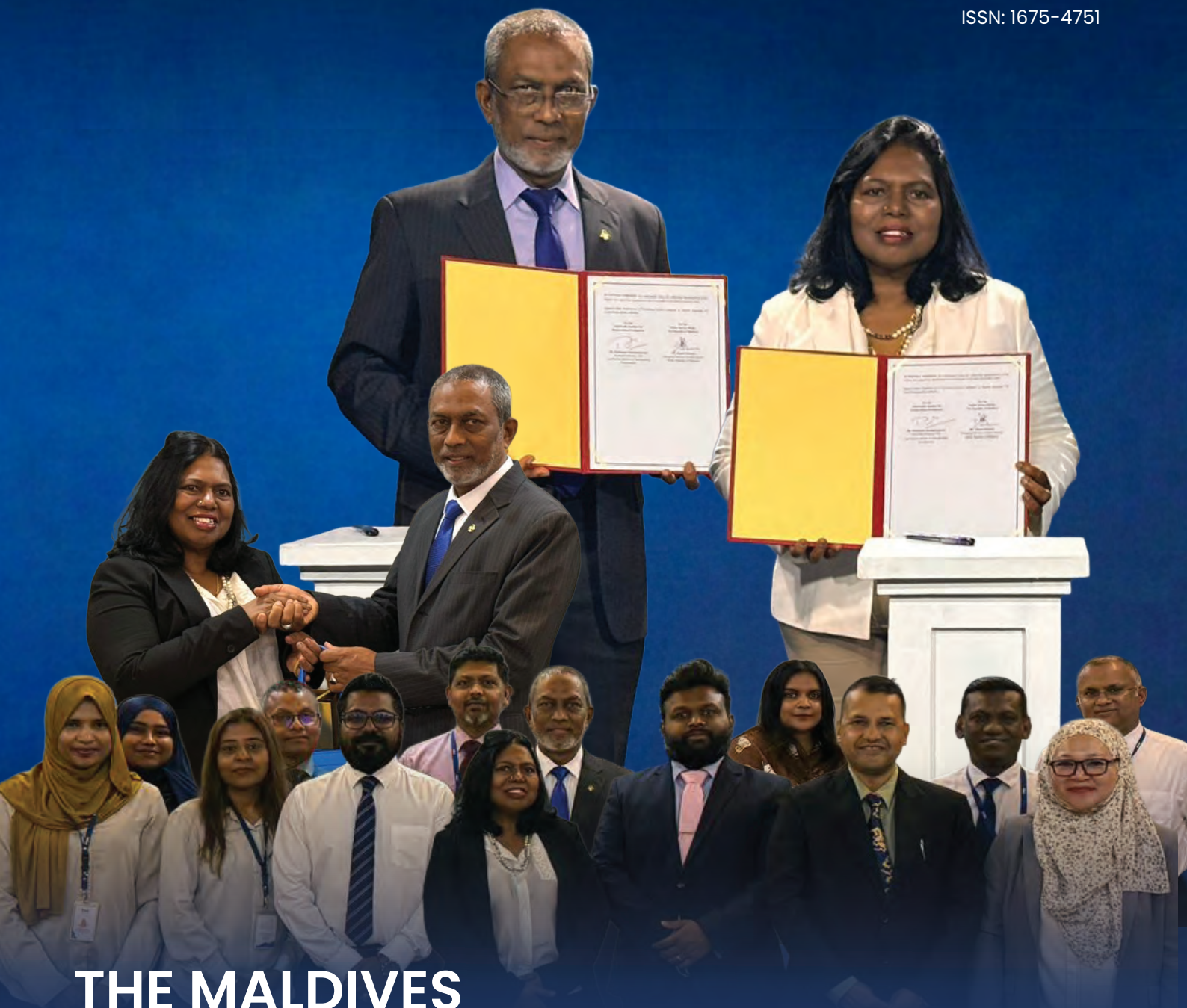


BROADCASTER

ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 25 EDITION 1 (2026)

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THE MALDIVES

THE HOST OF 21ST ASIA MEDIA SUMMIT

A NEW CHAPTER FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND MEDIA EXCELLENCE

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Public Service Media





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CEO'S PERSPECTIVE

Navigating a New Era: Broadcasting at the Crossroads of Technology, Leadership, and Purpose

There are moments in the life of an industry when the pace of change ceases to feel gradual and begins to feel irreversible. I believe we are living through one of those moments. Broadcasting, as we have known it, is not disappearing – but it is being fundamentally reimagined. And the organisations that will endure are not necessarily those with the largest budgets or the most sophisticated infrastructure. They are those with the clearest sense of purpose, and the humility to keep learning.



Philomena Gnanapragasam
Secretariat Director / CEO, AIBD

Across the Asia-Pacific, I see this reckoning playing out in strikingly different ways – and yet with a remarkable convergence of instinct. The underlying question is the same: how do we remain relevant, resilient, and responsible in a world that is changing faster than our systems can comfortably absorb? There is no single answer. But there is a shared conviction: that standing still is not an option.

“It is not technology that will define the broadcasters of tomorrow. It is the quality of the human judgement brought to bear upon it.”

I have long believed that the deepest challenges in our sector are not technical – they are human. The arrival of artificial intelligence, immersive platforms, and

data-driven monetisation models does not diminish the need for wise leadership; it intensifies it. Decisions that once took months now take minutes. Audiences that once watched on a single screen now migrate fluidly across devices, languages, and time zones. In this environment, the instinct to reach for a technological solution first – before asking what kind of society and culture we wish to serve – is a temptation we must consciously resist. Technology is a means. Purpose is the compass.

What gives me genuine optimism, as I reflect on this quarter, is the vitality of collaboration across our region. Partnership is not a courtesy in broadcasting – it is a strategy. The relationships we cultivate between institutions, between nations, and between generations of media professionals are the connective tissue that allows knowledge to travel, standards to rise, and smaller broadcasters to punch far above their weight.

