

ABU and ASBU join forces for new CABSAT conference

A large variety of broadcast equipment and products were on display at CABSAT2005 which was held in March in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

Dubbed as the Middle East's leading electronic media and communications event, it broke previous records in terms of exhibitor support – with over 400 companies and 7,300 visitors this year.

This year marked a new milestone for CABSAT when the organisers approached the ABU, the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and the International Association of Broadcasting Manufacturers (IABM) with plans to introduce a broadcast conference into the three-day event.

The opportunity for the ABU to contribute to such a well-established event – which attracts ABU members from West Asia and the Middle East – was seen as a tangible way to offer direct support to members in the region.

The ABU, in association with ASBU and the IABM, led the development and delivery of the one-day conference, and while there was limited time to pre-market the introduction of the conference into CABSAT's programme, the attendance met all expectations.

The broadcast conference focussed on the latest developments in the global move to digitise the television industry. International and local keynote speakers covered a wide range of topics, including the experiences of many countries in the implementation and operation of digital TV services and the lessons learned along the way.

The growing interest in moving to high definition (HD) based production



The ABU booth at CABSAT2005 attracted many visitors

the world over attracted informative papers on the problems of working with standard and HD formats and production workflows.

Some valuable attendance lessons were also learned, primarily at the optimal times during the exhibition when visitors also attended side events such as conferences.

After all, the exhibition is the only local opportunity for planning and technology managers to gather vital information on developments in the broadcast and satellite services markets, and to the latest technologies via demonstration or in actual use.

Additionally, the need to provide a broader range of topics was fed back to the organisers by the participants. Such feedback will be valuable to consolidate the conference day programme into CABSAT in 2006.

Meanwhile, the ABU also mounted an exhibition booth to promote the Union's

activities, and this proved to be popular with visitors who were interested to know the role the ABU plays in the broadcast industry.

Many valuable contacts were made during the exhibition. Plenty of enquiries about the benefits of joining the ABU were also received.

This exposure of the ABU, along with its Middle Eastern counterpart ASBU, was a worthwhile exercise in working with CABSAT's organisers to not only deliver direct value to members through the broadcast conference, but to also promote the role unions play in support of the broadcast industry.

CABSAT2005 also featured the inaugural Middle East Satellite Summit organised by the Global Satellite Forum (GSF). The summit provided delegates with valuable insights into the latest broadcasting and telecommunications applications, regulatory and policy trends, state-of-the-art technology, and successful business models. □

Global Chinese radio talk-back show a hit with listeners

A global Chinese talk-back show produced by the BBC World Service to mark its "China Week" celebrations from March 7 to 13 saw the British broadcaster teaming up with other ABU members in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia's SBS Radio and Singapore's MediaCorp Radio – both ABU members – participated in the project, along with Taiwan's Broadcasting Corporation of China (BCC) and New York's China Radio Network.

The BBC-BCC show went on the air on Monday, 7 March, followed by the MediaCorp tie-up the next day. China Radio Network took the Wednesday slot, with SBS Radio rounding off the project on 10 March.

Each show lasted 55 minutes, enabling several listeners to phone in and discuss the theme "My view on 21st century China". Academics were also on hand to provide analyses of China's partnerships and rivalries in international trade and politics.

Mike Zafiropoulos, Manager of SBS Melbourne, said the near-flawless coordination between the London and Australian studios was instrumental in making the show a success.

"It was a very smooth operation. We had two studios and two presenters miles apart who were really able to synchronise and interact with listeners across Asia and Europe," he said in a telephone interview.

So popular was the show that the call-in lines of SBS Radio and MediaCorp Radio were jammed by listeners trying to get on-air to express their views.

However, only about 10 to 20 calls were accepted for each programme.

Calls that made the airwaves came not only from the home country of the participating broadcasters, but also from China, France and the Netherlands.

According to SBS Radio presenter Jason Fang, the talk-back show allowed the radio broadcaster to collaborate with reputable foreign media outlets to continue taking the Mandarin programme in a global direction.

Mr Fang's Singaporean counterpart, MediaCorp Radio's Ong Teck Ming, said working on the talk-back programme enhanced the working relationship and mutual understanding among the broadcasters involved.

"Being the host of the programme, I would rate the show at eight on a scale of one to 10... I look forward to more programme partnerships of this nature in the future," said Mr Ong.

The presenters also had to work long hours to prepare for the show, with Mr Ong staying back at the office after hours to contact his counterpart at BBC London – owing to the eight-hour time lapse between Singapore and the United Kingdom.

"To avoid miscommunication, we always backed up our e-mails with telephone calls to ensure mutual understanding," he explained, adding that it was a fruitful experience working with BBC London.

His opinion was echoed by Mr Zafiropoulos, who said the project was a great success in terms of the content of the show, the technical aspects involved and the responses received from listeners.

"It is a good initiative and it's something that we should repeat. The next time, we will add video and sound as well as webcasting," said Mr Zafiropoulos. □

Japan helps PNG radio stations

A new lease in life has been given to five provincial radio stations after the installation of state-of-the-art broadcasting equipment funded by the Japanese and Papua New Guinea governments, reports PNG's *The National* newspaper.

This was made official at the inauguration for the National Broadcasting Corporation's (NBC) Radio Equipment Improvement Project in Port Moresby in April. NBC is an ABU member.

The upgraded provincial radio stations received new wider-coverage transmitters and studio equipment to improve sound quality, and also enable commercials to be aired continuously.

NBC is expected to identify other provincial radio stations to be upgraded under Phase Two of the project. It will submit the proposal to the Department of National Planning and Rural Development for consideration in the 2006 Public Investment Programme. □

ABU copyright training attracts big turnout in Malaysia

After the successful ABU Copyright Consultancies in Brunei and Fiji last year, this year's first consultancy kicked off in Malaysia.

