



ASIA-PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION

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REPORT
2021 / 2022

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The ABU remains steadfast in its commitment to serving its members as they navigate an ever-changing broadcasting environment. Through capacity building, the sharing of experiences and the exchange of technical and programming know-how, the Union is dedicated to assisting members to meet the challenges all broadcasters face in today's testing times. The ABU also resolutely continues to promote crucial issues such as the protection of the environment and disaster preparedness. To this end, the Union is expanding its partnerships with sister unions and other international organisations around the world to deliver added benefits for its members.

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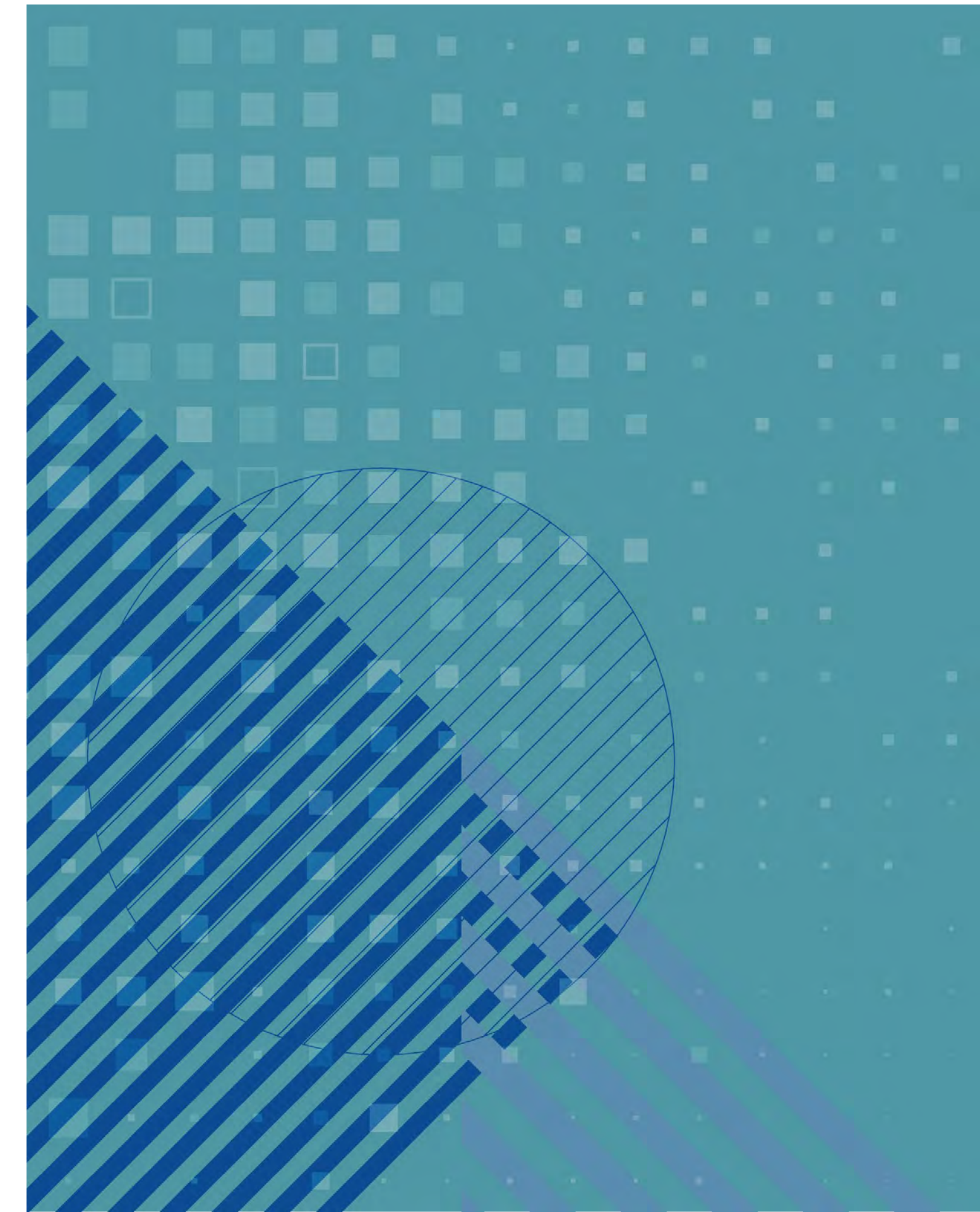
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Masagaki Satoru
President, ABU
Executive Vice-President, NHK, Japan*

Dear ABU Members

It is an honour to write this introduction to the ABU Annual Report 2021/2022. While it has been another challenging year for ABU members, we can look back with satisfaction on many important achievements.

Since 2020 the ABU has successfully been able to deliver many of its activities online and continue its valuable contributions to members. Though being unsure at first how well our activities could be complemented online, we have gradually learned that both physical and virtual meetings have their advantages. Online activities enabled not only member executives but also production and technical staff working in the field to participate with more ease.

The ABU TV-CON held in May 2022 is a good example among many. This new two-day event welcomed many enthusiastic programme makers. Together with speakers including last year's ABU Prize winners, participants were engaged in deep discussions about TV productions in the digital age.

One of the great strengths of the ABU is the readiness of its diverse members to work together on important projects, to share expertise and to practice solidarity. With this spirit of 'Unity in Diversity' and connections either physical and/or virtual, I'm certain that the ABU continues to evolve, enabling more members to access its quality activities easily and effectively.

Two years of the COVID-19 pandemic also provided the ABU with the opportunity to select activities that are really necessary and focus on

what are the most important for members. It was a time to re-evaluate the activities we had been implementing for long and to consider what to keep, what to end, and what to start anew. In doing so, I believe that the Union can be continuously counted on by fellow members.

Dear ABU members, the pandemic has accelerated the global expansion of digital giants, intensified media competition, and spurred changes in the business environment surrounding the broadcasting industry. To survive in this new media landscape, we need more than ever to best respond to informatization and digitalization.

In the meantime, the ABU is to enter a new phase next year as Dr Javad Mottaghi, the present Secretary-General, concludes his term. Thanks to the outstanding leadership of Dr Mottaghi, the ABU has developed significantly over the past 12 years. It is high time for us to promote 'Unity in Diversity' in order to maintain the development momentum.

The theme of the 2022 General Assembly, to be held between 25 and 30 November in New Delhi, is 'Serving the People: Media's Role in Times of Crisis'. The annual meetings will enable us to reflect together on recent challenges the ABU is facing, and to discuss how to steer a course that will provide most benefit to over 250 ABU members and their 3 billion audiences.

I sincerely ask for your active participation and contribution so that the ABU can tackle the new challenges in the post-COVID era.



A WATERSHED YEAR FOR THE UNION

*Dr Javad Mottaghi
Secretary-General
Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union*

I am delighted to present the 2021-2022 ABU Annual Report. This was a watershed year for the Union, with a new President taking office and in-person meetings starting to return after the challenges forced upon us all by the pandemic.

Able led by the Presidency, the Administrative Council and other leadership groups, the ABU has continued to find opportunities to excel in these demanding times. Full credit goes to our members. They have remained strongly committed to the ABU despite the challenges their own organisations have faced. With their clear-cut support, we were able to take almost all our activities online. We now look with confidence to the future as we cautiously return to person-to-person events and the opportunities they offer.

One striking indicator of the success of our activities is the number of online activities the ABU has organised. From July 2021 to June 2022, we held more than 150 webinars, courses and other virtual events. In all, more than 6,000 people took part in these activities.

They do not include major ABU events held virtually during this period, including the General Assembly, Digital Broadcasting Symposium, TV-CON, Global News Forum and Pacific Media Partnership Conference.

This required a great deal of hard work from our members and the ABU Secretariat. I would like to thank my hard-working Secretariat colleagues for meeting every challenge enthusiastically and continuing to provide the best possible service to our members as the world of broadcasting changes around them.

The past two years have seen rapid advances in online technologies. The ABU and its members are harnessing these as they combine the virtual with the physical. This will stand the Union in good stead as we move into the future and address the changing environment for broadcasters brought about by social media and the ever-growing use of mobile devices. Amid all these changes, we will continue to work to reduce the digital and technological divide among our members.

The bond among ABU members remains unshakable and I know it will continue to strengthen as we work together to meet the opportunities that lie ahead.



TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE



Asia-Pacific Region since 1964

ABU Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union

ABU is a non-profit, non-governmental professional association of broadcasters and broadcast industry players.

www.abu.org.my

ABU Headquarters @ABU 140

As a Secretary-General approaches the end of his term, it's customary to look back at his time in office and some of the milestones achieved under his leadership.

Dr Javad Mottaghi assumed office as Secretary-General in May 2010. When he joined, he brought nearly three decades of national and international experience in broadcasting. Immediately before joining, he spent 12 years as Director of the ABU's sister organisation, the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).

Earlier, he served Iran's national broadcaster, IRIB, in various senior positions in the field of sports, culture and production.

As Secretary-General, Dr Mottaghi has overseen many changes to the ABU. These are among the projects and activities introduced during his time in office:

- The establishment of the ABU Media Academy
- The launch of Asia-Pacific View, an online content sharing and exchange platform
- ABU TV-CON, a major new event run by the Programme Department
- #ABUdigital, a premier digital media and content show
- ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference
- ABU Global News Forum
- ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness
- ABU Covid-19 Content Database, enabling members to share their coverage of the pandemic
- ABU Sports and Entertainment Network (ASEN)
- ABU RAI Days
- ABU/UNESCO Together for Peace (T4P) and ABU Peace Building Awards and Initiatives
- ABU Gender Equality and Women With the Wave Movement
- ABU Radio Song Festival
- ABU TV Song Festival
- ABU Music Exchange Network (AMX)
- ABU Programme Exchange Network
- ABU Media CEOs Talk
- ABU Children Media Hub
- ABU Intellectual Property & Legal Committee
- ABU Campaign Saving Lives: Building Resilient Communities
- ABU International Dance Festival
- ABU/UNESCO Diversity and Inclusion Project

58TH ABU GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKES PLACE ONLINE

With the pandemic approaching the end of its second year, the 58th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings demonstrated that the ABU and its members were in confident spirit as they took on new challenges and looked to the future.

The annual meetings took place from 9 to 26 November and were held online for the second year in a row. The General Assembly had as its theme ‘Serving the People, Planet and Peace’ – a theme explored in three absorbing Super Panel Forum sessions that proved a highlight of the annual meetings.

With COVID-19 continuing to throw up fresh challenges, broadcasters, like everyone else, have learned to adapt. Despite the pandemic, the Secretariat had a busy, successful year and this was reflected in the discussions.

The ABU Acting President, Mr Yang Sung-dong, opened the General Assembly on 24 November. Mr Yang, President and CEO of KBS-Korea, said he wished participants could have met face-to-face instead of online. However, the ABU had become used to virtual meetings, and he was grateful that everyone was keeping well and safe.

He noted that he had succeeded Mr Ibrahim Eren of TRT-Türkiye as Acting ABU President in July 2021. He expressed gratitude to Mr Eren for everything he had done for the Union.



From left: Mr Yang Sung-dong, Mr Shashi Vempati, Mr Masagaki Satoru



ABU Vice President Mr Shashi Vempati, CEO of Prasar Bharati-India, said the Union had emerged stronger through the period of the pandemic.

“Thanks to the virtual technologies, we have met more often, we have collaborated more, we have exchanged more,” he said.

ABU Vice President Mr Masagaki Satoru – who was elected ABU President later in the General Assembly - said the broadcasting industry was confronting a fundamental reset. It was essential that the ABU family retained its unity.

The Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, said the pandemic had taught the broadcasting industry valuable lessons. It needed to seize the opportunity to turn the page and start on a new slate.

SUPER PANEL FORUM A HIGHLIGHT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Super Panel Forum at the General Assembly on 26 November featured three sessions, each focusing on one aspect of the theme 'Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace'. They were a highlight of the General Assembly.

Session 1: Serving the People

Session 1 looked at how media can best serve the people. The moderator was Nedra Weerasinghe, Capital Maharaja Group-Sri Lanka.

Craig McMurtrie of ABC-Australia said it was quite dangerous, and becoming more so, to give the audience what they wanted, to reaffirm their world view, at a time when communities were increasingly polarised.

A public broadcaster like the ABC should focus much more on truth-telling and the facts. It was not good enough to give every perspective an equal say.

"What we ought to be thinking about is due impartiality and truth telling," he said.

On issues like climate change and vaccination policies, broadcasters needed to consider where the balance of evidence was and follow this balance of evidence. Their coverage needed to reflect this.

Usui Hiro of TBS-Japan said it was crucial for commercial broadcasters to retain their trust and credibility.

Audiences had become fragmented but thanks to digital technology, broadcasters could reach out to people on platforms such as On Demand.

"We have to rethink and redefine what we are right now. At the same time we have to keep our TV credibility and trust in very high quality."

Thepchai Yong of Thai PBS-Thailand looked at the role of a public broadcaster in a situation where a new generation was demanding drastic political changes.

"As a matter of principle and as legislated, the mission of a public broadcaster, as far as Thai PBS is concerned, is to offer new service and programme content that is fair and balanced and without any political bias or serving any commercial interest.

"Simply put, our job is to serve the people, not the people in power."

A broadcaster must provide a voice of reason and stick to the basic principle of public broadcasting. It was easier to take sides than to be objective and unbiased.

The session ended with a presentation by Jun Ogawa of the Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organisation (BPO). He briefed participants on the organisation, an independent watchdog for broadcasting content established by Japanese public and commercial broadcasters in 2003.

Session 2: Serving the Planet

Russell Isaac of Sports Media Services moderated session 2 of the Super Panel Forum. It featured three panellists.

Mami Mizutori of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) noted that this summer had been the hottest recorded summer in Europe. The whole region had been devastated by floods, heatwaves and wildfires.

However, it was developing countries who were disproportionately bearing the brunt of the climate emergency.

She said her office had gone to the Cop26 UN climate change summit in Glasgow in October-November with three concrete calls for action.

- To dramatically raise our ambition for climate adaptation, disaster reduction and building resilience.



Ms Mami Mizutori



- To significantly increase support to developing countries for averting, minimising and addressing losses from climate-related disasters.
- To accelerate predictable financing for disaster risk reduction.

Ms Mizutori said Covid-19 had taught people that risk was systemic. One risk led to another. A public health crisis turned quickly into a socio-economic crisis.

The response also needed to be systemic. All stakeholders needed to increase their cooperation to tackle climate change and disaster risk reduction – and the media was a crucial stakeholder.

Koike Hideo of NHK-Japan said there had been a series of major disasters in Japan over the last decade, almost one after another.

"There is a strong sense of crisis among people in Japan as to what they need to do when they or their families are caught up in one."

Disseminating information on disasters was a mission for NHK as a public broadcaster, he said.

It was essential for each of NHK's 53 domestic stations to tell the audience in their local area to evacuate in the face of a disaster.

NHK had developed a method to provide real-time disaster information. It had developed a smart phone application with the latest information directly linked to a specific area. For foreign residents, it provided news in 18 languages on video and the internet.

Iman Brotoseno of TVRI-Indonesia said natural disasters were common in his nation. "Our country is located in the ring of fire so it happens all the time."

He said TVRI had become a leading source of information on disasters. It cooperated with local officials and the national disaster office.



From top: Mr Iman Brotoseno, Mr Koike Hideo, Mr Russell Isaac

People trusted TVRI as a centre of information on disasters. It ran special programmes designed to assist the recovery and rebuilding in times of disaster.

At the end of the session, the Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, thanked Ms Mizutori for the great support that she had rendered to broadcasting unions in various parts of the world. He looked forward to strengthening the partnership.



Dr Savyasaachi Jain

Mr Shigeru Aoyagi
Director, UNESCO Bangkok

Dr Chandra Muzaffar



Mr Abdel Bari Atwan



Mr Aidan White

Session 3: Serving Peace

Dr Savyasaachi Jain of Cardiff University moderated session 3 of the Super Panel Forum. The three panellists spoke passionately of the need for the media to help bring about peace.

Dr Chandra Muzaffar of the International Movement for a Just World said the media potentially had an important role in promoting peace.

"It can take a principled role against war and violence. One hopes this will become the mission of the media all over the world."

This was not just reporting on conflicts. It was about developing consciousness as a long-time goal and analysing the causes of war even after the conflict is over.

Abdel Bari Atwan of Rai al-Youm digital newspaper said the media was facing difficulties in covering conflict, both in the west and in Middle Eastern countries.

"I believe the media has a role to major play in order to promote peace by siding with justice, siding with the oppressed people who are suffering because of the wars that are taking place."

Journalists who opposed war had been able to express their opposition in the west 20 to 30 years ago, so journalists from other regions, including him, had come to the west to speak out.

But things had changed. Now they were not allowed to talk. The media should help peace by telling the truth, in the west particularly.

Aidan White of the Ethical Journalism Network questioned whether it was all doom and gloom.

"I think there are many cases where the media do a very good job when they're reporting conflict, when we see the media stick to their principles, their values."

He said courageous media had changed public opinion over the Vietnam war and the 30-year war in Northern Ireland.

However, journalists and journalism alone could not make peace. It was not their purpose. Their job was to tell the truth about the consequences of war and the opportunities that existed to make peace.

The session ended with a video message from Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Bangkok. He spoke about the 2021 ABU/UNESCO Together for Peace Media Awards that had recently been presented and congratulated the winners.

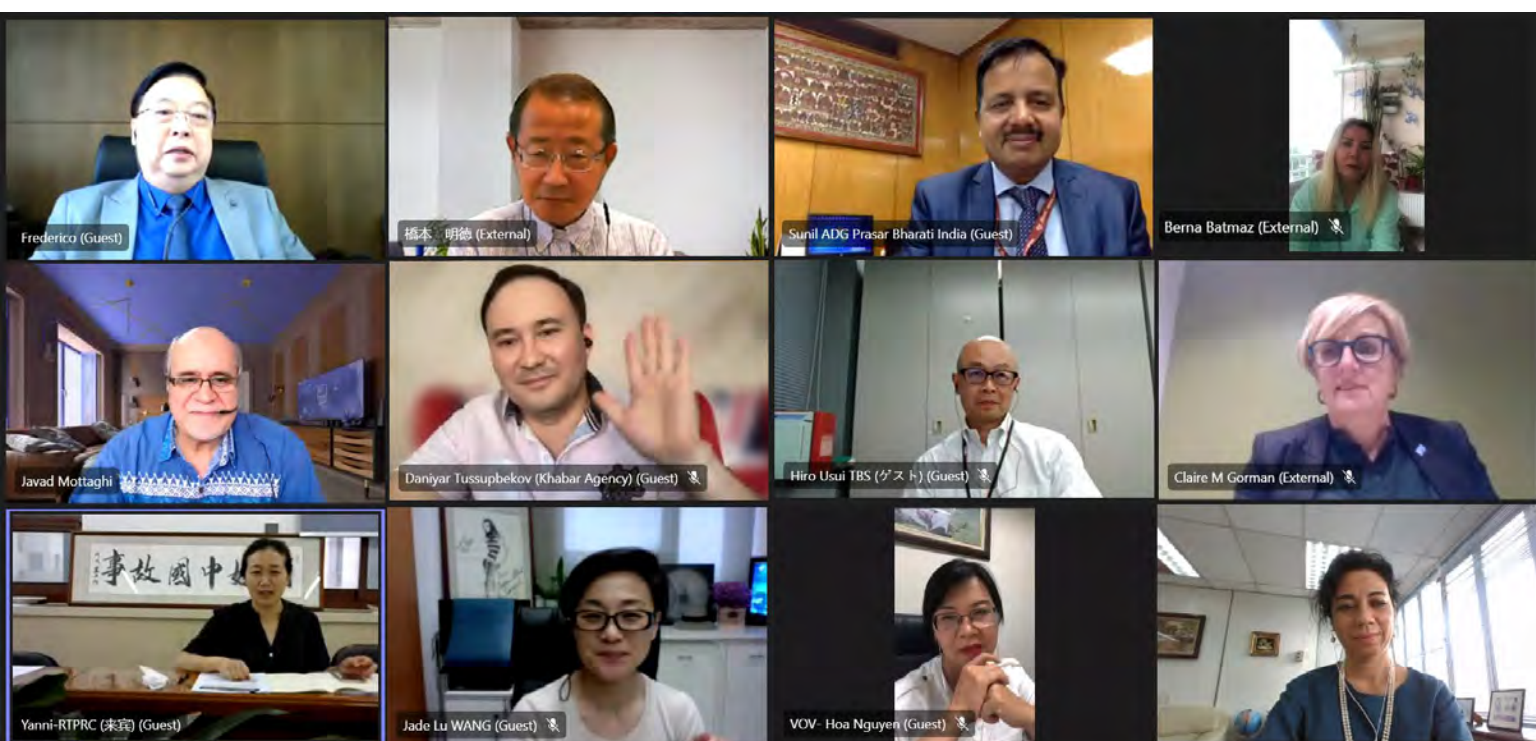
He said UNESCO had launched Together for Peace to bring together member states in the region including the media and news organisations, to work towards positive peace and sustainable society. He praised the ABU for being a partner in the initiative.

"Without peace there cannot be sustainable development. Without development, there cannot be lasting peace," he said.

ABU HOLDS 2 PLANNING AND STRATEGY GROUP MEETINGS

The 2021 end-of-year Planning and Strategy Group meeting took place online on 19 October. A total of 21 PSG members and guest participants from ABU members attended. The meeting discussed future Administrative Council elections, obligations of Administrative Council members to participate and contribute to meetings, and more engagement of small members in the Pacific Islands in future meetings.

