REPORTING ON CONFLICTS AND DISASTERS: The media debates its role

Hiroshima, Japan
26-28 November 2014
Asia Pacific Media Conference
With growing influence comes greater responsibility.

In reporting independently and accurately on conflict, violence and disaster, and the humanitarian issues they generate, media in Asia Pacific can shine a light on the plight of the most vulnerable and demonstrate the need for humanitarian aid. Bringing together senior media representatives from the region, this conference will take place in Hiroshima, not only a city of extraordinary history but also of outstanding resilience.

Hosted by the ICRC, the event will advance discussions on the media’s role in reporting on man-made and natural disasters in today’s communication environment as well as on how professional journalism can build credibility and trust in the age of citizen journalism and social media.

ABOUT THE ASIA PACIFIC MEDIA CONFERENCE

THE ICRC IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), an independent and non-political organization, has a long history in Asia and the Pacific of providing humanitarian services and expertise. Its work focuses mainly in areas such as emergency response and assistance, international humanitarian law, the restoration of family links, visits to inmates in places of detention, orthopaedic services, water and habitat.

The ICRC is a reference institution for detention-related issues and is committed to strengthening the efforts of national authorities in solving humanitarian problems in prisons. It benefits from worldwide recognition through a unique approach based on discretion, transparency, reliability, independence and impartiality. It stands close to vulnerable persons, while engaging with all concerned. The ICRC usually works in partnership with the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

THE ICRC AROUND THE WORLD

Established in 1863 in Geneva, the ICRC works in more than 80 countries around the world and has a tradition in responding to the needs of people adversely affected by situations of humanitarian concern, in particular armed conflicts and violence.

This impartial, non-political and independent organization has an exclusively humanitarian mission to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and values.
Asia Pacific Media Conference 2014

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the media debates its role
26-28 November / Hiroshima, Japan

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SESSION 1
Situations of violence and armed conflict – reporting on man-made disasters

SESSION 2
Lessons from Typhoon Haiyan, the Tohoku earthquake, and beyond - reporting on natural disasters

SESSION 3
The Media of Tomorrow

Wednesday, 26 November

13:00 – 18:00 Kick-off event
Opening of the photo exhibition “War from a Victim’s Perspective” followed by a tour of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, a visit to Hiroshima Peace Museum and a testimony from Hibakusha, an atomic bomb survivor

19:00 – 20:30 Welcome reception and dinner
Words from: Mr Dominik Stillhart, ICRC Director of Operations
Mr Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor, Hiroshima Prefecture
Mr Tadateru Konoe, President of the Japanese Red Cross Society
A toast by: Mr Urs Bucher, Swiss Ambassador to Japan

Host & MC: Mr Vincent Nicod, Head of ICRC Mission in Tokyo

Thursday, 27 November

09:00-10:00 OPENING CEREMONY
Speeches by:
Mr Dominik Stillhart, ICRC Director of Operations
Mr Tadateru Konoe, President of Japanese Red Cross Society

Keynote speech by: Ms Yumi Kanazaki, Writer for Hiroshima Peace Media Centre
Humanitarian reporting:
Hiroshima’s role and responsibilities for future generations

Introductory remarks by: Mr Ewan Watson, Public Relations Officer for Asia Pacific, ICRC

Coffee break (10:00-10:20)

10:20-13:15 SESSION 1:
Situations of violence and armed conflict – reporting on man-made disasters

Chair: Ms Miki Ebara, Editor-in-Chief, NHK World, Japan
Introductory words: experiences from Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia

Speakers:
Mr Saleem Safi, Current affairs show host and columnist with Daily Jang and The News, Pakistan
Conveying the voice of the victims of atrocities – the media’s humanitarian contribution

Mr Mohammad Daud Junbish, Senior Editor, BBC Radio, Afghanistan
How to cover situations where people are demanding change?
When volatile political climates turn violent, what are the pitfalls media must avoid?