The two-day copyright training discussed the rights of broadcasters and the various licences that broadcasters need to obtain from composers, performers, phonogram producers, script writers, and other rights holders.

Training demand

The ABU has been receiving requests from its members for trainings on copyright and other intellectual property issues. Through these Copyright Consultancies, the ABU aims to assist its members in dealing with various copyright issues that have a direct impact on broadcasting.

RTM-Malaysia hosted this year's first ABU Copyright Consultancy on 7 and 8 March, attracting more than 80 participants from various organisations.

Among them were officers of RTM's headquarters and its stations in Sabah, Sarawak and Penang as well as delegates and speakers from the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia, TV3-Malaysia, Universiti Malaya Law Faculty, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), and two Malaysian collecting societies – the Music Authors' Copyright Protection (MACP) and the Public Performance Malaysia (PPM).

Adilah Shek Omar, RTM's Deputy Director-General of Programmes, said: "Issues pertaining to copyright and intellectual properties have affected broadcasters from the day we started broadcasting, be it radio or television.



Some of the speakers at the ABU Copyright Consultancy in Kuala Lumpur

With the advent of new technologies in the broadcasting environment, copyright issues have only become more complex.

"We have been too casual or oblivious to the rights of ownership, that is, until we have received a notice of infringement."

Raising awareness

K. Girija Balakrishna, Director of Tun Abdul Razak Institute of Broadcasting (IPTAR) in Malaysia, told the delegates that among the aims of the copyright seminar are demystifying copyright and raising awareness on the drive to develop strategies for the effective enforcement and protection of copyright.

"Copyright awareness in Malaysia is very poor, and the same can be said in other countries," said Manisekaran Amasi, Director of Copyright, Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia.

In his presentation, he emphasised the basics of copyright for broadcasters

and principles of ownership and transfer of copyright.

The delegates also discussed issues that broadcasters encounter in acquiring foreign programmes from distributors.

Zuraidah Mohd Yatim, Manager of the Legal Department of TV3-Malaysia, spoke on the subject and advised on possible measures that broadcasters could take to ensure that they have the necessary rights required in airing a foreign programme.

"Among the problems encountered by broadcasters in acquiring licences over foreign programmes are the limitations imposed on the exercise of the rights. For instance, broadcasters can use the programmes for free-to-air only and may not use it in any other medium like the Internet, mobile, CD and VCD," Ms Zuraidah said.

She also told the seminar that there was difficulty in ascertaining whether a local distributor had the authority to act on behalf of the copyright owner of

foreign programmes and that reliance to a contractual warranty or representation may not be sufficient.

"The ABU can take the lead role in protecting the broadcasters by facilitating the sharing of information among members on copyright issues involved in acquiring foreign programmes," Ms Zuraidah told the delegates.

Protecting interests

ABU Legal Officer Fernand Alberto said the ABU has already been coordinating with lawyers and legal officers of the ABU members as well as copyright contacts of the union in matters relating to protecting mutual interests on copyright issues

He added that copyright issues on the acquisition of foreign programmes could be taken up during the Eighth ABU Copyright Committee Meeting in Seoul on 20-22 April 2005.

Mr Alberto also made a presentation on "Copyright Exceptions and Limitations" and discussed the common myths of copyrights.

Collecting societies

On Day Two of the seminar, Chan Miew Lan, General Manager of Music Authors' Copyright Protection (MACP), spoke on the role of MACP in administering the music rights of composers and publishers.

She also explained the legal responsibilities of broadcasters in using music administered by MACP, a non-profit organisation whose main functions are to licence music users and pay songwriters and publishers when their works are broadcast and publicly performed.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Officer of Public Performance Malaysia (PPM), Tan Ngai Foo, spoke on the



Participants at the recent ABU Copyright Consultancy in Kuala Lumpur engrossed in a presentation

role of PPM, a one-stop licensing body which represents Malaysian and international recording companies and administers the licences for the public performance of their sound recordings and music videos.

The participants also discussed copyright issues on the Internet. Prof Khaw Lake Tee, Dean of the Law Faculty of Universiti Malaya, spoke on the copyright issues that are involved when broadcasters distribute or upload materials on the web.

The last session of the copyright seminar focussed on the proposed WIPO Broadcasters' Treaty, as part of the ABU's effort to raise awareness on the WIPO discussions on a proposed international protection for broadcasters.

"It is crucial for all broadcasters to convince their governments to support the adoption of the treaty that will update the rights of broadcasters," Mr Alberto said.

The ABU Copyright Consultancies are conducted for ABU members who express interest in discussing various issues on copyright and other intellectual property rights. The next leg of this event will be held in Vietnam in May this year. □

SBS Radio launches info CD for the aged

Australia's SBS Radio and a government agency have launched a multilingual users' rights CD that assists caregivers and residents in nursing homes across the country.

The project will support residential aged care services, particularly giving residents from non-English speaking backgrounds access to the same information.

The CD is produced in Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese. It contains a radio drama and a question-and-answer session to help users overcome problems with their care system.

As well as being available on CD, the 10-minute programmes will be aired by SBS Radio in all five languages this month to raise awareness of the issue among the wider community. □

Broadcasters must defend frequency spectrum turf

Frequency spectrum is the lifeline for broadcasters who are totally dependent on the availability of adequate spectrum for delivery of their products to the audiences.

Spectrum Regulation at National and International Level

National spectrum regulators allocate frequencies for various wireless services, generally in accordance with international allocations set up by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) are organised by the ITU every four years.

Based in Geneva, the ITU is a Specialised Agency of the United Nations and most countries in the world are its members.