There is also a broader story unfolding about the role of broadcasting in international affairs – one that deserves more candid acknowledgement than it typically receives. Broadcasters across the Asia-Pacific are increasingly aware that they carry, alongside their editorial responsibilities, a profound cultural and diplomatic weight. To do this well – to inform without distorting, to open without overwhelming – requires not just professional skill, but institutional integrity.

As we move through 2026 – with the Asia Media Summit in the Maldives and our General Conference in the Seychelles on the horizon – I carry with me a sense of measured confidence. Not because the challenges are small; they are not. But because the people across this region who dedicate themselves to the craft and conscience of broadcasting are, without exception, extraordinary. The future of this sector will be shaped by their curiosity, their courage, and their refusal to mistake noise for signal. My commitment, and AIBD's, is to walk that road alongside them.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

No	Activity	Mode	Country	Date
1	Monetising Strategies for OTT Platforms	●	Malaysia	22 Jan
2	Leadership in the Digital Era	●	Malaysia	29 Jan
3	FOMEX 2026	●	Saudi Arabia	2-4 Feb
4	Next Generation Broadcasting	●	Germany	3 Feb
5	AIBD Technical Cooperative Initiative	●	Malaysia	11 Feb
6	AIBD Radio Web-Summit	●	Malaysia	12 Feb
7	AIBD/ISLE Conference	●	China	5-7 Mar
8	Regional Pre-summit Workshop on Strengthening Trust of Digital Media in the Era of AI	●	Maldives	11 May
9	Regional Pre-summit Workshop on AI Tools for News Production & Visual Storytelling	●	Maldives	11 May
10	Regional Pre-summit Workshop on Media for Climate and Disaster Resilience	●	Maldives	11 May
11	Regional Pre-summit Workshop on Social Media Strategies for Engagement	●	Maldives	11 May
12	Regional Pre-summit Workshop on New and Emerging Broadcast Technologies in the Age of AI	●	Maldives	11 May
13	Asia Media Summit	●	Maldives	11-14 May
14	Broadcast Asia - 2026	●	Singapore	20-22 May
15	2nd Quarter SPT Meeting	●	Malaysia	25 Jun
16	Workshop on Video Production Using AI Tools	●	Malaysia	3 Jul
17	ITU/RDF	●	Thailand	16-17 Jul
18	AIBD Technical Cooperation Initiative - 2	●	Malaysia	22 Jul
19	AIBD Regional Webinar on Climate, Disaster Reporting & Terra Asia Experience Sharing	●	Malaysia	30 Jul

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

No	Activity	Mode	Country	Date
20	AIBD Regional Webinar on Climate, Disaster Reporting & Terra Asia Experience Sharing	●	Malaysia	30 July
21	General Conference – Nepal	●	Nepal	24 – 26 Aug
22	3rd Quarter SPT Meeting	●	Nepal	24 Aug
23	AIBD /SBC In-Country Training on Studio Lighting	●	Seychelles	31 Aug – 4 Sep
24	AIBD Building Digital Trust: Cybersecurity for Media Organizations	●	Malaysia	8 Sept
25	IBC 2026	●	Netherlands	11-14 Sep
26	AIBD Deepfakes & Synthetic Media: Risks & Regulations	●	Combodia	17 Sep
27	AIBD Creating Impactful Public Service Content in a Digital World	●	Malaysia	21 Sep
28	AIBD–HBF Regional Workshop on Responsible Media Narratives on Children’s Issues	●	Malaysia	6–8 Oct
29	AIBD Responsible Reporting During Global Crisis	●	Thailand	20 Oct
30	Cybersecurity Strategies for Broadcasters	●	India	26–28 Oct
31	Remote Production & Cloud Based Editing Workflows	●	Malaysia	19 Nov
32	UWA Summit	●	China	Nov
33	Leading Media Organisations Through Technological Disruption	●	Malaysia	10 Dec
34	Enhancing Member Services: Strategies for Engagement and Value Creation	●	Malaysia	17 Dec
35	4th Quarter SPT meeting	●	Malaysia	Dec

● Physical
● Online

AIBD ***MEETINGS***



AIBD President Ms. Sudruetai Lertkasem Pays Official Visit to Secretariat

Contributed by Im Jongwon

Ms. Sudruetai Lertkasem, Director-General of the Government Public Relations Department (PRD) of Thailand and current President of the AIBD General Conference, conducted an official visit to the AIBD Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, 17 March 2026.



The visit served as a key engagement for Ms. Sudruetai Lertkasem following her election at the 23rd AIBD GC in Phuket. It provided an opportunity to review the Secretariat's operations and discuss strategic priorities for the advancement of the Asia-Pacific media landscape.

Upon her arrival, the President was given a comprehensive tour of the AIBD headquarters. During the visit, she engaged with the Secretariat staff, acknowledging their roles in the organisation's day-to-day functions. The delegation also visited the AIBD Museum, which showcases the historical milestones and the foundational mission of the institute. Ms. Sudruetai Lertkasem expressed her appreciation for the staff's commitment to addressing the evolving needs of the regional media industry.

Following the conclusion of the formal meeting, the President and the Secretariat senior management attended a luncheon to further discuss the shared vision for the institute. Ms. Sudruetai Lertkasem reaffirmed her support for the Secretariat's professional initiatives, noting the importance of AIBD's role as a central hub for media development in the Asia-Pacific.

AIBD and Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) meet online to advance Strategic Cooperation

Contributed by Don Dhammika

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) held a virtual bilateral meeting on 29 January 2026 to strengthen collaboration in training, technology, and strategic planning. The session followed a structured agenda covering introductions, training priorities, project updates, and joint activities for 2026.



AIBD Director Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam reaffirmed the organisation’s commitment to supporting member countries as they navigate rapid changes in the media landscape. The meeting also introduced Mr. Dorji Tashi, the new BBS CEO, who outlined his vision to modernize BBS, expand capacity-building, and adopt responsible AI tools as part of Bhutan’s media development efforts.

BBS highlighted key training needs for its young workforce—particularly in news reporting, programme production, camera operations, editing, and engineering. The organisation also expressed interest in renewing collaborations with former international partners. AIBD confirmed its readiness to provide relevant trainers and support through its extensive network across Asia and beyond.