The mid-year Planning and Strategy Group meeting took place online on 22 June 2022. Chaired by Mr Frederico Rosario of Teledifusao de Macau (TDM), the group serves as a think tank for the ABU, discussing key issues facing the Union and putting forward recommendations.



111TH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TAKES PLACE ONLINE

The 111th Administrative Council took place online on 29-30 June 2021. It decided that the 58th General Assembly and Associated Meetings should also be held virtually. The decision to move the GA online was taken in view of the continuing spread of COVID cases in the region and the travel restrictions to almost all countries in the region.

The Administrative Council also approved holding online the re-elections and the new elections to the Council from July onwards. The Report of the Secretary-General was also approved.

Administrative Council members approved the recommendation of the ABU Secretariat to add Mr Ibrahim Eren's name to the list of ABU Honorary Councillors. The Administrative Council's strong support for the idea spoke volumes about Mr Eren's invaluable contribution to the Union as an AC member, Acting President and President.

The ABU election team successfully conducted online re-election ballots for three Full Members and two Additional Full Members of the Council from July 22 to 30 2021. All were re-elected for three-year terms.

Khabar Agency-Kazakhstan, RTPRC-China and VTV-Vietnam were re-elected from Full Members. HUM TV-Pakistan and MTV-Sri Lanka were elected from among Additional Full Members.

ELECTIONS HELD ONLINE FOR FIRST TIME

SMALL PACIFIC MEMBERS GET RESERVED SEAT ON ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

In a reflection of the important role members from the Pacific region play in ABU activities, the General Assembly agreed to create an additional seat on the Administrative Council specifically for small members from the Pacific Islands.

The seat will be rotated among small Pacific Island members every three years to ensure as many of them as possible are given an opportunity to serve on the council.

The move is designed to give Pacific Island members a direct voice in determining the ABU's strategic and policy goals, particularly for services offered to their region.

This will bring the total number of council members to 18.

The General Assembly also made changes to the rules for elections to the Administrative Council.

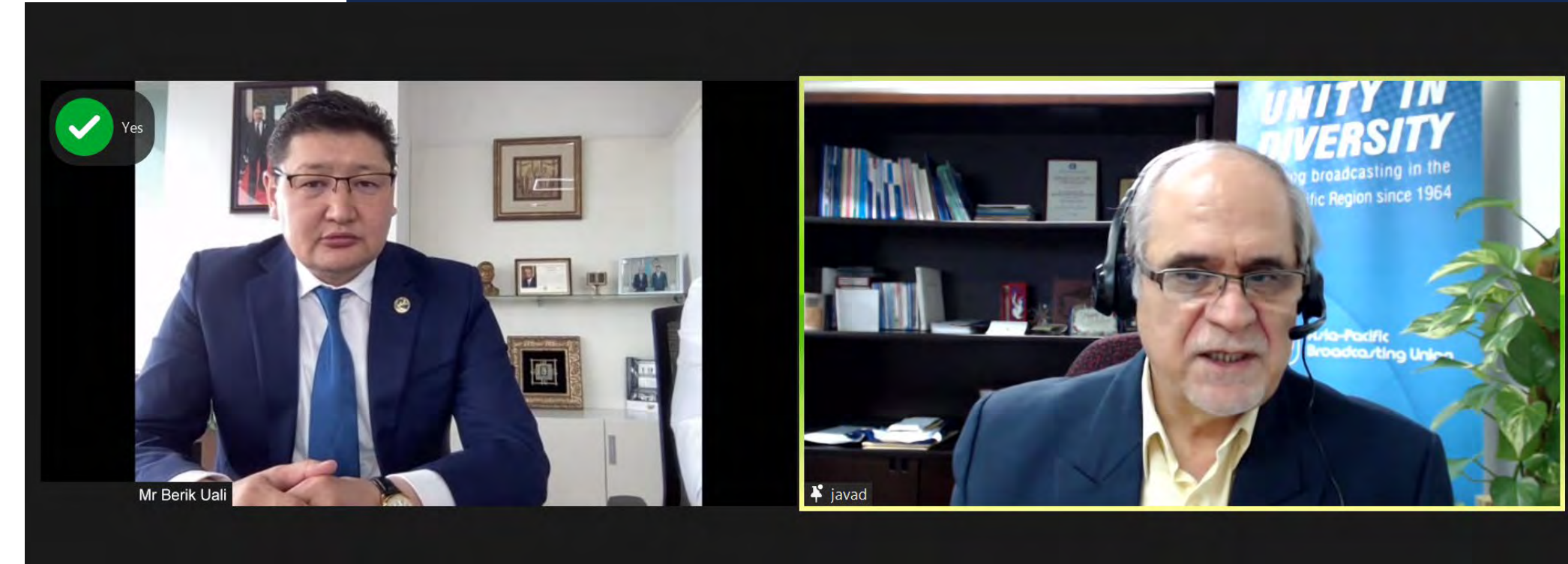
Voting for re-election to the council will in future be conducted online, at least one month before the scheduled General Assembly. Other elections to the council will take place online during the assembly's restricted session.

For the first time, the ABU Secretariat conducted online elections in 2021 for all the governing bodies of the Union. This included the Sports Group, the Programme and Technical Committees and the News Group.

The Secretariat also conducted online re-elections to the Administrative Council in July and the ABU Presidential election on 25 November. Despite the challenges involved, everything went smoothly.

MEETINGS WITH ABU MEMBERS

As travel restrictions in the region began to ease after more than two years of the pandemic, the Secretary-General visited the heads of ABU members in Seoul and New Delhi. He also continued to meet members via video conferencing. ABU Secretariat staff also held virtual meetings with heads of member organisations.



Face-to-face meetings

Dr Mottaghi visited New Delhi on 10-13 May 2022. He met the ABU Vice-President, and President & CEO of Prasar Bharati, Mr Shashi Vempati. Their discussions included two major ABU events that Prasar Bharati would be hosting in New Delhi later in the year: the News Group Meeting and Global News Forum (3-5 October) and the General Assembly and Associated Meetings (25-30 November). He also met several other senior Prasar Bharati and government representatives.

The Secretary-General visited Seoul in June and met the Presidents of three ABU members, KBS, MBC and EBS.

Mr Kim Eui-chul, President and CEO of KBS, and Dr Mottaghi met on 15 June and pledged to further advance their cooperative relations in the lead up to the 2023 ABU General Assembly in Seoul.

On 16 June, the Secretary-General met Sung Jae Park, President and CEO of MBC. The two confirmed their commitment to the further development of the public media sector.

Dr Mottaghi met Mr Yu-yeol Kim, President and CEO of EBS, on 17 June. They both emphasised the necessity of paying more attention to children's educational projects in their future joint venture regional projects.



Mr Kim Eui-chul, President and CEO, KBS-Korea



Dr Kim, Yu-yeol, President, EBS-Korea



Mr Sung Jae Park, President and CEO, MBC-Korea

Virtual meetings

Dr Mottaghi met the new Chairman of JSC "Khabar Agency" in Kazakhstan, Mr Berik Uali, via a video conference on 13 April 2022. Mr Uali confirmed that Khabar Agency would host the 113th Administrative Council Meeting in Nursultan on 26 August. He said that strengthening cooperation with the ABU was one of his organisation's main priorities. The two sides discussed expanding their strategic partnership, including the secondment of Khabar employees to the ABU to improve their qualifications and acquire new skills.



Mr Masagaki Satoru, ABU President and Executive Vice President, NHK-Japan

Mr Kim Eui-chul, President and CEO, KBS-Korea

Secretariat staff meet ABU leaders

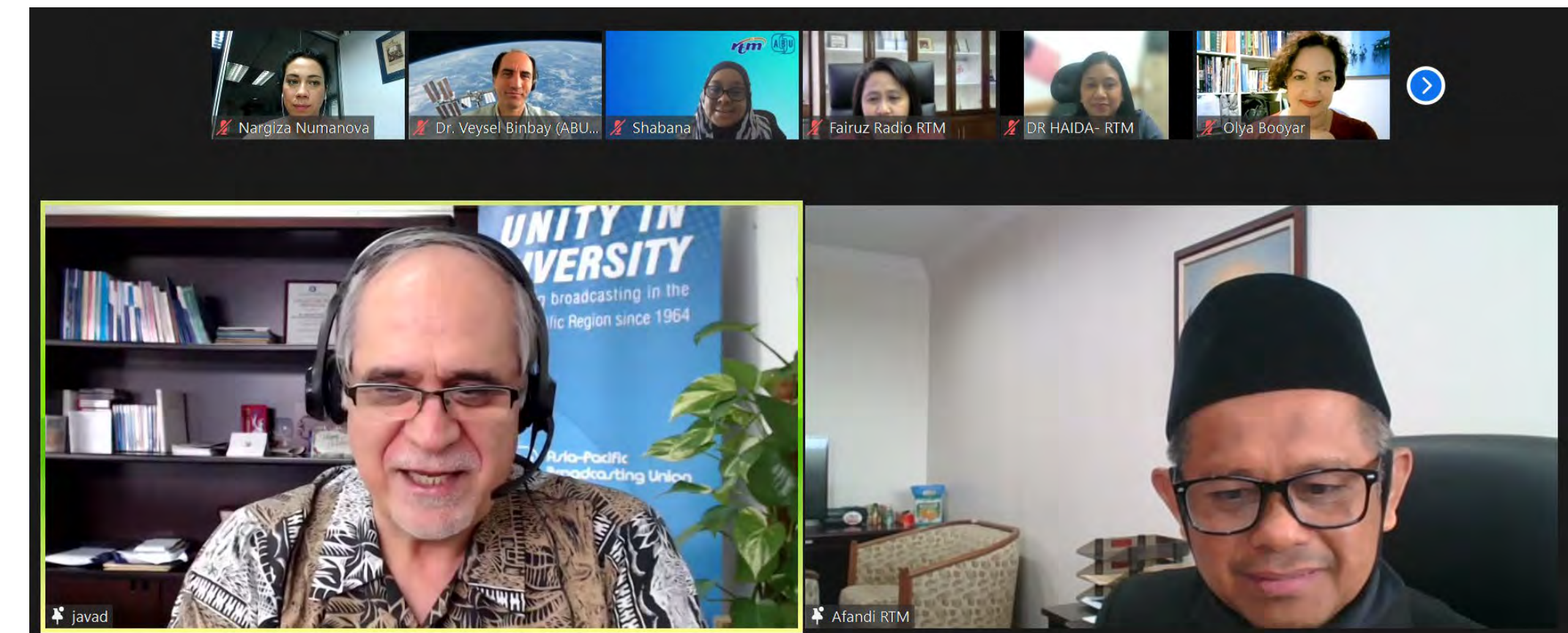
The ABU Secretariat team held a productive one-hour virtual meeting with the ABU President, Mr Masagaki Satoru, on 13 April and briefed him on a wide range of activities. Dr Mottaghi said all ABU departments were grateful to NHK for all the help it was giving them. Those who took part included directors and senior executives from the ABU Secretariat as well as senior NHK representatives.

The President and CEO of KBS, Mr Kim Eui-chul, held a virtual meeting with the Secretary-General and senior ABU executives on 12 April. Mr Kim praised the Union for the diversity of activities and events it was providing. He said the ABU's primary role was to assist its members and urged it to continue playing a pivotal role.



RTM and ABU launch Partnership Task Group

The new Director-General of RTM, Dato' Haji Che Roslan, and the ABU Secretary-General initiated an ABU-RTM Partnership Task Group to discuss ways to further strengthen their partnership. The Task Group was mandated to draft a joint Action Plan for activities RTM specifically requires for its development as well as projects the ABU and RTM can offer together to ABU members. The Task Group met on 11 April, with senior representatives of both sides taking part.



NEW ABU PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE

The ABU's new President, Mr Masagaki Satoru, was unanimously elected at the 58th General Assembly on 25 November.

Mr Masagaki, who is Executive Vice President of NHK-Japan, will serve as President through to the end of 2024.

He succeeded Mr Yang Sung-dong, President and CEO of KBS-Korea, who had been acting ABU President since July 2021.

Mr Masagaki expressed his sincere gratitude for the support and confidence shown in him. It was an honour that came with profound responsibilities, he said.

He promised to listen to the voices of all ABU members, encourage cooperation and build the value of the Union.

"As we are all aware, our Union is now facing a historic moment of change.

"Over the last decade, with expanded digitisation and use of the internet, the broadcast industry was forced to confront major upheavals."

"And seemingly overnight, the COVID-19 pandemic compelled us to move our activities from the real world to the virtual one.

"When the pandemic finally comes to an end and we move into the post-COVID era, we will enter a new-normal phase in which we must work to reduce costs and achieve maximum results.

"I will build upon these changes and make our activities more efficient and beneficial."

Mr Masagaki joined NHK in 1983 as a news reporter. After serving as news editor for more than 10 years, he became Head of the Political News Division in 2010, Editorial Controller News Department, Director of Osaka Station in 2015, Director of the News Department in 2016, and Director of the Public Relations Department in 2017.

He joined the NHK Executive Board as Senior Director in April 2019 and assumed the post of Executive Vice President in February 2020.

The ABU General Assembly and Associated meetings took place online from 9 to 26 November. They began with the ABU Sports Group Conference and ended with the General Assembly Super Panel Forum, addressing the topic "Media Reset: Serving the People, Planet and Peace".



SHASHI VEMPATI STEPS DOWN AS ABU VICE PRESIDENT



Shashi Shekhar Vempati stepped down as ABU Vice President on 8 June 2022 after completing his term as Chief Executive Officer of India's public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati.

Mr Vempati became Vice President on 16 December 2020 on his election at that year's General Assembly. He had been Prasar Bharati's CEO since June 2017.

"It has been my privilege to work with all of you under the umbrella of this great Union, which plays a pivotal role in the development and transformation of public service broadcasters in this rapidly changing digital environment," Mr Vempati said in a farewell letter.

"I am confident that Prasar Bharati will remain dedicated to continuing its enthusiastic involvements in ABU activities and will always maintain working in harmony with the ABU family."

The ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, paid tribute to Mr Vempati, describing him as a great leader who had become the backbone of change in the ABU.

"We have always appreciated your wisdom and visionary advice to move faster to full digital utilisation of the collective power of members."

Before taking over as Prasar Bharati CEO, Mr Vempati had a long stint with Infosys Technologies and then managed a digital news media start-up, Niti Digital.

An author and a columnist, he has published on politics, public policy and emerging areas of technology like Artificial Intelligence and Broadcast-Broadband Convergence.

YANG SUNG-DONG STEPS DOWN AS ABU ACTING PRESIDENT

Yang Sung-dong stepped down as ABU Acting President on 9 December 2021, upon completing his second term as KBS CEO and President.

In a farewell letter, Mr Yang said he had focused on maintaining the fundamental principles and quality services of the ABU since becoming Vice President of the Union in December 2019.

He said he had made particular efforts to better serve members struggling with COVID-19 in the unprecedented age of the new normal. He had continued to explore ways to create a stronger and sustainable ABU, which would ultimately benefit members.

He praised the “superb stewardship” of the ABU Secretary-General, Dr Javad Mottaghi, and thanked all Secretariat members of staff.

Mr Yang said he was certain the new ABU President, Mr Masagaki Satoru, would steer the Union with strong leadership. He said he would continue to support the ABU despite leaving KBS.

Dr Mottaghi expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr Yang for his outstanding contribution during his term as ABU Vice President and Acting President.

During his four years at the helm of KBS, Mr Yang successfully hosted Public Broadcasters International in Seoul in 2018 and the KBS-ABU International Radio Forum in 2019, which highlighted the critical role of public service media in the ever-evolving media landscape.

He joined KBS as a television producer and director in 1989 and has an extensive background in documentary production and investigative journalism.



MEDIA ACADEMY COURSE ATTENDANCE GROWS 45 PERCENT



In the past 12 months the ABU Media Academy has taught 92 online seminars to 2680 people, a 45 percent increase in course attendance on last year.

The most attended courses were:

- Video Editing
- Live TV Production
- TV News Reporting
- Colour Grading for Video Productions
- On Camera Presenting Skills
- Investigative Reporting

Most of these courses are available on the Academy Learning Platform for undertaking self-paced training on request.

As well as the regularly scheduled courses, the Academy also delivered special courses on request to a number of members who had specific training needs for their staff. These included Election Reporter Training, Sales Training Techniques, Radio Presentation and Television Presentation.

During the pandemic many staff were not performing their normal duties and had more opportunities for training, so the ABU Academy courses offered were a highly valuable way of upskilling staff during their Covid down time.

Some of our most attended seminars this year were on Investigative Journalism, as part of a course supported by the Global Media Defence Fund (GMDF). This course was developed jointly by the News Department and the Academy and high profile journalistic lecturers were used to teach each seminar.

This year the Academy also continued our partnerships with university level academic institutions, giving Members a pathway to higher education qualifications through the AFTRS and HEC Business School.

As part of a partnership with the Australian Film Television & Radio School (AFTRS), Australia's elite government funded media training university, the Academy was able to source high level lecturers for many of our courses. One free place was granted by AFTRS this year to **Mahfuza Aktar**, the General Manager of Bangladesh Television (BTV), who is currently undertaking selected units in the AFTRS **Master of Arts Screen Business** programme.

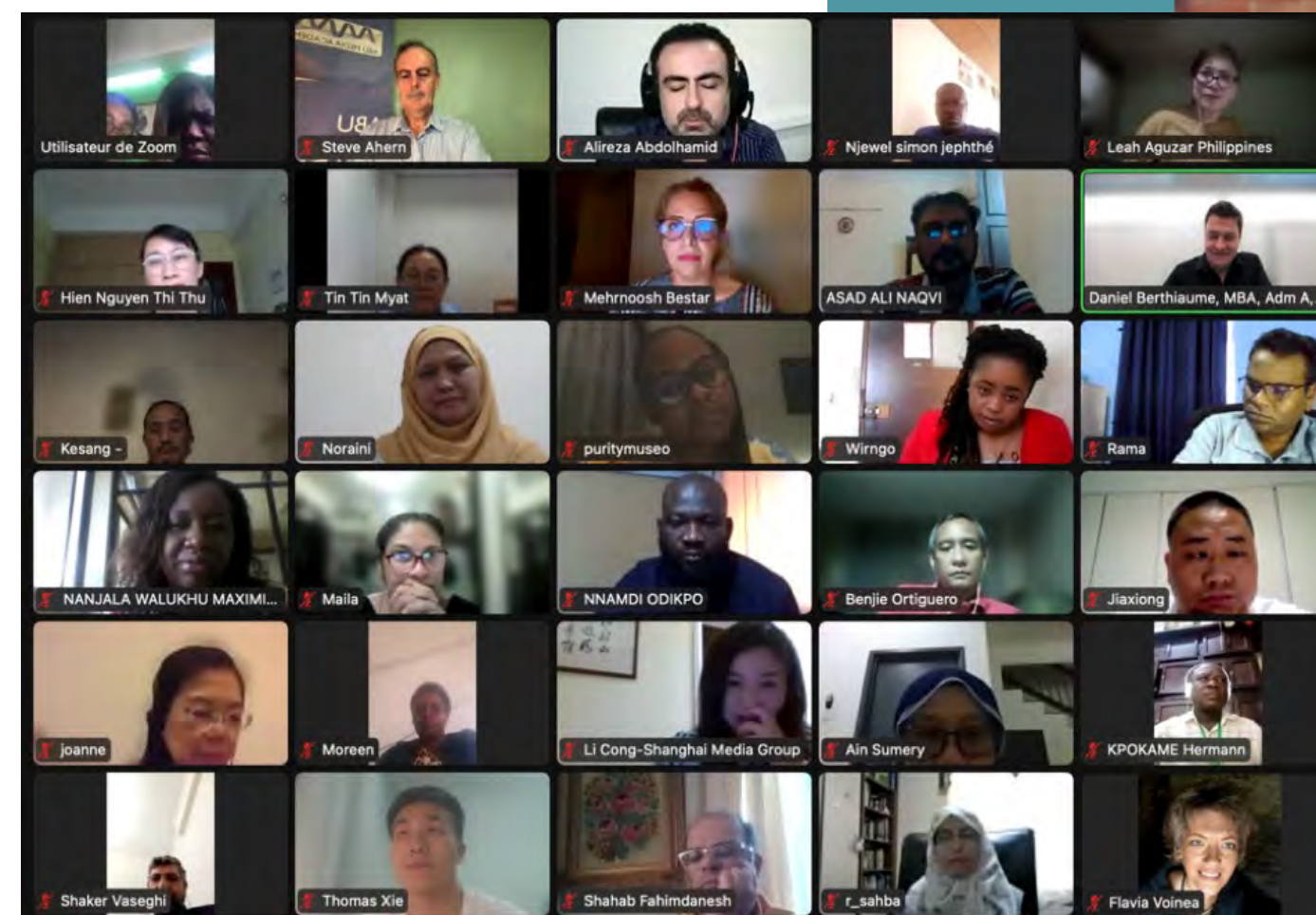
Ms Mahfuza says she is "very happy and honoured to be the first AFTRS student from Bangladesh and to be awarded this place in the MASB course.

"I believe that this course will further accelerate my career as a screen media professional, which will play an important role in the development of my organization. On behalf of Bangladesh Television, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thank the ABU Media Academy and AFTRS authorities for this wonderful initiative and for giving me the opportunity to participate in this programme."

After the outstanding success of the first high level management course in 2021, the Academy again partnered with the HEC Business School to offer the **Authentic Leadership management course**, with 42 middle and senior managers enrolled. HEC Montréal has been training future managers since 1907.