Among other matters, the ITU also deals with all telecommunication (including broadcasting) issues on an international level and regulates the use of spectrum for these services.

In the past, broadcasters have had access to their allocated spectrum without any constraints.

However over the last few years, attempts have been made to have part of the broadcasting frequency spectrum available on a sharing basis to other telecommunications services.

This is beginning to affect current broadcasting operations and will hinder future development in broadcasting services. This situation is a cause for real concern to all broadcasters, ABU members included.

On its part, the ABU is actively pursuing these issues. However, further work needs to be done by ABU members at the national level, and by the ABU internationally, to prevent further erosion of the valuable spectrum resource.

In this context, the 2002 ABU General Assembly in Tokyo expressed its strong support for unrestricted use of the allocated spectrum by broadcasting services.

Between February and March this year, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity held a meeting of national spectrum regulators. This was to address spectrum-related issues of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs).

ABU contributions

Around 300 delegates from APT members and regional organisations attended the meeting.

The ABU contributed documents on issues of broadcasting interest, which include the following:



Participants of the spectrum regulators' meeting earlier this year



Some Iranian delegates at the spectrum regulators' meeting

- protecting television services in the upper UHF band from interference caused by some new types of satellite broadcasting services
- need for more channels to be provided for shortwave radio
- protecting ENG-EFP links operating in the "S" band from satellite services sharing that part of spectrum.

The WRCs will decide on at least five other spectrum-related issues which may have an adverse impact on broadcasting spectrum.

There are two items slated for studies which are of great interest – spectrum allocation for ENG-EFP TV links on a regional basis, and the use of the 22GHz band for HD-TV satellite broadcasting.

At the Bangkok meeting, measures to resolve most of the issues were discussed and the need for further studies identified.

Several important points were raised at the meeting on broadcasting spectrum issues. One of the benefits of the meeting was to touch base with spectrum specialists of the countries in this region and those outside of it. □

ABU Spectrum Related Events in June

The ABU is organising the Asia-Pacific Technical Regulators' Forum in Kuala Lumpur on 8 June 2005.

This event will be followed by a three-day ABU WRC-07 Preparatory Seminar (9-11 June) at the same venue.

Another spectrum related event – a workshop on Broadcasting Spectrum Usage – is being organised by the ABU at BroadcastAsia2005 in Singapore on 15 June. All ABU members are invited to send their participants to these spectrum related events.

Fuji TV and Livedoor to join forces

The two companies locked in a fierce battle over control of a Japanese radio broadcaster for weeks, have now agreed in principle to conclude a capital and business tie-up.

Under the accord, Internet service provider Livedoor Co – which has about a 50 percent stake in Nippon Broadcasting System Inc – will sell all its shares in the radio station operator to Fuji Television Network Inc (Fuji TV) for US\$58.60 (6,300 yen) each.

The deal will also see Fuji TV buying Nippon Broadcasting shares from other shareholders. The deal will allow the TV network to make the radio firm a subsidiary.

Fuji TV will spend some US\$409 million (44 billion yen) to buy newly issued Livedoor shares, and secure a 12.75 percent stake in the Internet firm.

Moreover, the three companies will conclude a business tie-up under which the Internet, the TV network and radio broadcaster will be linked to each other.

Fuji TV President Hisashi Hieda told a news conference: "We have reached a basic agreement after holding talks with Livedoor President Takafumi Horie and others on the day before yesterday."

"I'm sorry to have caused a stir over the past two months," Mr Horie said.

"I'm excited because we've agreed to conclude a tie-up aimed at linking broadcasting and communications, which has been my goal for the past decade." □

NHK-Japan starts Peace Archives on World War II bombings

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and NHK-Japan is undertaking a new project called "Peace Archives".

The Japanese public broadcaster has been making radio and TV programmes about the devastation caused by the atomic bombings and the importance of peace in the ardent hope that such tragedies will never be repeated.

The materials have been preserved in NHK's archives as assets to be handed down to future generations.

NHK will also distribute free-of-charge its atomic bomb-related programmes (English edition) to broadcasters around the world.

The programmes to be distributed to overseas broadcasters without charge are as follows:



The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, also known as the Genbaku Dome, was the only structure left standing when the first atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945



This aluminium lunch box once belonged to a schoolgirl. The untouched food inside was completely carbonised by the A-bomb

- *The People's Pictures: Drawings of the A-bomb Aftermath*
(Broadcast in 1975, documentary, 45 minutes)
- *The Things We Have Left: Hiroshima's Warning*
(Broadcast in 1982, documentary, 58 minutes)
- *Girls in Summer Dresses*
(Broadcast in 1988, animation, 30 minutes)

Those interested in obtaining the free programmes should get in touch with the NHK Peace Archives' Administrative Office.

The Administrative Office's contact details are as follows:

E-mail : m03501-peace@h.nhk.or.jp

Fax : +81-48-268-8607

Website : <http://www.nhk.or.jp/peace/>



Synopses of NHK's Peace Archives programmes:

The People's Pictures: Drawings of the A-bomb Aftermath

(Broadcast in 1975, documentary, 45 minutes)

On the 30th anniversary of the bombings, NHK's Hiroshima station put out a call to survivors to submit their own drawings of what they had experienced as A-bomb victims. About 2,200 artworks were sent in. Each drawing spoke volumes about the victims' hitherto unspoken thoughts. The Hiroshima station produced this documentary on the testimonies of those who drew these pictures.