AIBD reported positive progress on Bhutan’s RAPA project application, noting that follow-up communication would be initiated directly with BBS. The institute emphasized its focus on ensuring members receive modern, high-quality technical support aligned with current industry standards.

For 2026, both sides agreed to conduct targeted in-country workshops in Bhutan and encourage BBS participation in the Asia Media Summit in the Maldives and the AIBD General Conference in Seychelles. AIBD also invited Bhutan to join its Strategic Plan Team and consider hosting future regional events to further strengthen their partnership.

The meeting concluded with mutual appreciation and a shared commitment to deepening cooperation throughout 2026, symbolized by a group photograph marking the positive momentum of the partnership.

AIBD Courtesy Visit to IPPTAR Strengthens Collaboration for 2026

Contributed by Don Dhammika

Institut Penyiaran dan Penerangan Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR) Director Dato' Roslan Ariffin received Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), during a courtesy visit held at the IPPTAR Premises in Kuala Lumpur.



The discussion centred on strategic direction and collaborative programmes for 2026, focusing on international engagement and capacity-building for the broadcasting sector.

Both organisations reaffirmed their strong cooperation throughout 2025, which included successful joint initiatives and regional training activities. The meeting also reviewed the Fake News Seminar held in October last year, underscoring a continued commitment to promote media literacy and combat misinformation.



AIBD further invited IPPTAR to the 21st Asia Media Summit in the Maldives, highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen regional partnerships through high-level engagement.

The visit reinforced the longstanding relationship between IPPTAR and AIBD and their shared mission to advance professional development and innovation in the Asia-Pacific broadcasting landscape.



SPECIAL ***EVENTS***



Terra Asia Project Concludes in the Philippines

Contributed by Jason Emmanuel Mekkar

The successful conclusion of the Terra Asia Project was celebrated in the Philippines on 23 January 2026, bringing together partners, media professionals, and stakeholders to reflect on the project's achievements in strengthening climate and environmental reporting.



The event was attended by Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretariat Director/Chief Executive Officer of AIBD, reaffirming AIBD's commitment to advancing media capacity development and regional cooperation. Implemented by Canal France International (CFI) with support from regional partners, Terra Asia provided journalists and content creators with valuable opportunities to enhance their storytelling skills and deepen their understanding of climate, environmental, and sustainability issues.

The project demonstrated the importance of collaboration in empowering media professionals to communicate complex environmental challenges in ways that are relevant, engaging, and impactful for communities.

As a key regional partner, AIBD continues to play an important role in fostering knowledge exchange, professional development, and international cooperation, helping media organisations across the Asia-Pacific region strengthen their contribution to sustainable development and informed public discourse.

AIBD ***TRAINING*** ***ACTIVITIES***



AIBD Regional Webinar on Monetisation Strategies for OTT Platforms: Unlocking Revenue: Navigating the OTT Monetisation Landscape

Contributed by Jason Emmanuel Mekkar

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) successfully conducted a Regional Webinar on Monetisation Strategies for OTT Platforms on 22 January 2025, addressing critical challenges facing broadcasters in the digital age.

While OTT platforms offer unprecedented opportunities for audience engagement, many broadcasters struggle with monetisation, sustainability, and return on investment. Challenges include limited advertising revenues, low subscription uptake, high content costs, and data monetisation gaps.



The webinar featured three distinguished speakers sharing practical insights from diverse markets:

Ms. Seda Vardi, Head of Pricing & Customer Acquisition at tabii, TRT, Türkiye, explored AVOD, SVOD, TVOD, and hybrid business models, highlighting strategic differences between public service and commercial OTT platforms through regional case examples.

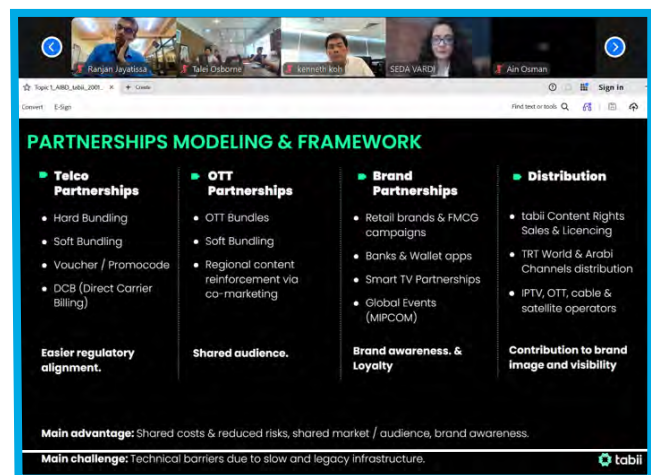
Ms. Leong Pin Joo, Head of Content & Audience

Strategy at Tonton, Media Prima, Malaysia, examined digital advertising trends, subscription pricing strategies, and bundling approaches. She emphasized the critical role of strategic partnerships with telecommunications companies, platform providers, and brands in expanding revenue opportunities.

Mr. Devesh Kumar, Director (Engineering) at WAVES, Prasar Bharati, India, demonstrated how data analytics can enhance monetisation through audience insights. He discussed content packaging, niche audiences, regional storytelling, and how AI and emerging technologies optimize revenue growth through improved recommendation systems.

The webinar equipped participants with actionable frameworks to diversify revenue streams, leverage data for decision-making, and develop clearer roadmaps for OTT sustainability. The interactive Q&A session facilitated valuable knowledge exchange among broadcasting professionals across the region.

For broadcasters seeking to strengthen their OTT business models, the path is clear: diversify revenue streams beyond traditional advertising, leverage data analytics, explore strategic partnerships, and remain adaptable to emerging technologies. As the digital media landscape evolves, those who master these monetisation strategies will be best positioned for long-term success.

