed at the media in the Asia and Pacific region with the overall focus being on the media workplace.

This resource contained detailed actions and case studies that provided a roadmap – addressing leadership, planning, communication, data and representation, fair pay, conditions of service and workplace culture, for use by ABU broadcasters and other Asia-Pacific media, for consideration and application in their workplaces.

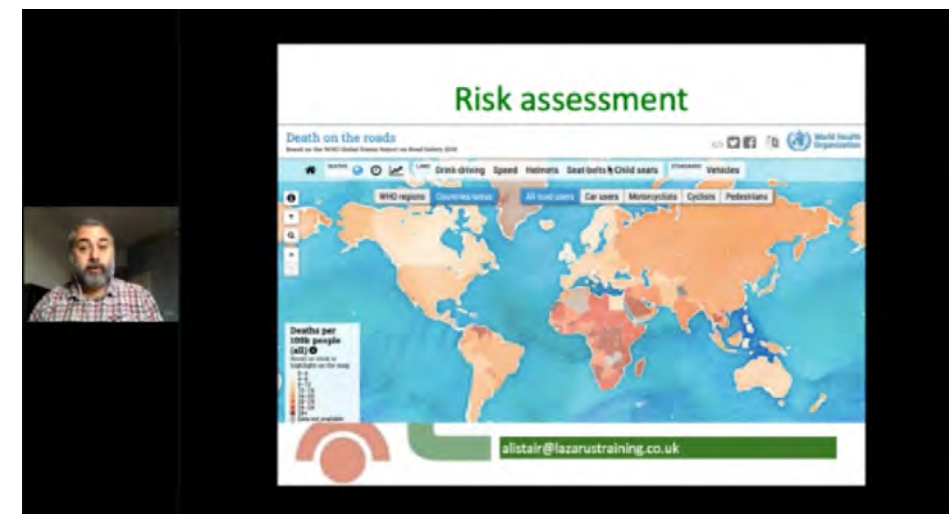
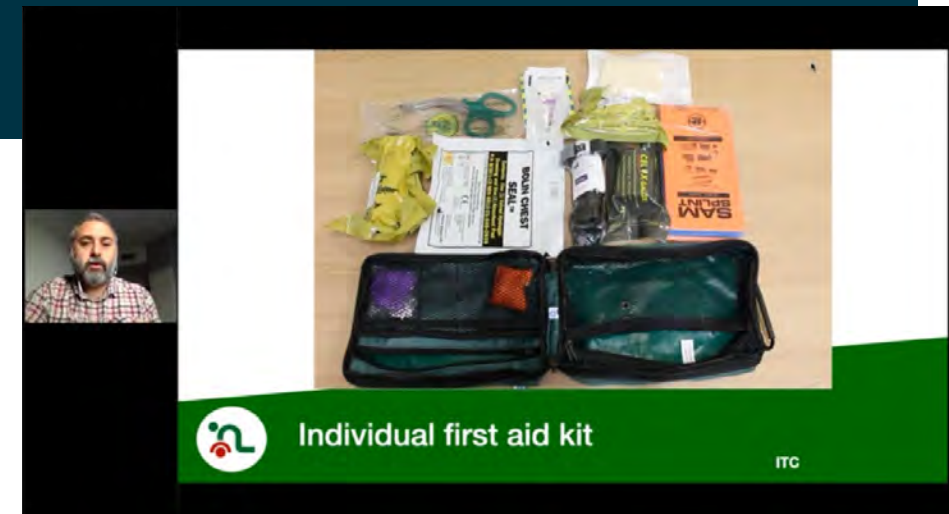
### **BROADCASTING FOR ALL: WOMEN WITH THE WAVE FORUM SERIES**

The ABU's 9th Women with the Wave Forum was delivered by virtual platform with .... participants across regions, on 17 November 2020. There were three main sessions which focussed on the international and regional diversity and inclusion landscape in the media; the challenges and solutions of diversity in broadcasting by ABU diversity leaders; and a summary of EBU and ABU gender equality and diversity activities.



**Chrissie Tucker**  
 Media Gender and Diversity Specialist  
 Representative for the ABU  
 6 September 2021

# PARTNERSHIPS



## ABU DRR WORK

### WEBINAR ON FIRST AID KIT FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS & SAFETY IN POST-DISASTER AREAS

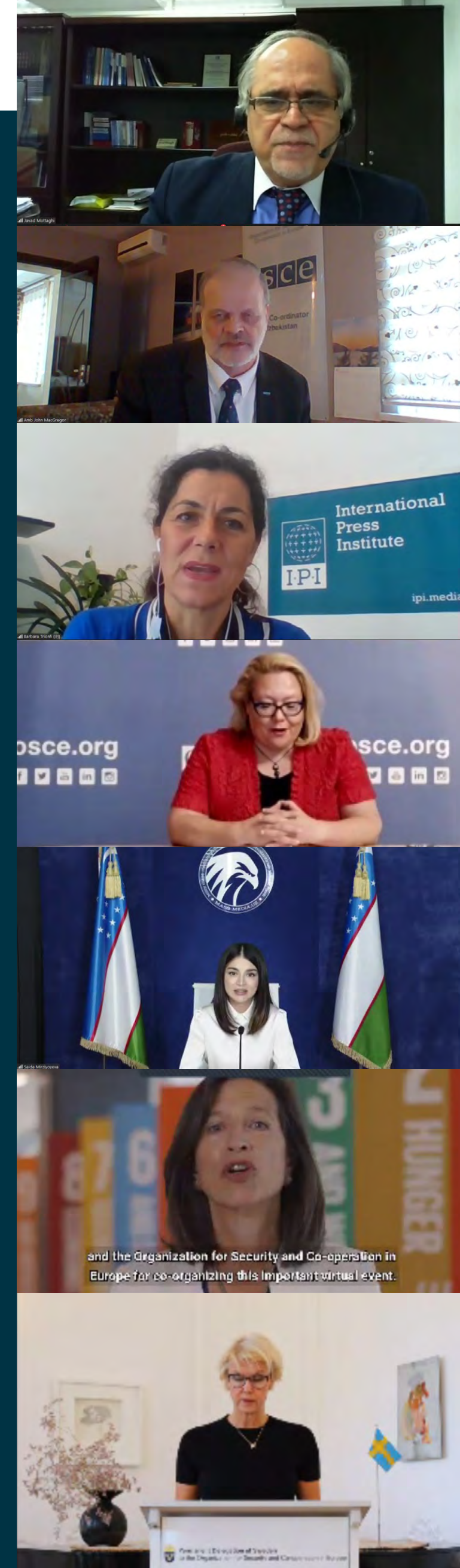
Further to the two-part Webinar SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS held in April, ABU conducted another two-part webinar focusing on First Aid Kit for Media Professionals and Safety in Post-disaster Areas on 15 & 16 September 2020, in collaboration with Lazarus Training Ltd, UK, world renown experts on safety in the media industry.

# 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 2020.

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 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".



# SAVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS: MEDIA FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This long running ABU campaign moved fast forward with the **WBU/UNDRR Global Media for Disaster Risk Reduction initiative MEDIA SAVING LIVES**

This is a broad cooperation between the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Broadcasting Unions, that encompasses the Global South – Asia – Pacific, Caribbean, Africa and the Arab World. This two-year project will develop the capacity of 100 broadcast organisations world – wide, including 40 ABU broadcast members, not only to cover disasters but establish a culture of disaster prevention in their organisations.

The implementation in Asia – Pacific of Phase 1 of the WBU/UNDRR Global Media for Disaster Risk Reduction initiative **MEDIA SAVING LIVES** was successfully completed. Sixteen four-day interactive workshops, building the participants' knowledge in climate change adaptation and disaster prevention content production, were held with 15 ABU members over February and March. More than 300 colleagues from Management, News, Programming and Technical Departments of the participating organisations were guided by four global experts to incorporate DRR angles in their stations output and have an understanding of the Early Warning and Disaster Management systems of their countries.