(Winner of the 1975 Hosono Bunka Foundation Gold Medal)

The Things We Have Left: Hiroshima's Warning


(Broadcast in 1982, documentary, 58 minutes)

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum holds an extensive collection of 6,000 items that give witness to the traumatic experience of the bombing. They include a large number of personal effects of young students including schoolbags, lunch boxes, water bottles, and school uniforms. The programme presents a comprehensive view of the bombing of Hiroshima through the articles retrieved from near the epicentre and are now preserved at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

(Note: Commended at the 20th Galaxy Awards of the Japan Council for Better Radio and Television; Winner of Award of Excellence, 1983 Age of Regionalism Video Festival; Winner of Silver Dove Prize, 26th Leipzig International Film Festival of Documentary and Animated Film.)

Girls in Summer Dresses

(Broadcast in 1988, animation, 30 minutes)

An animation describing the daily routine of teenage girls from the First Hiroshima Girls High School before the atomic bombing. The story is based on diaries left behind by the girls. 

AVN moves to new home

All staff of the ABU Secretariat are housed in the same building for the first time in five years, after Asiavision moved from older premises nearby.

The Asiavision centre relocated to the New IPTAR building, owned by RTM-Malaysia, in mid-March. Other departments of the Secretariat moved to the new building in April 2000, but Asiavision stayed behind because of insufficient space.

Asiavision shares a wing on the second floor with the ABU's Publications and Legal Departments, while the other departments occupy the rest of the floor.

Launched in January 1984, Asiavision spent more than 14 years in RTM's TV Centre before moving in September 1998 to a nearby building where the Secretariat was then based. The move came as Asiavision prepared to launch a second daily satellite feed of news stories – a major expansion for the news exchange. □



AVN staff in the new newsroom

AVN's new contact numbers are:

Asiavision Newsroom:	(60-3) 2282-8026
Alan Williams, Managing Editor:	(60-3) 2282-8259
Humayun Choudhury, Senior Editor:	(60-3) 2282-6862
Secretary to Managing Editor:	(60-3) 2282-7033
AVN fax no:	(60-3) 2282-7562

That winning feeling



WINNERS AGAIN...The ABU's acting President, Zainal Abidin Iberahim (left), presents a cheque to the winners of the Malaysian final of the ABU's Asia-Pacific robot contest, Robocon 2005.

A team of first-year students from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) triumphed, beating another team from UTM in the final in Kuala Lumpur in April.

It's the fourth straight year that UTM has won the Malaysian final. This year, nearly 40 teams from about 20 institutions of higher learning took part. The winners will represent Malaysia in the international-level competition in Beijing in August, hosted by RTPRC/CCTV-People's Republic of China.

Malaysia will host next year's competition.

BTV journalist enjoys international outlook

Judging news from an international rather than a national perspective.

This was a key benefit for a Bangladesh journalist who spent a month on attachment to the Asiavision centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Munshi Fariduzzaman of Bangladesh Television (BTV) was the fifth journalist from an AVN member to spend time at the centre since the attachment scheme resumed in March last year.

Farid, as he is known, said journalists at BTV naturally judged news from a national point of view – on how relevant it was to viewers in Bangladesh.

“Here at the centre we look at it from an international point of view, and whether it will be of interest in other countries. This has been very useful.”



Munshi Fariduzzaman

Farid said his experience at AVN would assist him in deciding what current affairs programmes to produce for BTV's satellite channel, seen by viewers in the Middle East and elsewhere.

An experienced news producer, Farid has been with Bangladesh's public broadcaster for almost 11 years.

His overseas experience includes a month-long training course in Indonesia on documentary programme making, and three weeks in the United States last year under the State Department's International Visitor Programme.

Spending time in Malaysia was particularly interesting, he said, because many of his BTV colleagues had visited the country and often talked about it. His wife was able to join him in Kuala Lumpur in early April for the last week of his attachment.

The AVN attachment scheme first ran from 1991 to 1999. The ABU News Group decided to reintroduce it to strengthen the links between the AVN centre and member broadcasters.

Journalists from MCOT-Thailand, RTB-Brunei and IRIB-Iran have spent time at the centre over the past year. □

ABU to coordinate HIV/AIDS TV series

The ABU, along with MTV Networks International, the United Nations Development Programme and the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), will work with 12 TV producers from Asia-Pacific nations to produce “HIV/AIDS Reports” – a made-for-TV series.

The series will focus on the implications of HIV/AIDS in the contributing producer's home country, with an emphasis on the human or social dimension. The ABU will play a coordinating role in its production by soliciting applications from its members.

Participating broadcasters will each come up with a short-form programme on the subject. Completed productions will be made available for exchange

between participating broadcasters as well as rights-free to all ABU member broadcasters.

MTV Networks will contribute an executive producer to provide creative and technical support to the 12 producers, while the KFF will lend expertise on its work in HIV/AIDS communications.

Advice on content will come from the UNDP's Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (UNDP-APDIP) which will coordinate the responses and support from sister UN agencies and other international development organisations.

A production workshop will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, to help

producers gain access to expertise from international and local bodies working on the ground in addressing issues on HIV/AIDS.

ABU Secretary-General, David Astley, said he was delighted to be working with MTV, KFF and UNDP-APDIP to provide new platforms for the dissemination of HIV/AIDS reports.