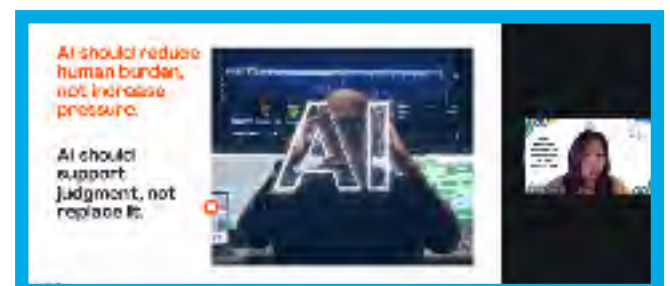
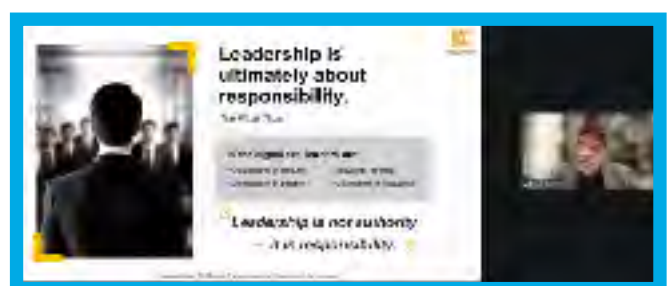


Leadership in the Digital Era: AIBD Webinar Highlights Human-Centric Leadership and Cyber-Vigilance

Contributed by Naing Naing Aye

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) successfully organized its regional webinar, "Leadership in the Digital Era," on 29 January 2026. It was virtually hosted from Kuala Lumpur and moderated by AIBD Secretariat Director/CEO Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam. The event brought together over 120 participants from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, including CEOs, newsroom heads, and IT professionals from broadcast industry.

Mr. Raja Singham, Co-founder and Chief Future Officer of the BAC Education Group, emphasized that digital transformation is fundamentally a people challenge rather than a technology issue. He noted that technology is advancing faster than humans can adapt, quoting Darwin to highlight that survival belongs to the most adaptable. "It's not AI that will replace people; it's humans using AI who will replace those who don't," he remarked. He advocated for a "Triple Bottom Line" approach i.e., prioritizing People and Planet alongside Profit. He also urged leaders to transition into Learning Organizations where upskilling is a daily habit rather than a one-off event.

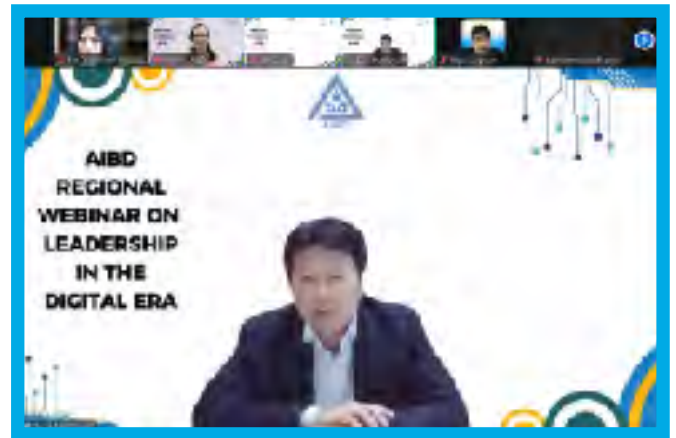
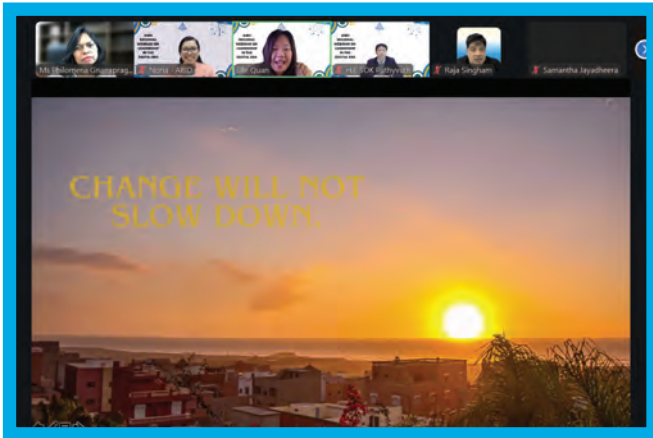


His Excellency Sok Puthyvuth, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications

MPTC) of the Kingdom of Cambodia, presented on "Cyber Vigilance as a Strategic Leadership Priority." H.E. Sok described the digital space as a "jungle" that is safe for those who know how to navigate it, but risky for the unprepared. Detailing Cambodia's Vision 2050, he outlined five pillars for success: Vision, Trust, Policy, People, and Technology. "The digital future is not something that happens to us. It is something that we shape through deliberate leadership," he said.

Ms. Elle Quan, Head of Conferences at Informa Festivals and Producer of Asia Tech x Singapore, addressed the complexities of "Managing Workforce" in her session. She introduced the concept of the world moving from VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) to BANI (Brittle, Anxious, Nonlinear, Incomprehensible). She warned against AI slop, described as low-quality, high-volume content generated by AI, and stressed that AI should reduce human burden rather than increase pressure.

The webinar concluded with a vibrant Q&A session moderated by AIBD Secretariat Director/CEO Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam. Participants engaged the panel on ethical AI decision-making, the balance between profit and people, and leading with limited resources. The speakers were responsive and provided detailed answers to these queries.



Overall, the webinar underscored a pivotal shift in the industry, emphasizing that while digital transformation reshapes content production and distribution, the true challenge lies in leadership. Finally, the AIBD team announced upcoming webinars scheduled for February 2026.

AIBD Members Participate in Next-Generation Broadcasting Webinar

Contributed by Rabi K C

The Next-Generation Broadcasting Webinar, hosted by Rohde & Schwarz, was held on 3 February 2026, bringing together industry stakeholders to discuss the future of digital broadcasting. The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) joined the initiative and invited its members to participate and gain valuable insights into emerging broadcasting technologies.

The webinar featured the work of the 5G Broadcast Business Strategy Task Force (5BSTF), which brings together broadcasters, network operators, technology providers, and regulators to support the commercialization of 5G Broadcast services. The Task Force focuses on exploring sustainable business models, addressing market challenges, and strengthening collaboration across the broadcasting ecosystem.