In other activities, the Academy delivered a Together for Peace (T4P) course in partnership with UNESCO, to train participants in the concepts of positive peace, and collaborated with the Radio Department to form a partnership with the world's biggest radio conference to bring RadioDays to Kuala Lumpur in combination with Radio Asia.

The Academy collaborated with the Sports Department to develop a three part course on Sport Reporting and commentary; with the Technical Department to identify guest lecturers; with the Digital Department to lead conference sessions and with News Department for the Investigative Journalism and Philippines Election Training courses.



ABU Media Academy Head **Steve Ahern** delivered lectures and conference speeches for a range of partners during the past 12 months including AFTRS, the Global Investigative Journalism Network, Voice of Vietnam, World Radio Day and the Pacific Media Partnership Conference.

The work being undertaken by the Academy team, which includes Programme Manager **Mehrnoosh Bestar** and Administrator **Ruchi Malhotra**, is fulfilling the philosophy of adding value to the training work of other departments and expanding the range and scope of training offered to members.

Satisfaction with our courses remains high, with an average of 90 percent of participants rating them Very Good or Excellent and delivered at the right level for them.



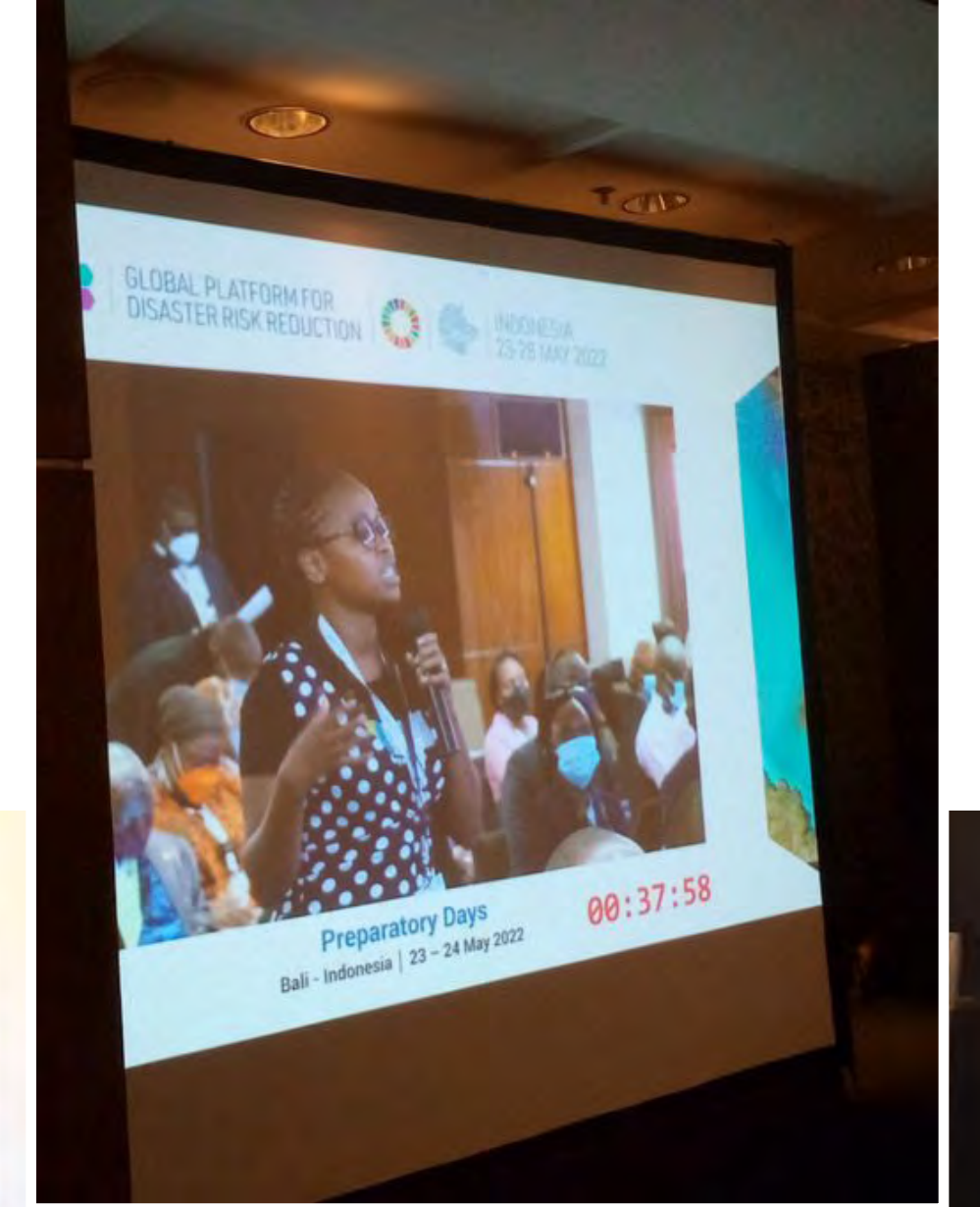
ABU NEWS EXPANDS ACTIVITIES

ABU News continues to expand its activities and identify new ways to support members.

Our Asiavision News Exchange welcomed two new members: the Ariana Television Network in Afghanistan and the Thai Public Broadcasting Service. In total, more than 16,600 items were exchanged by Asiavision Members during the 2021-2022 year. The Asiavision team worked around the clock for the first six weeks of the Ukraine war, ensuring all Members had access to high quality and extensive coverage.

The News Department held a series workshops, courses, masterclasses and webinars on subjects including script writing, investigative reporting, social media content creation, election reporting, misinformation and verification.

We also launched The Deep Brief – an informal news briefing for journalists and editors on key issues including climate change, the Ukraine conflict, the world economic situation and the state of the world's oceans. Guest speakers included the United Nations' Secretary General's special envoy for the ocean Peter Thomson, and Dr Hamid Rashid, lead author of the World Economic Situation and Prospects for 2022 and Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.



ASIAVISION NEWS EXCHANGE – COLLECTIVE + COLLABORATIVE COVERAGE



Photo CCTV – Supporters gather at Chinese table tennis player Ma Long home town as to watch him successfully defend his men's table tennis singles title at the Tokyo Olympics.



Photo CCTV – The Tokyo 2020 Olympics athletics venue.



Photo IRIB – IRIB's coverage of the events that unfolded in Afghanistan not only looked at the military operations, but also included how the people rebelled against it.



Photo ARIANA TV – Asiavision through its Sister Union Eurovision was able to provide Members with extensive coverage of the situation in the Panjshir Valley from the resources of Afghan broadcaster ARIANA TV.

From the Russia-Ukraine War to the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Asiavision Members proved the true spirit of unity and the power of collective collaboration. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2021, the **ABU News Department** moved to 24/7 coverage for the first six weeks. **Asiavision Members** proved the value of the News Exchange, uploading distinctive coverage of the emergency. During the initial crisis, many Members shared news stories of the repatriation effort, including **BTV** Bangladesh, **CCTV** China, **DDI** India, **TVRI** Indonesia, **IRIB** Iran, **NHK** Japan, **KBS** Korea, **RTM** Malaysia, **SLRC** Sri Lanka, **TPBS** Thailand, **TRT** Turkey, **TVTVM** Turkmenistan and **VTV** Vietnam. Subsequent political coverage was led by **NHK**, **CCTV** and **TRT**. There were some outstanding contributions including **TVRI's** coverage of the Chernihiv attacks when nine nationals were trapped there, **BTV's** reporting when a Bangladeshi ship was struck by missiles and **DDI's** contribution detailing India's massive repatriation operation to bring 20,000 nationals home safely. **Asiavision** also worked closely with Sister Union Eurovision to ensure up-to-date war coverage.

Asiavision Members provided multi-layered coverage of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in mid-August 2021. Members combined to provide 212 news stories on the events that month with **IRIB** Iran, **CCTV** China, **DDI** India and **NHK** Japan leading the way. **CCTV** China won the Monthly Award for their wide-ranging coverage including exclusive interviews with the Taliban spokesman.

Ensuring copyright-free **Tokyo2020** news stories were available on the News Exchange was a challenge that Asiavision Members took on with distinction during the Olympic Games in mid-2021. After four months of planning at the Editors-in-Chief monthly meetings, Asiavision Members committed significant resources to provide joint coverage of the Summer Olympics and Paralympics. With host country broadcaster **NHK** Japan taking the lead, Members contributed more than 230 Tokyo2020 news stories during July and August.

Editors-in-Chief Meetings move to bi-monthly with six webinars in 2021-2022

This initiative to support Asiavision Members to connect and collaborate has shown the power of a united approach. The planning included developing unique content for Tokyo2020 Games coverage.

Asiavision's membership expands

Asiavision welcomed **Ariana Television (ATN)**, a private network based in Kabul, Afghanistan in January 2022. ATN is a strong ABU Member and one of Afghanistan's leading broadcaster with terrestrial coverage in all but one of the country's 34 provinces. It features social, cultural, political and entertainment programmes that focus on showing authentic Afghan culture.

Thailand's national broadcaster **Thai PBS** joined Asiavision in March 2022 and quickly established a position in the Top 10 list of Asiavision uploads. In June 2022, Thai PBS won the Asiavision Monthly Award for several stories on the impact of cannabis decriminalisation, including business, farmers and Thai society in general, especially young people and school children.



ABU NEWS GROUP MEETINGS



ABU News Group, Pacific News Panel (27 October)

Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Moderator: Indra Singh**, Manager News and Sports, FBC Fiji
- Panelist: Sincha Dimara**, Head of News and Current Affairs, EMTV Papua New Guinea
- Panelist: Stevenson Liu**, Editor – News, Current Affairs and Sports, VBTC Vanuatu
- Panelist: Stella Taqi**, Senior Reporter/Presenter, FijiTV Fiji
- Panelist: Scott Waide**, Founder, LEKMAK Papua New Guinea

The Pacific News Panel revealed the two main issues for newsrooms – supporting the mental health of journalists/staff and tackling misinformation on social media. Social media was also the platform where newsrooms were criticised for their reporting and for showing the grim facts.

Sincha Dimara, EMTV PNG: “Social media is two-fold – it’s something that helps us or something that we have to address with all the misinformation that spurts out there. Our policy was ‘let’s report the facts and keep the conversation going.’”

Scott Waide, LEKMAK PNG: “We realised that we needed to work as a unit and not individual news organisations. Collaborations needed to happen and I think it’s the most vital lesson we learned – not just at a national level but also across the Pacific.”



ABU News Group, Asia News Panel (28 October)

Am I the right person to lead my Newsroom? Lessons from the Pandemic

- Moderator: Jaime Ho**, Chief Editor, CNA Digital, Mediacorp Singapore
- Keynote Speaker: Hany El-Konayyesi**: Manager, News Output: TRT World Turkey
- Panelist: Shuhei Ikehata**, Deputy Head, World News Division: NHK Japan
- Panelist: Ging Reyes**, Head of Integrated News and Current Affairs: ABS-CBN Philippines
- Panelist: Boldsai Khan Amarbat**, News Director: TV5 Mongolia
Interpreter: Oyuntuya Dugersuren: IT engineer + AVN Coordinator: TV5 Mongolia
- Panelist: Nguyen Thi Phuong Lien**, Deputy Director, VTV International: VTV Vietnam
- Panelist: Pen Bona**, Chief Editor: PNN Cambodia

A provocative title and a question to newsroom leaders - what have they learned about their own leadership over the past two years?

Keynote speaker Hany El-Konayyesi, TRT World: “Pandemics are unlike any other challenges. The biggest dilemma we face is maintaining the safety of our staff, while maintaining the output on our platforms, without undermining the on-air programming and news quality. Output and editorial standards had to evolve to cater for the needs of the new audience, shaped by the pandemic.”

Moderator Jamie Ho, Mediacorp Singapore, on story fatigue from covering the same story for so long: “One of the recent challenges we as editors now face is to find ways to also keep our reporters interested and on track. We need to always be on alert to find creative ways to keep the stories fresh and relevant but also reporters interested in doing their best.”

ABU News Group Closed Meeting (28 October)

Appointment Asiavision Executive Committee

Indra Singh, Manager News and Sports, FBC Fiji was re-appointed Chair of the Asiavision News Group. **Seki Noroi**, Head of NHK Japan’s International News Division and **Maushumi Chakravarty**, Assistant Director General, Prasar Bharati News Service Division, were selected as Vice Chairs.



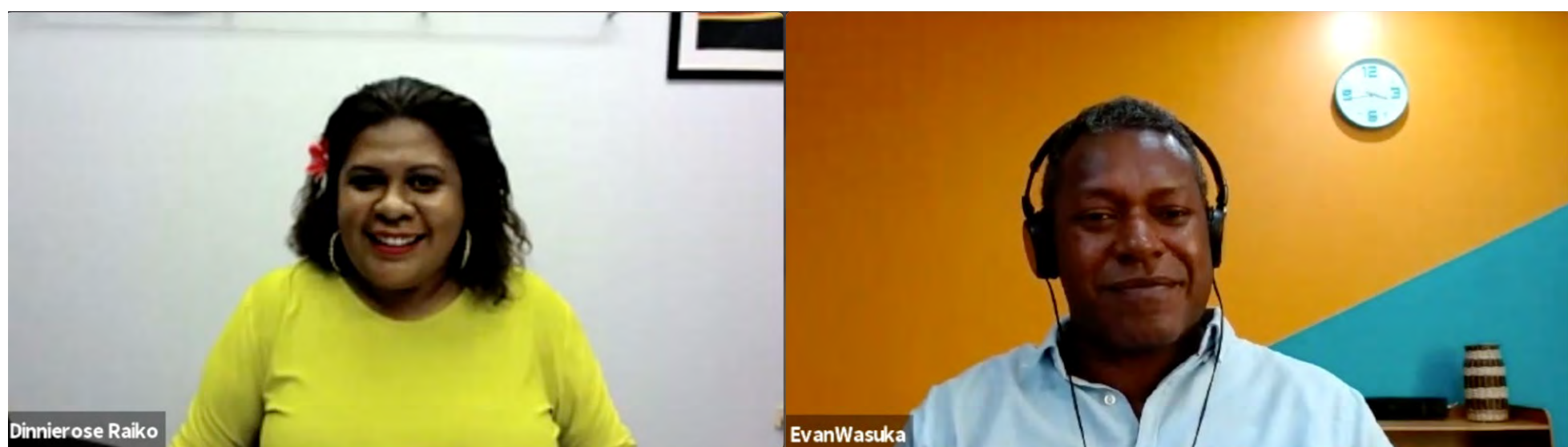
ONLINE AND ON POINT



ABU News Panel @ ABU Pacific Media Partnership Conference

As politics and the COVID-19 crisis exposed the continuing challenge for Pacific media, the ABU News panel at the PMPC (21 September 2021) featured six frontline journalists discussing how to maintain quality news output, free from fake news and misinformation.

Moderator: Dinnierose Raiko, Presenter/producer, EMTV Papua New Guinea
Panel: Scott Waide, Lae Bureau Chief, EMTV Papua New Guinea
Alexander Rheeney, Editor (Development), Samoa Observer newspaper
Moera Tuilaepa Taylor, Pacific Manager, Radio New Zealand
Evan Wasuka, Senior reporter, ABC Australia
Leah Lowonbu, Reporter, VBTC, Vanuatu



Trauma and resilience in the Pacific – a webinar workshop for journalists covering pandemics and disasters

With COVID-19 still a major emergency and the cyclone season on the way, ABU News joined with the DART Centre for Journalism and Trauma (2 December 2021) to present a workshop for more than 40 people from 10 countries. DART Centre Deputy CEO **Kimina Lyall** said that with the many dangers they are exposed to, journalism was a high-risk job. She said three aspects were essential to developing resilience to trauma: Human interaction, exercise and having a sense of purpose. Also on the panel, DART Pacific Fellow 2017 **Wame Valentine** and moderator **Indra Singh**, Manager News and Sports, FBC Fiji.



ABU News plays host to Emmys Semi-Final

ABU News hosted a Semi-final round of the International Emmy® Awards, judging entries in both News and Current Affairs sections (8 July 2021) with judging online and Jurors watching entries from around the world.

The judging group for the ABU News Semi-final was: **Mark Maley**, Manager, ABC News Editorial Policies, Australian Broadcasting Corporation; **Regina (Ging) Reyes**, Senior Vice President and Head of Integrated News and Current Affairs, ASB-CBN Corporation, Philippines; **Ahmed Afruh Rasheed**, Senior Editor, Asiavision, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union; **Linhua Pan**, Deputy Director of the International News Department, China Media Group; **Caroline Faraj**, Vice-President and Editor-in-Chief, CNN Arabic; **Ian Ferguson**, Deputy Chief Editor News, Mediagroup, Singapore; **Zulfick Farzan**, Manager of News 1st Digital, MTV/MBC Channels, Sri Lanka; **Miki Ebara**, Executive Producer, NHK World, NHK, Japan; **Kiratikorn Naksompop (Tulip) Blauw**, Editor-in-Chief, Thai PBS World.



Fact Checking – How to combat health misinformation



50:50 The Equality Project – Serving NEWS audiences better

TRAINING

Major project: ABU-UNESCO/Global Media Defence Fund Investigative Journalism Project 2022

The 18-month project is being developed and run by **ABU News** and the **Media Academy**. The three-phase project is titled **Prevention is the Best Defence: Empowering Investigative Journalism in Public Broadcasting in the Digital Age**. A six-part Masterclass series was held between April and June, available live and on catchup. It attracted more than 100 registrations from 22 countries with almost two-thirds of registrations from female participants.

Philippines Election Masterclasses

Four-part ABU News + Media Academy Election training for People's Television Network (PTNI) staff and Presidential Communications Operations Office affiliates. The range of training focused on editorial excellence and broadcast communications to support the democratic election process in Philippines.

- Misinformation, disinformation, and verification – **Steve Ahern**, Head ABU Media Academy (19 April 2022)
- Election script writing – **Murray Olds**, journalist + broadcaster (22 April 2022)
- Live reporting using Facebook Live – **Kartini Ariffin**, DBilique Media (27 April 2022)
- Control Room Session – **Dr Veysel Binbay**, ABU Senior Engineer (28 April 2022)

Advanced Social Media Content Creation

This webinar workshop used a Facebook Closed Page for participants to post their videos in a safe space for feedback. More than 100 people from 14 countries registered for this three-hour development session (20 April 2022) presented by Malaysian digital entrepreneur **Kartini Ariffin**, DBilique Media.

Fact Checking – How to combat health misinformation

One of the biggest challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic is the amount of mis-information and dis-information that circulated as fast as the virus itself. This ABU News webinar workshop (22 July 2021) – **Fact Checking in a Pandemic** – with Agence France Presse Senior Fact Check Editor, **Rachel Blundy**, showed participants from 14 countries how to serve their audiences better with fact-checked health information.

50:50 The Equality Project – Serving NEWS audiences better

ABC News in Australia ran an ABU News webinar workshop (13 July 2021) on their success implementing 50:50 The Equality Project, a BBC initiative to increase the representation of women as expert talent and contributors in news stories and programming. Starting with a significant imbalance, in little more than two years ABC News achieved their target of having female and male interviewees equally represented. Participants from 16 countries heard the how and why from the Panel: **Gavin Fang**, Head of Network and Newsgathering for ABC News + News Diversity Lead; **Emma Pearce**, ABC News 50:50 Equality Co-lead; **Mosiqi Acharya**, Chief of Staff, Asia Pacific Newsroom; **Francis Herman**, CEO, VBTC Vanuatu.

NEWS DEPARTMENT BRIEFS



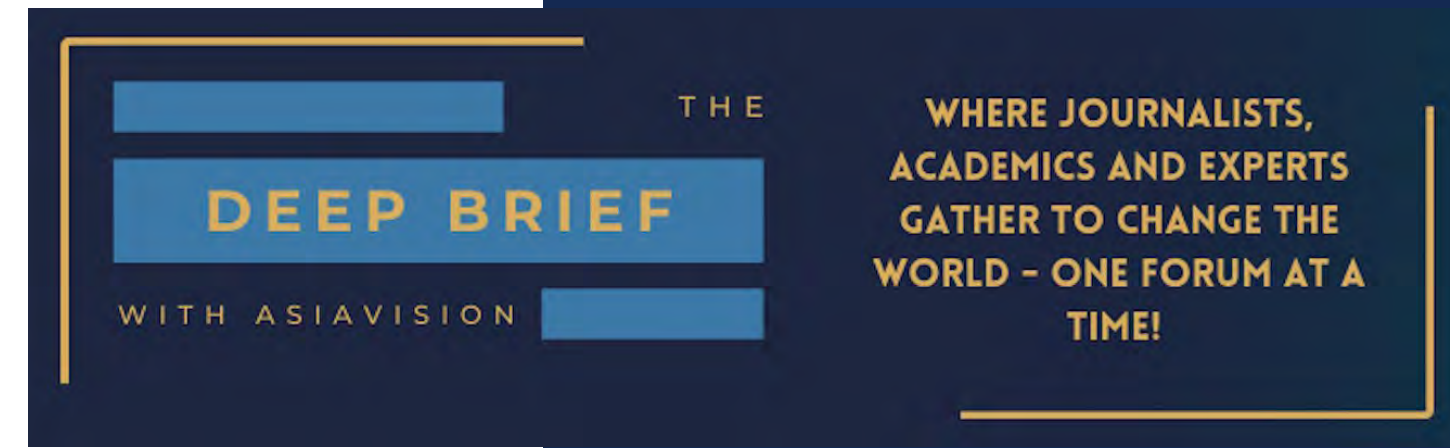
ABU Director of News Wendy Everett completes four-year term

At her final Editors-in-Chief Meeting (29 June), the Director of News, Wendy Everett, thanked Members for their increasing contributions to, and use of, the extensive range of news stories on the Asiavision portal. She said that in the 36 hours before the meeting, more than 80 percent of Members had accessed the Asiavision platform. Wendy said that during the four plus years she headed the ABU's News Department, the quality of vision and the number of same-day stories improved significantly, a reflection of the commitment to Asiavision by its Members and their newsroom leaders, especially through the challenging times of the pandemic.