Bill Roedy, Vice Chair of MTV Networks, said: “This partnership is a key building block in encouraging and training broadcasters about raising awareness of HIV and AIDS. Crucially, the workshop will enable the broadcasters to develop a series of rights-free, shared programming, which will reach millions of people across the Asia Pacific.” □

ABU CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events of interest to the ABU and its members in 2005

MAY		
1-6	INPUT 2005 (International Public Television Conference)	San Francisco
2-13	IPDC (International Programme for Development Communication) & ABU Workshop on Low Cost Digital Radio Production Systems	Vientiane
5-6	78th ABU Administrative Council Meeting	Islamabad
9-11	Asia Media Summit 2005	Kuala Lumpur
12-13	36th ABU Sports Group and Associated Meetings	Bangkok
14	IOC Marketing and Promotion Workshop and Asian Indoor Games Broadcaster Briefing	Bangkok
15	Asian Indoor Games "Venue Tour"	Bangkok
16-17	ABU Technical Bureau 2005 Mid Year Meeting	Brunei
16-18	NABA Annual Meeting	Toronto
25-27	NATPE 05	Las Vegas
30-June 4	ABU Documentary Exchange Meeting and Workshop	Hong Kong
31-June 1	WBU/ISOG Broadcasters' Meeting	Geneva
JUNE		
6-7	AIB Global Media Business Conference	Montreal
7-8	International T-DMB Conference	Seoul
8	Asia-Pacific Technical Regulators' Forum	Kuala Lumpur
9-10	WorldDAB's Conference	Kaohsiung
9-11	ABU WRC-07 Preparatory Seminar	Kuala Lumpur
13-17	BroadcastAsia 2005	Singapore
15	Broadcasting Spectrum Usage Workshop	Singapore
15-17	RadioAsia 2005	Singapore
25-29	ISBT 2005	Beijing
30-July 2	Monaco Media Forum	Monaco
JULY		
3-9	International Olympic Committee Session	Singapore
4-10	ABU Children's Programme Item-exchange Meeting & Workshop	tbc
7-8	EBU General Assembly	Dubrovnik
18-21	14th AMIC Annual Conference – "Media and Society in Asia: Transformations and Transitions"	Beijing
22-Aug 1	ABU Voyage to the Future 2005	Borneo
26-30	4th AIBD General Conference and Annual Meetings	Brunei
AUGUST		
27	ABU Robocon Beijing 2005	Beijing
SEPTEMBER		
8-13	IBC 2005	Amsterdam
26-27	APSCC Satellite Conference & Exhibition	Singapore
OCTOBER		
12-14	PBI Conference	Oslo
14	National Radio Conference	Sydney
24-27	SPORTELMonaco	Monaco
25-28	CASBAA Convention 2005	Hong Kong
NOVEMBER		
12-19	1st Asian Indoor Games	Bangkok
16-19	NATEXPO-2005	Moscow
21-28	42nd ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings	Hanoi
27-Dec 5	23rd South-East Asian Games	Manila
30-Dec 2	News World Nature Media Environment Summit	Kuching
JANUARY 2006		
15-18	PTC'06 Conference & Exhibition	Honolulu
MARCH		
7-9	The 12th Middle East International Cable, Satellite, Broadcast & Communications Exhibition (CABSAT 2006)	Dubai

ABU News Mar/Apr 2005 Vol. 24 No. 2

Published six times a year by the
Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union

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Printed by **Xpress Graphic**
32-3A-1, 4th Floor, Jalan 1/116B,
Sri Desa Entrepreneurs Park,
Off Jalan Kuchai Lama,
58200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

PP 4408/2/2006
ISSN 0127-4902

*For advertising enquiries,
please contact the Editor.
Editorial contributions are welcome.
ABU News is supplied free of charge
to ABU members and is available
on subscription to others.
Subscription: US\$25.00 a year
(six issues) airmailed to
anywhere in the world.*

RadioAsia 2005

Asian Radio at the Crossroads: A New Paradigm in the digital age

The RadioAsia Conference 2005 is the first of a planned annual conference on radio in Asia. Despite the growth and proliferation of other new media in Asia, radio continues to play an important role in reaching out to communities. As such, this annual conference would serve as a focal point for the exchange of ideas and concepts and the sharing of information on successes achieved. Participants will also be able to conduct business and network with industry peers.

RadioAsia will bring together leading radio practitioners, communication specialists, policy makers and academics from the Asia Pacific. Some 40 eminent speakers specialising in various aspects of radio and communications will be present to share their perspectives.

The three-day event, which includes a two-and-a-half-day conference and half-day workshops on the third day, will highlight the power of radio and the influence that it still exerts despite pressures from new media. It will also examine how radio can continue to play a vital role in reaching out to the masses in the dissemination of information, and promote regional development.

Key issues that will be discussed:

- Development of Radio: Industry View
- Crisis and Conflict Communication
- Digital Radio
- Audience Research and Radio Advertising
- Radio Regulation
- Radio and Youth
- Development Communication:
People's Voices and Community Radio

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15-17 June 2005

In conjunction with

**BroadcastAsia 2005
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Singapore
Exhibition Hall**

Who should attend?

- Media professionals
- Policymakers and planners
- Academics
- Researchers
- Radio advertising executives
- Media and communications students
- Public relations executives
- Consultants & specialists
- Civil society organisations

Registration Fees

ABU/AMIC Members

- Early Bird (till 13 May)
SGD \$150
- Regular (till 6 June)
SGD \$225
- On-site
SGD \$300

Non-members

- Early Bird (till 13 May)
SGD \$225
- Regular (till 6 June)
SGD \$300
- On-site
SGD \$375

The registration fees cover the two-and-a-half day conference and the half-day workshops, including daily morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks as well as conference papers. Lunch is not included, but is available from various outlets in the Expo centre. All delegates will receive an invitation to the networking cocktail function being sponsored by Commercial Radio Australia (CRA) on the evening of the first day of the conference.

Cancellations are non-refundable, although participants can be substituted at any time.

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International journalism prize for 'green' media summit



The International Media & Environment Summit (IMES), to be held this year in Kuching, Malaysia, has been selected to host the presentation ceremony of the Biodiversity Reporting Award.

The nine national winners of the internationally recognised award will be flown in from Madagascar, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela for the event.

Last year, Princess Takamodo of Japan presented the Award at the Third IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.