Next-Generation Broadcasting

Insights from the 5G Broadcast
Business Strategy Task Force

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM Central European Time

Duration: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Join our webinar with live Q&A

Participants received an overview of the Task Force’s mission, its alignment with industry initiatives and standards organizations, and the progress achieved to date. Experts shared perspectives on business opportunities, implementation challenges, and future areas of cooperation related to 5G Broadcast and next-generation media services.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, providing participants with the opportunity to engage directly with Task Force leaders on ecosystem readiness, business impact, and the future potential of next-generation broadcasting technologies.

AIBD Members Participate in Technical Cooperative Initiative Webinar

Contributed by Naing Naing Aye

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) convened its first dedicated technical webinar on broadcast technology on 11 February 2026. Hosted online from Kuala Lumpur, the webinar brought together chief technical officers, broadcast engineers, and IT leaders from across the region to discuss the current technological landscape.

The webinar featured case studies from five countries, highlighting the diverse challenges and advancements within the region. Mr. Thinley Dorji, Offtg. Chief Engineer of Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation Limited (BBSCL), presented the realities of broadcasting in complex terrains. He explained how geography dictates technology choices in the Himalayas, where elevation ranges from 200 metres to over 7,000 metres. While BBSCL completed its migration to HD in July 2020, it still maintains 13 analog terrestrial transmitters where digital replacement is not yet feasible. They also uploads news bulletins and national events to YouTube (digital platform) to reach out to younger audiences and the Bhutanese diaspora.



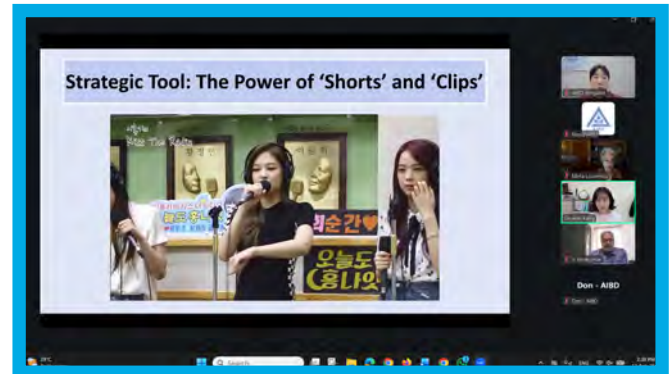
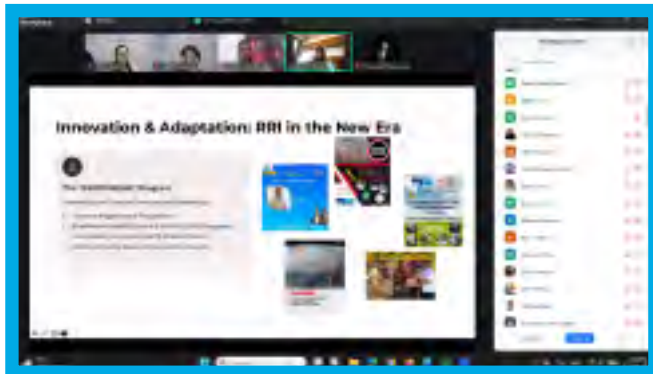
The screenshot shows a webinar interface. The main slide is titled "ABOUT BBS" and features the BBS logo on the left. The logo is a blue circle with a white stylized wave and the letters "BBS" in white. To the right of the logo is a list of four bullet points, each preceded by a checkmark:

- ✓ National broadcaster of Bhutan
- ✓ Television and radio services
- ✓ Nationwide coverage across difficult mountainous terrain
- ✓ Focus on public information, education, culture, and national events

At the bottom of the slide, there is a small line of text: "Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation Limited". On the right side of the slide, there is a video feed showing four participants in a grid. The top participant is a man with glasses, wearing a brown patterned shirt. The bottom three participants are smaller thumbnails showing other individuals.

Redefining Radio: From Physical Airwaves to Consumer Habits

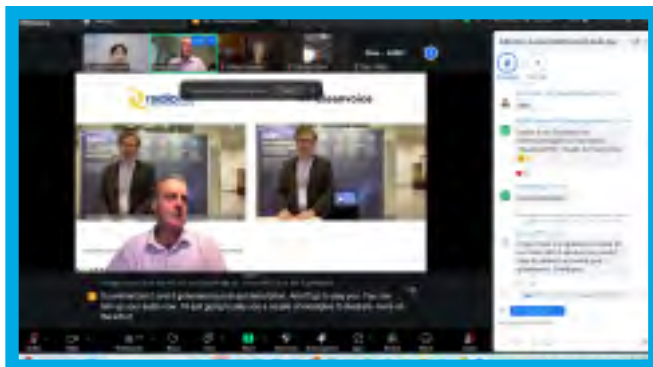
Contributed by Im Jongwon



Radio, which began its journey as a pioneer of wireless communication in the early 20th century, is facing a pivotal turning point a hundred years later. In a digital era dominated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and YouTube, the medium is undergoing a sophisticated transformation.

The 'World Radio Day 2026 Web Summit,' organised by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), concluded with immense global interest. Under the bold theme, 'Redefining Radio in the AI Ecosystem and YouTube Era: Shifting from Physical Airwaves to Consumer Habits,' the summit focused on strategic survival and the future evolution of the industry.

The scale and engagement of the event were unprecedented. A total of '204 media professionals from 28 countries' participated, demonstrating an extraordinary level of enthusiasm. Despite a 'Strict Entry Policy,' over 150 participants had already joined ten minutes before the commencement. This highlights not only the sense of crisis within the traditional radio sector but also the strong determination of broadcasters across the Asia-Pacific to migrate toward digital platforms.



Inaugurating the session, AIBD Programme Manager Im Jongwon emphasised that radio must now be redefined as 'Content IP' and a 'Consumer Habit' rather than a mere physical broadcast network (RF).