Welcoming new ABU Director of News Deborah Steele

After 26 months working-from-home, the ABU News Department returned to the ABU Secretariat on 17 May 2022 to a reinvigorated workplace after a total refurbishment of the South Wing. The celebrations welcomed the new Director of News, Deborah Steele, who took over on 1 July. Deborah is a former ABC news executive, editor and journalist and a strategic communications specialist. She led the ABC's Asia-Pacific newsroom from 2009-2017 and established Australia's first 24/7 multiplatform newsroom producing content for digital, television and radio for the ABC's domestic and international services.



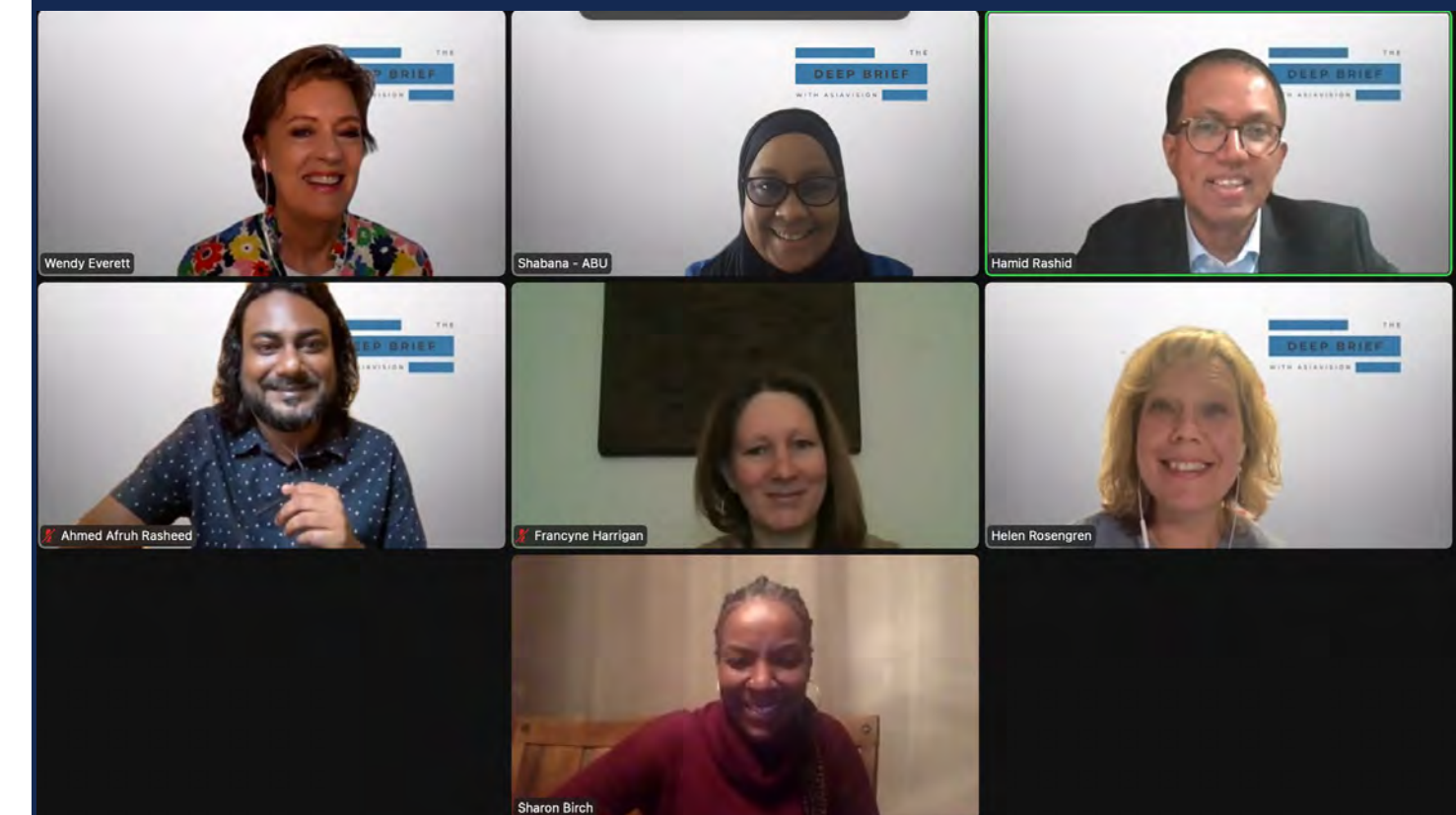
Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

The Deep Brief initiative

As a 2022 initiative, the News Department launched **The Deep Brief** – an informal news briefing for journalists and editors to engage with experts or academics for deep background on a current affairs topic.

- Embargoed briefing on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group Report (8 February 2022): Working Group Co-Chairs **Dr Hans-Otto Portner** and **Dr Debra Roberts**.
- 'Navigating the financial and economic uncertainties of the pandemic', focused on the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022 Report (16 February): **Dr Hamid Rashid**, Lead author and Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch, UN DESA.
- 'The Impact of the Russia/Ukraine conflict on Asia' (31 March): **Dr Rahul Mishra**, Head European Studies Program, Asia-Europe Institute at University Malaya.
- 'Save Our Ocean – Protect Our Future' briefing in the leadup to the World Oceans Conference in Lisbon (10 June): UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, **Peter Thomson**.

The Deep Brief – where journalists, academics and experts gather to change the world, one forum at a time!



ASIAVISION STATISTICS 2021-2022

Asiavision's 33 Members exchanged 16,660 news stories on the portal in the 12 months from July 2021 to June 2022 – an average of @1,400 a month. This compares with the 2020/2021 figure of 16,142.

TOTAL NEWS STORIES EXCHANGED 2021-2022: 16,660

2021	2022
December 2021 1,404	June 2022 1,170
November 2021 1,375	May 2022 1,299
October 2021 1,441	April 2022 1,231
September 2021 1,468	March 2022 1,450
August 2021 1,573	February 2022 1,278
July 2021 1,605	January 2022 1,366

TOP 15 TOTAL UPLOADS 2021-2022

- CCTV – China: 2545
- VTV – Vietnam: 2167
- DDI – India: 1985
- NHK – Japan: 1683
- IRIB – Iran: 1405
- TVRI – Indonesia: 1249
- KBS – Korea: 554
- TVB – Hong Kong: 381
- TPBS – Thailand: 317
- TDM – Macau: 281
- RTM – Malaysia: 212
- BTV – Bangladesh: 202
- TVTM – Turkmenistan: 174
- TRT – Turkey: 110
- SLRC – Sri Lanka: 109

TOTAL COVID19-RELATED NEWS STORIES UPLOADED ONTO ASIAVISION: JANUARY 2020 TO JUNE 2022: 14,113

COVID19-RELATED NEWS STORIES 2021-2022: 3,985

- June: 152
- May: 195
- April: 210
- March: 279
- February: 311
- January: 400
- December: 392
- November: 338
- October: 321
- September: 340
- August: 492
- July: 555

TOP 15 C-19 UPLOADS 2021-2022

- VTV – Vietnam: 911
- CCTV – China: 734
- TVRI – Indonesia: 409
- DDI – India: 344
- IRIB – Iran: 260
- KBS – Korea: 221
- NHK – Japan: 200
- TVB – Hong Kong: 164
- TPBS – Thailand: 103
- TDM – Macau: 82
- RTM – Malaysia: 74
- BTV – Bangladesh: 48
- C.N.A – Singapore: 30
- TV5 – Mongolia: 26
- SLRC – Sri Lanka: 7

ANNUAL AWARDS 2021 CELEBRATE ASIAVISION'S BEST



Asiavision's Annual Awards 2021 capped off a three-day virtual event in October 2021, after two webinar News Group Meetings for both Pacific and Asian Members.

The annual celebration of the best of the best contributed by Asiavision Members during the year was live-streamed on Facebook – <https://youtu.be/Obr8lOJq548> (video link).

With some 17,000 news stories eligible for the 2020-21 season, prizes were presented in seven categories, along with the Award for Coverage of the Year.

A new category for Outstanding International Coverage was introduced to recognise the many stories of global importance that Members increasingly contribute through their correspondents based outside their home countries.

The 2021 Award for Coverage of the Year went to **VTV Vietnam**, for their excellent coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included pandemic prevention and daily updates as well as a vast array of economic, social, technological, and human-interest stories that showed a comprehensive picture of how individuals, businesses, small communities and the country as a whole were battling the pandemic.

THE WINNERS:

OUTSTANDING VISUALS FOR A NEWS STORY
NHK Japan: Hokkaido glacier river



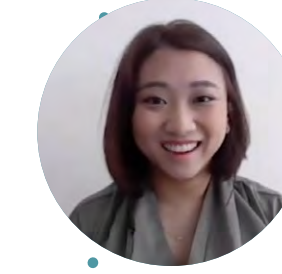
OUTSTANDING REPORTING FROM THE PACIFIC
EMTV Papua New Guinea: Former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's death



OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
IRIB Iran: Coverage of the death of George Floyd and the global reaction



OUTSTANDING REPORTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTION
CNA Singapore: Declining biodiversity in Singapore



OUTSTANDING REPORTING OF A NEWS STORY
TVB Hong Kong: Refugee-curated modelling agency inspired by Black Lives Matter



OUTSTANDING COVERAGE OF A NEWS EVENT
CCTV China: Coverage of Change'e-5's mission to the Moon



OUTSTANDING COVERAGE OF BREAKING NEWS
NHK Japan: Coverage of the resignation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



COVERAGE OF THE YEAR
VTV Vietnam: Wide-ranging coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic



ASIAVISION MONTHLY AWARD WINNERS JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

Asiavision's 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 Asiavision's portal, the quality of the vision and the completeness of the script. The story or stories need to show a high level of professionalism and include all the ethical components of good news writing – accuracy, attribution, verification and objectivity. There is strong competition for the Award each month and Commendations are given to the runners-up.

July-December 2021



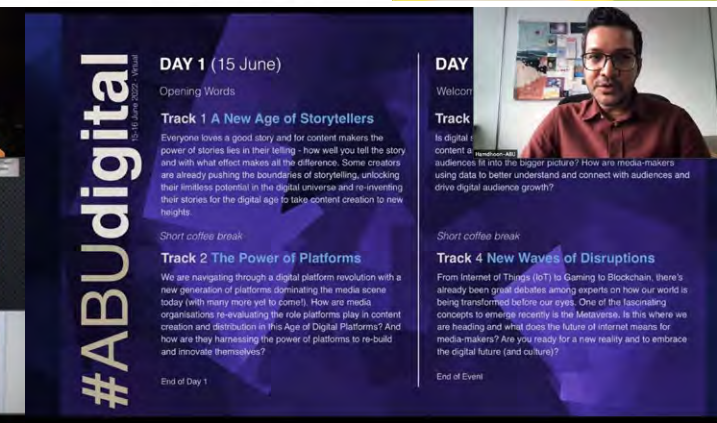
January-June 2022



ABU PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING HAS A SILVER LINING

The 53rd ABU Programme Committee Meeting was held online on 11 November 2021, with 139 participants. After the video message from Soleman Yusuf, the Chairperson of the PC, and welcome remarks from Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary-General, Yasu Nagahata, Director of ABU Programming, reported on the activities of the Programme Department over the past year. Three speakers from ABC-Australia, NHK-Japan and RAI-Italy shared their experience on new production ideas to produce programmes that have sprung up under various restrictions. ABU Robocon Tokyo Secretariat, EBS-Korea, and NEP-Japan also shared their outstanding achievements in the past year. At the end of the meeting, the results of the election for the next Programme Bureau members were announced, and ABC-Australia and RAI-Italy were chosen as the new PB members. In addition, the next chairperson, Claire Gorman (ABC), two vice-chairpersons, Keizo Izuta (NHK) and Yeşim Eren (TRT-Türkiye) who were elected in October, expressed their commitment.

This fruitful meeting that shared the tremendous efforts of the production sites that are struggling with COVID-19 and the vibrant new upcoming events provided a silver lining to all participants who are still suffering from the pandemic.



RADIO WORKING PARTY MEETING

Experts from around the world joined ABU Radio Members for the Radio Working Party's inaugural mid-year virtual meeting on 21 July 2021. 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 Radio Working Party 2021 General Assembly meeting on 10 November 2021 started with ABU Director Programming Yasu Nagahata, RWP Chair Claire Gorman, and Vice Chair Widhie Kurniawan welcoming 126 participants, the largest number to-date. Twelve ABU members, NHK-Japan, AIR-India, RTM-Malaysia, FBC-Fiji, CRI-China, RRI-Indonesia, ABC-Australia, TRT-Türkiye, SMG-China, VBTC-Vanuatu, VOV-Vietnam, and NBT-Thailand presented a rich and diverse sample of their programming as a highlight for this meeting.





Radio Working Party


- VIRTUAL EDITION

21. 07. 21 / 1400 MYT / Zoom


OTHER OPTIONS

- RESTREAM, STREAMYARD
- LIVESTREAM TO YOUTUBE
- LIVESTREAM TO FACEBOOK
- NB: COPYRIGHT!
- RECORDED WEBINARS
- EVENT RECORDINGS
- A PODCAST
- RADIO ☺





Rai Play our video OTT




Soleman Yusuf

RRI initiated the Learning at RRI Program - Belajar di RRI



Karen Shrosbery




Karen Shrosbery

All Aboard! Travel by train sound



NHK

"Let's enjoy Kominato Line, from Goi station, all the way to its final station" "All Aboard!"




ABU PRIZES 2021

ABU Prizes are the most prestigious programme awards in our region that honor the best Radio, Television, and New Media content from our member organisations. It was held virtually hosted by Sharizan Borhan and Azura Zainal on 17 November, viewed by 213 people via Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube Live. Seventeen content awards across Radio, TV and Digital Media were presented from 300 entries in total (104 in Radio, 167 in TV, 29 in Digital Media). These are the winners of 2020:

- Radio Drama: Hozo – Interlocked- / Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)
- Radio Docudrama: Jiji Grass / China National Radio (CNR)
- Radio Documentary: Myanmar: The Spring Revolution / British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- Radio News Reporting: Water for life / The Voice of Vietnam (VOV)
- Radio Community Service Announcement: The share of the deaf in our world / Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)
- Radio On-Air Personality: Wang Xian: A belated symphony concert from the Daliang Mountains / China National Radio (CNR)
- Radio ABU Perspective Award: In Philip's Memory: A Special Concert / China International Radio (CRI)
- Radio Special Jury Prizes: Never give in / The Voice of Vietnam (VOV)
- TV Drama: With you / Shanghai Media Group (SMG)
- TV Documentary: Breathless / Radiotelevisione Italiana S.p.A (RAI)
- TV News Reporting: COVID-19 and Medication Blunder at Nursing Homes / Korea Broadcasting System (KBS)
- TV Children: The Show with the Elephant: We are having a baby! / Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR)
- TV Entertainment: China in the Classics / China Media Group – China Central Television (CMG-CCTV)
- TV Sports: MIRACLE BODY: Breaking Limits With Hyper-Adaptability/ Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)
- TV ABU Perspective Awards: I'm Tourette/ Korea Broadcasting System (KBS)
- TV Special Jury Prizes: Cocoon / Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)
- Digital Content Award: Round 2020: ASEAN-KOREA music festival / Korea Broadcasting System (KBS)





ABU TV SONG FESTIVAL 2021 – MUSIC UNITES OUR HEARTS

The 10th ABU TV Song Festival featured 10 amazing performances from ABU member countries on 18 November. It was hosted by Sharizan Borhan and Azura Zainal and streamed simultaneously on YouTube Live and Zoom to a virtual audience of 1,360 in total. The webcast of top-notch performances of popular music from a variety of national music scenes was a great success, showcasing the geographical and cultural diversity of the Asia-Pacific region with astute cooperation from ABU member organisations. Not only the wonderful performances of 10 artists, but their heartfelt messages have given all audiences courage and hope to endure the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

1. Summersalt / India (DD)
2. İlyas Yalçıntaş / Türkiye (TRT)
3. Dr. Jen / Macau-China (TDM)
4. ITZY / Korea (KBS)
5. The Pentatonic / Vietnam (VTV)
6. Denny & Nonoy with Mixline Band / Indonesia (TVRI)
7. millet / Japan (NHK)
8. Suzan Maidin / Brunei (RTB)
9. Amir Jahari / Malaysia (RTM)
10. Ae / Kazakhstan (JSC)





DIGITAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP MEETING



PROGRAMME BUREAU MEETING

On 12 October, the 12th ABU Programme Bureau Meeting was held online. The Chairperson, Soleman Yusuf (RRI-Indonesia), the Vice-Chairperson, Keizo Izuta (NHK-Japan), and the current 12 PB members from AIR-India, BTV-Bangladesh, CCTV-China, EBS-Korea, FBC-Fiji, KBS-Korea, NHK-Japan, RRI-Indonesia, RTM-Malaysia, Thai PBS-Thailand, TRT-Türkiye and VTV-Vietnam. In addition, the Chairperson of the Radio Working Party, Claire M Gorman (ABC), the Chairperson of the Digital Media Working Group, Riyaad Minty (TRT) and the Vice-Chairperson, Soobass Latchman (MBC-Mauritius) participated. Yasu Nagahata, ABU Director of Programming, presented his report on the past activities, and ABU secretaries introduced the future activities. PB members shared their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and updates from their organisations.

On 8 June 2022, the 13th ABU Programme Bureau Meeting was held online. This is the first PB meeting with new Chairperson, Claire Gorman (ABC) and Vice-chairpersons, Yesim Eren (TRT) and Keizo Izuta (NHK) and 2 new PB members who were elected last year. Representatives from 12 member organisations, ABC-Australia, AIR-India, BTV-Bangladesh, CCTV-China, KBS-Korea, MNB-Mongolia, NHK-Japan, RAI-Italy, RTM-Malaysia, Thai PBS-Thailand, TRT-Türkiye and VTV-Vietnam as well as the Chair and Vice-chair of the Digital Media Working Group joined the meeting. After the report from the director of ABU Programming, members shared their feedback on past activities from ABU Programming Department.



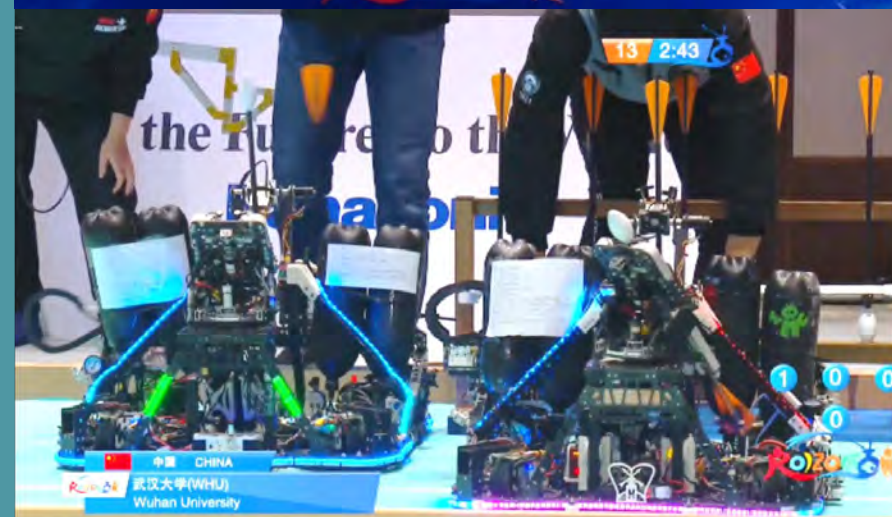
The ABU Digital Media Working Group mapped out its planned activities and events for 2022 at its end-of-the-year meeting held on 29 November 2021 including a survey to be conducted early next year to better understand the common areas where members can work together and one-on-one meetings led by the ABU with the DMWG Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons in the first quarter of 2022 to identify key digital training, capacity building and knowledge sharing needs of members. The meeting was attended by 10 participants from nine organisations: ABC-Australia, RAI-Italy, NHK-Japan, Media Prima-Malaysia, MBC-Mauritius, ABS-CBN-Philippines, Thai PBS-Thailand, TRT-Türkiye, and VOV-Vietnam.

In its mid-year meeting on 19 July 2022, the ABU Digital Media Working Group discussed digital transformation at ABU to evaluate DMWG members' readiness to embark on a journey to implement digital transformation at their organisations. Discussions focused on identifying key challenges, goals, and priority areas to pave the way for digital transformation within their organisations and what tools, resources and insights ABU could offer members to redefine their current digital transformation strategies. Twelve members who attended the meeting represented NHK-Japan, VOV-Vietnam, FBC-Fiji, TRT-Türkiye, REV Media Group-Malaysia, ABS-CBN-Philippines, TDM-Macau-China, TV-Myanmar, MBC/MTV-Sri Lanka, MBC-Mauritius, RAI-Italy, and VUTV-Pakistan.



ABU ASIA-PACIFIC ROBOT CONTEST
2021 JIMO, CHINA

ABU ROBOCON 2021



The ABU Robocon 2021 Jimo China was hosted by Shandong Radio and TV station supported by National Radio and Television Administration of China on 12 December 2021.