The environmental journalism competition for the Biodiversity Reporting Award is coordinated by Conservation International (CI), International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) and Fundación Biodiversidad of the Spanish Ministry of Environment.

The presentation of the award during IMES, held from 30 November to 2 December 2005, will give the winners the opportunity to interact with other environmental journalists from various parts of the world.

The summit aims to develop three bridges: between media professionals and conservationists, between the East and the West, and between the public and the private sectors.

It is being organised by News World Nature, which is part of News World International, and strongly supported by the ABU.



A panoramic view of the city of Kuching in Malaysia which will play host to the International Media & Environment Summit

News World International Managing Director, Alexander Thomson, said: "The involvement of CI, ICFJ, IFEJ and Fundación Biodiversidad – all globally recognised, well-respected and independent institutions – guarantees the award's prestige and credibility among the international media."

Capacity building

According to CI's Vice President for Global Awareness, Haroldo Castro, the award aims to "build the professional capacity of the environmental journalists by giving them the life-changing opportunity of participating in an international congress".

"Attending the IMES in Malaysia will be an extraordinary opportunity for our winners to meet colleagues and to share professional experiences," said Mr Castro, who is also the Executive Director of the award.

News World Nature hopes that the presence of the Award winners in Kuching will help develop links

between the best media professionals and leading environmentalists which is one of the key goals of the event.

"Their presence will also help to build bridges between different biodiversity-rich regions around the world, such as Africa, Latin America and Asia," said Mr Thomson, a former Bureau Chief and Editor with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"News World has been deeply committed to fostering new ways of creating dialogues and networking; and Malaysia itself has always believed in deeper South-South understanding," he added. □



The orangutan is a protected species unique to the jungles of the island of Borneo where Kuching is located

ABU staff joins IOC RTV Commission

John Barton, the ABU's Sports Department Head, will join other distinguished broadcasters from around the world on a key body of the International Olympic Committee.

Mr Barton has been appointed to the influential Radio and Television Commission, and will represent the broadcast interests of members in 27 territories in the Asia-Pacific region.

ABU Secretary-General David Astley said the appointment was just recognition of the growing importance of the ABU in Olympic programming and distribution.

"John's role will be to put forward the concerns of our members, and their hopes and expectations for future Olympic Games," Mr Astley said.

"His elevation to the committee is very timely especially as our members



John Barton

in China will be heavily involved in the broadcast of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008," Mr Astley added.

The IOC said that the RTV Commission was responsible for advising the organising committees of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Broadcasting Organisations on how to provide the best possible working conditions for broadcast media.

By ensuring the media enjoyed the best working conditions, the RTV Commission played a key role in the worldwide dissemination and promotion of the Olympic Games and Olympic values. □

RNZ and ABU to study DRM implementation strategies

Radio New Zealand (RNZ) has launched a project to investigate the appropriate Digital Radio Modiale (DRM) implementation strategies for radio broadcasters within the Asia-Pacific region.

This initiative is being carried out with the co-operation of the ABU, Thales Corp and THL-Australia.

The technical investigation, which started in April in Wellington, is being carried out on digital radio transmissions in the medium wave band using the DRM digital system.

An analogue medium wave radio transmitter of RNZ has been converted for digital transmissions especially for this project.

This is to facilitate investigations on simulcast transmission of analogue and digital radio programmes.

A Digital Radio Symposium and Demonstration was also organised as part of the project.

Around 70 experts from the radio industry in the region met from 27-29 April to provide technical information on digital radio and the conversion of transmitters from analogue to digital mode.

The symposium aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants to carry out measurements of various technical parameters.

The event culminated with a field measurement trip on 29 April. □

TV to reach 600m homes by 2010 in the region

TV households in Asia Pacific are expected to rise by 30 percent to reach 600 million by 2010.

The projected growth includes 280 million (46 percent) households being equipped with some form of cable television – either digital or analogue.

A report by Informa Telecoms & Media said China is expected to have around 365 million TV households in five years' time, followed by India with 97 million.

"Cable remains the region's dominant platform, but there has also been significant progress in the rollout of digital satellite," said Adam Thomas, the author of the report. □

TVNZ joins ABU rights pool for Torino Winter Olympics

The ABU is mounting its biggest coverage of a Winter Olympic Games following the inclusion of New Zealand in its list of licenced territories, Secretary-General David Astley has said.

New Zealand's TVNZ joins CCTV-China as the key broadcasters in the ABU rights pool for Torino 2006.

"This is a great breakthrough for the ABU to be able to represent New Zealand and thus increase the strength of our Winter Olympics pool," Mr Astley said.

The ABU has been trying to boost the strength of its sports pools for major events for some years, and the effort is now paying off.

"It is evident from anyone who saw our coverage of the Athens 2004 Olympics that the ABU is a world leader in terms of coverage and transmission.



TVNZ's Keith Catchpole and John West are amongst the delegates looking over one of the brand new media villages in Torino which will house their technical and production staff

"In partnership with TVNZ, the ABU broadcast almost 4,000 hours of Olympic programming in Athens.

"That is a major achievement matched only by the world's largest broadcasters," Mr Astley said.

The multi-channel concept which had worked so well at two Summer Games was a broadcast asset that the ABU was carefully husbanding.

"You will see it deployed in Torino next year, and also at the Commonwealth and Asian Games," he added.

The successful conclusion to the rights agreement with the International Olympic Committee well in advance of the Torino Games would also assist the ABU in 'selling' the event to its other members.

"The IOC has recognised that the event needs to be heavily marketed and promoted in Asia, since very few countries in our region have a winter sports programme.