A standout case study was presented by 'Ms. Kang So Yeon, a Radio Producer from KBS (South Korea).' She demonstrated how their 'Visual Radio (Bora)' legacy, dating back to 1997, provided a roadmap for successfully transitioning to YouTube. Her presentation

proved that traditional multi-tasking listening habits have effectively migrated to visual-digital platforms, offering a realistic blueprint for legacy broadcasters.

The technical sessions provided concrete demonstrations of how AI is revolutionising production workflows. 'Mr. Wishwa Hewawitharana,' a Transmission Engineer from SLBC (Sri Lanka), garnered significant attention by introducing an 'Intelligent Assistant' model that utilises AI for scriptwriting and voice synthesis to optimise production. Following this, 'Mr. V. Sivakumar,' former Deputy Director of All India Radio (Akashvani), shared strategies for leveraging AI in large-scale multi-language environments to enhance the immersion of audio-only broadcasts. Notably, 'Ms. Yanti Rahmi Nur' from RRI (Indonesia) showcased a groundbreaking AI-integrated disaster risk assessment system. This AI-driven early warning dissemination was identified as a vital advancement in preserving Radio's core essence as an irreplaceable 'Lifeline.'

'Mr. Steve Ahern,' CEO of AMT (Australia), offered an optimistic outlook for the future of radio, particularly in regions with high vehicle dependency, while urging a shift toward 'Platform-Agnostic Branded Content.' Meanwhile, 'Mr. Siromani Dhungana,' Director of ACORAB (Nepal), reminded participants of the fundamental human value of the medium. He highlighted how community radio, where listeners are also producers, remains a vital engine for social solidarity—reaffirming that while AI provides data, empathy remains a uniquely human domain.

The summit's success was also attributed to its innovative operational strategy. Moving away from conventional mass emails, AIBD implemented a 'Teaser-style' recruitment method, introducing one speaker per day to build global anticipation. The 120-minute session proceeded seamlessly, successfully managing technical challenges such as unstable internet connections in certain regions to deliver a high-density, professional summit.

AIBD plans to continue supporting its member countries in strengthening their digital capabilities based on the 'Content IP-centric hybrid model' and 'Human-in-the-loop AI strategies' established during this summit. Radio is now evolving beyond the airwaves, redefining itself as a high-value digital asset that shapes our modern way of life.

FLAGSHIP *EVENTS*



MALDIVES TO HOST THE 21ST ASIA MEDIA SUMMIT

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and Public Service Media (PSM), Maldives have officially formalized their collaboration for the 21st Asia Media Summit (AMS), scheduled to take place from 11 to 14 May 2026 in the Republic of Maldives. To support preparations, AIBD's leadership team, led by Chief Executive Officer Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, visited Malé from 8 to 12 February 2026, where they met with PSM's management, headed by Managing Director Mr. Ahmed Shakeeb, along with his senior officials. During the visit, both organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining their respective roles and establishing the framework for hosting the summit.



The four-day programme will commence on 11 May with pre-summit workshops featuring specialized sessions, followed by the main summit proceedings on 12 and 13 May, and will conclude on 14 May with guided excursions for delegates. As part of the preparations, AIBD conducted site visits across several locations in the Maldives and selected Villa Nautica Resort as the primary venue. To accommodate the expected number of participants, PSM will also arrange additional satellite hotels in Malé and Hulhumalé.

AIBD representatives also engaged with key government officials, including Mr. Ibrahim Khaleel, Minister at the President's Office for Strategic Communications, to explore ways to maximize the summit's benefits for the Maldives and strengthen the national media landscape. In addition, AIBD also met with the Minister of Tourism and Environment to discuss potential collaboration and opportunities for engagement during the summit.

PSM has also organized a visit to Kudagiri Island where excursion is going to happen, where delegates will experience a unique visit to an island primarily reserved for local residents. International delegates will have the opportunity

to take part in activities such as coral planting, water sports, snorkeling, and immersive island experiences, offering both cultural and environmental engagement.



24TH AIBD GENERAL CONFERENCE GC2026

KATHMANDU • NEPAL

24 – 26 AUGUST 2026

AIBD TOWARDS 50 YEARS OF MEDIA



The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is pleased to announce that preparations are in progress for the 25th AIBD General Conference (GC2026), scheduled to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 24 to 26 August 2026. The conference will be hosted by the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB).

As AIBD's premier annual gathering, the General Conference provides an important forum for member broadcasters, affiliate members, development partners, and media professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The event offers a valuable opportunity to review AIBD's progress, discuss strategic priorities, strengthen partnerships, and foster greater regional and international collaboration in broadcasting and media development.

The conference programme will focus on key issues shaping the future of the media industry, including digital transformation, emerging technologies, public service media sustainability, information integrity, and capacity development.

Beyond the conference, delegates will have the chance to discover Nepal's remarkable cultural and natural heritage. Home to the majestic Himalayas, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, centuries-old temples, and vibrant traditions, Nepal offers visitors a unique blend of history, culture, and warm hospitality.