Although a virtual contest, it attracted as many as 21 teams from 10 countries and a region from the Asia-Pacific region. The contest theme was based on the popular Chinese traditional entertainment of 'Toufu' (throwing arrows into pots) and teams competed scores by shooting arrows into eight pots positioned at four different locations on the field while they connected with SRTV through the VooV meeting app. The contest live broadcasted on three major channels of SRTV in China as well as webcasted in China, Cambodia, Japan, Mongolia and Thailand through the Lightning App, Facebook, YouTube, and Nico-Nico Video.



CHILDREN MEDIA HUB WORKSHOP

A new series of workshops with different trainers on children's content and topics were held on both online (August and September 2021) and in person (March and June 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). Young TV producers from Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam learned not only the basic knowledge of planning and scripting children's programmes but also how to raise funds, and international co-production from the experts of Children's programmes from the Netherlands, Canada, and Korea. Trainers were Jan-Willem Bult (August 2021 and June 2022), Raquel Benitez Rojas (September 2021), and Dr Hyunsook Chung (March 2022). This project was supported by a grant from Japan's Hoso Bunka Foundation.



ABU TV-CON - NEW "FUN" SHOW ON PROGRAMME MAKING



The Programme Department launched a new TV event on TV programme production on 17-18 May 2022! A fast-moving mix of interviews, presentations, debates, and music, it followed a hybrid format and streamed live on Zoom Webinar. Hosted by a Malaysian comedian Harith Iskander from a studio in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, it featured 30 speakers from 16 countries (Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, Nepal, Türkiye, Thailand, Myanmar, Mauritius, Australia, Fiji, the United States, Italy, Germany, Russia, and the Netherlands) and all presentations were introduced by the genre, such as drama, kids, entertainment, and documentary including last year's ABU Prizes winners. A highlight on both days was a special exclusive interview with a Hollywood A-lister from Japan, Ken Watanabe by the ABU Programme Director, Yasu Nagahata. Ken talked about his career in Hollywood, also TV, radio, digital media, his activity in the disaster-affected area in the northern part of Japan, and much more.



TV-CON is the first event aimed at strengthening the relationships among producers in our region and improving the knowledge and skills of programme production in all TV genres. It was supported by a grant from Japan's Hosono Bunka Foundation, which promotes the cultural and technological development of broadcasting. The ABU plans to make it an annual event.

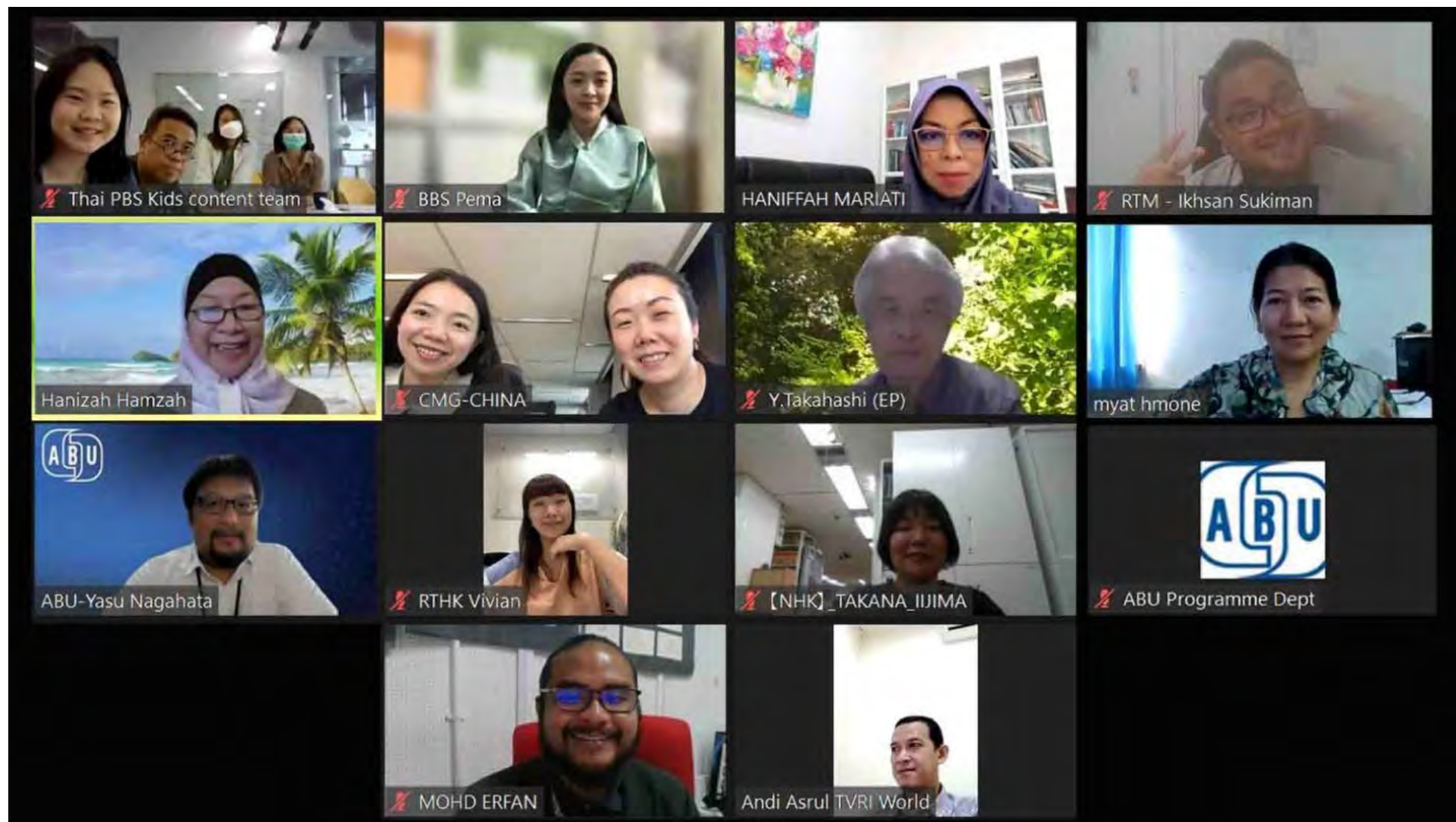
THE 17TH SERIES OF CHILDREN'S TV DRAMA CO-PRODUCTION



The screenings of the 17th Series of Children's TV Drama Co-production were held in March and July 2022 online under the series leadership of Yoichiro Takahashi as the Executive Producer from NHK, Japan. Participating organizations were BBS-Bhutan, BTV-Bangladesh, CMG/CCTV-China, TV-Myanmar, NHK-Japan, RTB-Brunei, RTHK-Hong Kong-China, RTM-Malaysia, SLRC-Sri Lanka, Thai PBS-Thailand, and TVRI-Indonesia. 9 completed episodes were screened and exchanged.

The Producers' Choice Award of the 17th Series went to Anek Swasdiyodom of Thai PBS-Thailand for "Path of Punch". Second place was awarded to RTHK-Hong Kong-China, "Football Fantasia" from the works of Vivian Kwok, and 3rd place to Mika Takahashi from NHK-Japan, for "Gramps Bowl".

ABU Children's Drama Co-Production is an annual co-production initiative developed in co-operation with members. Now in its 18th series, 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.



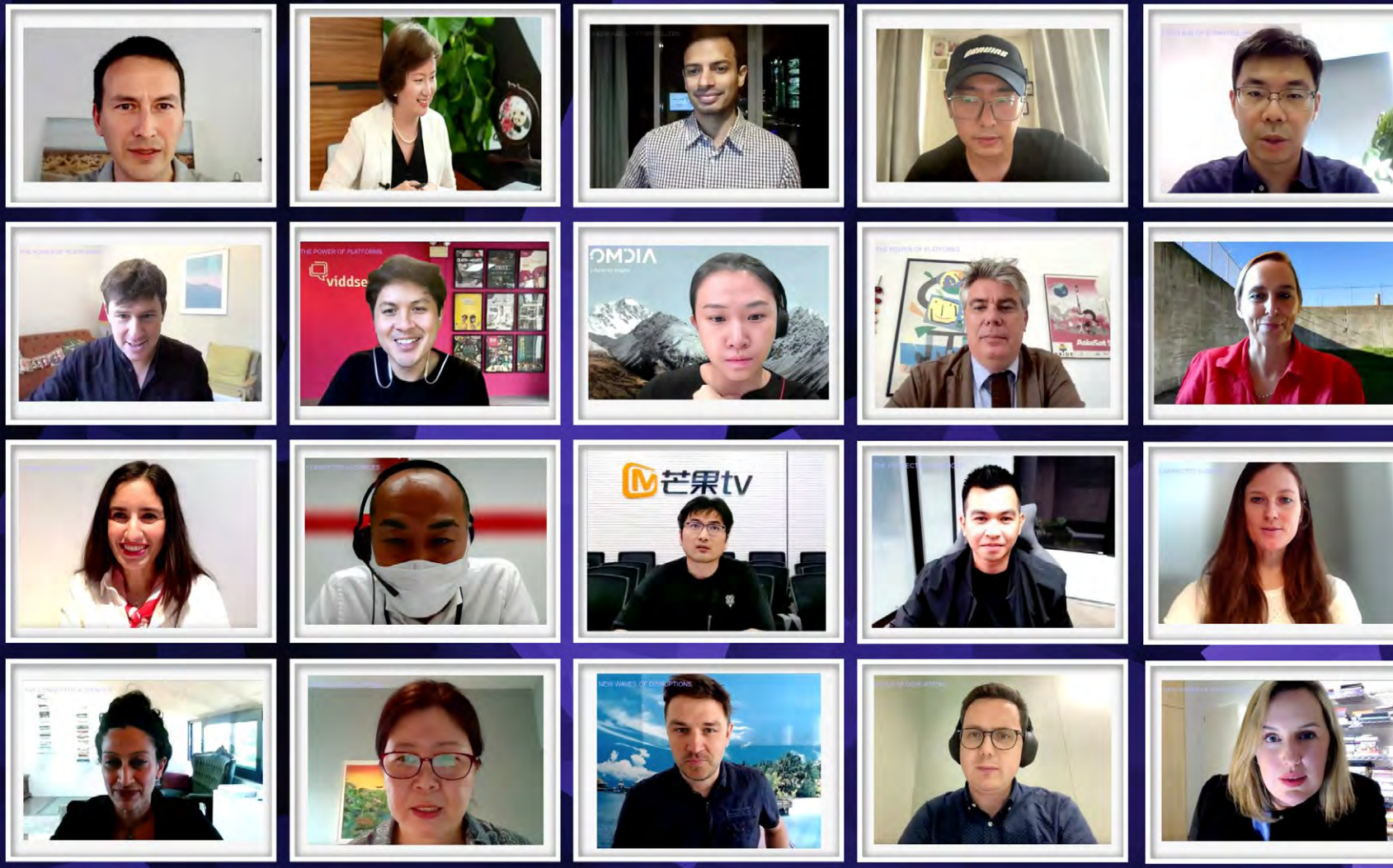
ABU DIGITAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

The 6th edition of the annual ABU Digital Media Workshop titled "Unleashing the Power of Digital Shorts" was held as an online event from 28 to 30 March facilitated by Laura Gibson, a seasoned Social Media Consultant from the UK. Participants gained hands-on experience on producing quality digital stories across various platforms ranging from TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube as well as setting up a winning social and digital media content strategy for their organisations. More than 20 participants from eight countries attended the 3-day workshop. Participating organisations included BB-Bangladesh, RTB-Brunei, IRIB-Iran, RTM-Malaysia, VON-Nigeria, VUTV-Pakistan, ABS-CBN-Philippines, and NBT-Thailand.



#ABUDIGITAL 2022

After two action-packed days filled with inspiring talks from 20 speakers from 11 countries across Asia and Europe, another edition of #ABUdigital show concluded with valuable expert insights on subjects including from storytelling, platforms, audiences, big data, personalization, XR, metaverse, Web3, deep fakes and future trends. The show featured four tracks on storytellers/creators, platforms/systems, audiences/data, and metaverse/digital future. The two-day virtual show, on 15-16 June, had speakers joining from Australia, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, and the UK. Hosted by Malaysian multi-artist Nini Marini, #ABUdigital2022 drew more than 180 participants each day. In total, more than 380 media professionals representing more than 65 organisations from over 35 countries and territories benefitted from the event virtually this year.



TRACK 4: NEW WAVES OF DISRUPTIONS

**What you
and your newsroom
need to know before
diving into the
metaverse**



#ABUdigital2020



TRACK 1: A NEW AGE OF STORYTELLING

DIGITAL NOISE
and how to rise above it

AKASH ARORA
Digital Editor & Journalist
#SBS

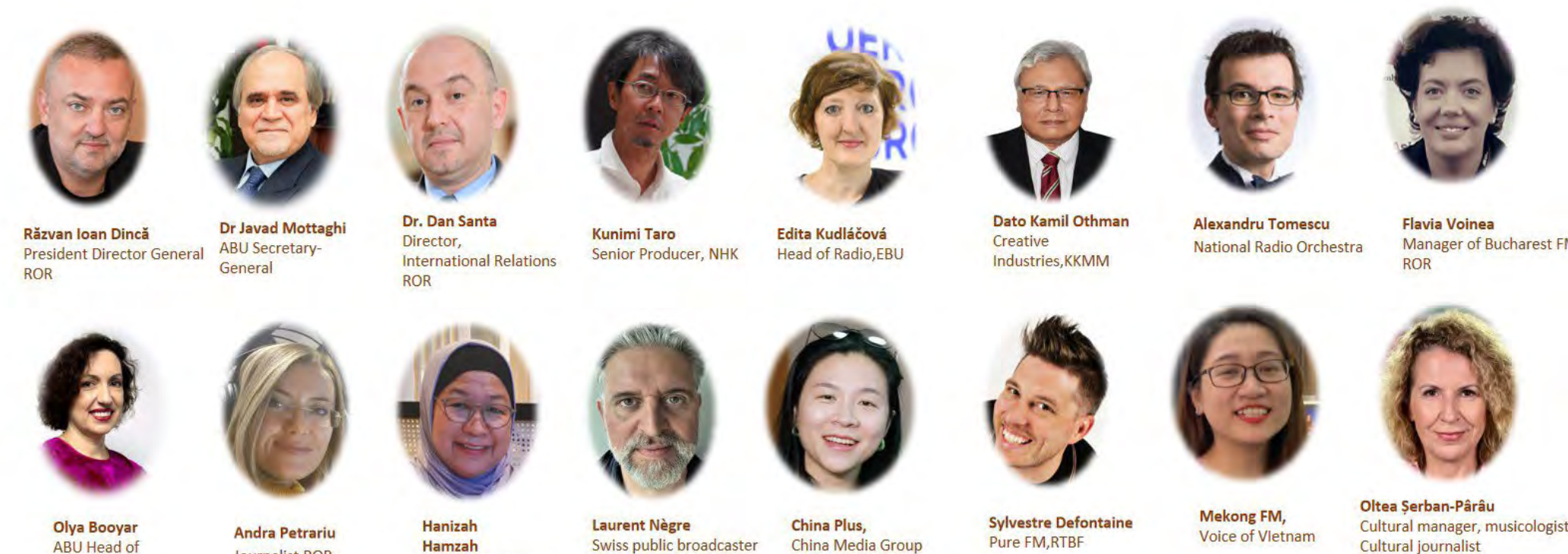


#ABUdigital2020



MEDIA & CULTURE DAYS - ABU DIALOGUE EXPLORES CULTURE AMID COVID CONSTRAINTS

More than 110 ABU members from across the Asia-Pacific and Europe joined in the first of a series of annual events in the new Media and Culture Days Dialogues, a partnership between the Union and Radio Romania (ROR). A dozen industry experts spoke of how their organisations had coped with COVID and – in many cases – had actually improved their operations and offerings to their audiences. The discussions and presentations ranged from a presentation by NHK Japan about its cutting edge 8K-3D technology capturing and sharing digital models of rare ancient statuary, through Alexandru Tomescu of ROR National Radio Orchestra comparing live and online performance (with a violin excerpt) to broadcasters in Vietnam, China, Belgium, Romania, Switzerland and Australia, describing their cultural protocols as well as new lockdown initiatives and schemes to support and employ artists and other cultural workers struggling through the difficulties of lockdowns.



7th December 2021 | 16:00-18:00 MYT

PACIFIC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE



On 21 September 2021, 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.

Another PMPC was held on 23 June 2022, with 80 Pacific radio and television professionals being taken on a journey through the exciting world of broadcasting apps during the 12th Pacific Media Partnership Conference. PMPC chair Faiese Matafeo described the conference as "one of the most useful conferences ever", thanks to the participation of Pacific Islands media leaders and experts in the field of broadcasting apps.



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 a wide range of copyright-free music content for their programmes. 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 26 members, who in the past 12 months exchanged 337 items including 119 music programmes and 218 songs. Members are AIR-India, BB-Bangladesh, CRI-China, IRIB-Iran, JBA-Japan, KBS -Korea, LNR-Laos, MBC-Sri Lanka, MNB-Mongolia, TV-Myanmar, NBT-Thailand, PBC-Pakistan, PSM-Maldives, ROR-Romania, RRI-Indonesia, RTB-Brunei, RTHK-Hong Kong, RTR-Russia, SBCL-Samoa, SIBC-Solomon, TDM-Macau, Thai PBS-Thailand, TVK-Cambodia, TVTM-Turkmenistan, VL2NI-Norfolk Island, and VOV-Vietnam.

ABU TECHNOLOGY

ABU Technology organised and hosted a number of events from October 2021 to May 2022 for the benefit of its member broadcasters. To name a few remarkable events:

1. Webinar Series on Member Innovations
2. ABU-IRIB Online Workshop on Interactive Media Services
3. ABU Virtual Forum on Cybersecurity & Media
4. Training Course on Engineering Fundamentals for Broadcasters (Level-1 and Level-2)

Webinar series on member innovations

It provided the member broadcasters a platform to share their stories, case studies and advancement in broadcasting. In these webinar episodes, members also shared their experiences in customising existing technologies and in some cases how they developed creative solutions in-house to meet their specific requirements. Experts from the following broadcasters shared innovations and creative solutions developed and implemented by them on a number of technical areas & the dates indicated below.

1. IRIB-Iran on Broadcasting UHD/HDR content in Iran (26 Oct 2021)
2. Prasar Bharati-India on TV Studio Applications using Open Source CASPAR CG Platform (02 Nov 2021) and on Indigenous development of News Room Automation with Cloud base News Data Management (25 Jan 2022)
3. Hunan Broadcasting System-China on 5G iMango Radio-Create a radio program in 5 minutes (14 Dec 2021)
4. Shanghai Media Tech-China on Full IP UHD remote production: A Full-scenario solution (11 Jan 2022)
5. Phoenix TV-Hong Kong on Cloud Interview for News Production (19 Jan 2022)
6. Media Prima Berhad-Malaysia on Hybrid Broadcast Broadband TV Implementation: A Case Study (29 April 2022)

Altogether, over 512 staff working at Radio, TV broadcasting and other media organisations in diverse roles attended different episodes of the webinar series and they spanned countries from Asia, Europe and Africa.

