



BROADCASTER

ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT





CONTENT

CEO's Perspective:

Broadcasting at the Crossroads: Trust, Technology, and Collective Wisdom 4

Calendar of Events – 2026 5

AIBD Meetings

AIBD delegation expands Media Partnership with Sri Lanka 7

AIBD enhances engagement with Vietnam Television (VTV) & Voice of Vietnam (VOV) 9

AIBD CEO joins Deepavali celebrations at Sri Lankan High Commission AIBD hosts courtesy visit from the Embassy of France 10

AIBD meets Rohde & Schwarz – a global technology group AIBD CEO holds first official meeting with Chairperson, Community Media Foundation (CMF) 11

Special Events

The Young SEakers (TYS) Malaysia Chapter visits AIBD 13

AIBD Training Activities

ASEAN-IPPTAR Seminar - Developing Training Module in Combating Fake News in ASEAN 14

Forum on Challenges in Combating Fake News in ASEAN Countries 15

Video Production using AI Tools (co-hosted by Community Media Foundation (CMF) 16

AIBD & UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) Workshop in Brunei 17

AIBD-WHO Road Safety Webinar #1: Road Safety Reporting: Solution Journalism and Regional Issues 18

AIBD-WHO Road Safety Webinar #2: Best Journalistic Practices on road safety reporting 19

AIBD-WHO Road Safety Webinar #3: Community Voice and grass root actions 20

Reporting to Save Lives: AIBD-WHO Regional Workshop on Road Safety Reporting, Hanoi 21

AIBD/ITU Masterclass on Podcasting and Ethical Media Creation 23

AIBD/UNESCO HQ DPRP plans 24

AIBD Canal France International (CFI) Terra Asia Regional Training in Kuala Lumpur 25

AIBD CFI Online Training Series for Environmental Journalism webinar series 26

Leveraging AI & Tools for Project Management (In-house Training-II) 27

AIBD/UNESCO IPDC Webinar on Using AI to Detect and Counter Online Gender-Based Harassment 27

AIBD/UNESCO IPDC Webinar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Workplace 28

CONTENT

Flagship Events

Charting New Horizons: AMS 2026 in the Heart of Maldives": Asia Media Summit 2026	29
Seychelles to Host the 24th AIBD General Conference in 2026	30

New Initiatives

Surveillance Audit of ISO 9001:2015 to AIBD: Report & Result	31
AIBD concludes 4th Quarter 2025 Strategic Planning Team Meeting	32

Global Connects/Global Network

AIBD participates in WTDC-25 in Baku, Azerbaijan	33
AIBD participates in the 2025 UWA Summit and World Ultra HD Video Industry Alliance Members Conference	36
Innovation and Solidarity: The 45th ASBU General Assembly Charts a New Course for Arab Media	37

Tec. Trends / Research Article

Rights and Freedoms in the Digital Era of Broadcasting- <i>How technology is reshaping the balance between connection and control</i>	38
--	----

APAC Media New Movers

Maldivian New MD (PSM)	42
------------------------	----

Members/Partners' Insights

SLBC 100 Years Anniversary	43
----------------------------	----

Ceo's PERSPECTIVE : Trust, Technology, and Collective Wisdom

Broadcasting stands at a crossroads, defined by synthetic content and relentless innovation. Across Asia, we are navigating this complex terrain, redefining our mission while fiercely safeguarding journalism's core values. The central questions of our time are urgent: How do we preserve trust in an age of deepfakes? How do we report on tragedy responsibly? How do we embrace the new without abandoning what makes journalism essential?

This quarter, our network engaged these dilemmas directly. When ASEAN broadcasters collaborated with IPPTAR on fake news training, discussion swiftly moved beyond algorithms to a more profound crisis: the erosion of shared truth and its threat to democratic discourse. Similarly, our UNESCO IPDC workshop in Brunei explored a vital duality—how AI, often a vector for disinformation, can also be a shield, protecting journalists, especially women, from online violence. The lesson is clear: we must harness the very tools that challenge us.

Our work with WHO on road safety reporting revealed another imperative. We challenged the traditional, passive cycle of crash coverage, urging journalists to investigate the policy failures that cause tragedies and amplify community demands for change. This is solution journalism: the conviction that media must shape outcomes, not just record them.

Technologically, our trainings— from video production with CMF to ITU's podcasting masterclass—confirmed a critical distinction. While AI tools democratize content creation, judgment cannot be automated. The ability to discern what is worth saying, and to say it ethically, remains irreducibly human. This was exemplified in our Terra Asia program with CFI: the climate crisis needs narratives that drive action, not just more data.

The recent Asia Media Summit at Siem Reap, Cambodia and General Conference at Phuket, Thailand proved the enduring power of physical connection. When media leaders from member countries of the AIBD convene, intractable problems become negotiable, and abstract partnerships gain life. These dialogues reinforce our foundational strength.

As SLBC celebrates its centenary, we see broadcasting's long arc—from radio's crackle to AI's silence. Yet, the mission remains constant: to inform, educate, and connect. What endures is not the technology, but the trust between broadcaster and audience. To fortify this trust, we are ensuring Asia's voice is central to the global media future. Through engagements like WTDC- 25 and partnerships with UWA and ASBU, we contribute our region's unique experience—its linguistic diversity, regulatory complexity, and scale—as vital insight for a world building the digital age simultaneously everywhere.

The challenges ahead will not diminish. But our capacity to meet them, rooted in the collective intelligence of this network, will only grow. My confidence comes from this shared wisdom: when broadcasters navigate different systems and share their learnings, everyone becomes sharper. This is our value—not answers handed down, but wisdom built together.

Philomena Gnanapragasam
Secretariat Director / CEO AIBD



BROADCASTER

Edition 4 (2025) VOL. 24 No. 2 2025, ISSN: 1675-4751
Published quarterly by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development
(01st Oct to 31st Dec 2025)



AIBD works with regional and global partners to build a vibrant, cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific through policy and resource development. The Institute advances this mandate by mobilizing the intellectual and technological strengths of member broadcasters and collaborating with governments, NGOs, academia, the private sector, and professionals via a robust infrastructure and networking platform.

PUBLISHER

AIBD

CHIEF EDITOR

Wickramage Don Dhammika

EDITOR

Shirley Jacob

CONTRIBUTORS

Don Dhammika
Im Jongwon
Jason Emmanuel Mekkar
Naing Naing Aye
Philomena Gnanapragasam
Venassa Wilson Ramamoorthy
Nabeel Trimazi

RESEARCHER

Shirley Jacob

OFFICE

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)
PO Box 12066
50766 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Tel : (60-3) 2283-4618
Fax : (60-3) 2283-2761
Email: training@aibd.org.my
Website: www.aibd.org.my

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AIBD Trainings & Activities for 2026

Mode:

P - Physical

O - Online

NO.	ACTIVITY	MODE	DATE
1.	Monetising Strategies for OTTs	O	22 Jan
2.	Leadership in the Digital Era	O	29 Jan
3.	FOMEX 2026	P	2-4 Feb
4.	Technical Cooperative Initiative	O	11 Feb
5.	AIBD Radio Web-Summit	O	12 Feb
6.	AIBD/AI Media AI Captions for Broadcasters	P	26 Feb
7.	AIBD/ISLE Conference	P	5-7 March
8.	AIBD Marine Journalism	O	17 March
9.	AIBD/BBS Technical Workshop	P	25-27 Apr
10.	AIBD 1st Quarter SPT Meeting	O	6-8 Apr
11.	Audit Training on Internal Audit (SGS)	P	16 April
12.	AIBD OTT Trends and Challenges	P	20 Apr
13.	AMS Pre-Summit Workshop	P	18 May
14.	AMS Pre-Summit Workshop	P	18 May
15.	AMS Pre-Summit Workshop	P	18 May
16.	AMS Pre-Summit Workshop	P	18 May
17.	AMS Pre-Summit Workshop	P	18 May
18.	AIBD/ITU Girls in ICT	P	18 May
19.	Asia Media Summit	P	19-21 May
20.	Broadcast Asia – 2026	P	20-22 May
21.	AIBD Drone Production Techniques & Photography	P	18 Jun
22.	AIBD/MBC Technical Workshop	P	23-25 Jun
23.	Media's Role in Climate Change	O	2 Jul
24.	AIBD/SLRC Change Management Workshop	P	14-16 Jul
25.	2nd Quarter SPT Meeting	P	21 Jul

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AIBD Trainings & Activities for 2026

Mode:

P - Physical

O - Online

NO.	ACTIVITY	MODE	DATE
26.	AIBD Mastering Short-Form Video for Social Platforms & Photography	P	30 Jul
27.	Media Preparedness for Natural Disasters and Emergencies	P	6 Aug
28.	2nd Quarter SPT Meeting	O	21 Jul
29.	General Conference	P	19-21 Aug
30.	3rd Quarter SPT Meeting	P	19 Aug
31.	AIBD Building Digital Trust: Cybersecurity for Media Organizations	O	8 Sep
32.	IBC 2026 (International Broadcasting Convention)	P	11-14 Sep
33.	AIBD Deepfakes & Synthetic Media: Risks & Regulations	P	17 Sep
34.	AIBD Creating Impactful Public Service Content in a Digital World	O	21 Sep
35.	XR (AR/VR/MR) for Immersive Audience Experiences	O	24 Sep
36.	Leading Media Organizations Through Digital Disruption	O	8 Oct
37.	AIBD Responsible Reporting During Global Crisis	P	20 Oct
38.	Cybersecurity Strategies for Broadcasters	P	26-28 Oct
39.	AIBD Upskilling for AI-Data Driven Media Ecosystems	O	5 Nov
40.	Remote Production & Cloud Based Editing Workflows	O	19 Nov
41.	UWA Summit	P	Nov
42.	Leading Media Organisations Through Technological Disruption	O	10 Dec
43.	Enhancing Member Services: Strategies for Engagement and Value Creation	P	17 Dec
44.	4th Quarter SPT meeting	O	Dec

AIBD Meetings

AIBD delegation expands Media Partnership with Sri Lanka

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) delegation, led by CEO. Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, met with Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, Sri Lanka's Minister of Health and Mass Media, in Colombo on 6 December 2025. The discussions marked an important milestone in strengthening collaboration between AIBD and Sri Lanka, particularly in advancing media development, capacity-building initiatives, and promoting tourism through strategic communication.



The discussions focused on capacity-building initiatives designed to promote credible, responsible, and people-centred media practices across the Asia-Pacific region. Both sides examined opportunities for joint training programs, knowledge exchange, and the strategic use of media platforms to advance sustainable tourism and strengthen public awareness campaigns.

Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam was accompanied by Mr. Wickramage Don Dhammika, Programme Manager, and Mr. Leon Loganathan, Legal Advisor. The meeting unfolded in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, reaffirming the enduring partnership between AIBD and Sri Lanka. The visit highlights AIBD's commitment to empowering broadcasters and media professionals through innovative strategies and collaborative partnerships that address emerging challenges in the broadcast industry.

This engagement reflects AIBD's broader mission to deepen regional cooperation and reinforce the role of media as a trusted pillar of development and public service.



AIBD Meetings

AIBD deepens collaboration with Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation

As part of its official visit to Colombo, the AIBD delegation, led by CEO Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, held a constructive meeting with Mr. Gihan De Silva, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC).

The discussions centred on advancing media development, expanding training initiatives, and fostering regional content partnerships. Both sides underscored the vital role of strengthening public service media as a pillar for credible, inclusive, and sustainable broadcasting across the Asia-Pacific region.



The delegation also toured SLRC's newsroom facilities, where Ms. Vimukthika Kariyawasam, Director of News, along with senior officials, presented an overview of SLRC's mission and operations. The visit offered valuable insights into Sri Lanka's national broadcasting landscape and underscored promising avenues for future collaboration.



Reinforcing the strong partnership between AIBD and SLRC, Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, together with Mr. Leon Dinesh Loganathan, Legal Advisor of AIBD, participated in an exclusive interview on English News, Channel Eye, the National Television of Sri Lanka. The interview highlighted AIBD's dedication to driving innovation and advancing regional cooperation in media development.





AIBD Meetings

AIBD builds stronger links with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Mass Media

During its official mission to Colombo, the AIBD delegation, headed by CEO Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, held discussions with senior representatives of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Mass Media, including Mr. H.S.K.J. Bandara, Director General of Government Information.

The dialogue centred on expanding collaborative opportunities, driving media development initiatives, and reinforcing regional partnerships. Both sides emphasized their shared commitment to fostering credible, forward-looking media practices across the Asia-Pacific region.



AIBD Meetings

AIBD enhances engagement with Vietnam Television (VTV) & Voice of Vietnam (VOV)

On 4 November 2025, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) continued its regional outreach with a high-profile visit to the headquarters and studios of Vietnam Television (VTV) in Hanoi. The delegation was led by AIBD Secretariat Director and CEO, Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, as a part of the organization's ongoing efforts to deepen cooperation with leading public broadcasters across the Asia-Pacific region.

During the visit, Ms. Gnanapragasam held wide-ranging discussions with senior VTV representatives. The dialogue focused on collaboration in content development, digital transformation, and capacity building for media professionals—areas seen as critical to navigating today's rapidly evolving media environment. Both sides emphasized shared priorities in digital storytelling, audience engagement, and the adoption of emerging technologies to strengthen public service broadcasting.



The delegation also toured VTV's production facilities and studios, gaining firsthand insight into the broadcaster's operational strengths and innovation-driven approaches. The visit highlighted VTV's commitment to modernization and provided a platform to explore joint initiatives, including tailored training programmes, professional exchanges, and collaborative projects designed to meet the evolving needs of public service media.

The engagement reaffirmed AIBD's mission to work closely with its members and partners in advancing skills development and innovation across the broadcasting sector. Both AIBD and VTV expressed optimism about future cooperation, envisioning stronger content creation, enhanced knowledge sharing, and deeper regional media development.

As the Asia-Pacific media landscape continues to transform, partnerships like this signal a collective determination to ensure that public service broadcasting remains a trusted pillar of communication, creativity, and community connection.





AIBD Meetings

AIBD explores strategic cooperation during visit to Voice of Vietnam (VOV)

AIBD Secretariat Director and CEO Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam visited the headquarters of the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) on 4 November, 2025, marking another significant engagement in the official programme in Hanoi. The visit offered a platform to exchange perspectives on the evolving role of radio and multimedia in the digital era. Meetings with VOV leadership explored avenues for collaboration in content innovation, training, and regional knowledge exchange. Discussions emphasized the need to strengthen professional skills, harness digital tools, and uphold trusted, impactful broadcasting in today's complex information environment.