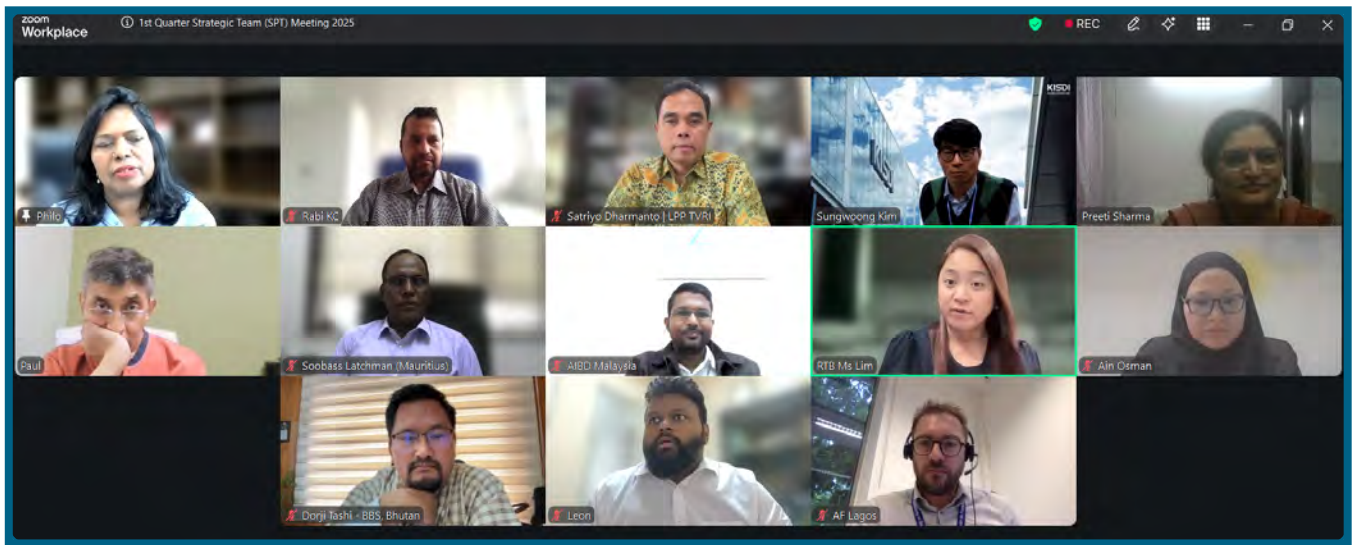
AIBD looks forward to welcoming its members and partners to Kathmandu for this important gathering and will share additional details as the conference arrangements are finalised.

NEW
INITIATIVES

WFO

AIBD Strategic Planning Team Sets the Course for 2026

Contributed by Jason Emmanuel Mekkar



The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) successfully convened its 1st Quarter Strategic Team Meeting 2026 on 31st March 2026, bringing together newly appointed Strategic Team members from across the Asia-Pacific to discuss AIBD's strategic priorities and roadmap for the year ahead.

During the meeting, members were introduced to AIBD's Strategic Plan framework, which focuses on strengthening media resilience and innovation through key areas including AI and digital transformation, media sustainability, content innovation, media literacy, and climate and disaster resilience. Members also exchanged views on the importance of knowledge sharing, digital transformation, and closer regional collaboration to support broadcasters in navigating the rapidly evolving media landscape.

The Strategic Planning Team also reviewed preparations for the 21st Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2026 in the Maldives and received updates on the 24th AIBD General Conference (GC) 2026, discussing upcoming programmes and opportunities to further strengthen cooperation among member broadcasters.

The meeting concluded with members reaffirming their commitment to advancing AIBD's strategic vision and working together to promote innovation, capacity building, and sustainable media development across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

GLOBAL ***CONNECTIONS***



AIBD Strengthens Partnerships at FOMEX 2026

Contributed by Don Dhammika



AIBD's participation at FOMEX 2026 reaffirmed its commitment to fostering international cooperation and supporting innovation across the media sector. Through its engagements with SBA, OSBU, ASBU, and other partners, AIBD strengthened existing relationships and laid the foundation for new collaborations that will contribute to the future growth of the broadcasting industry..



opportunities for meaningful dialogue among media professionals. Discussions focused on future cooperation in training, innovation, and strengthening the broadcasting sector.

AIBD also held productive talks with Mr. Abdelrahim Suleiman, Director General of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), exploring opportunities for future cooperation in capacity building, knowledge exchange, and industry innovation.

In addition, AIBD met with Fawaz Alhazzaa, Director of the SBA Training Academy, and several other industry stakeholders to discuss professional development, talent nurturing, and emerging trends shaping the future of broadcasting.



FOMEX 2026, held alongside the Saudi Media Forum in Riyadh from 2–4 February, brought together global media leaders, broadcasters, technology companies, and industry experts to explore the future of media. The event was officially opened by Saudi Minister of Media Salman Al-Dossary and Ali Alzaid, CEO of the Saudi Broadcasting Authority (SBA), underscoring Saudi Arabia's growing leadership in media innovation under Vision 2030.

AIBD participated actively at the exhibition through its booth in B Zone No. 9, engaging with broadcasters, media organizations, and industry stakeholders from across the world. The event provided a valuable platform for strengthening partnerships and exploring opportunities for collaboration in digital transformation, capacity building, and media development.

A key highlight of AIBD's participation was its engagement with the Saudi Broadcasting Authority (SBA). AIBD extends its sincere appreciation to SBA and its leadership for hosting a world-class event and creating

AIBD was honoured to welcome Prof. Amr Ellissy, President of the OIC States Broadcasting Union (OSBU), to its booth during the exhibition. Discussions centred on enhancing collaboration among broadcasters and supporting media development initiatives across member countries.

FOMEX





AIBD in ISLE 2026 Visit

Contributed by Rabi K C

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), in collaboration with the International Smart Display and Integrated System Exhibition (ISLE), organizer participated in the exhibition with a delegation of its member organizations. The event was held from 5–7 March 2026, in Shenzhen, People Republic of China. The exhibition provided an important platform for AIBD members to explore the latest advancements in smart display and integrated system technologies.



As part of AIBD's Asia-Pacific Technical Cooperation Initiative, the participation aims to strengthen technical cooperation among broadcasting organizations in the region. The programme offers members a valuable opportunity to experience cutting-edge technologies, observe emerging industry trends, and exchange knowledge with global audiovisual professionals.



During the three-day exhibition, AIBD delegates was engaging with industry leaders, visiting innovative technology showcases, and

participating in discussions with international experts in the smart display and media technology sectors. These interactions help foster stronger professional collaboration and encourage the sharing of technical expertise among participants.

The first day concluded with networking sessions, allowing participants to continue discussions and build stronger professional connections in a collaborative environment.

A highlight of the event is the AIBD booth, which has attracted significant interest from both AIBD members and international delegates attending the exhibition. The booth provides a platform for AIBD to showcase its initiatives and strengthen its presence at major international industry events. The exhibition also enables members to explore the latest innovations in display technologies, particularly advanced LED solutions that are increasingly relevant to broadcasting and media organizations.