The ABU members that went through the training are: BTV, BB and BNNRC (2 workshops) in Bangladesh; BBSCL, Bhutan; FBC and FTV in Fiji; RRI and TVRI in Indonesia; Nepal Radio, Nepal TV and ACORAB community radio network, Nepal; EMTV, Papua New Guinea; MBC&MTV, Sri Lanka; NBT and ThaiPBS in Thailand. The 15 organisations that has gone this DRR Knowledge Level 1 training, are working on their content production Action Plans for DRR in preparation of Phase 2.

The four-day interactive online courses aimed to establish the knowledge base of DRR concepts of the participants and develop ideas for increasing programming to educate people how to stay out of harm's way. This is a very complex undertaking. It involves a trainer for content production on climate change adaptation and disaster prevention, a trainer on Early Warning Systems, a trainer on Weather Forecasts and input from radio specialist on Early Warnings and representatives of National Meteorological Offices and Disaster Management Authorities. The initiative is supported by the UN Office for DRR, World Meteorological Organisation and International Telecommunication Union. The workshops were navigating at least five time zones because trainers are based in Britain, USA, Trinidad and Tobago, while the implementation team, Ms Nargiza Numanova and Ruchi Malhotra are in KL and participating organisations were in Bangladesh, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The participating organisations had developed draft Action Plans for increasing DRR content and building a culture of disaster prevention and resilience.

The second phase of the project will involve in the Initiative another 15 ABU members. They will go through DRR Knowledge Level 1 training, while the organisations already trained in Phase 1 more hands-on training and mentoring to mainstream Climate Adaptation and Disaster Prevention in all programming.

For further information about the **MEDIA SAVING LIVES** and how to join the initiative please contact Ms Natalia Ilieva, Head of SG's Office at [natalia@abu.org.my](mailto:natalia@abu.org.my)



**ABU/UNDRR MEDIA FOR DRR INITIATIVE | PHASE 1**

# ABU TOGETHER FOR PEACE MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In April 2020 ABU launched a very exciting new project – Together for Peace (T4P) Media Campaign. It is supported for UNESCO Bangkok Office and aiming in a long – term to nurture through media tolerance and understanding between people and people with nature. T4P also promote and upscale transformative education initiatives that teach emotional intelligence, compassion and tolerance to live well with the **Others**, people in our communities from different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.

## T4P INITIATIVE BACKGROUND

In 2019 the ABU was invited by UNESCO Bangkok Office to participate in region -wide consultation process for conceptualising the Together for Peace Initiative, supported by the Governments of Japan and Thailand. By the end of 2020 this ground-breaking initiative to promote positive peace in the minds of men and women was shaped by a wide group of experts from academia, education and media, with media represented by the Head of SG's Office Ms Natalia Ilieva.

Positive peace is a relatively new concept. Positive peace is not just the absence of conflicts and war, but striving for equitable and fair societies that have respectful and sustainable relations with the environment. It covers three crucial areas that would facilitate the advancement of the full set of Sustainable Development Goals - Transformative Education, Living in Harmony with Nature and Living well in Super – Diversity.



## T4P MEDIA AWARDS

## ABU JOINS THE UNESCO T4P WORKING GROUP

ABU was invited to join the UNESCO T4P Working Group as one of the only two projects funded under the first Phase of T4P Initiative. Its first meeting focused on the synergies between the two projects – ABU T4P Media Promotional Campaign and a Survey of 50 schools in 7 targeted countries on the status quo of Transformative Social and Emotional Education in Asia - Pacific.

## ABU T4P MEDIA PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

The campaign has three distinguished components:

### ABU T4P Promotion

As part for this component the ABU launched T4P Face Book site and interviewed for it the Head of UNESCO Bangkok Office Mr Shigeru Aoyagi. The FB page is updated weekly with messages from ABU and other Unions SGs/DGs and regional leaders in promoting peace. The ABU is also working with UNESCO Bangkok Communication Team to link promotional efforts for the T4P promotional campaign.

### ABU/UNESCO T4P Media Awards

The ABU/UNESCO T4P Media Awards highlight and promote the crucial role of independent, ethical journalism and citizens' media literacy for building positive peace in the minds of men and women.

The Awards honour innovative and creative Radio, TV and Digital Media content, which informs and educates audiences on best practices of building positive peace in three critical areas that have increasing urgency in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and "building back better" from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Transformative Education
- Living in harmony with nature, including coping with climate change and biodiversity loss
- Living well with diversity, fostering human flourishing and intercultural understanding

Over 50 programmes/features and series were submitted in the inaugural edition of the Together for Peace, coming from around the globe. Considering the many media organisations across the world had moved to remote content production and in many cases content production had been halted, this is a very encouraging start and extremely successful launch for this complex competition

The winners of the first ever ABU/UNESCO T4P Media competition were awarded during the ABU Prizes held as part of the 58th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings.

### ABU T4P Media Course

The ABU Media Academy has been tasked to develop an online course as part of this project. It has been designed to explain the T4P concept and teach media workers how to communicate the ideas of positive peace. The course includes a range of resources supplied by UNESCO that outline the ideas behind the T4P project, followed by activities where the ideas will be used. Participants in the course will be taught the concepts of positive peace and will learn constructive journalism techniques and creative promotional techniques so that they can convey those concepts to their audiences.

Supplementing the T4P Media Promotional campaign is the new ABU project supported by the International Programme for Development of Communications "Media Building Culture of Tolerance and Understanding" ■



# ABU/UNI – APRO MEI ONLINE SERIES “HEALTH AND SAFETY IN TIMES OF CRISIS”

The first session in the series was held on 22 January and had three panellists providing the perspectives of employers, Union and an expert - Ms Nor Arzlin Redzwan, Group General Manager Human Resource, Media Prima, Malaysia, Mr Masatoshi Nakamura, UNI Apro MEI President, Japan and Mr Alistair Hollington from Lazarus Training, UK, who had delivered series of webinars for ABU members in 2020.

The session was moderated by the Head of SG Office Ms Natalia Ilieva. It focused on Health and Safety of media workers in times of Covid 19 pandemic and beyond. The second discussion in the series will be focusing on “Mental Health”.



