



10TH ABU MEDIA SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION & DISASTER PREVENTION AND ABU AI FORUM 2026

“From Awareness to Action: Intelligent Media for Climate Resilience and a Safer Future”

Paro, Bhutan | 16–18 June 2026

This joint event brings together media leaders, journalists, technologists, policymakers, scientists, and humanitarian partners to explore how public-interest media and emerging technologies, particularly AI, can move societies from climate awareness to concrete action, preparedness and prevention.



DAY 1
16 June 2026

Media for Climate Action & Disaster Prevention

Theme: Strengthening Public Media for Climate Resilience and Safer Communities

08:00 – 09:00 | Registration

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Ceremony

- Welcome remarks by Host Broadcaster: **Dorji Tashi**, CEO, BBSCL
- Opening address by ABU: **Ahmed Nadeem**, Secretary-General
- Keynote Address: “*Media as a First Responder in a Climate-Impacted World*” – **Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji**, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment

09:30 – 10:00 | Group Photo & Networking Break

10:00 – 11:00 | High-Level Plenary Session 1

Public Media at the Frontline: Why Climate Communication Must Change

- The evolving role of public media in climate resilience
- From awareness campaigns to life-saving communication
- Media trust, credibility, and public accountability

Moderator: Thinley Yangchen Dorji, Director, News & Current Affairs Department, BBS Bhutan

Speakers:

- **Andrew McElroy**, Senior Specialist Media, Green Climate Fund
- **Giulio Fabris**, Communications Specialist, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
- **Rajendra Kumar Acharya**, Regional Secretary, UNI ASIA AND PACIFIC,
- **Karma Galey**, Director, Department of local Governance and Disaster Management, BBS Bhutan

11:00 – 12:30 | Plenary Session 2

Early Warnings for All: Turning Alerts into Action

- Media's role in multi-hazard early warning systems
- Reaching last-mile and vulnerable communities
- Language, accessibility, and inclusive messaging

Moderator: Ariel Rohas, Msc, Resident Meteorologist, ABS-CBN Integrated News and Current Affairs

Speakers:

- **Jeanette Elsworth**, the Chief of Communications and ICT at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Jochen Luther**, Technical Coordinator, Regional Office for Asia and the Southwest Pacific, WMO
- **Ben Churchill**, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, WMO
- **Theresa Rockley Hogan**, Emergency Broadcast Lead, ABC Regional Rural and Metro News, ABC Australia
- **KUDO Noriko**, Deputy Head of Multilingual Media Division, NHK WORLD Department, NHK Japan
- **Ugyen Chopel**, Chief Statistical Officer, National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM), Bhutan

DAY 1
16 June 2026

Media for Climate Action & Disaster Prevention

12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 | **Media Saving Lives: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific**

- Best practices from broadcasters during recent disasters
- Institutionalising Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans (DPRP)
- Editorial preparedness, coordination, and newsroom protocols

Moderator: Ma'aly Hazzaz, Advisor for Communication and Information for South Asia at the Delhi Regional Office, UNESCO

Speakers:

- **Thinley Yangchen Dorji**, Director, News & Current Affairs Department, BBS Bhutan
- **Janitha Mendis**, Director- Digital Media, News 1st, MTV Sri-Lanka
- **Atiq Kainan Ahmed**, Technical Advisor, DRR Expert, Thailand
- **Fabian Randerath**, FBC Resilience Committee Chair, FBC, Fiji
- **Ariel T. Rojas**, Msc, Resident Meteorologist, ABS-CBN Integrated News and Current Affairs
- **Nguyễn Anh Thư**, Senior Journalist, VTV Vietnam

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 | **Climate & Emergency Reporting Under Pressure**

- Safety, ethics, and field reporting during disasters
- Building trust in an era of climate misinformation
- Community & indigenous knowledge in climate communication (local voices, languages, and traditional wisdom)

Moderator: Syed Tarikul Islam, Chief Executive Officer, Radio Naf, Bangladesh

Speakers:

- **Vu Ho Diep**, Head of International News, VOV 1, VOV Vietnam
- **Sok Sian Pek Dorji**, Founder, Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
- **Karma**, Specialist, Cryosphere Services, National Center for Hydrology and Metrology, Bhutan
- **Zhang Bo**, Senior Engineer of the Transmission Department, NRTA, China
- **Hyun-wook Shin**, Reporter, KBS Korea
- **Kyaw Myo Win**, Assistant Director, MRTV Myanmar

17:30 – 17:45 | **Day 1 Wrap-up**

- Key takeaways and reflections

DAY 2

17 June 2026

AI for Broadcasting & Natural Emergencies

Theme: Intelligent Media – AI for Resilient Broadcasting and Emergency Response

09:15 – 09:30 | Recap of Day 1 & Introduction to Day 2

09:30 – 11:00 | Plenary Session 1

AI in Broadcasting & Media: Opportunities, Risks, and Responsibilities

- Automation vs editorial judgment
- Trust, transparency, and audience perception
- Public media values in the age of algorithms

Moderator: Atiq Kainan, International Expert, Technical Advisor

Speakers:

- **Chitranshu Tewari**, Expertise in AI-driven product development
- **Sannuta Raghu** - Award-winning Indian journalist and television producer; Creator of Scroll.in digital video newsroom
- **Sashka Koloff**, Managing Editor Standards and Compliance, ABC Screen, ABC Australia
- **Ugyen Penjor**, CEO, Kuensel Corporation limited, Bhutan.
- **Dr Haida Baba**, Deputy Director of TV News and Current Affairs RTM Malaysia

11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 | Plenary Session 2

AI for Natural Hazards: Emergency Communication & Coverage

- AI-assisted forecasting and data interpretation
- Real-time content production during crises
- AI in multilingual and accessibility services during emergencies

Moderator: Nargiza Numanova, Head of Secretary-General's Office, ABU

Speakers:

- **Dragyel Tenzin Torrji**, CEO Red Cross Bhutan
- **Dr Golestan (Sally) Radwan**, Chief Digital Officer, UNEP
- **Xue Jingyi**, Business Director of the Academy of Broadcasting Planning (ABP), NRTA China
- **Sunil**, President, Institution of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineers (IETE), India
- **Kanokporn Prasitphon**, Digital Media Director, ThaiPBS, Thailand

12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch

DAY 2

17 June 2026

AI for Broadcasting & Natural Emergencies

14:00 – 15:00 | **Technical & Editorial Sessions (presentations session)**
AI for Newsrooms; AI for Emergency Operations; Ethics, Governance & Regulation

Moderator: Sok Sian Pek Dorji, Founder, Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy

Speakers:

- **Tenzin Lamsang**, CEO, The Bhutanese, Bhutan
- **Harismen**, Head of International Relations, TVRI Indonesia
- **KITAJIMA Shu**, Media Innovation Center, NHK Japan,
- **Laziz Djuraev**, Head of International Relations Department, MTRK Uzbekistan
- **Zaid Mohammed**, Senior Data Scientist, International Digital News, TRT Türkiye

15:00 – 15:30 | **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00 | **Special Session**

From Science to Commitment: Building an Intelligent Media Ecosystem for Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

1. WMO State of Climate in Asia Report Launching Session (45 minutes online)
2. Dialogue & Commitment to Building an Intelligent Media Ecosystem for Climate Resilience & DRR

Moderator: Jeanette Elsworth, Chief of Communications and ICT at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Science:

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – (remotely)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Alexander Saier, Head of Media, Digital Media, Branding and Visual Design - (remotely)

Finance:

- Green Climate Fund - **Andrew McElroy**, Senior Specialist Media,

Technology Sector:

- Broadcast Engineering Society (BES), Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE) India - **Sunil**, President

Media Sector:

- Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union - **Ahmed Nadeem**, Secretary-General

Commitment for:

- Aligning policy, technology, and editorial leadership
- Partnerships of media, science, humanitarian, and tech sectors

17:00 – 17:15 | **Day 2 Wrap-up**

- 2026 CADP & Ai Forum Call for Action
- Takeaways & Closing remarks by Host & ABU

19:00 21:20

2026 ABU T4P MEDIA AWARDS GALA
A Celebration of Excellence in Public Service Media

DAY 3

18 June 2026

CULTURAL PROGRAMME & EXCURSION



HERITAGE



CULTURE



NATURE



HOSPITALITY