ABU-IRIB Online Workshop on Interactive Media Services

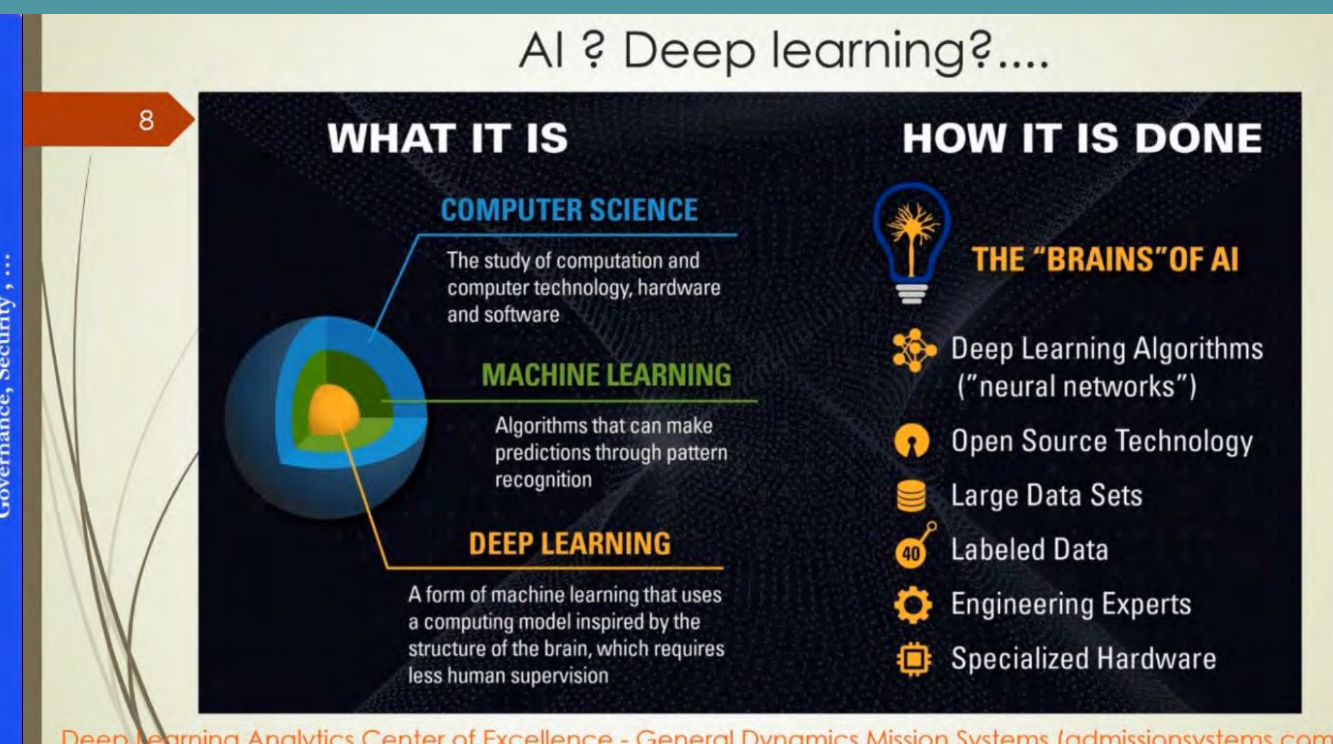
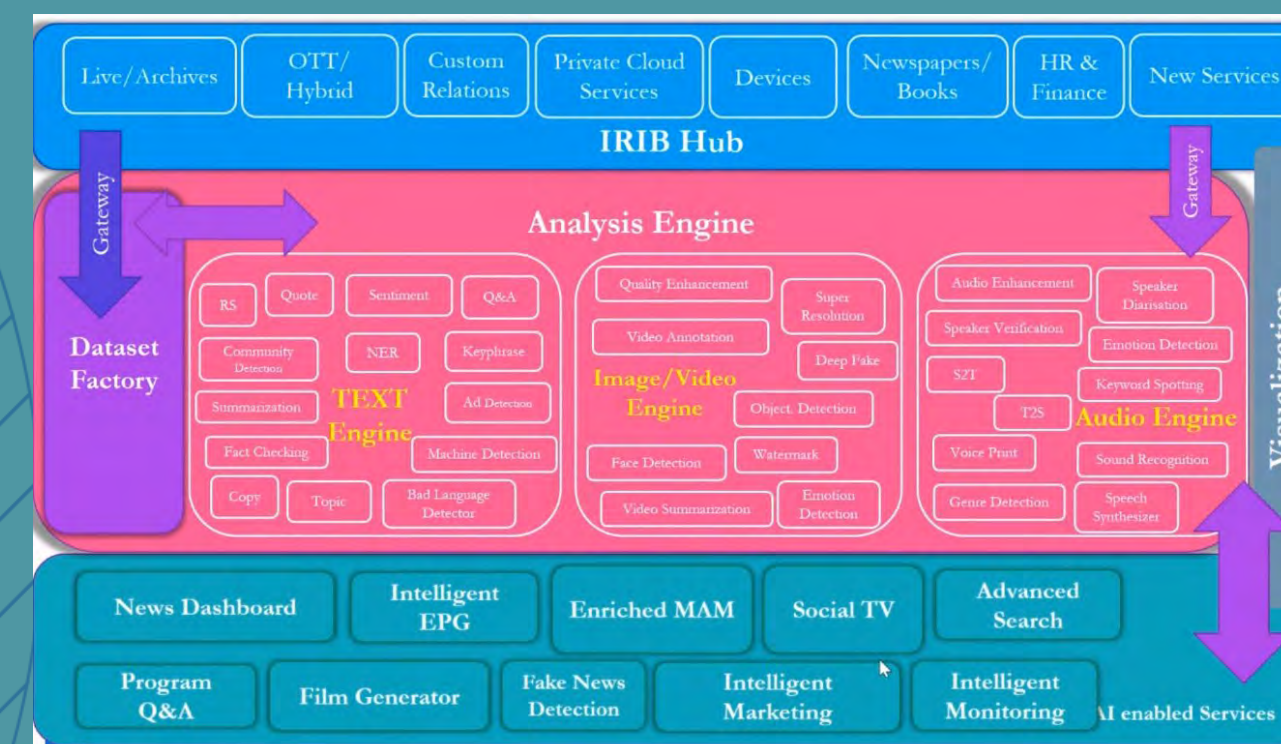
The multi-speaker multi-session workshop run during 7-9 February 2022 included a series of webinar sessions covering the latest media technologies such as AI applications in broadcast, Image & Video Annotation, Intelligent Automatic Music & Text Generation, Deep Fake Detection and IP solutions for Broadcasters. Experts from IRIB shared their experiences and solutions developed in-house to address the challenges and requirements. About 300 participants from Asia, Europe and Africa attended the workshop sessions over the 3 days.

ABUTechnologyWebinar

WELCOME

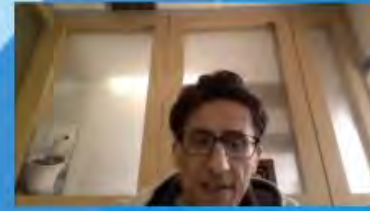
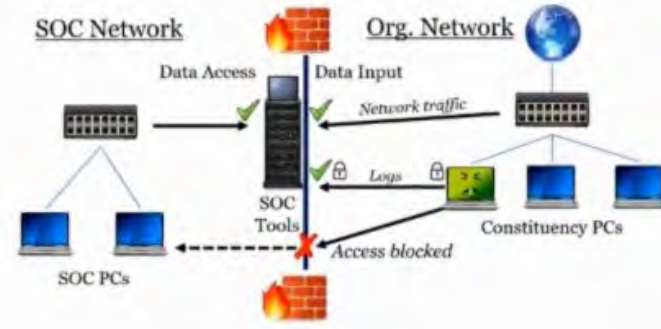
ABU-IRIB Workshop on Interactive Media Services

A look into latest media technologies and solutions developed in-house to address the challenges and requirements by IRIB Iran.



Cyber Security Concerns in Broadcast Industry and Possible Solutions

1. Building the SOC
 - Mapping the SOC Functions
 - SOC Planning
 - SOC tools and Technology
2. SOC Operations
 - Data Collection
 - Detection
 - Triage
 - Investigation
 - Incident Response Planning
3. Continuous Assessment and Improvement
 - Staff retention , metrics and effective executions , analytic assessment , adversary emulation and SOC testing



ABU Virtual Forum on Cybersecurity & Media

The Forum, held during 24-25 May 2022, discussed latest tools, technologies and best practices to mitigate cyber related risks in the media industry. Experts from IRIB in Iran & Skyline Communications in Germany and a Senior Broadcast Engineer in Australia shared their recommendations and experiences to further strengthen and safeguard broadcasters' networks from potential attacks. Close to 250 participants from Asia, Europe and Africa attended the Forum over the 2 days.



ABU Engineering Fundamentals for Broadcasters Training Course

ABU Technology used a new and enhanced approach to deliver Engineering Fundamentals for Broadcasters course starting from July 2021. The re-designed course consists of three levels to cover widest possible topics that any broadcast engineer may need including production, processing and distributing areas.

Moodle platform was used to upload the lectures and all the related materials online, to deliver the course for participants virtually. There were live Q&A sessions with expert lecturers, and the evaluation sessions were conducted as well.

There were overwhelming number of nominees for this course. Close to 125 technical staff from ABU Members joined the Level-1 course and after successful completion, about 90 of those got enrolled in Level-2 Course. We are planning to deliver its Level-3 course in 2023. Successful participants are able to get certificates after completion of each level course.

ABU SPORTS



Events and Activities

Beijing Winter Olympic Games 2022

Opened on 4 February and ended on 20 February, Beijing marked itself as the only city having hosted both Summer and Winter Olympic Games in the world. ABU sports endeavored to make a deal with the IOC of the media rights for the Indian Sub-continent – all seven territories: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

ABU Sports also delivered to 5 more countries based on the previously reached contract with the IOC's marketing agent in 22 Asian territories: Afghanistan, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Timor Leste.

During the Winter Olympic period, director ABU sport had rounds of discussions with various IOC TMS colleagues and both confirmed to strengthen the collaboration between two parties and IOC would consider to add to ABU pool with more territories to further enhance the free to air Olympic broadcast in and after the Paris 2024 editions, subject to a later meeting discussions in or after Paris WBM.

Commonwealth Games Birmingham UK 2022

For the Birmingham edition this year, ABU Sports have made the deal on the 10 territories in the ASEAN. We had a chance for the Indian Sub-continent but no offers really supported for the bid. We were also denied the request to again assist on delivery to other non-Commonwealth nations.

ABU Sports engaged a production team again to facilitate the multi channel feeds production in Birmingham to cater to the broadcasters.

Postponed Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 and Universiade Chengdu 2022

Though the two games have been announced to move to the next year with new dates undecided, ABU Sports have done considerable distribution efforts and achieved a sound outcome.

ABU Sports have arranged the broadcast of the Universiade to 13 territories already. It shall be rescheduled according to the new dates.

On Asian Games, ABU Sports have been working on the acquisition of media rights for certain members. However, most offers were rejected by the OCA as they are quite far below the expectation of the federation. Apart from later further endeavoring on rights, ABU Sports also collaborated with the host broadcaster and submitted proposals on certain sports coverage production and IBC operations.

The UEFA National Team Football - 2022-28/ The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

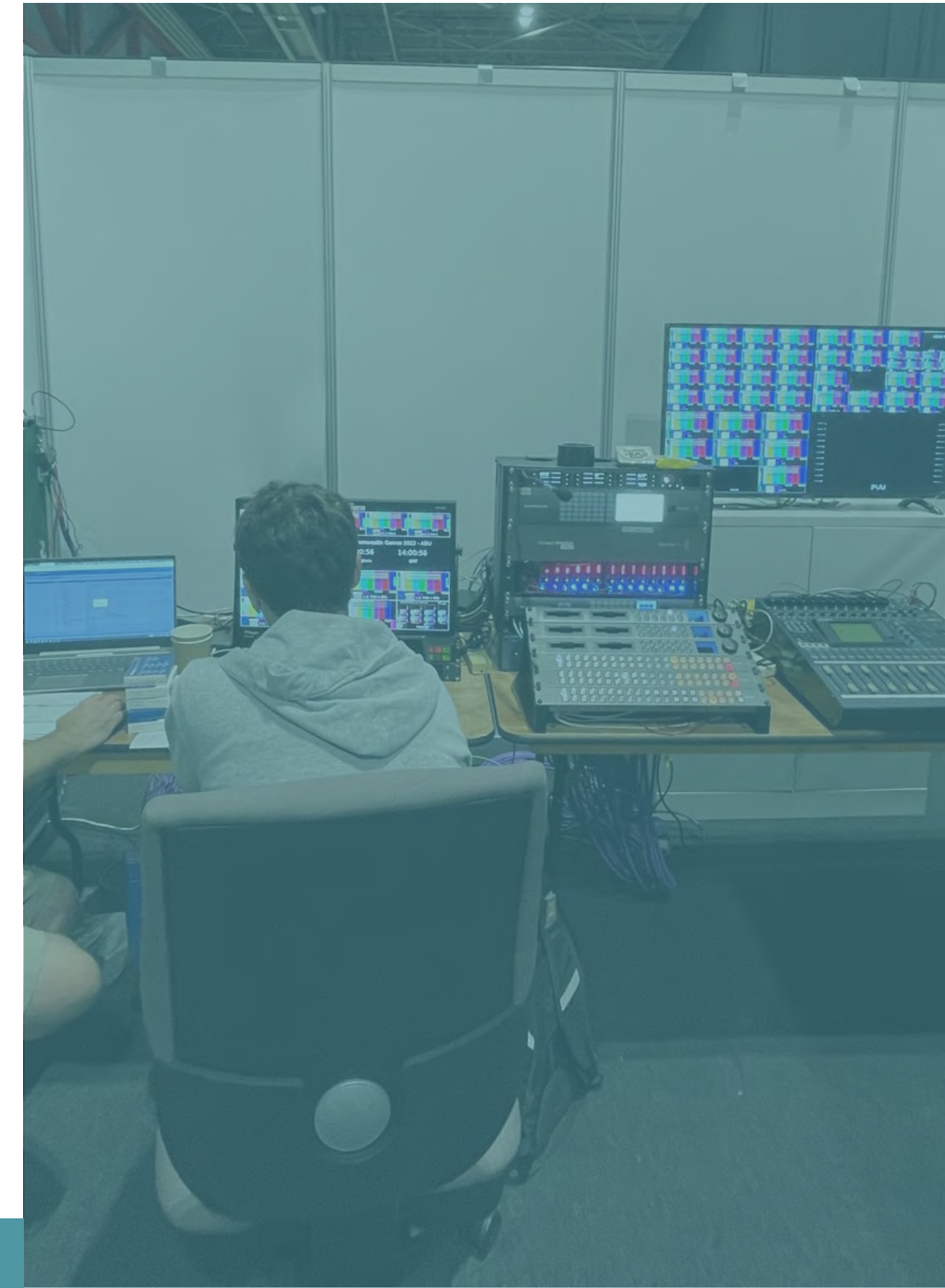
ABU Sports helped members to acquire events in various ways. On such football premium events as UNTF2022-2028 and FIFA WC 2022, ABU Sports reached the media rights and technical deals for individual members now. The former for EMTV in PNG while the latter for ATN Afghanistan.

Trainings/Webinars/Podcasts

The ABU Sports organized Webinars and Trainings on the following Themes and topics:

Essential Sports Rights Negotiation Workshop by David Murray
28 February 2022

Sports Reporting and Live Coverage – with ABU Media Academy
20 June, 27 June, 4 July 2022



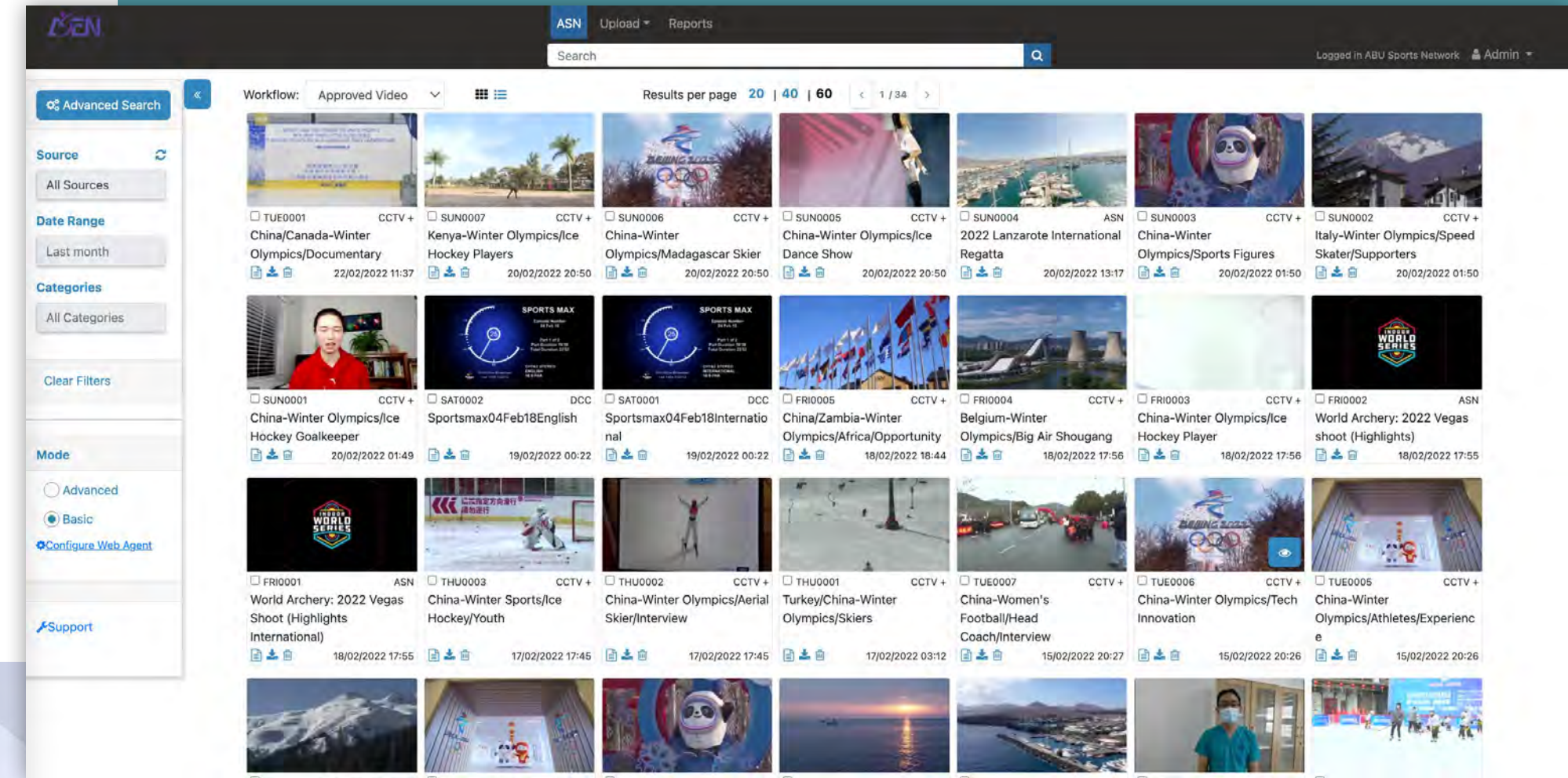
ABU SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK (ASEN)

The Platform is fast gaining popularity among members as a source of quality sports & entertainment content. Today, ASEN has 40 registered users, of which 30 are member broadcasters. The rest consist of international federations and content partners. Other unions, ASBU & AUB members also use content from ASEN.

Current Status:
While contribution from members is yet to pick up, ABU Sports continue to source and acquire right free content as a service to our members. Broadcasters can download diverse sport related content shared by fellow members, content partners, and international federations on a daily basis.

Future:
ASEN is now working on ABU Content hub & Co-Production in sports & entertainment content in collaboration with members. Secondly, it is also building its in-house production capacity and facilities. Thirdly, ASEN plan to expand ABU Sports distribution network in terms of sports events and content distribution.

ASEN was launched to complement sports & entertainment related content and to enhance content exchange and sharing among and between ABU members.



KEY LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Work on the Broadcasters Treaty

The ABU legal division is continuously working on the Broadcasters Treaty. It continues to have a monthly teleconference with members of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) to discuss progress on the treaty.



Meeting with the Drafters of the Proposed Broadcasters Treaty

On 21 April 2022, the drafters of the “Revised Draft Text of the WIPO Treaty on Broadcasting Organizations” had a meeting with the ABU and IPLC members. The main idea behind the meeting was to understand the views of the ABU and its members on the text, to exchange information, and to raise any potential issues/questions. The meeting was meant for informative purposes where the drafters also presented on the background and the objective of the treaty.



42nd WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

The meeting of the 42nd WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) was held on 9-13 May 2022 in hybrid mode. The ABU Legal Officer, Ms Nuratul participated, in the meeting on site whereby the rest of the ABU's delegation (the representatives of ABU members from MTV-Sri Lanka, CMG-China and NHK-Japan) joined remotely.

The ABU, as an Observer, was able to make an intervention during the session. Ms Nuratul said the ABU welcomed and supported the work of the “Revised Draft Text of the WIPO Treaty on Broadcasting Organizations”. The ABU also asked the SCCR to pursue the objective of improving and finalising the draft text with the aim of enabling a Diplomatic Conference in the 2023 biennium.

After statements from delegations, the Committee engaged in a discussion and question-and-answer session with the drafters. The Committee agreed that the Chair, working with the Vice-Chairs and Facilitators, would revise document SCCR/42/3 based on the comments, suggestions and questions from delegations, for further consideration at the 43rd SCCR.



6th Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC)

17th - 18th March 2022



“Driving forward urgent reforms of the 1961 Rome Convention to counter signal piracy in the broadcast industry: An Asia Pacific perspective”

6th Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC)



Mr Suranga Jayalath, ABU IPLC Chairperson and Legal and Group Director, The Capital Maharaja Organization Limited, Sri Lanka

The 6th ABU Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC) took place on 17-18 March 2022 virtually. The theme for this year's IPLC was “Driving forward urgent reforms of the 1961 Rome Convention to counter signal piracy in the broadcast industry: An Asia Pacific perspective”.

The committee IPLC focused on the issue of broadcast signal piracy which is commonly faced by broadcasters across the world. Day One of the IPLC was a closed meeting among ABU members and invited guests. It was attended by 42 delegates from 24 countries. There were discussions on the legal issues, the proposed broadcasters treaty and the 42nd SCCR.

Day Two of the IPLC was a forum where presentations on the broadcaster's protection against signal piracy were made by three legal professionals and attended by 64 participants across the world. The next IPLC is expected to be held physically.



Urgent need to upgrade 1961 Rome Convention: addressing the problem of signal piracy in broadcasting

Suranga Jayalath

Group Legal Director, the Capital Maharaja Group Sri Lanka
Chairperson – Intellectual Property and Legal Committee, ABU

Online Legal Seminar

A legal seminar titled “Urgent need to upgrade 1961 Rome Convention; addressing the problem of signal piracy in broadcasting” was successfully conducted on 31 January 2022. The webinar delved into the issue of broadcast signal piracy and the urgent need for the 1961 Rome Convention to be upgraded so that the issue could be curbed.

The webinar was moderated by Mr Suranga Jayalath, the ABU IPLC Chairperson and Legal and Group Director, The Capital Maharaja Organization Limited, Sri Lanka. It was attended by 39 participants across the Asia-Pacific region.

WBU/UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES INITIATIVE

The Phase 2 of this ground-breaking project was developed and implemented by the ABU on behalf of the other participating sister unions – AUB and CBU. The ABU received a grant of USD 455,400 directly from the UNDRR to organise activities and disburse grants to the AUB and CBU and their members. The contract was signed on 26 October 2021. The implementation period initially run to 31 March 2022 but later was extended to 31 May 2022. More than 50 activities were implemented over the seven months of the project in the below groups.