**ABU CENTRAL ASIA  
MEDIA FORUM 2021**  
15 JULY 2021 - VIRTUAL EDITION  
14:00-16:00MYT (GMT +7)

**ЦЕНТРАЛЬНО-АЗИАТСКИЙ  
МЕДИА ФОРУМ АБУ 2021**  
15 ИЮЛЯ 2021 ГОДА – ВИРТУАЛЬНОЕ МЕРОПРИЯТИЕ  
14:00-16:00MYT (GMT +7)



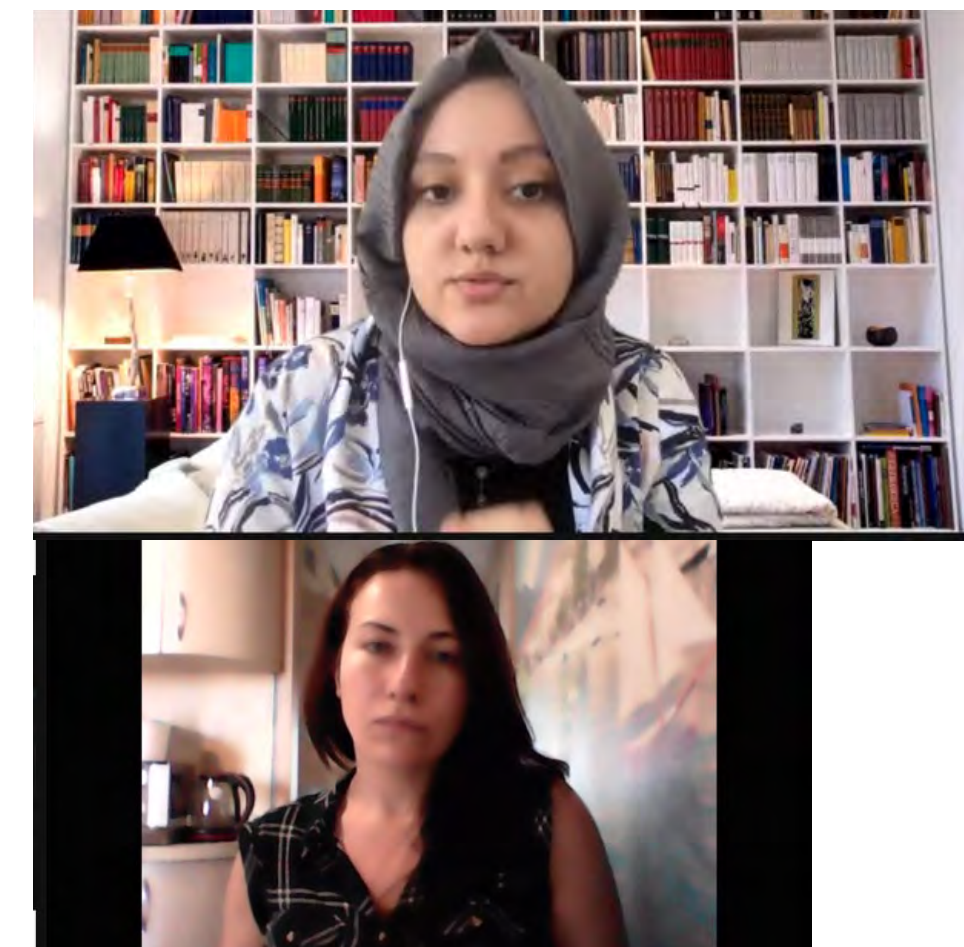
- Mr Ben Vandenberghe, CEO, Skyline Communications
- Mr Nino Pirtovšek, Sales & Business Development Manager, UniqCast
- Mr David Hayward, Digital News Consultant, BBC Media Action
- Mr Dmitry Leontiev, Executive content producer of RT
- Ms Dilara Arslan, Lead of TRT 1's Digital Team, TRT Izle' VOD platform, TRT Turkey
- Mr Chandana Sooriyabandara, Chief Executive Officer of Stein Studios, Director of MTV Channels, MBC-MTV, Sri Lanka

## ABU CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA FORUM (CAMF2021)

The virtual edition of the 4th ABU Central Asian Media Forum took place successfully on July 15th, 2021

The CAMF brings together media organizations from Central Asia and beyond to network and to initiate cooperation and joint initiatives. The forum provides a platform for sharing knowledge and future strategies, discuss solutions for challenges brought by the rapid developments in the media industry in the region and around the globe. The Forum knowledge exchange is led by expert speakers and skilled media practitioners, who will present and share their experiences in content creation and distribution and will explore the role of media in this fast-changing social environment.

The Forum contained of three sessions covering topics that the CA members marked as a priority for their organisations. The high-level experts from 6 countries shared their experiences in various fields such as Cyber Security, OTT, Valuable content making and successful content marketing, they also talked about pros and cons of Traditional and Social media.





# ABU SPORTS



## ABU TAKES TOKYO 2020 TO 11 COUNTRIES IN ASIA



With the re-scheduled Olympics due to close on August 9, the ABU Sports was able to support several members. The ABU successfully delivered the games to six territories in South Asia on free to air television. These include Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The ABU also negotiated and reached an agreement with Dentsu for 5 other territories. These include Afghanistan, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Timor Lest. In total, the ABU delivered the Tokyo 2020 Games to 11 countries.

ABU Sports supported members by providing daily information, logistics to transmission of Television feeds. The team ensured that members got access to respective events of their athletes by booking relevant camera and ENG spots providing the best possible shooting position at the venue. The team also supplemented member by booking additional or unilateral feeds besides the official MDS feed.

Members sending crews to Tokyo were briefed, and provided with relevant information on Covid-19 countermeasures developed by the IOC, the Tokyo 2020 and the Government of Japan. Known as Tokyo 2020 Playbook, the measures form the basis to ensure that Olympic & Paralympic participants and the people of Japan stay safe and healthy. The ABU Sports also assisted members with their Activity Plan, a requirement for those traveling for the Olympics.



**Technical Back-Up:**

Most members, not only in South Asia, but elsewhere require technical support. While others need help to update or renew equipment licence - demodulators and IRDs, as specified by the OBS and the service provider.

ABU Sports purchased equipment and sent it directly to some of the broadcasters. It coordinated with service providers, suppliers and manufacturers to help renew the licenses.

While in Tokyo, the Team also met with partners like IOC and AliCloud. Discussions were held around future events. IOC officials expressed appreciation to ABU for taking the games to several small and developing countries in Asia.

The Team led by the Director, also met with several members – KBS Korea team, CMG China, TVB Hong Kong, TV5 Philippines, ASTRO Malaysia, TBS Japan among others to discuss future events and acquisitions. Mr Cai expressed the need to revive and reinvigorate the ABU Sports pool to stay competitive in the commercially oriented sports broadcast market.

**Paralympics Games:**

Simultaneously, work on the production assignment for the Paralympics are being finalised. The co-production project will be carried out in collaboration with other ABU members from China, South Korea and Malaysia among others.



NovelSat  
Making space in space  
● ALARM ● RX ● TEST

home log in manual calculator contact Logged in as admin Configuration not saved

**NS2000 Menu**  
monitor  
system  
system config  
demodulator config

**Licensed Features**

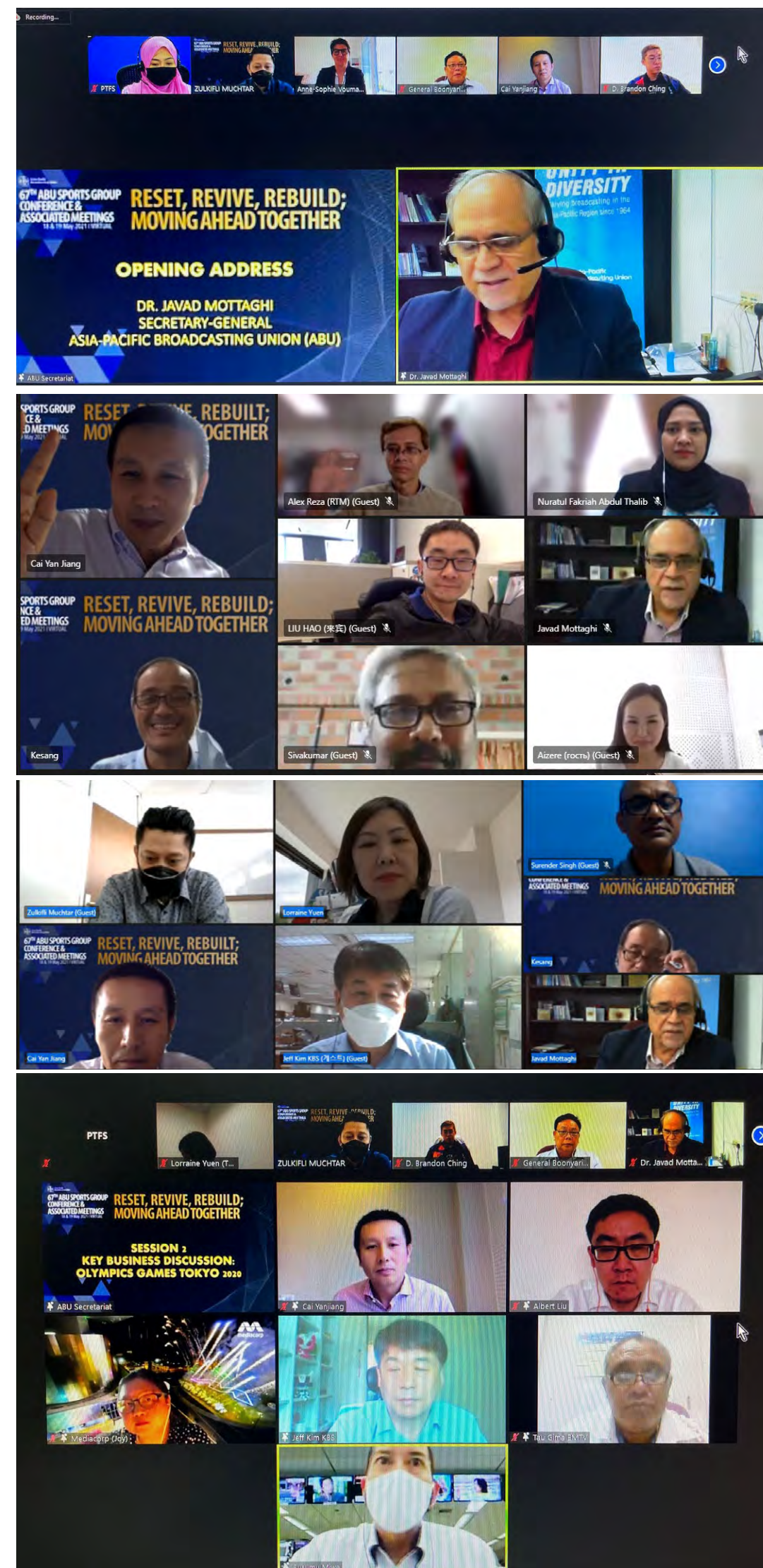
Name	License-Type	Days-Left
1 Channel Option (Default)	permanent	NA
DVB-S/DSNG QPSK/8PSK/16QAM 54Mmps (Default)	permanent	NA
DVB-S2 default	permanent	NA
L-band 950-2150MHz	permanent	NA
IF 50-180MHz	permanent	NA
Dual Channel Option	permanent	NA
NS3	permanent	NA
NS4	permanent	NA
Modulation: 16APSK	permanent	NA
Symbol Rate: 70 Msps	permanent	NA
DRM (EBU)	permanent	NA

