



Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

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Dear esteemed members,

REF: Letter on the Cancellation of AMS 2020

Please accept my warm greetings from Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).

As you might be aware the World Health Organization (WHO) has upgraded the global risk from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to 'very high' index, and the situation is likely to worsen as more countries are beginning to see new cases every day.

In lieu of this the Secretariat, in consultation with the President, Vice-President and a few EXBO members, have decided to call-off the Asia Media Summit, which was scheduled to take place in the first week of June 2020.

It is with deep regret that our signature event, which most of our members look forward to, has to be cancelled. The health situation of our members should be the priority at this juncture. As an intergovernmental organisation AIBD adheres to global best practices and have sought advice from international health bodies before making this decision.

The Secretariat, in consultation with the hosts, has also postponed all regional workshops to later dates, hoping that by then the situation would improve. However, all in-country workshops and events will go as planned, as and when endorsed by the hosts.

In response to the current health situation AIBD has come up with an initiative to train journalists for health emergencies and outbreaks. It is a seminar and interactive session for the local journalists to deal with health crisis such as corona virus. We have done this in Kuala Lumpur together with WHO, Asia-Pacific Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) based in Bangkok, Thailand, and relevant local agencies. More than 40 local journalists from different media platforms took part in the event on the 28th of February 2020.

An initiative like this is the need of hour, especially when misinformation and fake news on corona virus is spreading faster than the virus. It is already causing more panic in society. The WHO and ADPC have commended AIBD for coming up with this initiative and said they would be happy to see it happen in other countries. Therefore, AIBD would be happy to assist if any member countries are willing to take up this initiative together with our partners.

Once again, we seek your kind understanding on the cancellation of the AMS, and for the inconvenience caused.

Thank you for your continued support and guidance.

Best Regards,

Philomena Gnanapragasam

Director, AIBD