ABU/UNDRR Syndicated Coverage of COP26

Under Phase 2 of the WBU/UNDRR initiative the ABU led a six-member team, which offered a daily syndicated coverage of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP 26) to members of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) – ABU, ASBU, AUB and CBU. More than 60 items, produced during the COP26, were also offered to EBU news exchange, COPEAM, ERN-Med and DIRAJ.





POST COP26 ACTION TO SAVE THE PLANET: MEDIA SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
6TH ABU MEDIA SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER PREVENTION
 9 December 2021 | Virtual Edition



Video Library



Imagine if we had spent hundreds of billions per year



Joeri Rogelj



Lisa Robinson - BBC Media Action

6th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Prevention

The Summit was run as an online event under the theme **Post COP26 Action to Save the Planet: Media Solutions for Sustainable Future.**

It was held virtually on 9 December 2021 and was attended by 149 Participants from 47 countries. There were 16 speakers. This edition was devoted to the 26th Conference of the Parties, as the COP Climate Conferences are also known. The COP 26 was held between 30 October and 12 November. The ABU Summit tried to decode the massive gathering in Glasgow of over 25,000 politicians, diplomats, scientists, UN agencies, NGOs and protestors and raised the questions:

What is the role of media – just covering the climate crisis or advocating for change of policies and accelerating change? Is media doing enough? Are journalists ready for this challenge? What the world is expecting from media? How partners and media organisations can enhance journalists' skills and capacity to inform, educate and change the behaviour of audience?

The main thread linking the 6 sessions in the two - hour virtual meeting was **Media vs Climate Crisis.**

Dr Javad Mottaghi, ABU Secretary General, delivered the welcoming remarks and accentuated the existing need of the hour for Media to act and contribute competently to educate wide audiences on climate change affects and solutions.

The Keynote Speech was delivered virtually by Ms Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Head of UNDRR. She emphasized the trust in media as a partner to accelerate Climate Action and Disaster Prevention.

The Summit presented the following six sessions:

SESSION 1:
COP26: RESULTS AND CHALLENGES TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION

SESSION 2:
WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS AND HOW TO COMMUNICATE IT TO PEOPLE?

SESSION 3:
MADAGASCAR - THE FIRST CLIMATE CHANGE FAMINE

SESSION 4:
CLIMATE EXISTENTIAL THREATS TO SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

SESSION 5:
COAL, CARS, CASH AND TREES: FORGING THE NEW GREEN DEAL

SESSION 6:
POST COP26 MEDIA ACTION TO SAVE THE PLANET

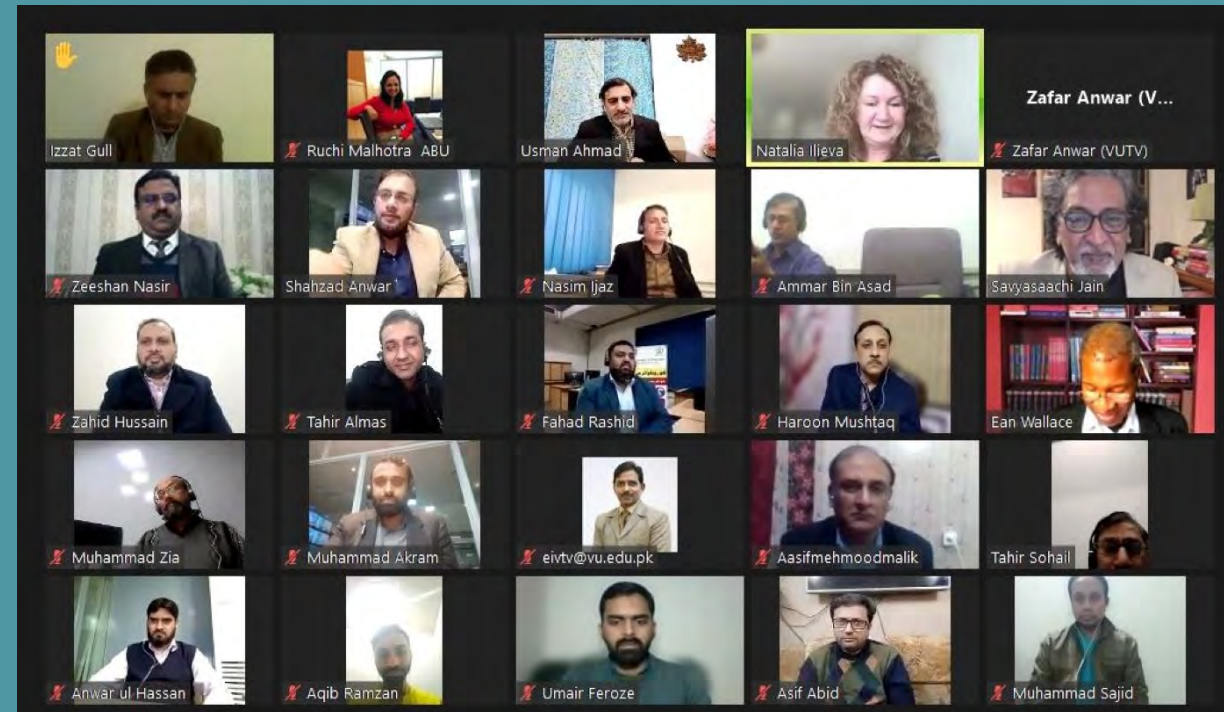
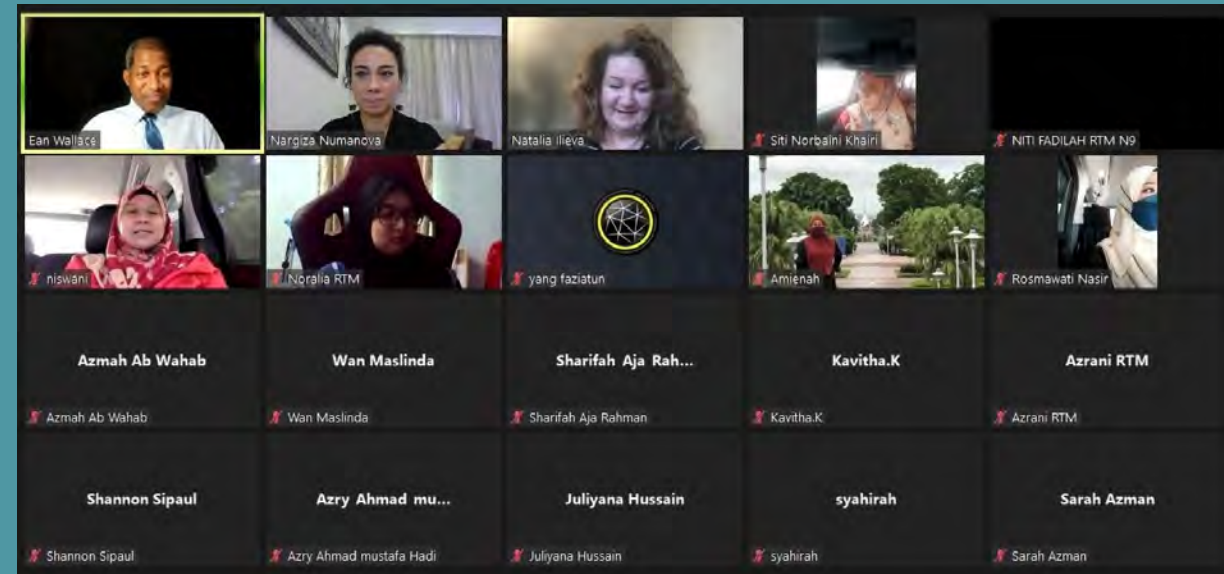
Online, interactive DRR Knowledge Level 1 Courses

In February and March, the ABU team organised and delivered 12 courses to 15 ABU members, namely: PSM, Maldives; RTM, Malaysia; Virtual University Television Network Pakistan; PBC, Pakistan; PTV and HUM TV, Pakistan; VBTC, Vanuatu, VOV, Vietnam; VTV, Vietnam; PTNI, Philippines; ABS-CBN, Philippines; PBS/BBS - Philippine Broadcasting Service Bureau of Broadcast Services; DDI, India; AIR, India and TRT, Turkey.

The AUB team delivered the course to 11 of their members in Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, DR Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Senegal, Swaziland and Uganda.

The 8-hour courses were delivered over three days by three experts – one on Early Warnings, one on Impact – based Weather Forecast and one on Content Development. Conducted the courses for the Asia-Pacific was quite challenging due to the time difference between different actors in the courses. It spanned five time zones since the experts are based in USA, Trinidad and UK, while the participants were in Asia-Pacific and the implementation team was in Kuala Lumpur.

The courses engaged 436 media professionals from members of the above organisations. They joined the over 1,000 already trained in DRR in Phase 1 in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Caribbean regions.



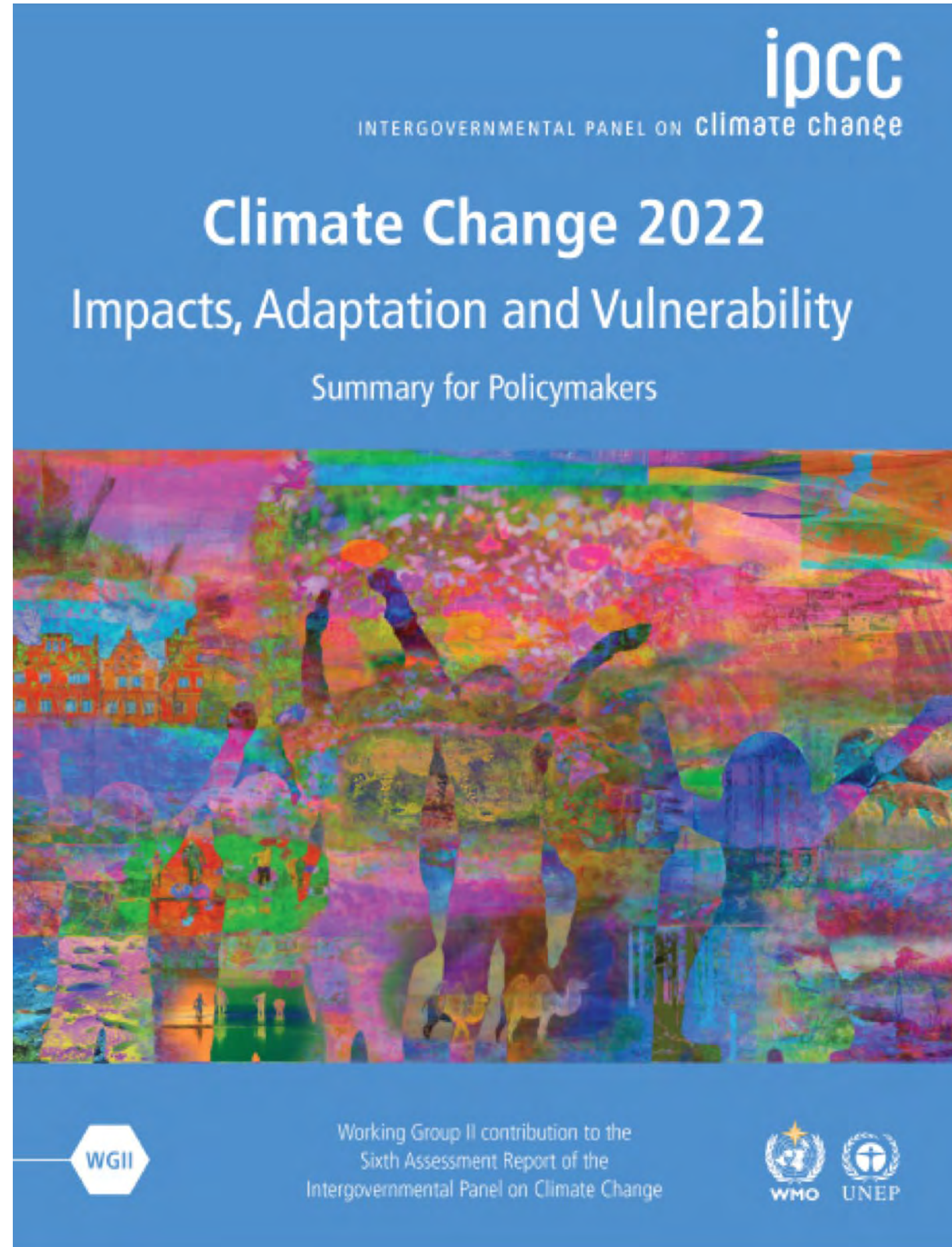
Asian and African TV producers working on Disaster Risk Reduction co-productions

Seventeen television producers from Asia and Africa met in Mauritius to set the motion for five co-production series on reducing the risk of disasters. During the meeting on 23-26 March, the participants discussed the topics for the co-productions and treatment of the stories.

At the end the producers agreed to produce documentaries around the themes Sea Levels Rising and Floods. That came from the common perception that a lot of future disasters will come from the notion: "Too Much Water/Not Enough Water". The production of the short documentaries by members of the ABU and the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) was led by three experienced Executive Producers – Emmanuel Wongibe, Gerard Guèdègbé and Russell Isaac – who were also trainers in the online DRR Knowledge Level 1 courses in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

The Mauritius event was followed by a similar co-production meeting of members of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union. This meeting was held virtually on 30 and 31 March.

The World Broadcasting Union/UNDRR Media Saving Lives Initiative Phase 2 was supposed to finish in March but the Head of SG's Office and Global Project Manager of the Initiative Natalia Ilieva, negotiated with the UNDRR Headquarter, extension of Phase 2 till the end of May 2022 to allow ABU to organize a global coverage of the 7th Global Platform for DRR to be held in Bali 23/28 May and set up the five DRR co-productions.

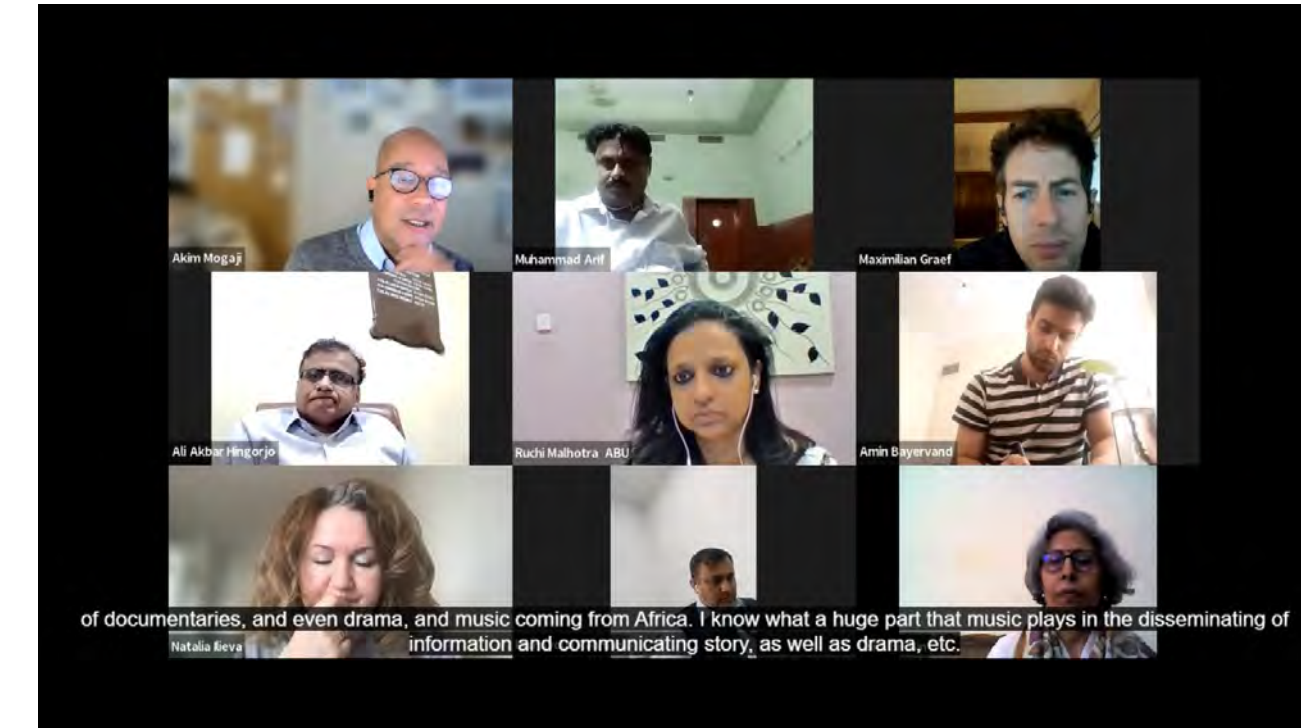


DRR Capacity – building for News, Current Affairs, documentaries and other formats

While the DRR Knowledge Level 1 courses were going on, the implementation team was also organising the deliverables for DRR content capacity building and content production. This was the follow – up for the 15 ABU members that had already gone through the DRR Knowledge Level 1 courses in Phase 1.

We used for this exercise the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Working Group II Report on Climate Change Adaptation, which was officially announced on 28 February in Berlin. In preparation of the coverage of this widely anticipated Report (it provides the latest scientific assessment of climate change impacts on socio – economic activities and suggests some solutions) the ABU members were invited to an Advance Brief by the Co-Chairs of the Report on 8th February.

The Advance Brief was attended by 75 media professionals from Newsrooms and Programme departments. The targeted ABU members were in three groups – Group 1: Members of Asiavision; Group 2: TV stations which are not members of Asiavision and Group 3: Radio stations.



This is the first time that such Advance Brief is organised for Asia-Pacific broadcasters. The IPCC Communication Team had been conducted such briefings for EBU members for many years, but it was for the first time they did it for ABU Members. The ABU team helped African Union of Broadcasting to organise a similar Advance Brief for their members.

The Advance Brief was followed by two IPCC WGII Report coverage planning consultancies – one for TV Newsrooms on 18 Feb attended by 56 TV journalists and one for Radio on 21 Feb attended by 49 Radio journalists.

Additionally, the ABU team pre-recorded an interview with the IPCC WGII Co-chairs on 27 February when the over 240 scientists who had contributed to the report agreed on its final text. The interview with the IPCC WGII CO-Chairs, together with some video materials about the IPCC and the conference on 28th February were distributed to the three targeted groups above. The feedback from members about this practical service is overwhelmingly positive.





ABU led global coverage of 2022GPDRR

As part of the PHASE 2 of the WBU/UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES, the ABU organized a world-wide coverage of the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 23 to 28 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. ABU is grateful to its Indonesian members RRI and TVRI for their support to make this operation successful.

The Global Platform (GP2022) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is the world's foremost gathering on reducing disaster risk and building resilience of communities and nations. It takes place every two years. The first global platform was held in 2007.

A team of 22 journalists from the Asia-Pacific, Arab, African, Caribbean and European regions provided a daily feed of news, reports and interviews. The total of over 80 items were produced during the five days of the global event and distributed through the participating unions news exchanges in English and Arabic. Additionally, to contributing to the syndicated coverage pool of stories, the teams were filing daily reports to their stations.

The journalists were nominated by members of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU). The multi-national team worked closely with the ABU members in Indonesia, TVRI and RRI, who were host broadcasters for the 2022GPDRR. Sincere thanks to the Indonesian colleagues for their support to the syndicated coverage team for their great support in covering this very complex event attended by over 3,600 participants and having around 30 meetings daily.

The TV stories and interviews, produced at the event location, were distributed through the daily news exchanges of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, Arab States Broadcasting Union, African Union of Broadcasting, Caribbean Broadcasting Union, COPEAM and European Broadcasting Union. The feed was also provided to China Radio International.

The WBU joint effort in covering the 2022GPDRR were recognized and highly praised by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for DRR Mami Mizutori. In an exclusive interview for the WBU team, she spoke about the crucial role of media in giving the oxygen of publicity to the global efforts for achieving the Sendai Framework goals, since that is not on target. The ABU - led syndicated coverage guaranteed a massive global, regional and national distribution of stories through the Unions' networks of over 200 national broadcasters.

"We have exchange with media on the importance of the media to also educate people about the importance of prevention. I'm delighted with this new trend."



Mami Mizutori -
Special Representative
of the Secretary-General for
Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).



2022GPDRR on social media

For the first time in the ABU DRR work, the reporting was taken to social media platforms.

On social media, we use the existing Twitter account @[ABU_HQ](#) to share [photos](#), short square [videos](#), longer [threads](#), and to [retweet](#) content from our journalists. Beside the Twitter account, we shared content on both Facebook accounts, [ABU Headquarters](#) and [ABU Secretariat](#).

Most of our efforts on social media were put into the Instagram account @[mediasavelives](#) that we have set up, especially for this projecting In close collaboration with the team on the ground, we could post creative content like [reels](#), [carousel posts](#), and [stories](#). We focused on the theme 'media saving lives' and the role of the media in the topic of Disaster Risk Reduction. Over the course of 5 days, the content on Instagram has reached on average 2421 people, with reels being the most popular format. The videos/reels of Purity Museo, from Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (3015) and Gautam Roy from DDI, India (639) introducing themselves and explaining why this summit is important for journalists to attend, reached most people. The carousel and the sketch of Mami Mizutori were the most popular posts.

We have also set up a [Medium](#) account, especially for this project where we shared two blogs, one about [Mami Mizutori and her comments](#) about the role of media. We believe that with the Instagram account and Medium account we have laid a strong foundation for future projects where it is possible to easily and quickly share content that looks 'buzzy and busy'.