Ms. Philomena also gained valuable insights into VOV's operations and its enduring relevance as a national broadcaster with strong regional influence. Both sides identified potential joint initiatives, including technical workshops, editorial capacity building, and participation in AIBD-led regional programmes and events.

The engagement reaffirmed the shared commitment of AIBD and VOV to advancing quality broadcasting and amplifying diverse voices across the Asia-Pacific. It laid a solid foundation for future cooperation aimed at raising professional standards and supporting sustainable media development in the region.

AIBD Meetings

AIBD CEO joins Deepavali celebrations at Sri Lankan High Commission

On 15 December 2025, the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) added a festive note to its regional engagements as CEO Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, accompanied by the AIBD team, joined the Deepavali celebrations hosted at the Sri Lankan High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

The event, presided over by Mr. Mohamed Rizvi, Acting High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Malaysia, brought together a vibrant mix of participants – staff of the High Commission, members of the Sri Lankan community in Malaysia, business leaders, and distinguished guests.



A Celebration of Culture and Connection

The evening was marked by traditional rituals, cultural performances, and the spirit of togetherness that defines Deepavali. For AIBD, the occasion was not only a celebration of light and renewal but also an opportunity to strengthen bonds with the Sri Lankan diaspora and reaffirm its commitment to fostering cultural exchange alongside media development.

By joining the celebration, AIBD underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in building bridges across communities. The engagement reflected the organization's belief that media and culture are intertwined pillars of public service, capable of promoting inclusivity, dialogue, and shared identity across the Asia-Pacific region.



AIBD Meetings

AIBD hosts courtesy visit from the Embassy of France

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) welcomed representatives from the Embassy of France for a courtesy visit to its headquarters, reflecting growing interest in strengthening cooperation in media development and capacity building across the Asia-Pacific region.

The French delegation comprised Mr. Thierry d'Anna and Mr. Yoann Talhouarne, who met with AIBD Secretariat Director and CEO, Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, together with members of the AIBD Secretariat. The meeting provided a platform for open and constructive discussions on shared priorities in broadcasting and media development.

Discussions focused on potential areas of collaboration, including professional training, skills enhancement, and the exchange of expertise to support broadcasters in navigating digital transformation and emerging challenges within the media landscape. Both sides explored opportunities for future joint initiatives that could contribute to strengthening institutional capacity and supporting media professionals across the region.

AIBD expressed its appreciation to the Embassy of France for the engagement and the constructive dialogue, and both parties noted the value of continued discussions to identify practical avenues for collaboration in advancing sustainable media development and knowledge exchange.

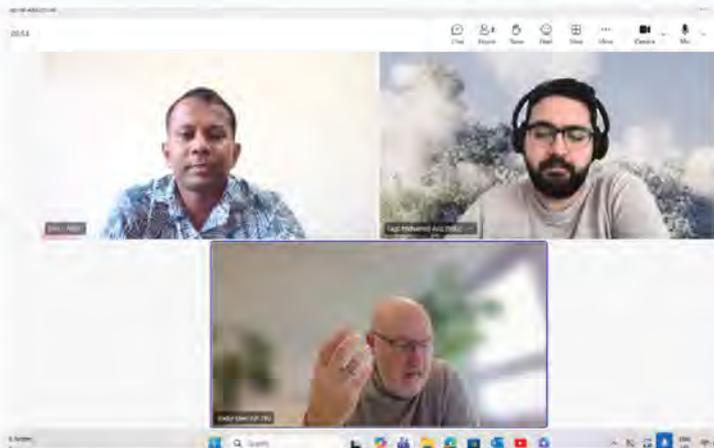


AIBD Meetings

AIBD meets Rohde & Schwarz – a global technology group

The discussion underscored the importance of developing innovative business models to better align broadcasters with device manufacturers. Recognizing the transformative potential of such collaboration, both parties agreed to move forward with a series of initiatives designed to spark dialogue and build capacity. These include an awareness session hosted via AIBD Zoom, and a dedicated workshop during the Asia Media Summit in May 2026 in the Maldives.

Together, these efforts represent a significant step toward equipping broadcasters with the tools and knowledge needed to embrace next-generation technologies. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the initiatives aim to strengthen regional cooperation and empower media professionals to navigate the evolving digital landscape with confidence, reinforcing trust and integrity in information as the industry adapts to new challenges.



AIBD Meetings

AIBD CEO holds first official meeting with CMF Chairperson

Strengthening cooperation for AI workshop outcomes and joint initiatives for AMS 2026



Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, CEO of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), and Mr. Choi Chul Ho, Chairperson of the Community Media Foundation (CMF) of Korea, convened their first official meeting on November 13, 2025, to explore avenues for expanding strategic cooperation between the two organizations. This high-level dialogue marks a pivotal shift from practical collaboration to a formalized strategic partnership.

The relationship between AIBD and CMF dates back to 2016, when CMF began actively participating in the Asia Media Summit (AMS) by seconding staff and contributing to key initiatives. During the 2016 AMS in Incheon, participants laid the foundation for mutual exchange through a visit to the CMF Incheon Community Media Centre. This early engagement evolved into capacity-building efforts, including the co-hosting of Regional Seminars in 2018 and 2019.

A new phase of cooperation emerged in 2025 with the appointment of Mr. Im Jongwon, a former CMF official, as Programme Manager at AIBD. Building on this institutional link, the two 20 organizations co-hosted online workshops on Artificial Intelligence (AI), which attracted wide attention from media professionals across the Asia-Pacific region and established a successful model for technology-driven training.

Capitalizing on this momentum, Ms. Philomena and Mr. Choi agreed to further institutionalize collaboration. Both leaders committed to joint efforts in hosting events during AMS 2026 and advancing media education programmes. Their shared vision includes developing specialized curricula that integrate technical expertise with practical field experience to strengthen regional media capacity.

This meeting stands as a milestone in elevating AIBD-CMF relations into a formal strategic partnership. Looking ahead, Ms. Philomena and Mr. Choi reaffirmed their intent to work closely in media education and capacity building, actively addressing the challenges and opportunities of the rapidly evolving digital media landscape in the Asia-Pacific region.

Special Events

The Young SEAKers (TYS) Malaysia Chapter visits AIBD



GO Seekers, a non-governmental organization, organized a study visit to the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) on 12 December 2025, welcoming 19 youth delegates from Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, and China. The visit aimed to introduce participants to AIBD's role in media development while offering firsthand insights into both the history and future of broadcasting.

The programme opened with a welcome session and an introduction to AIBD, setting the context for the day's activities and outlining the institute's mission of strengthening media capacity across the Asia-Pacific region. This was followed by a presentation from The Young SEAKers Malaysia Chapter, which highlighted youth-led initiatives and emphasized the importance of engaging young people in addressing contemporary media challenges.

An interactive dialogue session provided a platform for open exchange between speakers and delegates. Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretariat Director/CEO of AIBD, and Mr. Kumaran, Head of Minnal FM, shared their experiences in the media industry and spoke candidly about current challenges, including the spread of fake news, the influence of artificial intelligence, and the imperative to uphold media ethics and credibility. The youth delegates actively contributed, offering perspectives on how misinformation and emerging technologies are reshaping the media landscape.

Following a short interlude, the delegates proceeded to the AIBD Library, where they discovered a collection of classic media and camera equipment. The visit offered a glimpse into the early days of broadcasting, enabling participants to appreciate the craft of content creation in past decades and to reflect on the remarkable progress the industry has achieved since then. The visit concluded with a tour of the IPPTAR Studio, where delegates were introduced to modern broadcasting technologies and studio operations. The session generated strong interest, with participants expressing enthusiasm for learning about contemporary production techniques. YBHG. Dato Roslan Bin Ariffin, Director of The Tun Abdul Razak Broadcasting and Information Institute, joined the group during the studio visit and provided detailed explanations of the facilities and broadcasting processes.

The programme concluded with a group photo session, symbolizing the close of an informative and engaging visit. The experience provided valuable insights into the media industry for the young delegates especially its evolution, current challenges, and ongoing transformation while underscoring the vital importance of informed, responsible, and ethical media practices in today's digital age.



AIBD Training Activities

Combating Fake News in ASEAN: Broadcasters at the Frontline

Contributed by Venassa Wilson Ramamoorthy



In October 2025, Kuala Lumpur became the stage for a pivotal conversation on one of the most pressing challenges facing the media today: fake news. Hosted by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in collaboration with IPPTAR, the two-day seminar and subsequent forum brought together policymakers, journalists, trainers, and subject-matter experts from across ASEAN. Their shared mission was clear - to strengthen regional resilience against disinformation and to chart a path toward a

practical training module for broadcasters and media practitioners. The seminar opened with words of welcome from Mr. Roslan Ariffin, Director of IPPTAR, and Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, CEO of AIBD. Both underscored the urgency of sustained capacity-building and regional cooperation. In an era where misinformation transcends borders at the speed of a click, they reminded participants that safeguarding media integrity is not just a national priority but a collective responsibility.



The first technical session, led by Dr. Alfin Sles of Cambodia's Ministry of Information, laid the conceptual foundation. He traced the evolution of fake news alongside digital platforms, highlighting how speed, emotional appeal, and the absence of verification fuel its spread. From theory to practice, the second session shifted focus to fact-checking and digital verification. Mr. Zhang Nian Sheng of People's Daily, Bangkok, guided participants through hands-on exercises with verification tools, reinforcing that ethical reporting and rigorous checks remain the bedrock of credible journalism.

The psychology behind fake news was unpacked by Malaysian trainer Dr. Isai Amutan Krishnan. He explained how cognitive biases and emotional triggers -fear, anger, empathy - are exploited to accelerate misinformation. His insights underscored the need for media literacy initiatives that address not just content but human behaviour.

On the second day, the focus shifted from analysis to strategy as Malaysia's Minister of Communications, YB Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, delivered a keynote address. He underscored fake news as a global challenge with serious implications for trust, security, and democratic stability. His remarks emphasized the need for robust policy frameworks, stronger cross-border collaboration, and the active participation of governments, media organizations, technology companies, and the wider public.

Legal perspectives followed, with Mr. Leon Loganathan and his team outlining the regulatory landscape and the delicate balance between freedom of expression and accountability. The seminar concluded with a case study from Malaysia's SEBENARNYAMY initiative, presented by Nor Akma Johan of MCMC. The project demonstrated how institutional collaboration and public participation can reinforce information integrity.



The participants were introduced to legal and ethical frameworks within ASEAN, highlighting the need to balance freedom of expression with accountability. The session also explored strategies for creating powerful counter-messages, emphasizing lawful, ethical, and effective communication as a key component in combating disinformation.

The seminar concluded with Session 5: Case Studies, featuring SEBENARNYA.MY | Tidak Pasti Jangan Kongsi, presented by Nor Akma Johan, Head of Content Analytics Department, 25 Content Platform Management Department, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).



The session highlighted Malaysia's fact-checking initiative, offering practical insights into how data analysis, content verification, and public awareness campaigns can be leveraged to counter the spread of fake news. The case study underscored the critical role of institutional collaboration, transparency, and public participation in safeguarding information integrity. The IPPTAR/AIBD Seminar successfully fostered meaningful dialogue and knowledge-sharing on combating fake news across ASEAN. By weaving together psychological insights, legal perspectives, policy frameworks, and real-world case studies, the seminar established a strong foundation for the creation of a comprehensive and practice-oriented training module.

The seminar's outcomes reaffirmed the collective commitment of ASEAN stakeholders to advancing credible information, strengthening media resilience, and fostering informed societies. This shared dedication underscores the region's resolve to confront misinformation and build a sustainable, ethical, and trustworthy media environment.

AIBD Training Activities

Forum on challenges in combating Fake News in ASEAN countries

The forum titled "Challenges in Combating Fake News in ASEAN Countries" brought together key regional stakeholders to discuss the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation across Southeast Asia. Moderated by Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretariat Director/CEO of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), the moderated debate examined how fake news impacts governance, social harmony, media credibility, and regional stability in an increasingly digital and interconnected ASEAN landscape.

The discussion opened with the recognition that fake news is no longer a purely national issue but a cross-border challenge that spreads rapidly through digital platforms. Mr. Jonathan Tan of the ASEAN Secretariat emphasized that misinformation easily transcends national boundaries, making regional cooperation essential. He highlighted ASEAN's role in promoting dialogue, sharing best practices, and fostering coordinated responses among member states. According to him, building trust between governments, technology platforms, media organizations, and the public is fundamental to effectively addressing the problem.

Providing a national government perspective, Dr. Alfin Sles, Under-Secretary of State at Cambodia's Ministry of Information, spoke about the delicate balance governments must maintain between combating fake news and safeguarding freedom of expression. He stressed the importance of clear and transparent regulatory frameworks, proactive public communication, and strong partnerships with credible media institutions. Dr. Alfin noted that timely and accurate information from official sources is one of the most effective ways to counter misinformation before it gains traction.

From the technology and cybersecurity standpoint, Mr. Krishna Rajagopal, CEO of Akati Security, highlighted how advances in artificial intelligence, automated bots, and coordinated online networks have significantly increased the scale and speed at which fake news spreads. She warned that misinformation campaigns are becoming more sophisticated and harder to detect, posing serious risks to public trust and national security. Rajagopal underscored the need for closer collaboration between governments and cybersecurity experts to strengthen early detection mechanisms, enhance digital verification tools, and build greater resilience against online threats.

Adding a regulatory and media industry perspective, Datuk Zulkarnain Mohd Yasin, Deputy Managing Director (Regulatory & Corporate), focused on the responsibility of broadcasters, digital platforms, and content creators in maintaining ethical standards. He emphasized that regulation must evolve alongside technology to remain effective, while media organizations must reinforce professionalism and accountability. He also highlighted media and digital literacy as a long-term solution, empowering citizens to critically assess information rather than passively consuming content.



In concluding the session, the moderator reiterated that combating fake news in ASEAN requires a holistic and collaborative approach. The forum made clear that no single stakeholder can address the challenge alone. Instead, sustained regional cooperation, balanced regulation, responsible media practices, technological innovation, and an informed public are all essential components of a successful strategy. As ASEAN continues to navigate the complexities of the digital age, strengthening resilience against misinformation remains a shared priority for the region's stability and social cohesion.

AIBD Training Activities

Video Production Using AI Tools (co-hosted by CMF)

Contributed by Im Jongwon, Programme Manager

AIBD expands AI-powered video production workshop in response to strong participant demand. Four-hour hands-on training produces diverse outputs across drama, disaster reporting, and documentary formats.