home log in manual calculator contact Logged in as admin Configuration not saved

**NS2000 Menu**  
monitor  
system  
system config  
demodulator config

S/N:	1002120106	Card 1 type:	not exist
Hardware version:	2.01.14.00	Card 2 type:	not exist
MAC Address 1:	EC:3B:F0:00:0A:36		
Internal Clock Type:	TCXO		
Firmware version	U-Boot 2004.1051 09-May-2016 01:52		
Operating system version	OS 2.6.32.13 (Build 3700)		
File system version	FS 1.2 (Build 1099)		
<b>Active software versions</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Version</b>		
SW	NS2000.6.5.1.5779 04-Feb-2019 16:19		
CFG updates number	88		

# THE 68TH ABU SPORTS GROUP CONFERENCE & ASSOCIATED MEETING DISCUSS POST-PANDEMIC SPORTS BROADCAST



Themed “Reset, Revive, Rebuild; Moving Ahead Together” the 68th Virtual Conference and Associated Meetings took place on May 19, 2021.

As broadcasters faced an uncharted, and a fast evolving future, the ABU Sports Group emphasized the need to re-invent itself to emerge resilient and stronger. Broadcasters highlighted innovative strategies and approaches to respond to the challenges posed by the Pandemic.

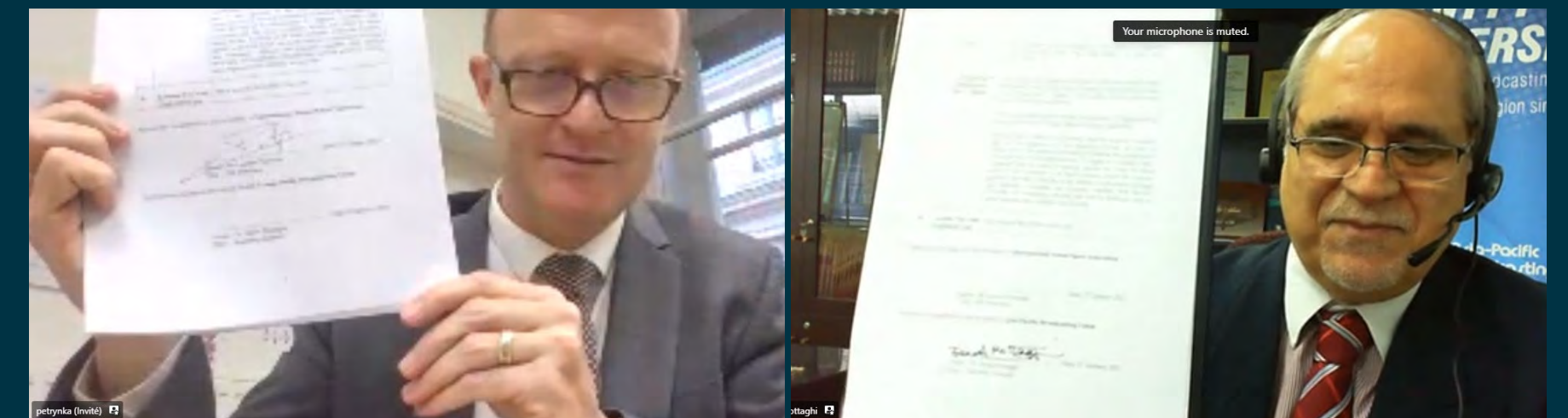
The Vice President of Broadcast & Media Rights at IOC TMS delivered the Keynote Address, the first ever by a senior official from the IOC. Ms Anne-Sophie Voumard shared IOC’s perspectives including Olympic Agenda, the Olympic Games and encourage broadcasters in times like these.

The Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi said ABU Sports is playing a significant role in times like these, especially as broadcasters prepare for Tokyo 2020.

The ABU Sports Director underscored the importance of enhanced cooperation among its members and partners alike. Mr. Cai Yanjiang said the conference provided an appropriate platform for us to discuss new ideas, and the fast evolving technology.

The two-day conference featured engaging discussions on Olympic Broadcasting, and related presentations by members and partners. The Media Contents and the Finance Committee meetings took place on May 18.

# ABU & ISF JOIN HANDS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS IN ASIA PACIFIC



Early in January, the International School Sport Federation (ISF) and the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) signed a two-year partnership agreement, which will help promote ISF events in the Asia – Pacific region through the extensive ABU members’ network.

The partnership agreement was signed virtually between the ABU Secretary General Dr Javad Mottaghi, and the ISF President Mr Laurent Petrynka.

The collaboration is being implemented through broadcast of major ISF international school sport events such as the ISF World Schools Championships and the Gymnasiade to the Asia-Pacific audience. The ISF signed for the Non-exclusive Media & Broadcast rights for live terrestrial and for highlights and news including all moving media, online broadcast, and mobile platforms of the events.

This collaboration is taking place in the framework of the preparation of the 18th ISF Gymnasiade, to take place in the city of Jinjiang, China.

# ABU SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK: FAST GAINING POPULARITY AMONG MEMBERS



The ABU Sports & Entertainment Network (ASEN), continue to gain momentum in terms of variety of sports and endurance related events. The copyright free content is being contributed by members as well as partners and international federations. As of date, the network boasts of 41 members, 33 of whom are broadcasters including two other Unions.

## Content Exchange 2021

In the past six months more than 400 sports related News and Highlights were shared and exchanged. Among the members, CCTV remain the major contributor followed by some of our partners and federations. RTM Malaysia, MBC Mauritius, FBC Fiji, TDM Macau, VTBC Vanuatu, EMTV PNG were active in terms of downloads. In recent months IRIB Iran and DD India also visits the platform often.

## The Future:

The ABU Sports & Entertainment Network (ASEN) plans for a vibrant and a diverse content exchange network. Co-production on sports and entertainment themes among members and a monthly magazine show with members contribution are on the list. Enhancing members participation and partnership with international federations are also high on the agenda.

The ABU Sports & Entertainment Network (ASEN) was launched in October 2017 to facilitate the exchange of sports related content among and between members.



## Training:

The ABU Sports continue to provide much needed skills and expertise training to its members in Sports Production and related aspects. The ABU Sports in collaboration with its partner, Broadcast Academy plan to implement a training project on "Online Football Commentating Module" and "Replay Operation Module" in September 2021.

The "Online Football Commentating Module" is meant to enhance commentary skills and to help cope with mid and high-level leagues. It will consist of pre-recorded and live session, and provide commentators a greater understanding of their craft.

The Replay Operation Module is a unique opportunity to learn the best practices about the world of sports replays. Participants will learn the role of replay operations in the live production environment, and how select best camera angles and create clips. The two-day online training session is part of ABU Sports on-going efforts to enhance the capacity development of its members.

The ABU Sports also organised a webinar on production and international sports events planning earlier this year. The session included IP-based production & delivery, supplementary contents services and digital solutions.