Additionally, to ensuring the huge success of the syndicated coverage of the 2022 GPDRR, the ABU led the Media Stakeholder Group to Sendai Framework as a member of the Strategic Engagement Mechanism established by the UNDRR to harness the energy of civil society's stakeholders' groups such as Women, Youth, Persons with Disabilities, science, community NGOs, media etc. The Media Stakeholder Group worked closely with all other civil society stakeholders to break the existing silos and work together for saving lives and livelihoods. The Media Stakeholder Group adopted a Media Statement of Commitment, which is packed with actions aiming to integrate the media in the communication policies and plans for DRR.

Another achievement in Bali was to raise the question of future frequencies' allocation in a way that more are given to broadcasters for Emergency Warnings. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for DRR Mami Mizutori committed to engage with the World Broadcasting Unions to ensure that there is no change in the current status quo and no more frequencies are allocated to other players outside broadcasters.

DRR co-productions

In Mauritius, we set up 5 groups for co-productions. The participating 24 producers from 21 members of the ABU and AUB received small grants (USD 3,000) to produce 13 min documentaries on Sea Level Rise and Flooding. Detailed list of the participating organisations, Executive Producers and links to documentaries could be find through the link [CO-Production Videos](#). Please note that not all documentaries posted are finalised. The team is planning to finalise all productions by mid-August and offer all of them copyright free to the participating organisations. Additionally, the Asia-Pacific members documentaries will be showcased during the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Brisbane - 19-23 September.



WBU/UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES WEBSITE

The ABU is in a process of developing a dedicated site for the project, which will host not only the materials from the project but other related resources. Once ready, the website would be linked to the websites of the other sister - unions.

ADPC CARE

ABU CARE Promotion

The main objective of the project is to develop the structure and partnerships between media and national decision makers for Knowledge Management transfer and promotion of the World Bank USD 39 million CARE project. It supports development of government policies and bringing them to the community level beneficiaries in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan on Climate Smart Agriculture, Water Management and Resilient Transport Infrastructure. The role of ABU is to set up the network with its members in the targeted countries for producing programs and videos covering not only the CARE project but climate adaptation and mitigation efforts across the board.

As part of it, since November 2021 the ABU implementing team has developed the CARE Communication Strategy, Action Plan for CARE Promotion and 7 episodes of the ADPC YouTube show "Climate Talks". You can find them through the link [Final Climate Talk Videos](#). With the agreement of the ADPC, the team is revamping the show in order to make it broadcastable and will offer it copyright free to all members.

The team has also produced a CARE Promo video, which can be viewed through the link [CARE V8.mp4](#). It will be localised by translating and voice over in the official languages of the three countries.

In close cooperation with ADPC and CARE team, the ABU is in a process of organising three MediaLogues to be held in person in Dhaka, Kathmandu and Islamabad in the beginning of September. The two – day consultation meetings between high level government officials and leaders of ABU members in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, aim to establish the required partnerships and resources for building the Knowledge Transfer Highway through the ABU members networks and map the capacity building needs of our members in regard to implementing this project by the end of 2023.



CARE Website

The development of the website dedicated to the CARE project started in December and have to be completed by mid – August in time of launching a wide promotional campaign for the project. This is the place to say thank you to Mr Saravana Kuma Ramalingam, the ABU Website developer, who has kept this project on time, despite the Technical Department many other engagements.

ABU BROADCASTING FOR ALL: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE MEDIA



10th WWTW Forum

The 10th anniversary of the ABU Women With the Wave Forum on 14th October was marked with a three – part video capturing the history of this influential forum.

The then ABU Vice - President and President and CEO of KBS, Mr. Yang Sung-dong, opened the Forum and reminded that this important platform was initiated by KBS during the 2012 GA and has grown over time to become a global event. Like in the inaugural Forum in 2012, the WWTW Keynote speech came from the Geena Davis Institute for Gender in Media, delivered on behalf of its Founder and Chair Geena Davis by the Institute's President and CEO Madeline di Nonno.

160 participants from 43 countries in 5 continents joined the 10th WWTW Forum virtually. The long – term partner and sponsor of this annual gathering, UNI – Apro MEI, provided simultaneous translation of the two – hour event, so many Japanese colleagues (nearly 40) were able to join and benefit from it.

You can access the videos and opening messages via the below Links:

- [ABU Final 3 Videos \(WWT 10 Years Journey\)](#)
- [Opening Message by the KBS President.mp4](#)
- [Opening Madeline Di Nonno \(Geena Davis Institute\).mp4](#)

The virtual forum and commemorative videos were a celebration of the ABU members' commitment and efforts to embrace gender fairness, diversity and inclusion in their organisational policies and content and services in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the forum. For full information on the sessions and messages from members please refer to: [WWT 2021 Final Report](#)

The long – running ABU campaign for diversity and inclusion in and through the media has been growing to include new activities and new partnerships. Additionally to the 10th WWTW Forum there are several new projects that were started as part of the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Media Action Plan 2021-2024:

Media for Building Culture of Tolerance and Understanding

The ABU is to carry out a series of activities under a UNESCO project in which journalists will be trained to use the power of media to nurture a culture of tolerance and understanding. The project is designed to counter a tsunami of disinformation in the traditional and new media during the pandemic that has led to false accusations against different communities and even hostile actions, as well as a surge in domestic violence and child abuse.

The project is supported by UNESCO. The primary target group are journalists in national electronic and print media in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

The project recognises that public broadcasters need all the support they can get to preserve and enhance their status as a trusted source of information. They need to build their capacity as a catalyst of changing minds, attitudes and behaviour of the public. It's vital for broadcasters to expand their reach into social networks and new platforms to counter disinformation and hate speech and build a culture of tolerance and understanding among different groups.

Surveys of Pluralism, Diversity and Inclusion across Media Organisations

The ABU projects supported by UNESCO in the region include ongoing data collection of media organisations that provide snapshots of progress related to pluralism, diversity and inclusion - focusing on leadership and planning; representation and equity; positive and safe work environments; and content and services.

ABU Broadcasting for All: Diversity and Inclusion in the Media campaign

The funding from the UNESCO IPDC programme will support mainstreaming Diversity and Inclusion in the organisational strategy and policies of 10 members of ABU in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group

Since its constitution in July 2021 the ABU Diversity and Inclusion Task Group has held four meetings, three of them during the reporting period.

The ABU's Diversity and Inclusion Task Group (DITG) held its first formal meeting on 26 August 2021. The formation of the group was approved by the ABU's Administrative Council at the Tokyo GA in 2019 but the COVID 19 pandemic delayed its constitution.

The purpose of the DITG is to serve the ABU membership by offering advice and recommendations on gender and diversity related initiatives and activities, in line with the ABU's long-standing outreach campaign **Broadcasting for All: Diversity and Inclusion in the Media**.

The DITG's work focuses on monitoring and supporting ABU activities, particularly through the objectives and actions of a strategic diversity and inclusion media action plan, with a timeframe of three years (2021 – 2024), commencing mid-2021. The focus areas of the plan are: leadership, communication and strategy & projects.

For the full plan and timeline of implementation please refer to the link: [ABU Diversity & Inclusion Media Action Plan](#).

TOGETHER FOR PEACE MEDIA AWARDS

The first ABU/UNESCO T4P Media Awards were presented online on 17th November with host Ms Nini Marini. The nine winning programmes were chosen from the 124 entries from 39 countries.

T4P Media Awards highlighted the crucial role of independent and ethical journalism, combined with Media Information and Literacy and critical thinking of citizens for peace-building and promoting understanding within and between countries.

The judging process for the inaugural ABU/UNESCO Together for Peace (T4P) Media Awards started on 8th October. The Call for Entries closed on 30 September. 124 programmes and documentary series were entered in the competition's three categories – Radio, TV and Digital Content. They come from 39 countries in 5 continents. We are very satisfied with the interest shown by producers from across the world. The Awards were established thanks to the long, close and fruitful cooperation between UNESCO and ABU.

In the competition we called for inspiring stories of people and communities overcoming differences to work and live together, stories about mending our ways and living in harmony with nature. We have received many wonderful programmes covering a wide range of topics that fall in the three main areas of the UNESCO T4P Initiative in Asia-Pacific. They became thematic sub-categories of the Radio, TV and Digital Content competition groupings. These sub-categories are Living Ethically and Sustainability on a Shared Planet, Living Well with Super Diversity and Transformative Education.

The ABU is grateful to all member and non-member organisations and individual producers who sent us so many inspiring programmes giving voice to people combating injustice, bullying in schools, violence against women, disabled people triumphing over physical barriers and social stereotypes. etc.

The 2nd ABU/UNESCO T4P Media Awards will be held in conjunction with the 7th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Prevention in 2023.

The Winners were:

Category	Programme Title	Organization	Country
Radio - Transformative Education	William Yip: my dream is to make drama accessible for all	China Media Group (CMG)-China Radio International (CRI)	China
Radio - Living Well with Superdiversity	Tongue Tied and Fluent	Independent Producers	Australia
Radio - Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature	Living on the edge – the coastal lives	All India Radio	India
TV - Transformative Education	Women at the forefront for the prevention of violent extremism	Media Women 4Peace	Cameroon
TV - Living Well With Superdiversity	DEAFinitely Leading The Way	Doordarshan	India
TV - Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature	23.5° Rhythm of the Earth: ep2. Lower and lower	Korean Broadcasting System	Korea
Digital Content - Transformative Education	BOSAI Web	NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)	Japan
Digital Content - Living Well With Superdiversity	Walking Together	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Australia
Digital Content - Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature	Can desalination solve the global water crisis?	Deutsche Welle	Germany

Together for PEACE



T4P MEDIA AWARDS





INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

WBU

The COVID pandemic strengthened the cooperation of the regional broadcasting unions, members of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU). Apart from the long-term joint work on the allocation of frequencies to broadcasters in the WIPO, now WBU has several committees for defending common interests – Sports, Technical and International Connectivity Media Group.

The annual meeting of the DGs/SGs of the members of the WBU was held on 28 June in Dubrovnik in association with the EBU General Assembly. The ABU reported on its work in Diversity and Inclusion and the recently closed Phase 2 of the WBU/UNDRR Media Saving Lives Initiative. WBU coordinates common positions of the regional broadcasting unions (ABU, ASBU, AUB, CBU and EBU) on vital issues such as the allocation of frequency spectrum.

The WBU also issued in May a joint Statement on the assassination of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. You may find it through the following link: [WBU statement on the assassination of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh – ABU](#)

UNDRR

The partnership and collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is related and supports the ABU work in climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk management/ disaster prevention.

ABU led the development, application and implementation of the WBU/UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES Initiative. ABU just closed Phase 2 of the project with an independent audit and is preparing the application for Phase 3.

ADPC

With the ADPC, ABU won two projects related to Knowledge Management transfer for the World Bank project CARE (Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia). CARE is a multi-media dollar project aiming to develop government policies for climate smart agriculture, water management and resilient transport infrastructure in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. The first project won by ABU is a wide scale promotion of the CARE project and developing through the networks of the ABU members Knowledge Transfer Digital Highway, linking grassroots communities with policy and decision makers. The second project with ADPC is to develop the CARE project designated website.

UNESCO

The partnership with UNESCO has been solid for many years and the support from UNESCO is the backbone of the ABU Diversity and Inclusion in the Media activities that has been so successful. The exceptionally productive relationship with UNESCO Bangkok Office led to running the Together 4 Peace Project which has two parts – online T4P course and establishment of the ABU/UNESCO T4P Media Awards. We were just awarded USD 10,000 for the 2nd edition of the ABU/UNESCO T4P Media Awards. It will be linked to the 7th ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Prevention to be held in 2023 probably in Maldives.

In collaboration with the newly established UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund ABU News and ABU Media Academy are running Investigative Reporting course for ABU members. ABU won funding for the project “**Media for Culture of Tolerance and Understanding**” from the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC) in 2021. The project is implemented in 2022 together with the UNESCO Jakarta Office.

The ABU also won another Project from the 2022 cycle of funding of the IPDC. The **Broadcasting for All: The Media Making a Difference through Diversity and Inclusion Planning Across the Asia – Pacific Region**” will be implemented in cooperation with the UNESCO Delhi Office.

ABU is also working closely with the IOC – UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee of UNESCO) and contributed to the development of Standard Operating Procedures for Early Warnings for Tsunamis in the Makran region.

COLLABORATION WITH ITU AND WMO

The ABU team implementing the WBU/UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES Initiative has developed close working relations with the International Telecommunication Union. One of the potential projects discussed for the near future is including in the nationals plans for communications during disasters building resilient broadcasters infrastructure. Currently, that is the case in a very few countries in the region, so broadcasters who are crucial for disseminating early warning messages for disasters don't receive government funding to secure their physical infrastructure.

The good relationship with ITU Headquarter in Geneva resulted in ABU being invited as a partner for the 2022 World Summit for Information Society Forum, which is an annual event over several months, organised by the International Telecommunication Union.

The ABU organised two sessions during the 2022 WSIS. The first session was on the topic “Tackling disasters and reducing risks through awareness of citizens”. This session was held on 6th April via zoom. During the session partners from ABU, EBU, ITU, UNDRR and WMO presented their best practices in reaching the “last mile” and communicating with most vulnerable people on the ground and how they made these possible.

The second session was devoted to Emergency Warnings and Communications. It was held on 19 April with participating speakers from ABU, UNDRR, ITU and IFRC. The Head of SG's Office represented ABU and the Media Stakeholder Group for DRR in both sessions, which were attended by more than 150 participants.

The ABU developed a strong partnership with the World Meteorological Office (WMO). Its Secretary – General Mr Peteri Taalas has been giving regular interviews for the COPs coverage and other programmes produced for the DRR and ADPC projects. The DRR implementation team is engaged with the WMO Deputy Secretary – General Elena Manaenkova to link broadcasting unions' members with their national Meteorological Services for Phase 3 of the WBU/ UNDRR MEDIA SAVING LIVES Initiative, as this phase of the project moves to localise the DRR Knowledge gained in the previous phases. That means that reporters and producers will be more familiar with the weather patterns and the most common natural hazards affecting their lands. All this in local languages and dialects, which is a crucial factor for disaster prevention and Early Warnings.

OUTSIDE FUNDING

Thanks to the collaboration with international partners, in the last year ABU secured funding for several projects from outside sources amounting to over USD 800,000. The money was or would be used to offer additional services to members. They include:

- a) **USD455,400** from UNDRR Global Media Saving Lives Initiatives – Phase 2. The project was successfully implemented over 7 months with more than 50 activities, including syndicated coverage of the 7th Global Platform for DRR and the DRR coproduction series 24 documentaries, in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Caribbean regions. The project was audited by independent auditor and successfully closed. The Head of SG's Office is working with the UNDRR Headquarter and ASBU, AUB and CBU on the application for Phase 3 of the initiative.
- b) **USD177,500** from Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for providing Knowledge Management and promotion of the World Bank USD 39 million CARE project. It supports development of government policies in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan on Climate Smart Agriculture, Water Management and Resilient Transport Infrastructure. The role of ABU is to secure through the networks of its members in the targeted countries Knowledge Transfer from decision - making level to community level and facilitating adaptation of modern practices to support food security.
- c) **USD 27,500** from Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre for developing a dedicated website to support the above project.
- d) **USD 20,000** from UNESCO Bangkok Bureau for T4 Peace project
- e) **USD 10,000** – 2nd ABU/UNDRR T4P Media Awards
- f) **USD35,000** from UNESCO IPDC for Media for Building Culture of Tolerance and Understanding project, targeting Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor - Leste.
- g) **USD34,625** from UNESCO IPDC for Mainstreaming Gender and Diversity in Media Organisational Policies and Planning in Asia – Pacific.
- h) **USD34,000.00** from UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund
- i) **USD 24,000** in kind from AFTRS in Australia
- j) **USD14,000.00** from HBF in Japan.
- k) **USD14,000.00** from UNESCO Partnership Programme for Diversity and Inclusion in Media project.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The ABU and its fellow regional broadcasting unions were quick to respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The World Broadcasting Unions issued a statement calling for journalists to be allowed to operate both freely and safely, and report without hindrance. It said that as the situation between Russia and Ukraine escalated, access to trusted, factual and impartial information was more critical than ever.

The ABU's news exchange Asiavision moved rapidly too, changing its operations to include round-the-clock coverage of the war. The editorial team began working 24 hours, seven days a week – a move that will last while the war continues.

Individual ABU members played their part too. Among them was NHK-Japan, whose international service, NHK WORLD-JAPAN, started to provide news in Ukrainian on its website from 14 March. It also introduced Ukrainian subtitles for its 24-hour English live video streaming. In addition, it launched an online service in Ukrainian that provides tips for daily life in Japan for Ukrainians who have moved there.



And this is just the beginning. Responsibility for war crimes



Команда медичних волонтерів з Японії готується надати допомогу українським евакуйованим у прикордонному місті в сусідній Угорщині.



Сотні людей взяли участь у марші вулицями Тайбею, щоб продемонструвати солідарність з Україною в неділю.

FINANCE COMMENTARY

The Secretariat successfully ended its 2021/2022 Financial Year as at 30 June 2022 with an actual surplus of USD 509,949 after excluding the losses on the foreign exchange of USD 505,466 for the year. About 98% of the loss was due to the unrealised exchange loss derived as a result of a stronger US Dollar.

The operating revenue from members' subscription fees had been slightly increased particularly from new members coming on board and timely investment into fixed deposits.

During the financial year, operating expenditures were slightly higher due to an increase in ABU activities, provision for doubtful debts and higher travel costs as borders start to reopen. The Secretariat was successful in delivering all its projects and services online, introduced new activities and cautiously moving towards holding more face-to-face events as the pandemic eases during the last quarter of the financial year.

The Secretariat faced more challenges ahead 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 has adequate funds to fund its operations and can still evolve through changing times to serve members in the best possible way.

Despite challenging times, the Secretariat is in good shape to tackle the new challenges in a post-Covid year ahead. The Secretariat is hopeful and look forward to hold more physical events and activities enabling members to once again reconnect after more than two years of virtual meetings.

The ABU will continuously 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 Audited Reports will be tabled at the Administrative Council and General Assembly Meetings in November 2022 in New Delhi.

BALANCE SHEET

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.2022	30.06.2021
	Audited	Audited
Fixed Assets	27,593	22,696
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank Equivalents	9,697,943	10,311,261
Accounts Receivable and Accruals	2,962,304	1,805,733
Sports Events In Progress	-	-
Total Current Assets	12,660,247	12,116,994
Total Assets	12,687,840	12,139,690
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payables and Accrued Expenses	1,649,060	1,094,149
ABU Activities Fund	6,209,651	6,106,611
Grants Received for ABU Projects	223,892	242,298
Sports Events Completed and In Progress	105,146	201,024
Total Current Liabilities	8,187,749	7,644,082
Union's Reserve		
General Reserves	4,495,608	3,121,797
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	4,483	1,373,811
Total Reserve	4,500,091	4,495,608
Total Liabilities and Reserve	12,687,840	12,139,690

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 USD 509,949 (excluding the losses on foreign exchange of USD 505,466) was achieved for the year ended on 30.06.2022. Though the cash and cash equivalents have slightly decreased, the above Balance Sheet shows that the Secretariat was able to increase the reserve of the Union.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.2022	30.06.2021
	Audited	Audited
Members' Subscription Fees	2,011,653	1,742,703
Interest Received	92,085	84,164
Revenue from ABU Activities	7,588	477
Other Income	27,042	804,873
Total Operating Income	2,138,368	2,632,217
ABU Activities	127,254	62,108
Staff Costs	1,087,250	1,091,526
Travel Costs	28,417	1,240
Provision for Doubtful Debts	286,158	157,611
Bad Debt written off	7,194	70,074
Professional plus Audit Fees	19,554	8,713
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	9,520	10,110
Other Office Expenses	63,072	56,974
Total Operating Expenses	1,628,419	1,458,356
Exchange (Gains)/Loss	505,466	(199,950)
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	4,483	1,373,811

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 USD 509,949 after excluding the losses on the foreign exchange of USD 505,466 for the year. The Statement of Activities also indicates an increase in members' revenue and 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 for the fiscal year 2021-22 increased slightly compared to FY 2020-21.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

All figures in USD	For the years ended	
	30.06.22	30.06.21
	Audited	Audited
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	4,483	1,373,811
Provision for Doubtful Debts	286,158	157,611
Bad Debt written off	7,194	70,074
Depreciation	9,520	10,110
Interest Income	(91,408)	(83,858)
Staff Gratuities Benefits Provisions	87,196	96,981
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	(1,146,792)	(91,979)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors and other Receivables	24,510	6,872
Increase/(Decrease) in Activities Fund	103,040	(144,128)
Increase/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities	35,574	79,125
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors and Other Payables	70,114	(767,954)
Increase/(Decrease) in Exchange for Debtors and Creditors	11,696	(4,470)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	(598,715)	702,195
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Gratuities Paid	(91,594)	(23,623)
Interest Received	91,408	83,858
Acquisition of Tangible Assets	(14,417)	(2,827)
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	(14,603)	57,408
Net Variation in Cash and Bank Equivalents	(613,318)	759,603
Cash and Bank Equivalents at end of period	9,697,943	10,311,261
Cash and Bank Equivalents at beginning of period	10,311,261	9,551,658
Net Variation in Cash and Bank Equivalents	(613,318)	759,603

NOTES

A negative cash flow statement for the year is mainly due to the higher unrealised exchange loss.



2021 / 2022