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) organized an online workshop on AI-powered video production on 31 October 2025, engaging media professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region. This session built on the success of the first workshop held on 22 September 2025, and was expanded to a four-hour format in response to strong participant demand for longer, more in-depth training.

Following the initial workshop, participants emphasized the need for extended hands-on practice. Reflecting this feedback, AIBD added an extra hour of training to the second session. Despite covering the same core theme, the workshop continued to draw strong interest, with over 130 applications received—a clear indication of the growing demand for practical AI video production skills among regional media practitioners.

Titled Workshop on Video Production Using AI Tools, the session was conducted online via Zoom and hosted by AIBD in collaboration with South Korea's Community Media Foundation (CMF). The training was led by Ms. Lee Hae-jin, a media literacy educator specializing in AI-assisted content creation, who guided participants through hands-on exercises that produced diverse outputs across drama, disaster reporting, and documentary formats.

The workshop emphasized enabling participants to produce tangible video outputs within a limited timeframe. Using Canva's AI-powered image generation and design automation features, participants created visual assets, while CapCut's auto-subtitling and AI-assisted editing tools were applied to assemble short videos. By the end of the four-hour session, participants shared and reviewed the completed outputs, gaining practical experience in AI-driven production workflows.

The final outputs showcased a wide spectrum of potential applications. Videos produced during the workshop spanned formats such as short-form drama, disaster news reporting, and documentary-style storytelling. This diversity underscored the versatility of AI tools, demonstrating their relevance not only for promotional or social media content but also for traditional broadcast and journalistic formats.

Throughout the workshop, AI was positioned as an enabler rather than a replacement—supporting editorial judgment and creative decision-making while enhancing efficiency and accessibility in content production. Particular emphasis was placed on how AI tools can lower technical barriers, empowering small production teams and citizen producers working with limited resources.

Participants expressed keen interest in exploring a wider ecosystem of AI tools beyond Canva and CapCut, including Midjourney, Sora, Veo, Kling, and Nanobanana. Their engagement also sparked calls for in-person workshops, where deeper practical exercises and peer exchange could complement online training.

The expanded workshop reaffirmed AIBD's responsiveness to the evolving needs of media professionals in the region. By extending the training duration and maintaining a strong focus on hands-on production, the programme underscored the growing role of AI in modern broadcasting and content creation. More importantly, it laid the groundwork for advanced, diversified training initiatives that will help shape a resilient, innovative, and future-ready media landscape across the Asia-Pacific.



AIBD Training Activities

AIBD & UNESCO's International Programme for the development of communication (IPDC) Workshop in Brunei

Contributed by Naing Naing Aye, Programme Manager



Mr. Cheong Chee Keong, Acting Director of RTB, delivered the official opening address at the workshop. Joining virtually to offer their opening and welcoming remarks were Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, AIBD Secretariat Director/CEO, from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Ms. Yekthi Hesthi Murthi, Project Officer at the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The workshop brought together 20 women journalists and senior editors from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia, representing public broadcasters, private media organizations, and digital platforms. It built upon the first session held in Kuala Lumpur from 5–8 August 2025, which included participants from Malaysia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste. Together, the two sessions extended the initiative's reach to a total of 41 media professionals across Southeast Asia.

The Brunei workshop focused on strengthening safety, ethical reporting, and psychological resilience among women journalists. It delivered hands-on sessions addressing gender-specific 31 safety risks, trauma-informed journalism, crisis communication, and strategies to combat online harassment. Participants also reviewed and adapted draft safety and anti-sexual harassment protocols tailored to their respective newsrooms.



The training was facilitated by Mr. Dandy Koswaraputra, a veteran Indonesian journalist, and Ms. Jackie Viemilawati, a clinical psychologist and mental wellness expert, with virtual support from Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi, Senior Programme Manager at AIBD. The sessions combined theoretical insights with scenario-based discussions, peer exchanges, and practical planning exercises—including the development of internal crisis response systems and newsroom safety audits.



The participant feedback indicated a high level of satisfaction with the workshop's focused content and delivery. Most participants reported that their expectations were "Mostly" or "Fully" met. Sessions on mental readiness, trauma-informed journalism, and crisis response planning were rated as "Excellent" or "Good." Mental health and stress management were highlighted as the most valued topics.

AIBD will continue to support participants through online mentoring, mental health resources, and the development of safety guidelines designed to institutionalize safer and more inclusive newsroom cultures across Southeast Asia. This initiative reflects a growing regional 32 commitment to ensuring that women journalists are protected, prepared, and empowered before, during, and after crises.



AIBD Training Activities

Road Safety Webinar #1: Road Safety Reporting: Solution Journalism and Regional Issues

Contributed by Nabeel Tirmazi, Programme Manager

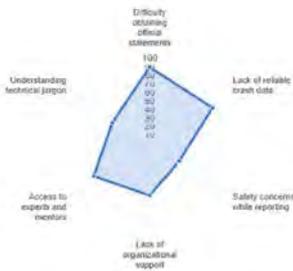
In a critical push to reshape how the world views traffic fatalities, AIBD in collaboration with WHO launched its regional webinar series on Dec. 4, 2025 on road safety reporting.

The event drew 71 media professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region, signalling an urgent recognition that road traffic deaths, often dismissed as "accidents", represent one of the most significant yet preventable public health crises of the modern era.



Why Is Reporting So Hard?

Journalists surveyed identified "Lack of Data" and "Difficulty Obtaining Official Statements" as their biggest hurdles. This chart visualizes the barriers that the training aims to dismantle through data journalism techniques and access to experts.



The Missing Narratives

Participants identified critical areas that mainstream media often ignores:

- POLITICAL ECONOMY**
Transport centers eroding accountability due to influence.
- POST-CRASH TRAUMA**
The economic burden on the injured is rarely calculated.
- RURAL SAFETY**
Small town roads and pedestrian safety are blind spots.

The webinar focused on three primary pillars: data-driven storytelling, the humanization of statistics, and the promotion of the "Safe System" approach. This approach shifts the burden of safety from the individual road user to a shared responsibility between road designers, vehicle manufacturers, and government regulators. Road traffic injuries are currently the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5–29 years worldwide.

Despite this, experts at the session noted that road safety often struggles to remain in the news cycle compared to infectious diseases or political upheavals. To combat this "fatigue," Taylor urged media professionals to investigate the underlying causes of crashes, such as poor lighting, lack of pedestrian infrastructure, and inconsistent enforcement of speed and alcohol laws.

The December session is part of a broader collaboration between AIBD and the WHO, aimed at building a sustained network of "safety-literate" journalists. As the webinar concluded, the call to action was clear: media professionals must transition from being mere chroniclers of 34 tragedy to being catalysts for life-saving change. "Our goal is not just more coverage," Taylor said. "It is better coverage that holds systems accountable and ultimately keeps people alive."

The dominant narrative

- Road 'accidents' are unavoidable
- Speed is progress [freedom, efficiency and growth]
- Road deaths are the price of development
- Road deaths are isolated, local incidents
- Individuals - like drivers or pedestrians - are solely to blame

AIBD Training Activities

Road Safety Webinar #2: AIBD-WHO Webinar on best journalistic practices on Road Safety Reporting

Contributed by Nabeel Trimazi, Programme Manager

Regional media professionals from across Asia gathered virtually on Dec. 11, 2025 to address one of the region's most pressing public health crises: road traffic fatalities. The webinar, a joint initiative by AIBD and WHO marked a critical step in the ongoing Road Safety Reporting series.

The session, aimed to equip journalists with the tools to move beyond "accident" reporting and toward data-driven storytelling that emphasizes prevention and policy reform.

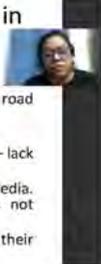
The agenda featured a diverse panel of experts and veteran journalists who shared case studies from Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.

Ms. Phuong Luu, Programme Manager at the AIP Foundation in Vietnam, opened the presentations by highlighting the success of grassroots advocacy and the importance of helmet safety and school-zone speed limits. Her insights underscored how media can support nongovernmental efforts to change local legislation.

Ms. Shahin Akhtar, a senior reporter for New Age in Bangladesh, discussed the challenges of reporting in high-risk environments. Akhtar emphasized the need for journalists to investigate the systemic failures, such as poor vehicle maintenance and licensing loopholes, that lead to frequent mass-casualty incidents on highways.

Introduction: Road Safety situation in Bangladesh

- Road safety is a serious issue in Bangladesh.
- In Bangladesh the number of deaths, injuries in road crashes is very high.
- Still people here lack awareness regarding road safety.
- One of the major reasons behind lack of awareness is – lack of investigative reporting on this issue.
- Many road safety related issues do not come into media. These issues require proper investigation which is not always possible.
- In many cases the reporters do not get support from their workplaces, they lack budget and time.



Mr. Dipak Dash, a senior reporter for the Times of India, pivoted the conversation toward the power of data. Dash showcased how analysing government statistics can reveal "black spots", specific road stretches with high accident rates, allowing journalists to lobby for physical interventions by the state.

The digital evolution of reporting was addressed by Mr. Shiraz Hasnat of Pakistan's Express Media Group and Mr. Tang Hai Ha of VOV Traffic in Vietnam. Mr. Hasnat detailed how social media and English-language news channels can mobilize younger demographics to prioritize road safety. Meanwhile, Mr. Tang Hai Ha illustrated the role of real-time digital and radio synchronization in managing urban traffic flow and preventing congestion-related incidents.

The webinar concluded with a robust Q&A session where participants discussed the ethics of crash photography and the difficulty of obtaining transparent data from local police departments.

The event ended with a group photo of the digital participants, symbolizing a unified regional front. AIBD and WHO reaffirmed their commitment to supporting journalists as they shift the narrative from inevitable tragedy to preventable crisis.

Organizers urged the participating media professionals in attendance to use their platforms to advocate for the "Safe System" approach, focusing on safer roads, safer speeds, and safer vehicles across the Asia-Pacific region.

EVs from last millennium, vehicles registered in 1900: Database anomalies set off clean-up drive

A senior state reporter, who's worked for the last 15 years with Bangladesh's state-owned daily, is also going to contribute to the investigation. The investigation is a joint effort of the Bangladesh Express Media Group and the Bangladesh Express Media Group. The investigation is a joint effort of the Bangladesh Express Media Group and the Bangladesh Express Media Group. The investigation is a joint effort of the Bangladesh Express Media Group and the Bangladesh Express Media Group.

AIBD Training Activities

Road Safety Webinar #3: Community Voice and grass root actions

Global Media experts call for evidence-based reporting to combat road fatality crisis

Contributed by Nabeel Trimazi, Programme Manager

Media practitioners from more than 41 countries from Asia Pacific region gathered virtually for a high-level webinar focused on transforming the narrative of road safety coverage from routine accident reporting to a public health priority.

The event, held on December 18, 2025, was the final online series from the collaborative effort between AIBD and WHO, aimed at equipping journalists with the data and legal frameworks necessary to save lives through informed storytelling. Representing AIBD secretariat, Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi opened the session by mentioning that this webinar aims to bridge the gap between technical data and public understanding by featuring a diverse panel of experts from China, India, Malaysia, South Korea, and Nigeria.

Mr. Qian Xiaoyan, a senior journalist from China Business News (Yicai), led the presentations by detailing the role of business and economic reporting in road safety. Mr. Qian highlighted how infrastructure investment and vehicle safety standards are not just technical issues, but economic ones that require rigorous investigative journalism.

The human element of the crisis was brought to the forefront by Mr. Mukul Goswami, a community media specialist and founder of Box FM in India. Mr. Goswami argued that local radio and community-based media are the most effective tools for reaching rural populations, where road safety education is often most needed but least accessible.

From a scientific and academic perspective, Dr. Kulanthayan Mani of the University of Putra Malaya presented alarming data on the preventability of road crashes. Dr. Mani urged journalists to stop using the word "accident," which implies an unavoidable act of fate, and instead use "crash" or "collision," reflecting that most incidents are the result of specific, addressable risks.

The technological frontier was explored by Dr. Wu Sueng Kook, Head of Road Transport Research in South Korea. Dr. Wu provided a look at how data-driven research and smart city 39 technologies are reducing fatalities in Korea, offering a roadmap for how media can report on successful policy interventions.

The legal dimensions of road safety were addressed by Barrister Stephen Ichukwu, a legal officer with the Federal Road Safety Corps of Nigeria. Barrister Ichukwu provided an overview of the legal hurdles and enforcement challenges in West Africa, emphasizing that media scrutiny is essential for ensuring that road safety laws are not only passed but strictly enforced.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A where participants discussed the challenges of maintaining long-term media interest in road safety beyond the immediate aftermath of a tragedy.

"Media professionals are not just observers; they are key stakeholders in the global effort to reduce road traffic deaths by 50% by 2030," an AIBD representative noted during the closing session.

The webinar ended with a call to action for the attendees to integrate evidence-based reporting and victim-centric narratives into their daily coverage, treating every road death as a preventable failure of the system rather than an inevitable part of modern life.

Road Safety not necessarily sad story

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY VOICES?

- Community voices refers to insights, experiences, and priorities of people who live, work, travel, and live in a neighborhood - not just experts or officials.
- These include residents, pedestrians, school children and teachers, two-wheeler, senior citizens and disabled, local road-side business owners.

WHAT ARE GRASSROOT MEASURES?

- Locally driven, bottom-up actions that improve safety based on real community needs.
- These focus on behavioral change, awareness and environment building.

Way Forward

- Speed down – 30km/h in school zone a good start
- Increase probability being detected – Dash camera
- New norm safety culture – Gifting safety products (CRS)
- Vision Zero Traffic Summonses – Individual, Family, Company
- Diversified enforcement - Self, Family, Community, Employer, State

Road Geometry to Reduce Speed

- The shape of road strongly affecting driver behavior
 - In Korea road designed for 60 km/h or higher, but speed limit under 50km/h – speeding
 - In Netherland "Self Explaining Road" applied for speed control
 - Narrow or curved road making drivers slow down naturally
- Road design standard to be changed
 - On wide road drivers tending to speed up
 - Korean road width standard regulates only minimum, resulting in wide road
 - Minimum criteria to be replaced with range criteria as in European, Japanese, US cities
 - City road width standard examples: Korea greater than 3.0m; Japan 2.75m to 3.5; Germany 3.0m to 3.5m.

School/Youth Education

- Road Safety Education in Schools**
 - Integration of road safety studies into basic education curriculum.
- Road Safety Clubs**
 - Establishment of Road Safety Clubs in schools.