In addition to the exhibition activities, delegates are also participating in discussion sessions and technical visits to leading LED display manufacturers, including INFiLED and Leyard.

These visits offer practical insights into modern manufacturing processes and the latest developments in high-performance display systems.

ISLE also organised the Gala Dinner for all international delegates including AIBD delegates who has attended and participated the exhibition.

AIBD expressed its sincere appreciation to the ISLE organizers for their warm hospitality and for providing such an enriching platform for technical learning and industry engagement. The organization looks forward to strengthening its cooperation with ISLE and continuing its active participation in future editions.

International Smart Display and Integrated System Exhibition (ISLE) 2026 was held at Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Centre, Shenzhen. The exhibition mostly demonstrates screen display technology, audio-visual integrated system, LED & signage.

APAC MEDIA
NEW MOVERS

FOR

Dorji Tashi is New CEO of Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS)



Mr. Dorji Tashi became the youngest Chief Executive Officer of Bhutan Broadcasting Service on 1 December 2025. Previously, he led the Food Corporation of Bhutan, turning it from financial losses to stability, and served as Executive Director of the Loden Foundation, promoting youth entrepreneurship. Educated in Bhutan, he later earned an MBA in the United Kingdom and a certificate in Social Policy. Known for his strategic vision and leadership, he combines corporate and social sector experience. He has also contributed to national development through board roles and committees, while actively supporting community initiatives, youth empowerment, and inclusive development across Bhutan through sustained leadership efforts.

Rosaria Maia becomes New President of RTTL

The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) warmly congratulates Rosario Maia on his appointment as President of the Administrative Council of Radio and Television Timor-Leste (RTTL, E.P.).

With over two decades of experience in media, communications, and public outreach, Rosario brings strong national and international expertise to the role. He began his career with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and later played key roles in strengthening Timor-Leste's media landscape, including serving as Program Director at Radio Timor-Leste and Director of Programs at RTTL.

His professional journey also includes senior communications roles with the U.S. Embassy in Dili, UN Women, and most recently USAID/Timor-Leste, where he led strategic communications and digital outreach initiatives.

AIBD looks forward to deepening collaboration with RTTL under his leadership and advancing public service broadcasting across the region.



MEMBER/ PARTNERS' *CONNECT*



The Saudi Broadcasting Authority Highlights the Kingdom's Global Achievements in English through the (SOD) Platform

Contributed by Don Dhammika

The Saudi On Demand (SOD) platform represents a significant step in Saudi Arabia's efforts to strengthen its global media presence and communicate its message to international audiences. Developed as a digital platform under the Saudi Broadcasting Authority, SOD targets English-speaking audiences worldwide, aiming to highlight the Kingdom's most prominent achievements, events, and major transformations. The platform plays a central role in reflecting the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, an ambitious plan that seeks to diversify the national economy, enhance cultural exchange, and project the Kingdom's image as a progressive and globally connected nation.

The establishment of Saudi On Demand reflects a growing recognition of the importance of media as a means of international dialogue and cultural understanding. The platform operates through multiple digital channels, including YouTube and X, enabling it to reach diverse audiences beyond traditional media boundaries. It offers live streaming, in-depth coverage, and specialized reports that shed light on both local and global developments related to the Kingdom. By broadcasting its content in English, the platform bridges the language gap and allows international viewers to access accurate, credible, and engaging information about Saudi Arabia.



The platform's content is designed to highlight the rapid transformation taking place in Saudi Arabia across economic, social, environmental, and cultural sectors. It also focuses on the Kingdom's role in hosting international summits, scientific conferences, and cultural and sports festivals, reinforcing its position as an influential player in global affairs. Through its consistent and strategic coverage, Saudi On Demand contributes to reshaping global perceptions of the Kingdom and presenting an authentic image aligned with its national aspirations.



Since its inception, the platform has achieved high viewership rates, particularly during its coverage of major local and international events. Its success stems from the combination of media professionalism and cultural awareness, which enables its content to resonate with a wide range of audiences. Among its most notable accomplishments is its exceptional coverage of the Hajj season, where it broadcast all rituals and ceremonies in English around the clock. This coverage allowed international audiences to witness the spiritual depth of Hajj in real time. Beyond showcasing one of the world's largest religious gatherings, it also reflected the Kingdom's ability to manage and share such monumental events with transparency and respect.

At its core, Saudi On Demand is more than just a media outlet, it is a reflection of Saudi Arabia's evolving identity and its genuine desire to engage positively with the world. Through its expanding reach and diverse content, the platform plays a vital role in telling the Kingdom's story of transformation, ambition, and connection within an ever-evolving global media landscape.



In addition to its religious and cultural coverage, the platform produces analytical reports and documentaries that explore the Kingdom's progress in technology, infrastructure, and sustainability. These materials highlight the rapid developments taking place across the nation, including the advancement of major projects such as Qiddiya and The Red Sea, reaffirming Saudi Arabia's growing role as a center of innovation and global collaboration.

One of the platform's key objectives is to promote mutual understanding and strengthen cultural communication between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world. It introduces global audiences to Saudi traditions, arts, cuisine, and heritage, while reflecting the nation's modernization and social openness. Through this diversity of content, SOD contributes to correcting misconceptions and offering a balanced narrative that portrays Saudi society as deeply rooted in its cultural identity yet open to global progress.

The platform also supports tourism and international engagement by highlighting Saudi Arabia's natural beauty, historical landmarks, and cultural diversity, contributing to the Kingdom's broader effort to position itself as a welcoming destination for both visitors and investors.

Looking ahead, Saudi On Demand seeks to establish itself as a globally trusted media source for English-language coverage of Saudi events and initiatives. It aspires to become a leading and reliable platform characterized by credibility, innovation, and impact, embodying the values of transparency, professionalism, and inclusivity. Through its continuous focus on high-quality content and cross-cultural communication, the platform aims to present a comprehensive and authentic image of the Kingdom that transcends stereotypes and superficial narratives.



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