## Other Initiatives & Activities:

### The ABU Sports Achievement Awards:

This Award is being instituted by the ABU Sports to recognise and reward the most compelling sports coverage and features, presented by ABU members. The Achievement Award, which will be presented during the Sports Group Conference consists of three major categories.

- Best Footage: Live coverage, sports documentary, magazine show or the best trailer.
- Sports Journalism: Sports journalism sequence, any in-depth analysis or sports news item.
- Innovation: Program with outstanding technological innovation or with innovative enhancement.

In the meantime, ABU Sports is in discussion with partners in China to explore sponsors and host for the award ceremonies. Jiangsu Broadcasting is one potential partner being considered for later this year, subject the Pandemic situation.

### 19th Asia Games, Hangzhou 2022

Several rounds of discussion have been held or on-going with the Olympic Council of Asia to acquire the rights on behalf of members. Similarly, talks are underway with several members who have expressed their desire to part of the ABU to secure the right to the games.

The ABU Sports also delivered the Jakarta Asian Games (2018) to several members, and produced dedicated feeds as per the requirement of members.

### The Commonwealth Games, Birmingham 2022

The Commonwealth Games Federation's global market agent have already reached out to the ABU Sports earlier in the year. Accordingly, discussions are in progress with both the agent and the members. The ABU Sports deliver the last commonwealth games in Gold Coast to three members including some non-commonwealth members as well.

### European Nations' League Football Events

The ABU Sports is also in discussion with UEFA agent to deliver the UEFA National Team Football 2022-28, UEFA EURO 2024 and UEFA EURO 2028 in Asia. The agent has reached out to the ABU Sports to consider participating in the tender for selected regions, like the Central Asia, parts of South East Asia and probably Oceania as well. Initial discussion with members in these regions is underway.

# ABU TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



## DIGITAL BROADCASTING SYMPOSIUM

The ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS) 2021 was successfully held from 5 to 8 April 2021 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with thirteen sessions and three workshops conducted by eminent panellists from around the globe.

Themed Inspire, Engage and Enhance, the virtual conference was opened by YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Malaysia's Minister of Communications and Multimedia.

One of the key highlights of the conference was an industry debate, where several panellists shared their experiences on how they overcame the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The session gave an opportunity for the panellists and participants to learn from the experiences of others.

The ABU DBS 2021 was also an opportunity for the conference's sponsors to organise workshops for the participants. The workshops provided updates on standards and solutions available for affordable DAB+ consumer receivers; presented DRM's solution for distance learning via the Digital Radio DRM; and offered a demonstration on how Dalet Remote Editing addresses remote production and editing workflows.





Mr Iwaki Masakazu of NHK-Japan

Ms Zhang Hong, Director General, Radio and Television Administration of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, RTPRC-China

# 2020 ABU ENGINEERING AWARDS

The 2020 Technical Awards were held virtually on 24 November during the ABU Technical Committee. The **ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award** was awarded to Mr Iwaki Masakazu of NHK-Japan.

The **ABU Engineering Industry Excellence Award** was awarded to Ms Zhang Hong, Director General, Radio and Television Administration of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, RTPRC-China. The **ABU Green Broadcast Engineering Award** was awarded to Radio, Film & TV Design and Research Institute, China.



From left: Mr R Arul, Mr S Gurumanickam and Mr K Balaji of Doordarshan India

## ABU TECHNICAL REVIEW PRIZES 2020

The ABU Technical Review Prizes were awarded for articles contributed to the Technical Review from October 2019 to September 2020. Three prizes were presented each from the categories of Practical Implementation, Research and Case Studies.



Dr Kazuyoshi Shogen (left) of B-SAT, Japan and Mr Thong Pham Viet (right) of ITU-R



Mr M S Duhan of Doordarshan-India

# WEBINAR ON ADVANCED TRANSMISSION AND DELIVERY TECHNOLOGIES JUNE AND JULY 2021

ABU Technology hosted a webinar series on Advanced Transmission and Delivery Technologies during June and July 2021. Fourteen different webinar sessions were presented and these looked into recent advancements in different digital transmission standards. The webinars also discussed some of the advanced features used in modern transmitter and antenna systems and modern delivery, and contributing technologies that focus on broadcast applications. Well-known speakers from advanced broadcasters NHK-Japan, NRTA-China; from standards development organisations DVB, ATSC, DRM and WorldDAB; and other industry players; Nautel, Rohde & Schwarz, Gates Air, Kathrein, LiveU, Aviwest and VYPA, shared insights, developments and features of digital broadcast standards and transmission and media delivery systems. In total, 634 attendees participated over the eight days, representing more than 165 organisations from 54 countries in Asia-Pacific and elsewhere.

**WELCOME**

3 parts in 3 weeks each 2-3 Days

ABU Technology Webinar

Webinar series on **Advanced Transmission & Delivery Technologies**

- Transmission Technology & Standards
- Transmitters and Antenna Systems
- Media Delivery and Contribution Systems



# WEBINAR ON IP INFRASTRUCTURE & APPLICATIONS IN BROADCASTING

## 10-12 MAY 2021

ABU Technology Webinar

### IP Infrastructure & Applications in Broadcasting

- IP Networks, Models and Standards for All-IP Infrastructure
- Preparations for IP-based System Deployment
- IP Broadcast Control within a SMPTE-2110 Environment
- IP Eco-System Vision and Solutions
- Routing and Mixing of AoIP for Radio

ABU Technology hosted a three-day webinar series on IP Infrastructure & Applications in Broadcasting, from 10th to 12th May 2021. The webinar sessions looked into OSI & TCP/IP layered architecture, SMPTE standards and other industry specifications for implementing All-IP Infrastructure. Other areas covered were, practical issues for migrating to IP in a broadcast environment and typical IP-based solutions & applications. Well-known speakers, from IRIB-Iran, KBS-Korea, Rohde & Schwarz-Singapore, Sony-Hong Kong and AEQ-Europe, shared insights and industry experience of preparations for moving to All-IP infrastructures at broadcast facilities. During the webinar a total of 488 attendees participated, representing 181 organisations from Asia-Pacific and elsewhere.

# WEBINAR ON OTT AND IBB TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES

## 25-27 JANUARY 2021

ABU Technology organised and hosted a 3-part webinar on OTT and IBB Technologies and Services from 25-27 January 2021. The webinar sessions explored and addressed some of the main issues that broadcasters face when implementing OTT and IBB services within their workflows and delivery portfolios. The Webinar also highlighted the advancements in technological aspects and the impact on business. Over 120 participants registered and the 3-part webinar recorded a daily average audience of 70 attendees from the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere, over the three days.

The webinar session topics included:

- Building OTT /IPTV Turnkey Solutions for Broadcasters
- Implementation of DVB-I in Iran
- Impact of Digital Transformation on Viewership, Broadcast, and Distribution
- How the latest Hybridcast is built on basics of an IBB system
- HbbTV Services and latest progress in Europe

**sofiadigital**  
Powering Smart Screens

**ABU OTT & IBB workshop**

HbbTV status update  
Webinar - January 27, 2021

The Speaker

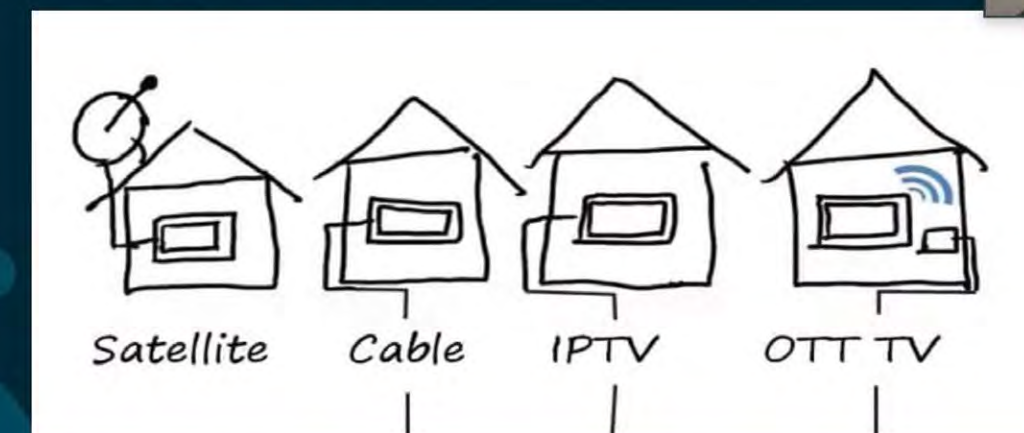
**Wissam Sabbagh**  
CEO @Mangomolo

**Digital Transformation for Broadcasters and Impact on Viewership**

Mr. Wissam Sabbagh is Founder of Mangomolo and Group CEO of DOTCOM Mena. Mangomolo provides broadcasters with a Live Streaming and Video On Demand Platform to build all the front end applications, TV applications, websites, etc.