AIBD Training Activities

Global Media experts call for evidence-based reporting to combat road fatality crisis

Contributed by Nabeel Trimazi, Programme Manager

Journalists from five Asian countries came together in Hanoi this November to learn how their storytelling can save lives. AIBD, in collaboration with the WHO and with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, organized a three-day Regional Workshop on Road Safety Reporting at the Green One UN House, Hanoi, Vietnam from 3–5 November 2025.

The workshop gathered 21 journalists from China, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Viet Nam, aiming to strengthen reporting on one of Asia's most pressing yet often overlooked public health challenges, road safety.

Day 1: Framing the Crisis, Changing the Story

The opening session set a powerful tone. Dr Angela Pratt, WHO Representative in Viet Nam, reminded participants that road crashes claim 1.2 million lives every year, with Asia accounting for more than half. “Journalists can save more lives through their stories than doctors can in 41 hospitals,” she said. “The way you frame a story shape how politicians and policymakers think about road safety, and that thinking determines what action follows.”



Joining her on stage, Mr Le Kim Thanh, Executive Vice Chairman of Viet Nam's National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC), shared Viet Nam's steady progress in reducing motorcycle fatalities through better enforcement and safer infrastructure, while acknowledging that “public awareness remains the hardest battle.”

Later that morning, Dr. Nhan Tran, Head of Safety and Mobility at WHO, delivered a global overview of emerging trends and data. In his session, “Safe and Sustainable Mobility: A Primer,” he urged participants to see road crashes not as chance occurrences but as predictable—and preventable—failures of weak systems.

He was followed by Dr. Tashi Tobgay, WHO Regional Advisor on Disability and Injury Prevention, who presented “Road Safety in Asia: Key Issues and Trends.” His address highlighted the importance of evidence-based reporting and the need for collaboration across sectors.

A panel discussion then brought the conversation down to the realities on the ground. Featuring WHO representatives from China, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Viet Nam, and moderated by Mr. Sidharth Pandey, WHO Communications Officer for Southeast Asia, the panel illustrated how enforcement gaps, unsafe road infrastructure, and economic pressures combine to make roads perilous.

In the afternoon, Vietnam's experience took the spotlight. Mr. Tran Huu Minh and Prof. Pham Viet Cuong of NTSC and Hanoi University of Public Health traced decades of policy evolution that positioned Vietnam as a leader in motorcycle safety. Their reflections connected policy frameworks with human behaviour—an interplay journalists were encouraged to capture in their own reporting.

The day concluded with Ms Kelly Larson, Director at Bloomberg Philanthropies, who presented on the Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS). She emphasized how data-driven strategies have helped countries reduce fatalities, noting: “Every country that has changed outcomes started with changing the conversation, and journalists lead that change.”

The day ended with an interactive exercise led by Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi, Senior Programme Manager, AIBD. The session, titled “How Would You Cover This Crash?” Groups analysed a mock road collision scenario, debating framing choices, sources, and headlines. The session underlined how subtle editorial decisions, like avoiding the word “accident”, can shift public perception from fate to accountability





Day 2: From Problems to Possibilities

The second day focused on transforming facts into stories that inspire change. Opening the session, Tirmazi encouraged participants to “connect numbers to faces, and faces to systems,” setting the stage for a day about data, empathy, and solutions. A dialogue on child road safety led by Dr Mohammed Asheel (WHO India) and Dr Tashi Tobgay underscored how young pedestrians and riders remain the most vulnerable. Participants discussed how to humanize policy issues without resorting to sensationalism.

Journalist Shahin Akter from Bangladesh’s New Age shared the daily newsroom challenges of keeping road safety stories relevant in fast-paced environments. Her honesty about audience fatigue struck a chord across the room.

The afternoon turned hands-on. Matthew Taylor, WHO Consultant, introduced Solutions Journalism, explaining how reporters can balance realism and optimism. “We don’t ignore tragedy, we pair it with evidence of what works,” he said. This seamlessly led into Nabeel Tirmazi’s session on “Storytelling with Data.” Tirmazi demonstrated how open data portals, WHO datasets, and free visualization tools can make safety stories more engaging. Participants practiced building narratives around realworld statistics, translating spreadsheets into human stories.

The final session of the day, delivered virtually by Ms. Yolanda (Jinxin) Ma, Programme Lead for AI and Innovation in Journalism at the University of Hong Kong, explored how AI and social media can amplify road safety campaigns. Her message, “Technology should help journalists tell stories that heal, not harm”, resonated deeply. The day concluded with a sense of purpose.

Journalists left the room discussing collaborative ideas, cross-border podcasts, regional data series, and local helmet campaigns, all rooted in responsible journalism.

Day 2: From Problems to Possibilities

The participants headed to Van Phuc Primary School in Ha Dong District to witness a Safe School Zone initiative in action. Children demonstrated how they learn road rules through songs, games, and drawings. The school teachers also highlighted the power of community in safeguarding children and giving awareness on this important issues. It was a reminder that prevention begins with education, and that road safety stories can be both hopeful and human.

After lunch, the group visited Voice of Vietnam (VOV) TV, facilitated by AIBD. Here, they witnessed how local broadcasters use live CCTV feeds to report traffic conditions and educate the public. For many, it was a practical model of how media, technology, and public service can intersect.

The workshop ended back at the UN House with a joint debrief led by Mr. Matthew Taylor and Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi. Participants shared their takeaways and pitched upcoming story ideas. Several planned to investigate helmet compliance, infrastructure gaps, or data transparency in their own countries. Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi closed with a simple reminder: “Good journalism isn’t just about what happened, it’s about what could happen differently next time.”

The Road Ahead

As part of post-workshop activities, WHO and AIBD will support follow-up webinars and provide small story grants for in-depth reports. Participants will also join an active cross-country WhatsApp network to exchange stories, data, and visual resources, extending the workshop’s reach beyond Hanoi. Speaking after the event, Dr Pratt reaffirmed WHO’s commitment to support journalists: “There are many more angles to cover, and many more stories to tell. Journalists have a crucial role in driving change, and we (WHO) are with you.”



For AIBD, this workshop reinforces its mission as a regional center for media development, translating global agendas into newsroom skills and regional collaboration. It also reflects AIBD’s growing focus on AI literacy, data storytelling, and solutions journalism, tools that can turn public health policy into human stories that matter.

By the time the final group photo was taken, the message was clear: road safety is everyone’s story, but journalists make it heard.

AIBD Training Activities

AIBD/ITU Masterclass on Podcasting and Ethical Media Creation

Empowering Pacific Girls through Media and Podcasting

Contributed by Jason Emmanuel Mekkar, Programme Manager & Member Services

The Pacific Girls in ICT Day 2025: Media and Podcasting Workshop and Closing Event was successfully held online on 11 December 2025, bringing together young women and youth from across the Pacific to build skills in digital storytelling, media literacy, and online safety. The event was co-organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).

The programme featured practical training sessions on podcasting and media production alongside sessions on ethical media creation and personal branding. Participants also benefited from an ITU Child Online Protection (COP) awareness session, reinforcing the importance of safe and responsible digital engagement.



Participants joined from across the Pacific region, including Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, and New Zealand, reflecting strong regional participation and collaboration. Students, youth, ICT professionals, educators, media practitioners, and broadcasters actively contributed to discussions, sharing perspectives and experiences.



The closing session highlighted the achievements of the Pacific Girls in ICT Day 2025 Programme, with inspiring reflections from youth representatives and stakeholders. Strong interest was expressed by governments, partners, and young women to further shape future training activities and expand the programme in the coming year.

Through this initiative, AIBD and ITU reaffirmed their shared commitment to inclusive digital transformation, youth empowerment, and strengthening media and ICT capacity across the Pacific - ensuring the next generation of digital storytellers is equipped to use technology creatively, ethically, and responsibly.

In one word, how would you describe today's "Pacific Girls in ICT Day 2025: Online Workshop on Media and Podcasting & 2025 Closing Event"?

Awesome **Learning**
active dialogues
Innovative **collective voices** **Funding support**
Inclusive **Inspiring** **encouraging** **Successful**
Engaging **digital literacy** **Good microphone**
deepen partnerships **Collaboration** **Engaging**
More ICT trainings

AIBD Training Activities

AIBD/UNESCO HQ DPRP Plans

Contributed by Naing Naing Aye, Programme Manager

In a major step toward institutional resilience, public broadcasters in Samoa, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea have designed and developed Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRPs) as part of a regional initiative led by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in partnership with UNESCO.

Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face accelerating climate risks, including intensifying tropical cyclones, rising sea levels, and devastating floods. During such crises, it is essential to strengthen media institutions that can provide life-saving information and official safety instructions.

Each national broadcaster has developed its own DPRP—tailored to local hazards and operational realities yet aligned with UNESCO’s Model Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan for Media Institutions. These plans embed comprehensive safety protocols, editorial safeguards, and continuity strategies to ensure broadcasters can remain on air and continue serving their audiences during emergencies.



The AIBD/UNESCO project, titled “Strengthening Climate Change Narratives and Leveraging AI Tools for Media in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS),” fosters transboundary collaboration. Public service broadcasters from the three countries are jointly developing story concepts to address shared regional threats such as climate migration and food security.

A distinctive feature of the project is its integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into disaster reporting. Participants from all three countries received hands-on training in using AI for data interpretation in climate analysis, as well as for verification and fact-checking.



AIBD Training Activities

AIBD CFI Terra Asia Regional Training in Kuala Lumpur

Contributed by Naing Naing Aye, Programme Manager

A regional training, “Harnessing Satellite Imagery to Transform Environmental Storytelling,” was organized under the Terra Asia project—a collaboration between Canal France International (CFI) and the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), with support from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The event took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from November 17 to 20, 2025.



Sixteen participants from public media outlets across the Indo-Pacific—representing the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji—gathered for the first time at a regional workshop on AI, digital innovation, and fact-checking. The event provided a crucial platform for collaboration, enabling participants to compare challenges and refine story ideas. The opening session featured welcoming remarks from Mr. Robert Bourgoing, CFI trainer and media expert, Ms. Tatine Faylona, CFI regional coordinator, Ms. Naing Naing Aye, AIBD Programme Manager, Mr. Silviu Kondan and Ms. Rowena Symss CFI MEAL experts. Led by Mr. Bourgoing, the four-day program equipped journalists with practical expertise in using freely available satellite data and mapping platforms. Participants explored tools such as Google Earth Pro, the Copernicus Browser, Global Forest Watch, Global Fishing Watch, and the Allen Coral Atlas. They learned not only to interpret satellite imagery but also to craft compelling narratives using timelapses, animated GIFs, and interactive maps. Mr. Bourgoing emphasized the project’s mission, stating: “Arguably, the two most important and urgent global challenges we face are climate change and AI-fuelled disinformation. The CFI Terra Asia program is designed around these two: training participants in covering environmental stories while combating misinformation and disinformation.” Through hands-on exercises, participants gained skills in tracking deforestation, exposing illegal fishing, monitoring coastal erosion, and documenting climate-induced displacement. They also practiced geolocation and fact-checking using satellite imagery, which is particularly valuable for verification in areas where on-the-ground access is limited. Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in a dynamic blend of theory and practice, building proficiency with cutting-edge geospatial tools.



The immediate application of the participants’ new skills is ensured through the project’s support structure. Mr. Bourgoing explained, “A significant part of the Terra Asia program includes a grant to support the production of in-depth stories that put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired by the trainees. Each participating media organization is committed to producing and disseminating at least ten stories, and they will benefit from additional mentoring by me throughout the production stage until June 2026.”



At the closing session, participants presented detailed story concepts that they plan to develop using satellite data and the skills acquired throughout the program. Beginning in October 2025, a ten-part series of online thematic training sessions has been launched for members of AIBD organizations, ensuring that the Terra Asia initiative remains inclusive and widely accessible. The series will continue until May 2026, and interested participants may still register by emailing training@aibd.org.my. Further information about the Terra Asia project is available at: <https://cfi.fr/en/project/terra-asia>.

AIBD Training Activities

AIBD CFI Online Training Series for Environmental Journalism webinar series

Terra Asia Launches 10-Part Online Training Series for Environmental Journalism

Contributed by Naing Naing Aye, Programme Manager



Canal France International (CFI), in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), has introduced a 10-part online training series as part of the Terra Asia project. Although the project primarily targets public media outlets in Indonesia, the Philippines, 49 Papua New Guinea, and Fiji, the webinar series has been broadened to welcome participants from AIBD member organizations across the wider Asia-Pacific region.

The online training program, led by media expert and trainer Mr. Robert Bourgoing, delivers a structured and progressive curriculum designed to equip media professionals with essential digital tools and investigative skills. Its primary goal is to enable the production of high-impact stories on climate change and environmental issues, while simultaneously countering disinformation in these areas.

Running from October 2025 through May 2026, the series covers ten interconnected themes:

1. Artificial Intelligence – Part 1: Introduction to AI tools, including chatbots such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude, with practical guidance on generating text, images, and videos.
2. Artificial Intelligence – Part 2: Ethical and responsible use of AI in journalism, supported by case studies and practical exercises.
3. Cognitive Biases and the Global Fake News Epidemic: Examination of how human psychology and social media algorithms fuel misinformation.
4. Fact-Checking Photos: Techniques and tools to verify the authenticity and origin of digital images.
5. Fact-Checking Videos: Step-by-step methods for authenticating online video content.
6. Geolocating Photos and Videos: Tools and techniques to verify the precise location of visual content.
7. Fact-Checking Websites: Methods to uncover ownership and accountability behind anonymous websites.
8. How to Hack Google: Advanced search strategies for efficient verification.
9. Using Satellite Imagery in Journalism – Part 1: Introduction to satellite imagery for reporting on natural disasters, environmental degradation, climate change, and conflict.
10. Using Satellite Imagery in Journalism – Part 2: Investigative storytelling with satellite imagery, incorporating animated graphics and professional-quality videos using tools such as Google Earth Studio.

Each session runs for two to three hours and is delivered live, allowing participants to interact directly with the trainer and peers across the region. Media professionals from AIBD's 27 member countries are encouraged to register for upcoming sessions by emailing training@aibd.org.my.

Further information about the Terra Asia project is available at: <https://cfi.fr/en/project/terra-asia>.

AIBD Training Activities

AIBD Strengthens Digital Capabilities with In-House Training on Leveraging AI & Tools for Project Management (In-house Training Part 2)



Building on the momentum of its successful January 2025 session, AIBD conducted the second part of its in-house capacity-building training on “Leveraging AI and Tools for Project Management” on 2 December 2025.

AIBD employees advanced their learning on artificial intelligence through In-house Training Part 2.