"However, there has been strong interest from our members to gain access to our multi-channel feed for key events such as figure skating, ice hockey, ski jumping and the downhill and slalom competitions," Mr Astley said. □



Delegates to the Second World Broadcasters Briefing in Torino inspecting the Palavello Venue, which will host figure skating and hockey events

Broadcasters are assured of successful Winter Games

– despite budget woes and sacking of Torino CEO



Piazza Castellano, where 50 medal presentation ceremonies will be held. It is one of the city's most beautiful piazzas where the tagline is 'passion and participation'

Within days of hosting the world's broadcasters in Torino, Italy, for briefings on the planning for next year's Winter Olympic Games, the organising committee's CEO and his deputy were both dismissed from their posts.

But delegates to the Second WBM have been assured that all was well within the organising committee (TOROC), in spite of budgetary problems and a delay in construction works at the main stadium.

TOROC President, Valentino Castellani, told broadcasters that nearly 80 percent of the building

and refurbishment work had been completed, and test events had also been very successful.

Operational difficulties

In a prepared statement, Mr Castellani said there had been divisions within the organisation which had created a situation of serious operational difficulty, and for which he had to find an immediate solution.

"TOROC requested Chief Executive Officer Paolo Rota to hand in his mandate to enable organisers to resolve the organisational difficulties that have characterised the past months of work," the statement read.

"With only 340 days to go to the Opening Ceremony, it was necessary to bring the entire structure back to a unity of intents and to find again the full agreement and commitment of everyone," said Mr Castellani.

The Italian Government also moved quickly to calm the nerves of the IOC and sponsors alike by saying that they would step in to cover any budget overruns. These are estimated to be running at around US\$194 million (Euros150 million).

"The people of Torino and throughout Italy are firmly behind the games and the organising committee," Mr Castellani added.

He said the Italians would share in a fantastic legacy with new highways, sports venues, communications and accommodation blocks.

After much debate, 50 medal presentation ceremonies at the Winter Games will be conducted in the historic Piazza Castellano, the delegates were told. The remaining 34 would be held immediately after the event at the specific venue.

The choice of Piazza Castellano would add great atmosphere to the occasion and would provide broadcasters with excellent pictures, TOROC said.

HDTV increase

The President of Torino Olympic Broadcast Organisation (TOBO), Manolo Romero, said the Games would be a further benchmark in the provision of high-definition signals from selected venues.

"We will utilise HDTV signals in seven venues, including the 'Stadio Olimpico' for both the opening and closing ceremonies.

"In addition HDTV signals will also be produced for hockey, figure skating, ski jumping, speed skating and freestyle skiing," Mr Romero said.

TOBO, he said, was putting together the most comprehensive coverage of a Winter Games which, apart from the high-definition pictures, would include record venue feeds (all SDI 625/50 and 4:3), beauty cameras (at least eight), a unilateral Vanda from all mountain venues among other innovations and services.

Quality facilities

"We have set aside 3,000 square metres of space for the mountain Broadcast Media Centre, which will also have bookable facilities such as editing and off-tube booths," Mr Romero said.



Under grey falling skies and a bitterly cold Alpine wind, Italian workmen put a new face on the Stadio Olimpico, the venue for the Games' opening and closing ceremonies



BIT Media Village is situated just near the International Broadcast Centre and offers excellent accommodation in a peaceful setting beside the River Po

The media villages will accommodate some 17,000 people during the games, including nearly 8,000 broadcast personnel from across the globe.

Most will be housed in seven new or refurbished media villages in Torino, offering three-star services and comfort.

"The villages, from what we saw, are excellent and well ahead of the construction deadlines," Head of Sport John Barton said.

"Broadcasters will be delighted with the quality of the rooms, the dining facilities, common and leisure areas."

RadioAsia 2005 to reinforce relevance of radio

The important role of radio communications in mitigating disasters as well as turning around battered economies will be discussed at the first RadioAsia conference, to be held in Singapore from 15 to 17 June.

A special panel will be sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to mark the recent Asian tsunami tragedy which demonstrated how shortwave radio broadcasts were crucial to disaster alerts and relief efforts.

The ICRC panel will also highlight how radio communication can be used to revive economies in post-conflict countries, an indication that radio is as relevant to listeners as ever.

RadioAsia 2005 – which will be held in conjunction with BroadcastAsia 2005 – is being jointly organised by the ABU and the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), in partnership with Singapore Exhibition Services (SES).

Emerging strategies

The three-day event, which is supported by the Media Development Authority of Singapore, will focus on the impact of emerging and converging radio communications strategies in the Asia-Pacific region.

It will feature speakers and participants from across Asia as well as from the United States and Europe. Selected papers presented at the conference will be compiled into a book and published by an international publisher.

“We’ve received a very encouraging response to this new conference which only shows that there is a need for such

RadioAsia 2005

a conference in this region,” said David Astley, Secretary-General of the ABU.

AMIC Secretary-General, Dr Indrajit Banerjee, said: “Radio is one of the most accessible and widespread media across the world, yet its very ubiquity means it often falls short of recognition. In seeking to redress this imbalance, AMIC is happy to be able to initiate the RadioAsia 2005 Conference, a milestone event.”

The two-and-a-half-day conference sessions will feature issues such as the development of various aspects of radio, people’s voices and community radio, radio and youth, radio regulation and audience research and radio advertising.

Commercial Radio Australia (CRA) will present several papers including “Brand Advertising as Seen on Radio”, “Approaches to Regulation of the Commercial Radio Sector” and “Education and Training for Radio Industry Personnel”.

On the third day, there will be a special cross-media panel session on

the “Future of Radio Broadcasting” which aims to recognise the developments in radio amid a boom of cross-media technologies such as digital mobile broadcasting (DMB).

Two parallel half-day workshop sessions will also be conducted by Radio Netherlands Training Centre and Deutsche Welle Academy.