ABU Technology Webinar

### WHAT IS OTT



- An over-the-top (OTT media service) is a streaming media service offered directly to viewers via the Internet.
- OTT bypasses cable, broadcast, and satellite television platforms, the companies that traditionally act as a controller or distributor of such content.



# TECHNICAL BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING 23 NOVEMBER 2020

Among the topics discussed were the current issues and challenges faced by members amid the COVID-19 pandemic and in what ways the ABU can help. The Bureau proposed adding a Force Majeure Clause to the Rules of Procedure of the ABU Standing Technical Committee considering the COVID-19 pandemic. It also proposed a recommendation supporting the WBU Cybersecurity Recommendations on Broadcasters' Use of Cloud-based Services. The meeting was chaired by the Technical Committee Chairman, Mr Hamid D Nayeri of IRIB-Iran.

# TECHNICAL BUREAU MID-YEAR MEETING 27-28 JULY 2021

Members of the ABU Technical Bureau shared their experiences of working during the pandemic at the bureau's mid-year meeting on 27-28 July 2021.

The two-day virtual meeting was chaired by the bureau's Chairman, Mr Hamid D Nayeri of IRIB-Iran. The meeting was attended by the three Vice-Chairmen, Dr Kong Bin of NRTA-China, Mr Sunil of DD-India and Mr Masashi Kamei of NHK-Japan.

Other members taking part were from KBS-Korea, AIR-India, RTM-Malaysia, Mediacorp-Singapore, NBT-Thailand, TRT-Turkey, TVB-Hong Kong, Phoenix TV-Hong Kong, RRI-Indonesia, EAP-Sri Lanka, MTV-Sri Lanka, VTV-Vietnam, NHK-Japan and TBC-Tonga.

Dr Javad Mottaghi, the ABU Secretary-General, in his welcome remarks stressed the need for more online activities and advisory services to connect with members. He highlighted the online activities organised by the ABU this year. He said the crisis had brought members together and strengthened ties.

Mr Nayeri supported a plan to conduct a new Technology Department activity survey as raised by the Secretary-General.

The meeting began with updates from all members on the current situation, the steps taken during the pandemic and the projects they have within their organisation.

This provided a great opportunity for members to learn from each other the kind of steps taken in view of the ongoing pandemic. Some of the highlights:

- Most of the broadcasters being able to continue their broadcasting operations as usual though not in full capacity
- Increased use of software in the cloud and cloud based applications

- Activation of remote monitoring and inspection of technical facilities
- Continuation of remote production and limited field production
- Adoption of an e-office system, online activities, tools and techniques to support the regular operation
- Increased use of file based workflow and automation software to achieve redundancies in production studios, transmitters and other technical facility
- Revitalising digitisation of archives and putting these archived programmes on-air
- Initiation of new services like UHD production, mobile broadcasting, IBB services
- Coverage of the Tokyo Olympic Games by broadcasters where NHK used sign language and technology assisted and automated commentary using data generated during the games
- Digitalisation delayed but pilot activities for speeding up the digital TV transition and UHD services,
- Some broadcasters engaged in reserving 5G frequency spectrum and MFN switch-off
- Shift based operational schedules to continue the operation and maintenance work and allowing about half of the staff to work from home
- Ensuring maximum safety of the office staff engaged in group activities in-office and on-field by having SOPs for different kinds of operational scenarios
- Broadcasters engaged to assist in governmental society welfare programs

Members found this information sharing helpful, giving them an opportunity to learn from each other.

As usual, the Secretariat presented a report on TD activities since the last bureau meeting. These included six webinars along with

the Digital Broadcasting Symposium 2021 and an engineering fundamentals course.

The online webinars covered various aspects of technology implementation and applications. They included a total of 21 webinar sessions with 32 topics being presented, with an average of 90 participants per session.

Members welcomed this as a good achievement, allowing more staff from member organisations to join these sessions and benefit from them.

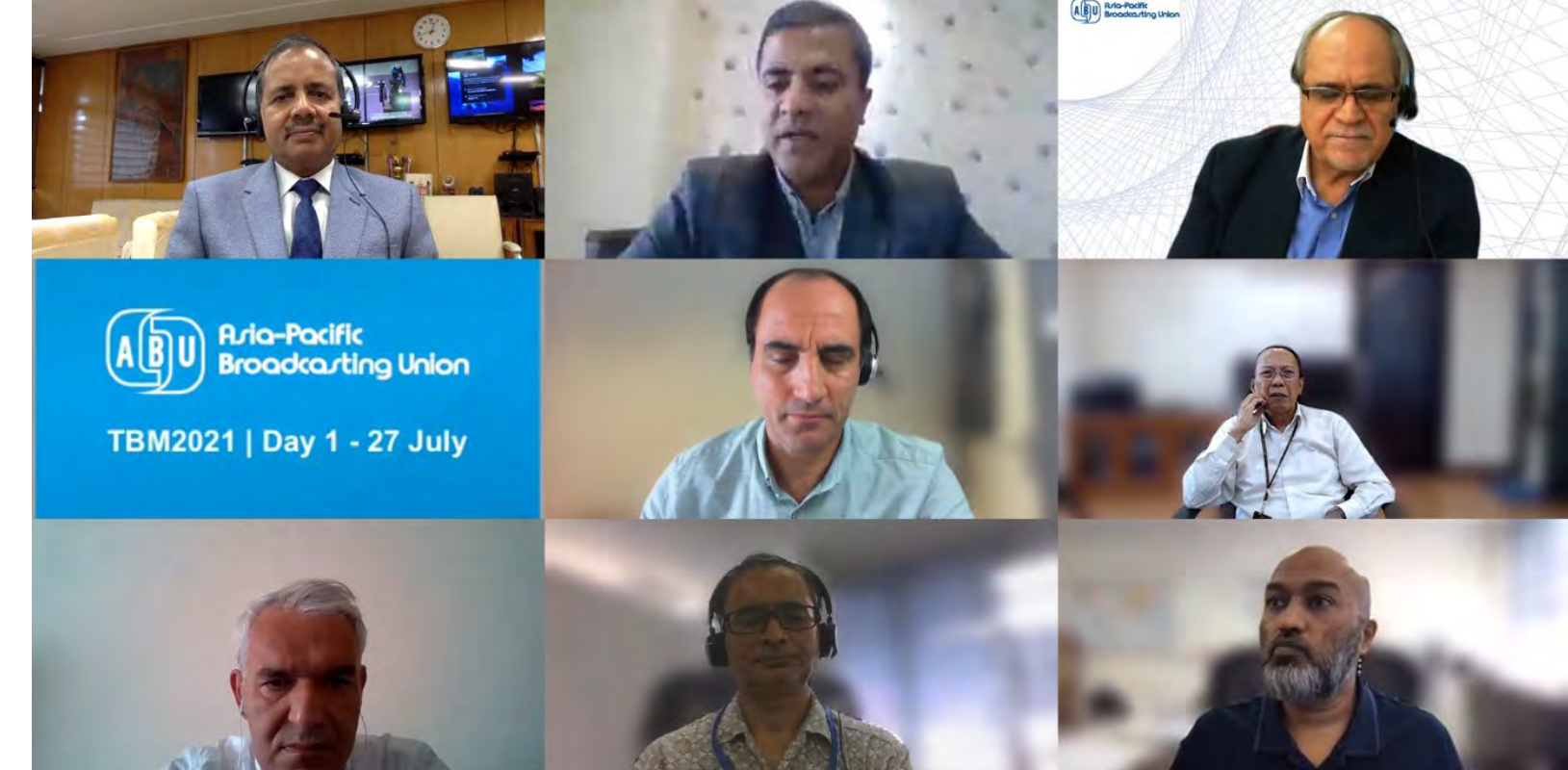
Other activities undertaken by the Secretariat were a revamp of the Technical Review magazine and the trial launch of the Asia-Pacific View (APV) Platform.