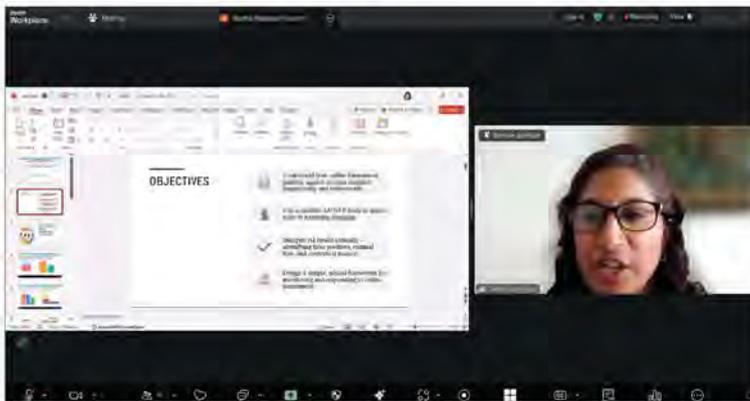
Building on the foundational knowledge introduced in Part 1—where participants explored AI’s role in project management, prompt engineering, and ethical AI use—this second session deepened practical expertise through hands-on learning. The training equipped staff with applied skills to integrate AI into their workflows for the year ahead. The program was led by Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi, Senior Programme Manager at AIBD. Participants learned how to select the most appropriate AI models for specific project tasks, enabling smarter and more efficient workflows.

The session concluded with a wrap-up discussion, a Q&A segment, and a training evaluation to gather feedback for future capacity-building initiatives. Through this proactive upskilling, AIBD ensures its team remains at the forefront as AI continues to reshape the media and development landscape.

AIBD Training Activities

AIBD–UNESCO IPDC Hosts Regional Webinar on AI-Based Strategies to Counter Online Gender-Based Harassment

Technical training highlights API-driven detection, risk scoring, and automated moderation systems



The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), in collaboration with UNESCO’s International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), hosted a regional webinar titled “Using AI to Detect and Counter Online Gender-Based Harassment.” The event was organized as part of the AIBD–UNESCO IPDC Regional Webinars on Empowering Women on Crisis Communication.

The webinar explored how artificial intelligence can be applied to detect, assess, and respond to gender-based online harassment targeting women journalists and communicators, particularly in crisis situations. The session

was led by Dr. Geetha Nadarajan, an AI and data analytics expert specializing in digital media and crisis communication. Dr. Nadarajan emphasized that online gender-based harassment cannot be effectively addressed through ethical declarations or manual moderation alone. In high-risk or crisis contexts, the rapid surge of online content requires automated, data-driven systems capable of operating at scale.

The webinar explored how artificial intelligence can be applied to detect, assess, and respond to gender-based online harassment targeting women journalists and communicators, particularly in crisis situations. The session was led by Dr. Geetha Nadarajan, an AI and data analytics expert specializing in digital media and crisis communication. Dr. Nadarajan emphasized that online gender-based harassment cannot be effectively addressed through ethical declarations or manual moderation alone. In high-risk or crisis contexts, the rapid surge of online content requires automated, data-driven systems capable of operating at scale.

The training examined the technical architecture of AI-powered harassment detection systems. Participants were introduced to workflows that utilize platform APIs, such as the X (formerly Twitter) API, to collect online content. This content is processed in cloud environments and analyzed using AI tools, including the Perspective API. Through this process, individual comments are assigned scaled scores based on toxicity, hatefulness, and threat levels. These scores enable content to be categorized by risk, supporting automated moderation frameworks. Depending on severity, content can be monitored, flagged, de-emphasized, or automatically filtered—allowing organizations to protect communicators while maintaining open digital spaces during crises. The session also demonstrated how tools such as Google Colab can reduce technical barriers, making these systems accessible to smaller media organizations and civil society groups.

The webinar highlighted a broader challenge in journalism training: many programmes remain abstract or declarative, emphasizing values and principles without offering operational tools. In contrast, this technical workshop demonstrated the importance of equipping journalists with practical systems that can be deployed immediately in real-world environments.

Through this initiative, AIBD and UNESCO IPDC underscored the need to move crisis communication training beyond awareness-raising and toward applied, technology-based capacity building—particularly in addressing online gender-based harassment within the digital media landscape.



AIBD Training Activities

AIBD/UNESCO IPDC Regional webinar on “Safety of Women Journalists: Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Psychosocial Wellbeing”



- These data underscores a severe and systemic risk environment for women journalists, making Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) not just beneficial, but mandatory for the profession.
- 80% of journalists say they have experienced work-related trauma (Dart Center, 2022).
- Studies show that between 80 and 100% of journalists have been exposed to a work-related traumatic event with around 93% experiencing repeated and multiple exposures - Smith, R., Nelson, S., & Newman, N. (2027), Weidmann, A., Fishy, L., & Fydrich, T. (2008)
- The work culture, management and system could also causing psychosocial problems
- Female journalists are more likely to face online abuse, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence (UNESCO, 2021).
- Mental wellness impacts decision-making, ethical judgment, and safety.



The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) successfully organized a regional webinar on 10 December 2025 titled “Safety of Women Journalists: Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Psychosocial Wellbeing.” The event was held under the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). This webinar formed part of the follow-up online engagement activities of the AIBD/UNESCO IPDC project “Empowering Women Journalists in Crisis Reporting.” While the core project focused on participants from five countries—Malaysia, Indonesia, the

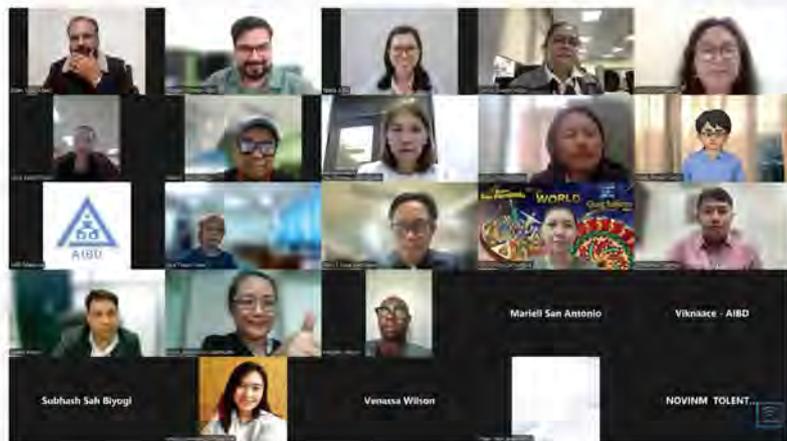
Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Brunei Darussalam—AIBD extended the webinar to include broader participation from its member organizations across the region.

The webinar opened with a presentation by Mr. Nabeel Tirmazi, Senior Programme Manager at AIBD, who outlined the broader AIBD/UNESCO IPDC initiative and shared key findings from an AIBD survey on women in media. His data-driven analysis revealed systemic gaps in institutional support for the safety of women journalists, as well as limited access to mental health resources. The project seeks to bridge policy and practice by addressing power dynamics, reporting mechanisms, bystander responsibility, and response frameworks.

Dr. Anagha Sarpotdar, one of India’s leading experts on workplace sexual harassment, delivered a compelling session using real-world case studies. She emphasized the necessity of organizational compliance with sexual harassment policies, from boundary-setting and documentation to navigating internal grievance mechanisms. She also underscored the collective responsibility of colleagues, managers, and institutions in fostering zero-tolerance environments.

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

SH at WP is not natural. It is about attitude and mindset. It is about misuse of power. It is a learnt behaviour. It can be prevented.



Later, Ms. Jackie Viemilawati, a clinical psychologist and mental wellness expert from Indonesia, led an interactive session on psychosocial wellbeing and trauma-informed self-care. Citing studies that show 80–100% of journalists experience work-related trauma, and that women face disproportionate risks of online abuse and gendered violence, she presented a biopsychosocial model of resilience. Participants practiced evidence-based techniques such as Box Breathing (4-4-4-4), the 5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Method, and the Butterfly Hug—all designed for rapid emotional regulation in high-stress settings. She further emphasized the importance of peer support networks, safety buddies, and organizational policies that normalize mental health check-ins and post-assignment debriefs.

Each session concluded with a dedicated question-and-answer segment. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the sessions as “very helpful” and expressing appreciation for the practical, actionable insights that were shared.

Flagship Events

“Charting New Horizons: AMS 2026 in the Heart of Maldives”: Asia Media Summit 2026: Malé to host Asia-Pacific’s premier Media Dialogue

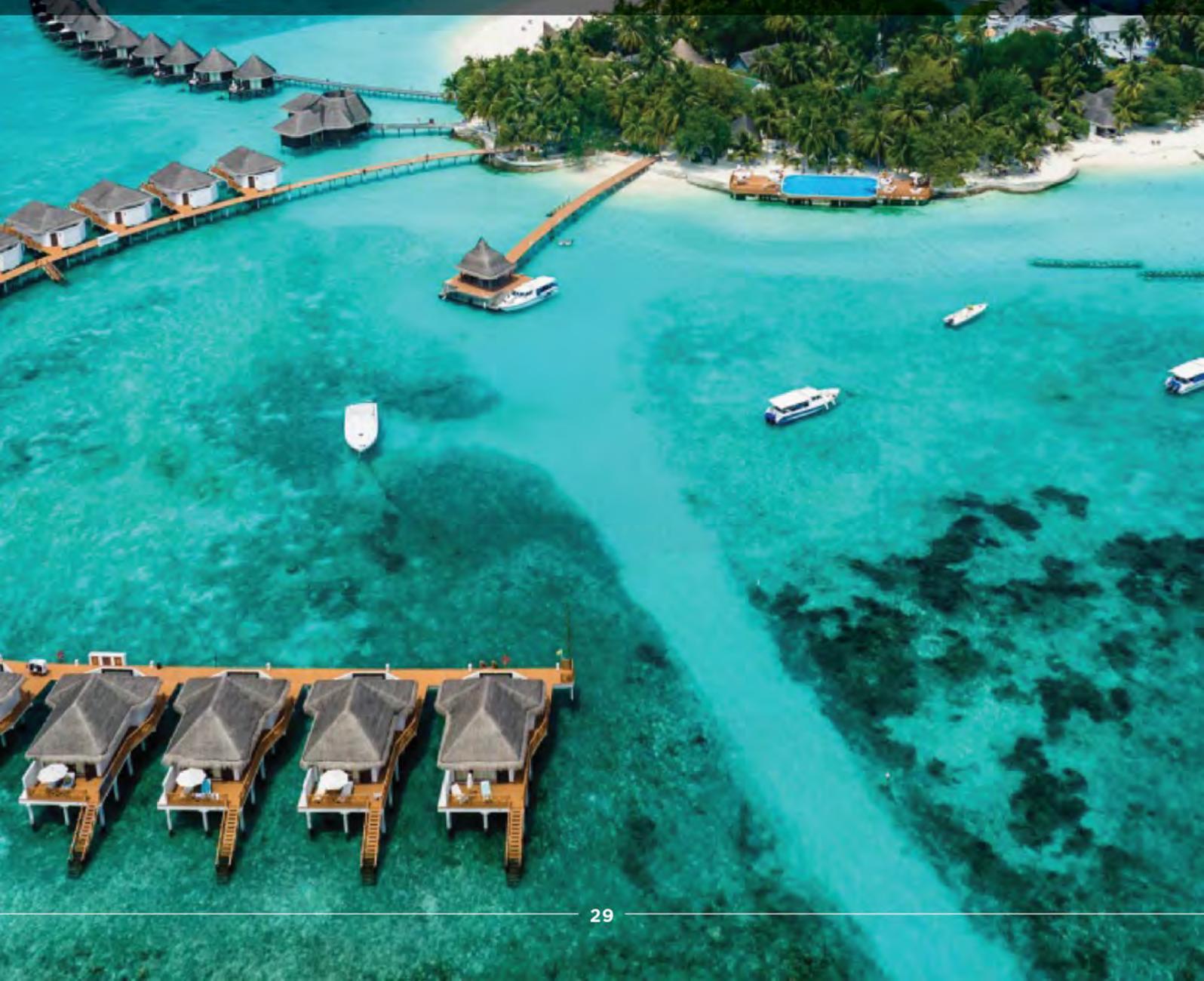


The Asia Media Summit (AMS) enters an exciting new era as the Republic of Maldives prepares to host the 21st edition of this prestigious annual gathering in Malé. Building on two decades of fostering collaboration and innovation, AMS 2026 will bring together media leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to explore the future of broadcasting and digital communication in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Maldives, AMS 2026 promises to be more than a conference—it will be a platform for shaping the next generation of media strategies. Key themes will include digital transformation, sustainability in media operations, AI-driven content creation, and strengthening regional cooperation to ensure media integrity and resilience in the face of global challenges.

The Maldives, with its commitment to sustainable development and technological progress, offers an ideal setting for these discussions. Delegates can expect thought-provoking sessions, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities designed to inspire actionable solutions for broadcasters across Asia-Pacific.

On behalf of AIBD, we extend our deepest gratitude to Cambodia for hosting AMS 2025 with excellence and for passing the torch to Maldives in a spirit of unity and progress. We warmly invite all delegates to Malé for AMS 2026 and look forward to welcoming you to an event that will redefine the role of media in promoting peace, connectivity, and innovation.





24TH GENERAL CONFERENCE GC2026 MAHÉ, SEYCHELLES

AUGUST 2026

Flagship Events

Seychelles to Host the 24th AIBD General Conference in 2026

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is pleased to share that preparations are underway for the 24th AIBD General Conference (GC 2026), which is expected to take place in Mahé, Seychelles, in August 2026. As one of AIBD's flagship annual events, the General Conference brings together member states, affiliate members, partners, and key stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond. It serves as a vital platform for high-level dialogue, strategic direction-setting, and the strengthening of regional and inter-regional cooperation in broadcasting and media development.

GC 2026 in Mahe, Seychelles is anticipated to address priority issues shaping the media landscape, including digital transformation, emerging technologies, media sustainability, information integrity, and capacity building for public service media.

The attendees will also have the opportunity to experience the island's unique culture and natural beauty, with Seychelles renowned for its rich heritage, pristine beaches, and warm hospitality. AIBD looks forward to engaging its members and partners in GC 2026 and will provide further updates as arrangements are confirmed.