As an incentive to participants and to encourage broadcasters from developing countries to attend this significant event in radio, the organisers have set the conference fees to as low as US\$91 (SG\$150) for early bird rates, valid until 13 May 2005.

Limited fellowships to developing country radio broadcasters are also provided by the organisers with the support of UNESCO and German non-profit institution Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

Nokia and AMP Radio Networks are the conference’s co-sponsors. The CRA will sponsor a cocktail reception in conjunction with the event.

Those interested in signing up for the conference can visit www.radioasia.org for more details. □



RadioAsia 2005 will be held in conjunction with BroadcastAsia which attracts many exhibitors annually

SBS-Australia to host first Asia-Pacific Film & TV Awards

The proposed Asia-Pacific Film and Television Awards have been further endorsed, with the announcement that Australia's leading multicultural broadcaster, SBS, will broadcast the first awards presentation.

Glenys Rowe, General Manager of SBS Independent, said the network would be proud to take such a major cultural asset to its audience.

"This initiative – which seeks to encapsulate the rich cultural heritage, talent and creative spirit of the Asia-Pacific nations and their presence in other nations – is a good fit with the principals underpinning SBS," she said.

In addition to SBS, Queensland Events is collaborating with independent producer, Nick Murray, of Jigsaw Entertainment to establish a unique style and format for the awards.

Currently under consideration is a television programme which will take audiences into the lives of film and documentary makers, and examine the cultural influences behind their stories.

In September last year in Kazakhstan, the General Assembly of the ABU endorsed a proposal from Queensland Events to conduct a feasibility study into a film and television awards-based programme.

The programme is to be broadcast to a potential audience of over three billion people in the Asia-Pacific region.

When informing Queensland Events of the endorsement by the General Assembly, ABU Secretary-General David Astley said the Union recognised the importance of the awards to cultural

exchange and mutual understanding in the region.

"The ABU will continue to collaborate with Queensland Events to further develop the concept and business model as a broadcast platform," Mr Astley said.

The strength and uniqueness of the proposed awards lie in their enormous broadcast reach – to some 54 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This initiative would enable the region's film and television makers to take their creations to possibly the largest broadcast platform in the world.



The opera house in Sydney, the host city of the Asia Pacific Film & TV Awards

"The proposed awards will be an event of great consequence for this region," Ms Rowe said. □

Broadcasters' safety under the spotlight

The safety of broadcasters working in dangerous situations will come under the spotlight at an international meeting of broadcasters in Geneva at the end of May.

The World Broadcasting Unions' International Satellite Operations Group, WBU-ISOG, will look at how advanced newsgathering technology allows news crews to operate deep in conflict zones, and what can be done to help ensure their safety.

The group brings together broadcasters, satellite operators and service providers to discuss issues of common concern.

Major broadcasters from Asia and elsewhere will detail their experiences

in reporting from the world's hotspots. Safety training specialists will also speak at the event.

The issue is a pressing one, with International Press Institute figures showing that 78 journalists were killed around the world last year – 27 of them in Asia.

The WBU-ISOG meeting, on 31 May-1 June, will also look at issues such as reducing exorbitant satellite transmission charges by telcos, and curbing the problem of "rogue" transmissions that damage the signals of other broadcasters.

All ABU members are welcome to attend the meeting. For more information, please contact the Secretariat. □

ABU Prizes 2005

Hanoi, Vietnam

26 November 2005

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE – for Radio & TV

From the entries submitted, one prize each will be awarded for Radio and TV entries to recognise creative and innovative works of producers despite the limited resources available to them.

* ABU Prize trophy

* For Radio – free enrolment in one Graduate Certificate Course in Commercial Radio Programming, plus an all-expenses-paid trip to Australia

* For TV – US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Australian Broadcasting Corporation

RADIO

Drama

Serials/series or a single-episode drama

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Hoso Bunka Foundation, Japan

Infotainment

Programmes that are informative and are presented in an entertaining manner, including talk radio/quiz programmes and music/variety shows

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Khabar Agency, Kazakhstan

Children & Youth

Programmes intended for the entertainment and/or education of children (aged up to 12 years) and youth (aged between 12 and 17 years)

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Korean Broadcasting System, Rep. of Korea

News & Documentary

News reporting, news analyses, current affairs and documentary programmes

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Tokyo Broadcasting System, Japan

External Broadcasts

Programmes produced for international broadcast and based on the theme "Covering Natural Disasters"

* ABU Prize trophy

* All-expenses-paid visit to a member broadcasting station for the winning producer sponsored by BBC World Service, Deutsche Welle and Voice of America

TV

Drama

Serials/series or a single-episode drama

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Hoso Bunka Foundation, Japan

Entertainment

Any programme format, except dramas, including musicals, music concerts, singing/talent contests, music television, variety, talk shows, game/quiz shows, one-off specials, stage plays, skits

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, Rep. of Korea

Children & Youth

Programmes intended for the entertainment and/or education of children (aged up to 12 years) and youth (aged between 12 and 17 years)

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Special Broadcasting Service Corporation, Australia

News & Documentary

News reporting, news analyses, current affairs and documentary programmes

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Nippon Hoso Kyokai, Japan

Sports Programmes

Live coverage

* ABU Prize trophy

* US\$2,000 cash award sponsored by Radio & Television of the People's Republic of China, and Television Broadcasts Limited, Hong Kong

SCHEDULE

Deadline for submission of entries: 15 July 2005

Pre-selection: 11-13 August 2005

Final judging: 21-22 November 2005

Awards Presentation: 26 November 2005

NOTIFICATION & ENQUIRIES

For contest enquiries and notification of package waybill and flight numbers, contact:

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