Among other issues, the bureau discussed two new proposals. The first was for online elections for the ABU Technical Committee office bearers and the second a proposal to introduce an award related to sustainable development goals in place of the green broadcast engineering award.

The bureau also discussed building up a database of training institutes and resource people and agreed on the importance of conducting an activity survey this year to understand the change in requirements and priority areas among members.

It reviewed the schedule for the annual ABU meetings that would take place virtually in November.

Mr Nayeri wished everyone good health and stressed the importance of keeping in touch. He thanked all colleagues for their contributions to the meeting.





# ABU ENGINEERING FUNDAMENTALS 2021 TRAINING COURSE

The ABU's annual course on Engineering Fundamentals for Broadcasters was held for the first time on the Moodle platform, an open-source online learning platform.

2021's course consisted of three levels. The first level took place from 26 July to 23 August.

The course aims to provide basic engineering fundamentals for broadcast engineers and technicians who are at the beginning of their careers.

It focuses on fundamentals of audio, video, IT and communication systems, engineering techniques and applications. Participants who successfully complete each level will receive a certificate.

Pre-recorded lectures and other course material such as books and notes were uploaded to the Moodle platform for the first level.

This material is an on-demand asset and participants can interact with the platform and access the material whenever they are available. As they are all working professionals, they can choose the times that suit them best to take the course.

The second and third levels are also expected to take about one month each.

Level 1 consists of 10 modules: Video Basics, Audio Basics, Digital Video and Audio, Analogue Communication Fundamentals, Digital Communication Fundamentals, Signals & Mediums, Satellite Communications Fundamentals, Networking & IT Basics, Module-1.9 Signal Measurement and Quality Analysis, and Overall Broadcast Chain.

The lecturers include experts from IRIB-Iran, TRT-Turkey and NABM-India, as well as ABU technical staff.

After each module, live online Q&A sessions take place with the lecturers.

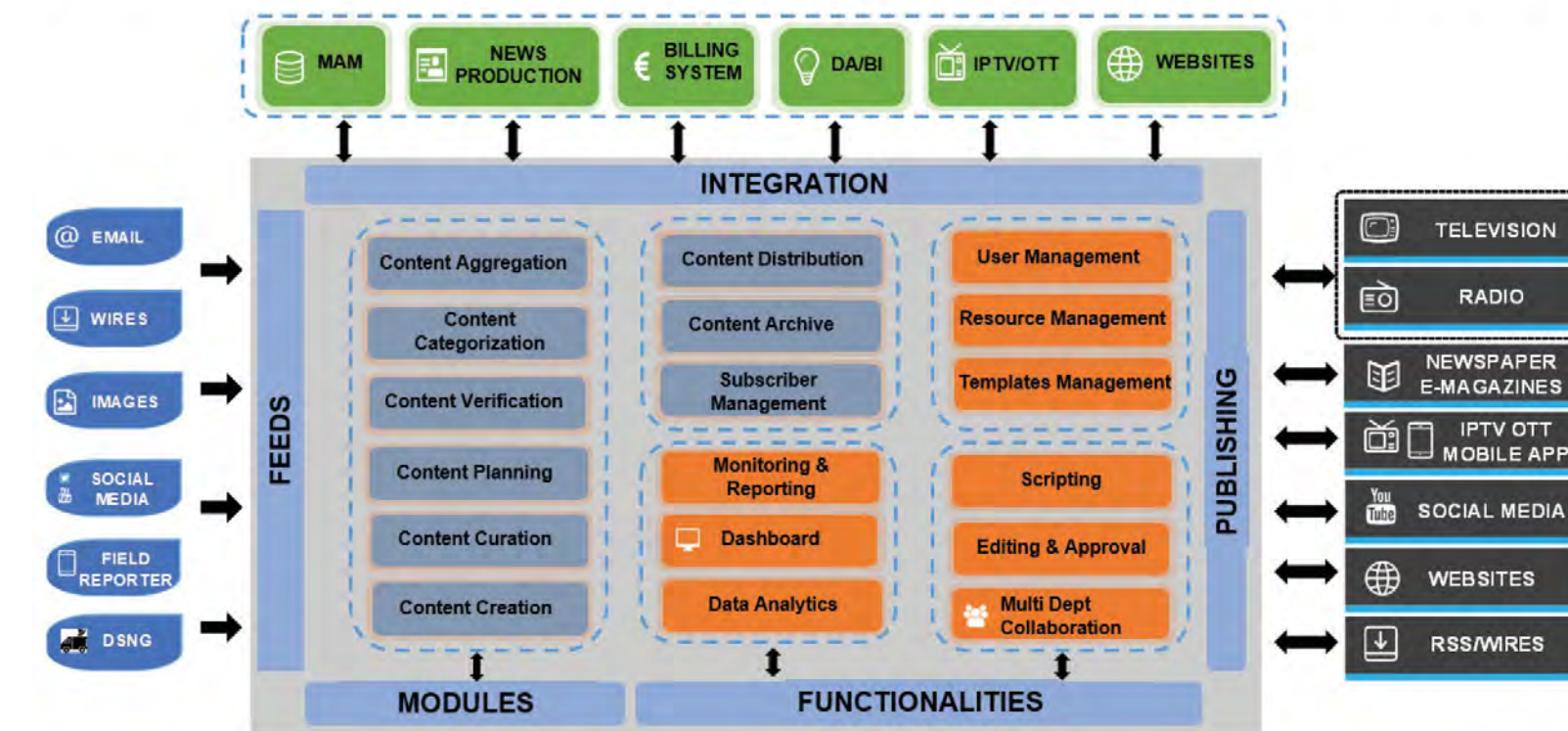
This course is available only for ABU members and the participation process managed by nominations only.

Around 40 participants were selected for the first level in July-August. The others took part when it was repeated in September-October.





### Convergence Platform



# ABU ASSISTS VOICE OF VIETNAM WITH MULTIPLATFORM BROADCASTING

A Technical Advisory Service mission to train Voice of Vietnam personnel on multiplatform broadcasting took place online on 7 October 2020. A team of experts from Benchmark Broadcast Systems (S) Pte Ltd, a system integration company based in Singapore, conducted the training. Benchmark Broadcast Systems (S) Pte Ltd of Singapore is a Leading System integration company. Headquartered in Singapore, and a key member in the ABU secretariat, Benchmark was tasked by the ABU to provide a technical workshop to VoV (Voice of Vietnam) who were looking for an expert to deliver an online training course on multiplatform broadcasting. The areas covered were: - Radio Distribution on Internet (Mobile, website, social, podcast) - Technology for Multiplatform Radio Production.

# FINANCE

## FINANCE COMMENTARY

The Secretariat successfully ended its 2020/2021 Financial Year as at 30 June 2021 with an actual surplus of \$ 410,115 after excluding the amount of \$ 763,746 which was related to the recognition of the Sundry Creditors written off as Other Income as approved by the Administrative Council Meeting and General Assembly in December 2020 and the gains on the foreign exchange of \$ 199,950 for the year.

The operating revenue from members' subscription fees had been reduced due to the impact from the prolonged pandemic and this has obviously affected some members' ability to settle their outstanding dues. The Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) rate in Malaysia remains at 1.75% since July 2020 and the FD rates offered by the Banks is expected to remain low.