New Initiatives

Surveillance Audit of ISO 9001:2015 to AIBD: Report & Result

Technical training highlights API-driven detection, risk scoring, and automated moderation systems

AIBD renewed the three-year certification of Quality Management Systems (QMS) ISO 9001:2015 through re-certification audit in October last year. This certification remains valid subject to satisfactory yearly surveillance audits. Therefore, the surveillance audit was conducted on 29 October 2025 by the certification body, SGS (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. Systems and Services Certification. SGS (Malaysia) is affiliated with the International Standards Accreditation Services (ISAS).

The AIBD Secretariat audit team completed the internal audit in accordance with the scheduled audit plan for 2025. No non-conformities were identified across 17 procedures. The internal audit for ISO-P-PROD-02 Co-Production was not conducted due to the absence of coproduction activities. The audit team prepared internal audit reports for the 17 procedures, along with the Consolidated Quality Report (CQR) 2024.



The surveillance audit was successfully carried out by the lead external auditor, Mr. Adam Lim. The objective of this audit was to determine the conformity of the management system, or parts of it, with the established audit criteria.

The scope of the surveillance audit encompassed all activities organized by AIBD, including training, consultancy, publication, content production, and the organization of conferences and workshops. The lead external auditor reviewed evidence of the closure of Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and observations raised during the 2024 re-certification audit. He assessed the Institute's performance and reconfirmed that the management system is well established and aligned with ISO standards. Audit methods included interviews, random sampling of activities, and a review of documentation and records.



No major non-conformities were identified during the surveillance audit. The overall performance and maintenance of the quality system were found to be in compliance with ISO requirements. The certification scope remains appropriate, audit objectives have been achieved, the audit plan was followed, the audit programme is adequate, and corrective actions taken in response to previously identified non-conformities were confirmed to be effective.



AIBD obtained the Quality Management Certificate, ISO 9001:2003 and ISAS BC 9001:2008, in 2009 as a testament to its competence and credibility in advancing media development initiatives across the Asia-Pacific region. By renewing the ISO Management System Certification, AIBD seeks to reinforce its position as a quality-driven organization, enhance efficiency and performance, and strengthen the quality management skills of its staff.

Audit Summary

- Management system documentation demonstrated conformity with the requirements of the audit standards and provided sufficient structure to support the implementation and maintenance of the management system.
- Effective implementation and improvement of the management system was evident, with the organization capable of achieving its stated policy objectives.
- Monitoring and compliance processes confirmed the system's ability to meet applicable statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements.
- Key performance objectives and targets were established, tracked, and progress was monitored toward their achievement.
- Internal audit program was fully implemented and demonstrated effectiveness as a tool for maintaining and improving the management system.
- Management review process showed capability to ensure the continuing suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system.
- Overall conformance with the requirements of the audit standards was demonstrated throughout the audit process.

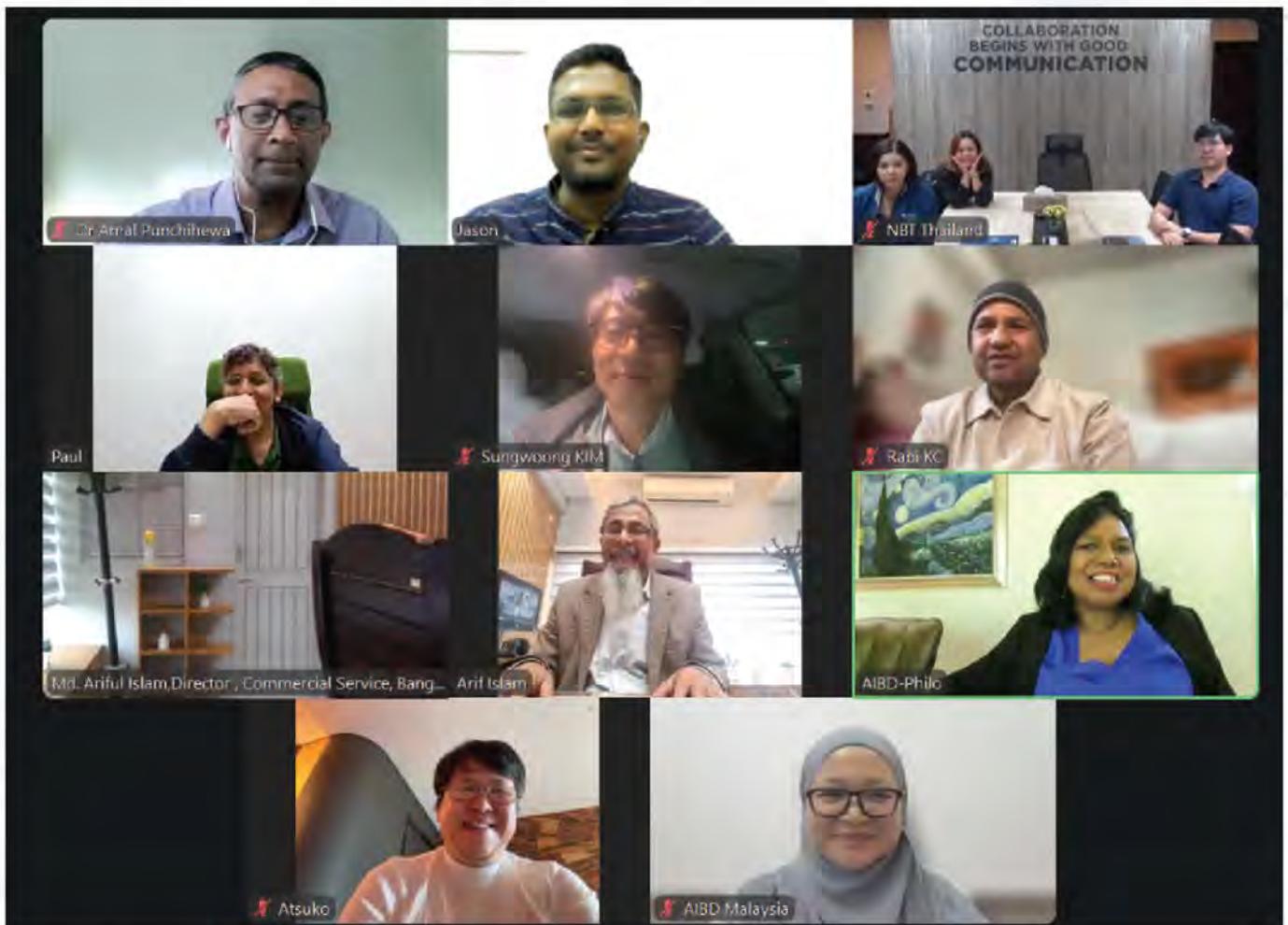
New Initiatives

AIBD Concludes 4th Quarter 2025 Strategic Planning Team Meeting

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) successfully convened its 4th Quarter Strategic Planning Team (SPT) Meeting for 2025 on 4 December 2025, held virtually via Zoom. The meeting marked the final SPT session of the year and brought together AIBD leadership, advisors, and representatives from key regional and international institutions to review progress, exchange views, and outline forward-looking priorities.

The session was chaired and opened by Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretariat Director/CEO of AIBD, who welcomed participants and highlighted the meeting's purpose of reflecting on achievements in 2025 while setting the direction for the coming period. A key focus of the meeting was the update on AIBD's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2029). Members were briefed on progress made throughout the year. Updates were also shared on AIBD's global advocacy efforts and flagship events, including the successful organization of the Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2025 and the General Conference (GC).

The discussion segment provided a platform for constructive feedback and strategic input. Participants underscored the importance of sharpening AIBD's strategic focus, strengthening research outputs, and accelerating work in priority areas such as artificial intelligence, information integrity, sustainable business models for broadcasters, disaster and emergency communication, and climate-related media capacity. Insights from international developments and regional needs were shared to ensure AIBD's programmes remain relevant and impactful. In closing, Ms. Philomena expressed appreciation to all SPT members and advisors for their guidance and contributions throughout 2025, noting that the year had seen strong partnerships, increased visibility, and steady programme delivery despite a rapidly evolving media landscape. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to further strengthen AIBD's role as a regional hub for media development, training, and policy dialogue in the years ahead.



Global Network

AIBD participates in WTDC-25 in Baku, Azerbaijan

Contributed by Don Dhammika, Programme Manager



The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) officially commenced on 17 November 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan, under the theme “Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future.” Organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this prestigious event continued until 28 November 2025.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) served as a global platform for dialogue and collaboration on strategies to bridge the digital divide and foster inclusive connectivity. With participation from more than 2,600 delegates representing around 160 countries, the conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and development partners to shape the future of digital transformation.

Representing the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Chief Executive Officer, expressed her enthusiasm for the conference and highlighted its significance in promoting equitable access to digital technologies. She emphasized that universal and affordable connectivity is essential to empowering communities and driving sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region.

The AIBD delegation, led by Ms. Gnanapragasam, actively engaged with stakeholders, partners, and colleagues from diverse sectors throughout the event. This participation underscored AIBD’s commitment to fostering partnerships and exploring innovative solutions that enhance broadcasting and digital media development in its member countries. WTDC-25 provided an important opportunity for AIBD to: Strengthen collaborations with global and regional partners. Exchange insights on emerging technologies and digital inclusion. Advocate for capacity-building initiatives that support broadcasters in adapting to the evolving digital landscape.





WTDC-25 Moments: Capturing Connections in Baku

Throughout the conference, AIBD worked to harness the opportunities provided by this platform to strengthen its commitment to sustainable broadcasting development and to guarantee that no community is excluded from the benefits of digital transformation.

Global Network

AIBD CEO Featured in Exclusive ITU Interview at WTDC-25

Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Chief Executive Officer of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), participated in an exclusive interview hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2025 in Baku. During the discussion, she shared impactful insights on ITU's evolving role and the future of broadcasting and telecommunications. Ms. Gnanapragasam also expressed her appreciation for ITU's continued support and conveyed her best wishes for the success of the conference.



Global Network

Malaysia hosts lunch reception at WTDC-25 in Baku

During the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Malaysia organized a special lunch reception for delegates under the auspices of Datuk Ahmad Fahmi bin Mohamed Fadzil, Malaysia's Minister of Communications. The event aimed to strengthen Malaysia's campaign for Visit Malaysia 2026 and support its re-election bid to the ITU Council for the next term. The reception provided an excellent opportunity for networking and showcasing Malaysia's commitment to global digital development.



Global Network

AIBD Joins ITU Global Youth Celebration 2025 in Baku



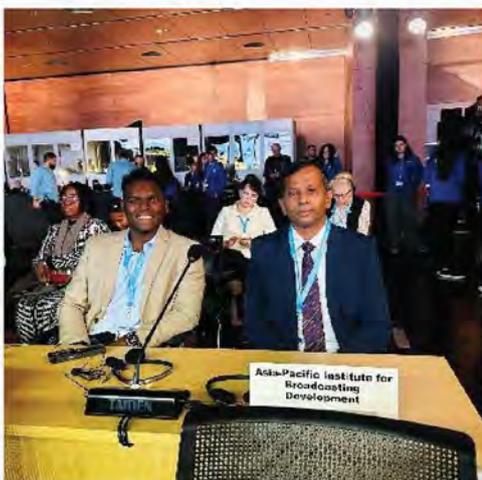
AIBD participated in the ITU Global Youth Celebration 2025 in Baku, held alongside WTDC 25, where young leaders and innovators gathered to explore the future of ICT and space technologies.

The event opened with remarks from Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Samaddin Asadov, and ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau Director Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, who highlighted the vital role of youth in digital transformation.



Participants joined interactive sessions across key institutions. The National Aviation Academy hosted discussions on using ICT to create equal opportunities, followed by tours of aerospace labs and simulators. At the STEAM Innovation Center, astronauts from Türkiye and Romania discussed how telecommunications enable space exploration. Meanwhile, the SPACE Academy of Azercosmos offered hands-on training on building antennas and establishing communication links with the International Space Station.

The programme concluded with a cultural networking session that connected WTDC 25 delegates, young professionals, and public sector leaders. AIBD's presence reaffirmed its commitment to empowering youth and advancing ICT and media development across the region.



Global Network

AIBD Participates in the 2025 UWA Summit and World Ultra HD Video Industry Alliance Members Conference

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) participated in the 2025 UWA Summit and World Ultra HD Video Industry Alliance Members Conference, held in Shenzhen under the theme “Infinite Brilliance, Intelligent Creation for the Future.”

During the UWA Summit Keynote Forum, various speakers and professors highlighted China’s innovations and standardization efforts in the Ultra HD sector. Awards were presented to several

working groups for their outstanding contributions. Discussions primarily focused on Ultra High Definition (UHD) technologies—particularly HDR Vivid and Audio Vivid—as well as the evolution of UHD-TV technology and standards in the AI era. A key announcement was made at the conference regarding China’s independently developed 3D audio standard—Audio Vivid—for in-car applications, which has reached a major milestone with over one million in-car installations.



The following day, a closed-door session titled “International Bridge Panel” was held for international delegates, focusing on HDR Vivid and Audio Vivid developments. The session, moderated by Mr. Leming Fu, brought together representatives from TVRI Indonesia (an AIBD member), South Korea, Singapore, Myanmar, the United Kingdom, and several Chinese companies. AIBD was represented by Ms. Philomena, Director of AIBD, and Mr. Rabi K.C., Advisor Board Member.

Ms. Philomena provided an overview of AIBD’s mission, services, and ongoing initiatives, especially for delegates new to the organization. She highlighted the benefits of AIBD membership and welcomed new members and potential partnerships with international and local organizations.

Mr. Rabi K.C. presented a regional overview of broadcast technology adoption and readiness in Southeast Asia, outlining the progress in HD and UHD implementation, and the challenges and opportunities in transitioning from HD to UHD. He emphasized the need for greater regional collaboration between AIBD and Southeast Asian broadcasters.

Speakers at the UWA Summit represented a complete ecosystem of the UHD industry, including professionals from camera, display, LED, monitor manufacturing, content production, research institutions, system integration, and the UWA Secretariat—demonstrating the full chain required to produce and broadcast HDR Vivid and Audio Vivid content.

The Ultra HD World Association (UWA), established in January 2022, continues to promote technological innovation, standard development, and the global adoption of ultra-highdefinition video technologies.



Global Network

Innovation and Solidarity: The 45th ASBU General Assembly Charts a New Course for Arab Media



The Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) successfully concluded its 45th General Assembly, held from 16 to 17 December 2025 in Tunis. The assembly opened with remarks by ASBU President Mohammad bin Fahd Al-Harithi, who welcomed delegates and outlined a vision centered on technological leadership and global cooperation. A key outcome of the session was the re-election of Mr. Al-Harithi as President and the renewal of the mandate for Director-General Abdelrahim Suleiman. These decisions reflect the union's stability and reaffirm confidence in its current strategic direction.

A partnership of decades: strengthening ties with AIBD

The assembly reaffirmed its longstanding partnership with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), represented by Mr. Rabi (Adviser) and Mr. Jongwon (Programme Manager). In his address, Mr. Rabi underscored that cooperation between ASBU and AIBD has remained a robust relationship since the 1980s. He emphasized that this bond—spanning more than four decades—has successfully bridged geographical and cultural divides, fostering a professional community built on “respect and friendship.” This enduring partnership continues to serve as a vital channel for exchanging best practices and navigating the complexities of today's global media environment.



Generative AI and Technological Sovereignty

Technological innovation took centre stage with the launch of the Arab AI Initiative for Technological Leadership and Sustainable Development. ASBU is actively integrating Generative AI into its audiovisual production and news exchange systems to empower member broadcasters. A notable project in this field is the collaboration between the ASBU Academy and UNESCO, which applies AI-driven multilingual translation to the prestigious series Ancient and Contemporary Arab Philosophers. This initiative demonstrates how AI can serve as a powerful tool to support creativity rather than replace human talent. To ensure the ethical application of these technologies, ASBU is also working with international partners, including the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), to establish robust security and governance frameworks.



Financial Self-Sufficiency and Strategic Infrastructure

ASBU's ambitious vision is reinforced by a remarkable financial success story. Since adopting a profit-oriented investment strategy in 2017, the union's investment income has grown from 69 approximately USD 2.7 million in 2016 to more than USD 20 million in 2025—a tenfold increase. This financial autonomy enables ASBU to fund major infrastructure projects independently, thereby alleviating financial burdens on its member states.

As part of this growth, ASBU is finalizing significant physical and digital assets, including the ASBU Link Centre—a 15-storey multi-purpose hub—and the transformation of the Carton Hotel in Damascus into a world-class facility featuring a Creative Production Centre. These developments are supported by a digital revolution led by the deployment of the ASBU Cloud and ASBU Plus platforms, which have fundamentally enhanced the speed and efficiency of global news and programme exchanges.



Vision for 2026

Director-General Abdelrahim Suleiman commended the enduring “spirit of teamwork” that continues to drive the union's ambitions. Looking ahead, ASBU will reconvene in Tunis in June 2026 to advance the integration of its AI-based systems and expand its unified training networks. The outcomes of the 45th General Assembly, held on 16 and 17 December, 2025 reaffirmed that through a combination of technological foresight, financial stability, and historical solidarity—exemplified by its 40-year partnership with AIBD—ASBU has established itself as a leading force in the global media landscape.

Research Article

Rights and Freedoms in the Digital Era of Broadcasting

How technology is reshaping the balance between connection and control

Contributed by Shirley Jacob, Researcher, Former Consultant, Prasar Bharati

We live in strange times. Information moves faster than ever before, yet somehow, we seem to know less about who's watching us consume it. The digital age has fundamentally changed broadcasting—from the days when families gathered around a single television set to now, when each of us carries a personalized content stream in our pockets. Streaming platforms, social media feeds, and algorithm-driven recommendations have replaced traditional radio towers and satellite dishes. But this evolution isn't just about convenience or choice. It's about power, privacy, and the fundamental human rights that hang in the balance.

Who Really Controls the Narrative?

Human rights sound abstract until you realize they're as essential as clean water. They're what allow us to speak without fear, access information without censorship, and live our lives without constant surveillance. But as broadcasting goes digital, some uncomfortable questions emerge: Who decides what we see? How much do they know about us? And when does innovation cross the line into invasion?

These aren't hypothetical concerns anymore. They're playing out in real time, affecting everyone from journalists reporting from war zones to teenagers scrolling TikTok before bed. The Privacy We've Already Lost Remember when watching TV meant just... watching? The broadcaster sent out a signal, you received it, and that was that. No data collection, no personalization, no tracking. Those days are gone. Today's platforms—Netflix, YouTube, TikTok—don't just deliver content. They study you. They track what you watch, when you pause, what makes you laugh, what makes you cry. Some even use facial recognition to gauge your emotional responses. This isn't about improving your experience. It's about turning you into a data point that can be monetized.

Take facial recognition at sports stadiums. Broadcasters are partnering with tech companies to scan crowds during live events, supposedly to "enhance viewer engagement" with AR filters and targeted advertising. Cities like London and New York have run pilot programs where cameras at concerts and matches feed data back to broadcasters for "better storytelling." But nobody asked the people in those crowds for permission. They're just there, and suddenly they're data.

The EU's GDPR is supposed to prevent this kind of thing, requiring proportionality and consent. But enforcement is slow, and global platforms are fast. Profit wins.

The AI Bias Problem : Here's something that should alarm everyone: the AI systems broadcasters use to identify people—for automated subtitles, content moderation, whatever— get it wrong for people of color 34% of the time, compared to just 8% for white people. That's not a bug. That's a feature of systems trained on biased data sets. When these tools decide who gets amplified and who gets flagged, they're not neutral. They're perpetuating the same discrimination that's always existed, just now with the veneer of technological objectivity.

The AI Bias Problem	
Group	Misidentification Rate
White Individuals	8%
People of Color	34%

Data from Algorithmic Justice League, 2023

The Myth of "Disconnecting"

France tried something interesting in 2017—they banned after-hours work emails. It was an attempt to establish a "right to disconnect," particularly important for freelance journalists and content creators who basically live on apps like X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. But digital broadcasting has blurred every boundary that used to exist.

During the 2024 Paris Olympics, we saw what happens when global events meet global inequality. A freelance reporter working for BBC Africa from Kenya might be monitored 24/7 through employer apps, with no labour protections at all. AI tools track keystrokes and webcam feeds under the guise of "productivity metrics," but really, they're just making it impossible for people to rest. The mental health implications are obvious, but nobody seems to be doing much about it. And then there's content moderation—the new battleground for free speech. Platforms like Meta act as de facto broadcasters now, with complete control over what gets seen and what gets buried. During Brazil's 2025 elections, Meta's algorithms amplified far-right misinformation while suppressing progressive voices. Lawsuits followed, invoking Brazil's Marco Civil da Internet. But the damage was done. This is the paradox: is content moderation protecting us from hate speech, or is it just censorship wearing a friendly mask?

Climate Justice and Digital Inequality

Broadcasting shapes how we understand climate change. Live streams of Australian wildfires or Bangladeshi floods bring these crises into our living rooms. But access to this information isn't equal. Meanwhile, millions of "digital refugees"—people displaced by climate disasters— can't access the internet to get evacuation alerts or apply for aid. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 28% of people are online. Traditional community radio fills some gaps, but the global shift to digital deliberately favours wealthy, urban audiences. Indigenous communities in the Amazon face pollution and displacement with almost no voice on global platforms because algorithms prefer viral, western content.

The Numbers Tell the Story

Let me give you the scale of global digital inequality. As of 2025: 6 billion people are online (about 75% of the world) 2.2 billion people remain completely offline 240 million new users came online just this year But 96% of those still offline live in low- and middle-income countries

The International Telecommunication Union released these figures, and while they celebrate "progress," I see a different story. Three-quarters connected sounds impressive until you realize the remaining quarter—nearly 2.2 billion people—are systematically excluded from the conversation.

Who Gets Left Behind?

Category	Online	Offline	The Gap
Rich countries	94%	6%	Almost everyone's connected
Poor countries	23%	77%	Three-quarters excluded
Men vs. Women	77% vs. 71%	23% vs. 29%	6% gender gap
Urban vs. Rural	85% vs. 58%	15% vs. 42%	27% location penalty
Youth vs. Others	82% vs. 72%	18% vs. 28%	Age matters too

Source: ITU Facts and Figures 2025

Look at those numbers. Being poor, female, rural, or older means you're far more likely to be shut out of the digital conversation entirely. This isn't just about entertainment—it's about access to education, healthcare information, job opportunities, and democratic participation.

The UN recognized clean air and water as human rights in 2022. Broadcasters could help hold polluters accountable. HBO's "The Story of Plastic" did mobilize action. But here's the catch: oil companies spend \$20 billion annually on advertising, much of it greenwashing their image on the very platforms that could expose them. Low-income American households might rely on free streaming for climate education, but data caps throttle their access. You can't participate in democracy if you can't afford to stay informed.

The Gig Economy's Hidden Casualties

Think about the actual people creating digital content—podcasters, influencers, streamers. They're the new broadcasting workforce, except platforms like Twitch and OnlyFans classify them as "independent contractors." No health insurance. No union rights. No job security. The Guardian experimented with four-day workweeks in 2024, treating rest as an actual right. Good for them. But what about the BBC correspondent streaming from a bunker in Ukraine, navigating labor laws across multiple countries while under VPN surveillance?

Microsoft's Viva analyses your email sentiment to detect "burnout." Sounds helpful, right? Except its surveillance. It's the "always-on" culture of digital newsrooms weaponized into software. Personal boundaries don't exist anymore.

Bodies, Healthcare, and Who Gets to Tell These Stories

Broadcasting shapes how we think about health. Anti-vaccine podcasts spread hesitancy. Disability representation (or lack thereof) shapes attitudes. After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, Planned Parenthood's YouTube channel got demonetized for "sensitive content." That meant people in conservative states lost access to basic reproductive health information because a platform decided it was too controversial for advertisers.

Medical debt affects 41% of Americans, according to KFF, but you'd barely know it from mainstream broadcasting. Sensationalism sells. Systemic analysis of healthcare as a human right (like Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) doesn't.

Disability rights expose another gap. Fifteen percent of the global population lives with disabilities, but closed captions on live streams are inconsistent at best. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities mandates inclusive media, yet auto-generated subtitles 73 fail constantly, especially for non-English speakers. We have the technology. We just don't prioritize accessibility.

When Your Home Determines Your Connection

Housing crises intersect with broadcasting in ways people don't think about. Get evicted? You lose internet access. That means no virtual town halls, no job listings on LinkedIn Live, no connection to the civic infrastructure that's increasingly digital-only. Globally, 2.6 billion people lack internet entirely. That turns digital broadcasting into a luxury good. Food insecurity means families skip data plans to buy meals. Seventeen million children in the U.S. live in food-insecure households. They're missing educational content because their parents can't afford both internet and groceries. During COVID-19, low-income students lost 20% more learning time than their wealthier peers, partly because they lacked access to broadcast alternatives like public radio.

The UN says internet access is essential infrastructure (Resolution 74/135), but 5G rollouts prioritize affluent neighbourhoods. The pattern is clear and deliberate. Then there's the "right to repair" movement. Your smart TV gets bricked by a firmware update? Too bad. The manufacturer controls your device, mirroring the broader issue of who actually owns digital content and infrastructure. It's not you. Protection or Restriction? Some Thing, Really Here's the philosophical thread connecting all of this: governments and platforms claim they're protecting us while systematically restricting our rights. Pre-installed apps that can't be removed aren't optional. They're surveillance. History keeps repeating this pattern. Colonial powers restricted native media to "civilize" populations. Governments suspend broadcasts during unrest for "public safety." Each individual measure seems reasonable in isolation, but cumulatively, they create a world where protection means presumed guilt.

The Violence We're Not Talking About

Some recent numbers that should disturb everyone: Digital violence against women now affects 117 countries Russia issued 30 times more takedown orders after 2022, blocking over 33,000 videos

The gender gap online is 77% men vs. 71% women

Urban vs. rural access is 85% vs. 58%

It's the boiling frog metaphor. Each content filter, each data-sharing mandate, seems fine alone. Together, they're building a cage. When does a firewall stop protecting and start imprisoning?

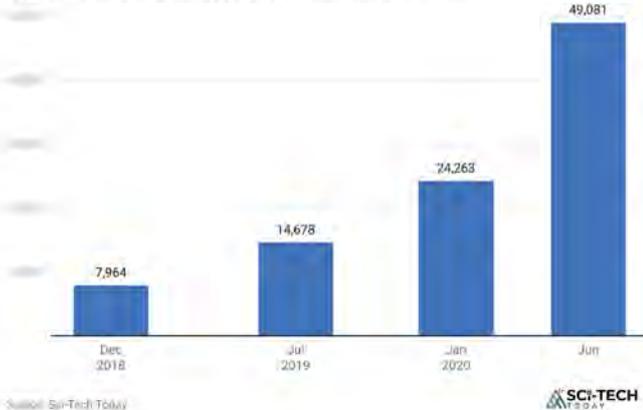
Who benefits when "guardians" access all our feeds?

The Deepfake Tsunami

We need to talk about deepfakes because this threat is accelerating faster than most people realize.

Deepfake Growth (2019-2025)

Number of Deepfakes Identified Online



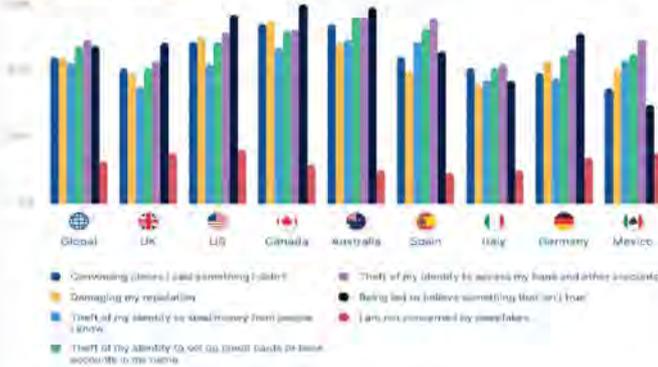
Source: Sci-Tech Today



That's a 550% increase between 2019 and 2024. Malicious deepfake incidents increased tenfold between 2022 and 2023 alone. This isn't a future problem—it's happening right now, eroding trust in everything we see and hear through broadcasting channels.

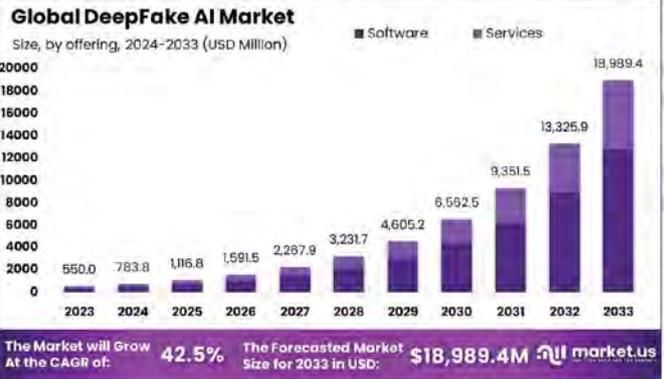
Digital broadcasting has expanded access to information, but it's simultaneously undermining human rights through surveillance, censorship, and algorithmic bias. Citizens face state spyware targeting activists, internet shutdowns during elections and deepfakes that make truth itself negotiable. Biased algorithms in content moderation disproportionately harm journalists, women, and minorities. The civic space is shrinking because platforms have too much unchecked power.