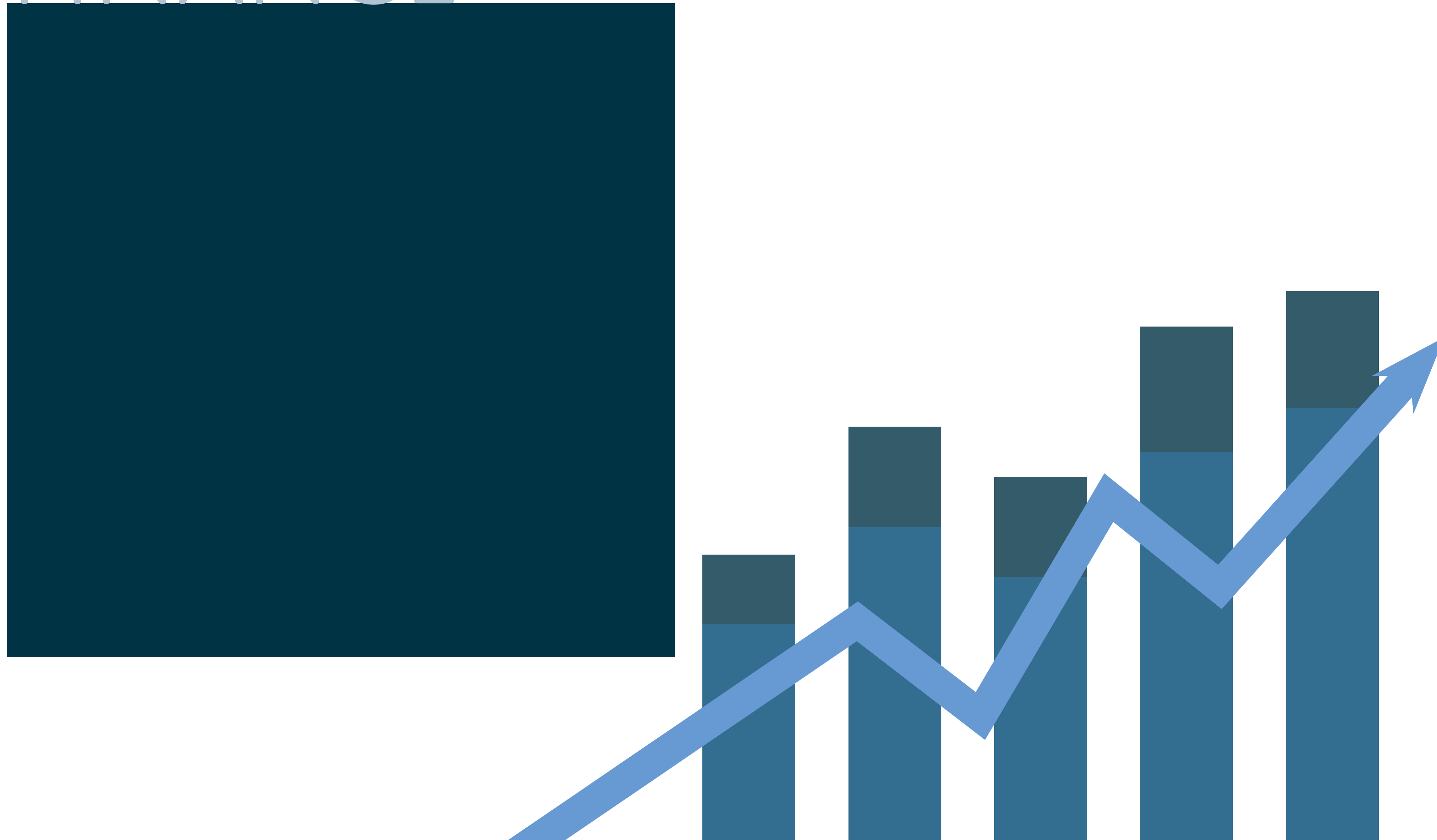
During the financial year, operating expenditures were also lower with a reduction in ABU face-to-face activities expenses, travel costs and office expenses. Containment measures enacted by the Secretariat since the outbreak of the pandemic with stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions has effectively reduce expenditures and assisted in curbing the spread of Covid-19.

There might be more challenges ahead in the years to come as some 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 can move ahead faster to deliver its services to members.

Despite challenging times, the Secretariat will continuously move ahead in delivering its objectives for the benefit of the members. Following the gradual and progressive re-opening of the economy and as countries began to relax measures to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, the Secretariat is hopeful that face-to-face meetings will resume from year 2022.

The ABU will always maintain a healthy financial position to meet all its objectives and mandate 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 November 2021.***



## BALANCE SHEET

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.2021 <i>Audited</i>	30.06.2020 <i>Audited</i>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>22,696</b>	<b>29,979</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Bank Equivalents	10,311,261	9,551,658
Accounts Receivable and Accruals	1,805,733	1,777,629
Sports Events In Progress	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>12,116,994</b>	<b>11,329,287</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>12,139,690</b>	<b>11,359,266</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payables and Accrued Expenses	1,094,149	1,704,082
ABU Activities Fund	6,106,611	6,250,739
Grants Received for ABU Projects	242,298	228,975
Sports Events Completed and In Progress	201,024	53,673
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>7,644,082</b>	<b>8,237,469</b>
<b>Union's Reserve</b>		
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>3,121,797</b>	<b>2,870,216</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>1,373,811</b>	<b>251,581</b>
<b>Total Reserve</b>	<b>4,495,608</b>	<b>3,121,797</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Reserve</b>	<b>12,139,690</b>	<b>11,359,266</b>

## NOTES

Despite of the pandemic and other challenges during the financial year under review, the Secretariat is pleased to announce that an actual surplus of US\$410,115 was achieved for the year ended on 30.06.2021.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.2021 <i>Audited</i>	30.06.2020 <i>Audited</i>
Members' Subscription Fees	1,742,703	1,822,663
Interest Received	84,164	133,968
Revenue from ABU Activities	477	(4,745)
Other Income	804,873	30,228
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>2,632,217</b>	<b>1,982,114</b>
ABU Activities	62,108	188,225
Staff Costs	1,091,526	1,008,491
Travel Costs	1,240	27,748
Provision for Doubtful Debts	157,611	115,791
Bad Debt written off	70,074	10,260
Professional plus Audit Fees	8,713	22,367
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	10,110	12,673
Other Office Expenses	56,974	86,689
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,458,356</b>	<b>1,472,244</b>
Exchange (Gains)/Loss	(199,950)	258,289
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>1,373,811</b>	<b>251,581</b>

## NOTES

The Secretariat continues to provide quality deliverables to its members without compromising its objectives despite challenging times.

The Union managed to achieve a satisfactory surplus of \$ 410,115 after excluding the other income and the exchange gains for the year. The Statement of Activities also indicates a decline in members' revenue and an increase in the provision for doubtful debts. This, however, will not deter the Secretariat to continue with its consistent efforts to get members to pay their overdue debts.

Operating expenditures remain low with prudent measures in place.

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.21 <i>Audited</i>	30.06.20 <i>Audited</i>
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	1,373,811	251,581
Provision for Doubtful Debts	157,611	115,791
Bad Debt written off	70,074	10,260
Depreciation	10,110	12,673
Interest Income	(83,858)	(133,968)
Staff Gratuities Benefits Provisions	96,981	54,483
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	(91,979)	25,225
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors and other Receivables	6,872	(138,522)
Increase/(Decrease) in Activities Fund	(144,128)	130,179
Increase/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities	79,125	(264,567)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors and Other Payables	(767,954)	(55,141)
Increase/(Decrease) in Exchange for Debtors and Creditors	(4,470)	15,376
<b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>702,195</b>	<b>23,370</b>
<b>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>		
Gratuities Paid	(23,623)	(56,395)
Interest Received	83,858	133,968
Acquisition of Tangible Assets	(2,827)	(4,941)
<b>Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>	<b>57,408</b>	<b>72,632</b>
<b>Net Variation in Cash and Bank Equivalents</b>	<b>759,603</b>	<b>96,002</b>
Cash and Bank Equivalents at end of period	10,311,261	9,551,658
Cash and Bank Equivalents at beginning of period	9,551,658	9,455,656
<b>Net Variation in Cash and Bank Equivalents</b>	<b>759,603</b>	<b>96,002</b>

## NOTES

A positive cash flow was achieved for the year.



**2020 / 2021**