Which of the following worries you most about how deepfakes could be used against you? Please select all that apply.



(Source: [proov.com](https://www.proov.com))

Overall, these DeepFake AI statistics outline an urgent need for systemic defense. The battle against deepfakes is for the integrity of our information, the security of our finances, and the foundational trust in our digital interactions. So use these statistics as your most valuable assets. They are the data points that empower you to ensure better security, invest in advanced detection, and implement human-centric verification protocols that cannot be breached by an AI clone.



The Market will Grow At the CAGR of: **42.5%** The Forecasted Market Size for 2033 in USD: **\$18,989.4M** market.us

(Source: [market.us](https://www.market.us))

According to Market.us, the deepfake has created a massive, dual-sided market: the growth of the technology itself and the urgent security market to counter it. These are two of the fastestgrowing sectors in the AI economy.

Small Signs of Progress

Some pushback is working. FIFA faces pressure to enforce human rights standards for the 2026 World Cup, with activists demanding host nations guarantee press freedom and access. UN reports are calling for moratoriums on spyware until proper human rights safeguards exist. Businesses are finally facing pressure for algorithmic transparency, especially as disinformation affects election outcomes. It's not enough yet, but it's something.

Philanthropy matters here too. Foundations back independent broadcasters who can't compete with corporate monopolies otherwise. Gen Z activists are live-streaming protests globally, using drones for refugee reporting and blockchain for verified journalism.

What Needs to Happen

We need transparent policies and proportionate technology. Data collection should require genuine, informed consent—not pre-checked boxes in terms of service nobody reads. Platforms need accountability structures with real teeth. Internet access should be guaranteed as essential infrastructure, like roads or electricity. Workers in digital broadcasting need the right to actually disconnect without losing their livelihoods.

Broadcasting has to evolve from profit-driven to purpose-led. That means bias mitigation in algorithms, inclusive access regardless of income or location, and ensuring digital airwaves serve human dignity instead of corporate control.

Six Things That Would Actually Help

Mandatory, transparent AI audits with public results
Real data protection enforcement, not just regulations without consequences
Funding for open-source broadcasting tools that marginalized creators can actually use
International standards for platform accountability (with penalties)
Universal internet access treated as human rights infrastructure
Legal protection for the right to disconnect from work

The Future We're Fighting For

Public resistance works. We've seen it with the backlash against surveillance apps, with youth climate activists forcing media coverage, with athletes using their platforms to highlight human rights abuses. Human rights aren't about rejecting technological progress—they're about demanding that progress serves human dignity rather than eroding it.

Protection without freedom isn't sanctuary. It's just a prettier cage. As we navigate these digital airwaves, we need to insist on something better: a broadcasting future where rights aren't restricted but reclaimed, where technology amplifies voices instead of silencing them, and where connection doesn't require surrendering our autonomy. That's the future worth fighting for. The question is whether enough of us will demand it before the cage door closes completely.

APAC Media New Movers

AIBD Congratulates Mr. Ahmed Shakeeb on His Appointment as Managing Director of PSM

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) extends its sincere congratulations to Mr. Ahmed Shakeeb on his appointment as Managing Director of Public Service Media (PSM), Maldives.

With more than four decades of experience across education, governance, and media, Mr. Shakeeb brings strong leadership and deep institutional knowledge to public service broadcasting. AIBD stands ready to support his vision in strengthening PSM and advancing informed public discourse.

Mr. Shakeeb began his career as an educator and has since held senior leadership roles, including Director General at the Office of the President, the National Institute of Education, and the Department of Public Examinations, where he contributed significantly to national education reforms. He holds postgraduate qualifications from Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand, and has undertaken extensive international training supported by UNESCO and SAARC.

A seasoned broadcaster, Mr. Shakeeb served as a presenter and newscaster with Television Maldives for more than 20 years. He is also an award-winning writer and recipient of the President's Award on Children's Publication for Bodu Thakurufaanu.

AIBD looks forward to working closely with Mr. Ahmed Shakeeb and PSM in advancing public service broadcasting across the region.



Mr Ahmed Shakeeb
Managing Director, PSM

APAC Media New Movers

Saudi Broadcasting Authority Charts a New Course Under CEO Mr. Ali bin Abdullah Al-Zaid

The Saudi Broadcasting Authority (SBA), the Kingdom's flagship public broadcaster, has entered a new phase with the appointment of Mr. Ali bin Abdullah Al-Zaid as Chief Executive Officer. Announced by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Media and Chairman of SBA, His Excellency Salman Al-Dossary, the leadership transition marks an important moment for one of the region's most influential media institutions.

Mr. Al-Zaid takes the helm following the departure of long-serving CEO Mr. Mohammed Fahad Al-Harhi, who led SBA since 2020 and helped guide its evolution through a period of media expansion and strategic collaboration.

With more than 20 years of experience across Saudi Arabia's media landscape, Mr. Al-Zaid brings strong editorial and executive expertise to his new role. His career spans leadership positions at major national outlets, including Al-Watan, Asharq Al-Awsat, and Makkah newspaper and most recently as President of the Saudi Press Agency. Throughout his career, he has built a reputation for strategic thinking, responsible content stewardship, and operational excellence.



Mr Ali bin Abdullah Al-Zaid
Chief Executive Officer, SBA

In stepping into this role, Mr. Al-Zaid inherits an organisation at the heart of Saudi media. SBA oversees the Kingdom's major television and radio networks, serving millions of viewers and listeners with news, cultural programming, religious content, and national storytelling, all within the framework of Saudi Arabia's evolving media ecosystem.

Members/Partners' Insights

SLBC 100 Years Anniversary

Contributed by Don Dhammika, Programme Manager

Congratulations to Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) for the milestone of 100 Years of Broadcasting Excellence



Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) Celebrates 100 Years of Pioneering Radio

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), Asia's oldest radio broadcaster and the world's second-oldest public broadcasting institution, proudly marked its centenary—a milestone that reflects a century of innovation, cultural stewardship, and global influence.

A Historic Beginning

The journey began in 1923, when Edward Harper of the Telegraph Department conducted experimental broadcasts using a transmitter reportedly built from captured German submarine equipment. Two years later, on 16 December 1925, Colombo Radio officially launched, making Ceylon the first country in Asia to introduce radio broadcasting. The inaugural broadcast featured Governor Sir Hugh Clifford addressing the nation, heralding the dawn of a new era in communication.



Evolution Through Time During World War II, the station operated under Allied control as Radio SEAC (South East Asia Command), serving as a vital communication hub for the region. In 1949, it was renamed Radio Ceylon, ushering in its golden era. The transformation continued with the enactment of the Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation Act in 1966, which established the Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation on 5 January 1967 under the leadership of Neville D. Jayaweera. Following the country's transition to a republic in 1972, the broadcaster adopted its current name—the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC).

Global Achievements and Cultural Impact SLBC earned international acclaim as Asia's first commercial shortwave station, reaching audiences across South Asia and beyond. It became a household name during the 1950s and 1960s, famously dubbed the "King of the Airwaves." Programs such as Binaca Geetmala, hosted by Ameen Sayani from 1952 to 1988, captivated millions and cemented SLBC's reputation as a cultural bridge across borders.

Today, SLBC maintains Asia's largest music archive, with more than 70,000 recordings, including rare Hindi songs and historic speeches by world leaders. Its multilingual services—Sinhala, Tamil, English, and several South Asian languages—continue to promote cultural diversity and education.



Centenary Celebrations On 16 December 2025, SLBC commemorated its 100-year journey with grand celebrations at Independence Square, themed "100 Years of Pioneering Radio." The event featured cultural performances, tributes to veteran broadcasters, and addresses by dignitaries. Traditional observances included an all-night Pirith chanting ceremony and alms-giving for 100 Buddhist monks at SLBC headquarters, attended by ministers, media professionals, and scholars.



The centenary also marked the launch of historical publications and modernization initiatives aimed at strengthening SLBC's digital presence and technological infrastructure, ensuring its continued relevance in the era of digital broadcasting.



PROMOTIONS



المنتدى السعودي للإعلام
SAUDI MEDIA FORUM

F()MEX

2026⁷
2-4 February



The Largest Media Event in the middle east

SAVE THE DATE FOR SMF
RIYADH , Kingdom of Saudi arabia

REGISTER NOW



saudimf.sa

Scan the
QR code



PROMOTIONS



المنتدى السعودي للإعلام
SAUDI MEDIA FORUM

F()MEX

2026
2-4 February

Saudi Media Forum

Riyadh .. Where Global Media Meets Its Future.

At a time when global media is redefining influence, trust, and storytelling, the Saudi Media Forum brings together the world's leading media voices in Riyadh.

It is the largest media event in the Middle East a global meeting point for broadcasters, media leaders, policymakers, and content creators shaping the future of media across platforms and regions.

The Largest Media Event

in the Middle East
by the Numbers

+300

SPEAKERS

+250

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

+300

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

+150

SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

+60K

VISITORS

+15M

LIVE BROADCAST VIEWS

Global Media .. Real Opportunity.

Hosted in Riyadh, the Forum reflects Saudi Arabia's growing investment in media, content production, and digital platforms positioning the Kingdom as a rising global hub for media dialogue and collaboration.

Event Details

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
2-4 February

Scan the QR code to register and
join the global media conversation



Saudi Media Forum From Riyadh to the world



saudimf.sa

ISLE 2026: Unveiling the Next Wave in Display & AV Innovation



ISLE 2026, Asia's largest Smart Display and Integrated System trade event, is set to take place at the Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Centre in China from 5-7 of March. ISLE 2026 will showcase innovations from brands such as Leyard, Absen, Unilumin, LEDman, AOTO, LianTronics, BOE, Skyworth, Hikvision and Hisense, with an expected footprint of 90,000 m² exhibition area, over 1,000 exhibitors, and 200,000+ professional visitors from more than 100 countries. ISLE is set to redefine industry standards and drive global innovation, solidifying its position as a premier global showcase.



Drive Technological Breakthroughs, Unlock Scenario Potential

Thousands of new products and solutions will be put on stage in ISLE 2026, showcasing the latest breakthroughs and diverse application scenarios in display and AV integration technology. At ISLE 2026, core display technologies like advanced Micro/Mini LED, eco-friendly solutions, and AI-driven interactivity will serve as the driving force. The exhibitors will demonstrate their transformative applications across fields like smart cities, immersive entertainment, digital commerce, cultural tourism, education, security, etc.

Visit One-stop Sourcing Platform

As a three-day event, ISLE 2026 is to address complete industrial chain in display & integrated system, including UHD, XR, 3D display, 5G Smart applications, conferencing and streaming, live events, screen display technology, audio-visual integrated system, LED & digital signage from more than 1,000 brands, creating an immersive sensory feast and allowing visitors to experience multifaceted scenario-based solutions. Located next to the Shenzhen Airport and within 30 minutes' drive to most of China's major LED factories, ISLE 2026 is will bring global buyers to countless products, easy factory research, networking opportunities at the one-stop platform



Empower New Quality Productive Forces

ISLE 2026 will serve as a global platform for the latest advancements that are shaping the next generation of the display and AV integration industry. AI-driven solutions will once again be highlighted in the event, which are elevating functionality and enriching user experiences across a diverse range of applications—from smart meeting and immersive home theaters to dynamic commercial displays. Energy-efficient products such as low-carbon large screens and photovoltaic-storage AV systems will be exhibited. These technologies not only reduce energy costs but also enhance performance and extend product lifespans. Mini/Micro LED breakthrough take center stage, with specialized zones showcasing the entire industrial chain—from materials and chips to end-use products—speeding the commercialization of Micro-LED technology.

Where Art Meets Technology

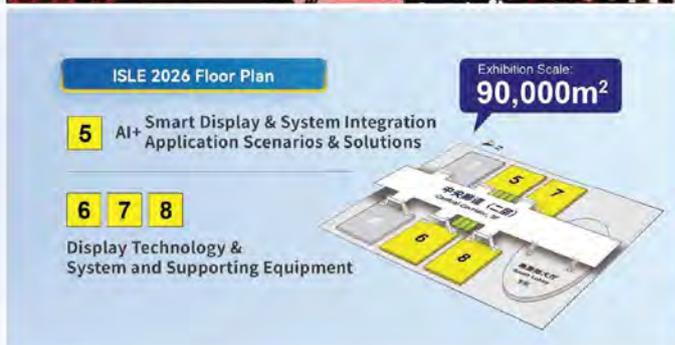
ISLE 2026 will highlight the powerful fusion of art and technology through a premier showcase co-sponsored by the organizer and Glosline, to create an immersive 2500+ m² live stage show, bringing together top brands to integrate LED screens, stage lighting, and surround sound to a dynamic light-art space.

Forums for the Future

ISLE 2026 will host over 20 forums in collaboration with multiple industry associations, focusing on trending topics including Mini/Micro LED display technology, digital intelligence, smart cities, smart offices, and new energy vehicles display. These sessions will provide the industry with extensive forward-looking forecasts and policy analysis, promoting industry-academia-research collaboration and accelerate technology adoption in display and system integration sectors.

Join Us

Whether you are a technology provider, system integrator, or end-user from diverse sectors, ISLE 2026 will offer unparalleled opportunities to discover innovations, forge partnerships, and shape the future of audio-visual technology.



ATX ENTERPRISE PRESENTS

BROADCAST ASIA

20 - 22 MAY 2026 | SINGAPORE EXPO

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development
is a proud Supporting Organisation of
BroadcastAsia 2026



Part of



Brought to you by



In support of



BROADCASTASIA

A part of Asia Tech x Singapore 2026, ATxEnterprise proudly presents BroadcastAsia, showcasing the latest technologies in film, digital multimedia, and broadcasting.

Happening from 20-22 May 2026 at Singapore EXPO, BroadcastAsia is a hub for industry professionals to discover cutting-edge technologies, including next-generation broadcast solutions, animation, and graphics.

For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/44x3xpdv>

- Exclusive for **AIBD Members**: Enjoy 25% discount code for the Premium All Access Pass! Use promo code Code: **SO_AIBD25** at checkout below:

URL: https://atxsg.informafestivals.com/2026/registrations/FreeVisitor?_mc=SO_AIBD25



REGISTER NOW