Ms Marilou Cadeliña Manar, Anchor, DXND North Cotabato, Philippines
Reporting independently on situations of ethno-religious tensions: the challenges

Mr Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher, The Daily Star, Bangladesh
Citizen journalism and the democratisation of information:
Challenges and opportunities for journalists reporting on situations of violence

Mr Akihiro Nonaka, Founder and Director, the Asia Press, Japan
Media self-censorship and violence – how and why media puts limits on what it says

Break-out groups on best practices-and expectations from humanitarian organizations

Group leaders:
Mr Yostinus Tomiariyanto, Tempo Magazine, Indonesia
Mr Wonsuk Choe, The Chosunilbo, South Korea
Mr Wai Min Phyo, Eleven Media, Myanmar

Brief wrap-up by the chair
**Friday, 28 November**

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<td>09:00 - 12:30</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 3:</strong> The Media of Tomorrow</td>
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**Chair:** Mr Peter Cave, Former ABC Foreign Affairs Editor, Australia  
Reflections on the future of professional journalism

**Speakers:**  
Mr Hiroshi Fuse, Senior Editorial Writer, Mainichi Newspapers, Japan  
Media on the front line:  
How do media organisations protect their journalists from abduction & other dangers?  
How to cover situations when security concerns limit access?

Mr Johannes Heru Margianto, Assistant Managing Editor, Kompas.com, Indonesia  
Harvesting content from social media:  
its uses in a disaster, its limits as a tool for journalists - how to verify data?  
How to tell both sides of a story?

Ms Khatera Isahaqzai, News presenter/Producer, Khurshid Radio, Afghanistan  
Building credibility and trust when reporting on crisis situations

Mr Augustine Anthuvan, Editor for Current Affairs, CNA Media Corp, Singapore  
The fine line between allegation and accusation: the media’s responsibility  
How to faithfully report on highly sensitive political issues, such as irregular migration, with a major humanitarian dimension

**Coffee break (10:30-10:50)**

**Group discussions:** key challenges for professional media - and possible solutions  
**Group leaders:**  
Mr Matiur Rahman, The Daily Prothom Alo, Bangladesh  
Mr Wai Minn Phyo, Eleven Media, Myanmar  
Ms Yuan Suwen, Xinhua News Agency, China

**Brief wrap-up by the chair**

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<td>12:30 - 14:00</td>
<td><strong>Closing ceremony and farewell lunch</strong></td>
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Wrap-up of the meeting by: Mr Ewan Watson, Public Relations Officer for Asia Pacific, ICRC  
Speech by:  
Mr Vincent Nicod, ICRC Head of Mission in Tokyo  
Mr Kazumi Matsui, Mayor, City of Hiroshima

**MC:** Ms Hitomi Makabe, Head of Communications, ICRC Mission in Tokyo
CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTORS

Afghanistan

Mohammad Daud Jambish
Senior Editor
BBC Radio

Jambish currently holds the position of Head of Production with BBC Media Action in Kabul. Prior to that he worked in London as a producer for the BBC World Service. A graduate in Literature and Humanities, Jambish worked as Assistant Professor at the newly established Faculty of Journalism at Kabul University in the early 1980s. He holds a masters degree from Tashkent State University and in 1993 obtained a PhD in the history of journalism from Moscow State University. He then worked for the Iranian News Agency and the BBC in Moscow before relocating to London.

Khatera Ishaqzai
News Presenter – Producer
Khirshid Radio

Khatera Ishaqzai was born in Kandahar and now presents news and current affairs programmes with the Khirshid Radio and TV channels. She graduated in journalism from Kabul University and obtained her masters in International Relations in India. In 2010, she was appointed head of the Central zone for Afghan Red Crescent Society and is now a member of Kabul provincial assembly. She will host a TV programme on KBS Afghan TV called ‘Kabuliter’. She is a published journalist and author of a textbook about Afghan current affairs and two books of poetry and short stories in Pashto.

Bangladesh

Mahfuz Anam
Editor and Publisher
The Daily Star

Anam was appointed Editor-Publisher of The Daily Star in 1993 and has been at the helm of this newspaper for the last 20 years, turning it into the most widely circulated and the most trusted English newspaper in the country. In 2008, he was appointed Managing Director of MediaWorld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star. He was also the founder publisher of Prothom Alo and served in this role for the first 10 years of the paper (1997 – 2007). He is the founder President of Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) and is a former Chairman of Asia News Network (ANN), a collaborative body of 18 leading English language newspapers in the Asian region headquartered in Bangkok. He is also founder Secretary General of the newly established ‘Shampadak Parishad’ (Editors’ Council).

Matiur Rahman
Editor and Publisher
The Daily Prothom Alo

Matiur Rahman is an Editor and publisher at the The Daily Prothom Alo, one of the most prominent newspapers in Bangladesh. He entered journalism in 1970 when he became the editor of Ekushey Golshot weekly. He left that post after 21 years and then worked as a journalist for Akher Kagoj (Today’s News), which was Bangladesh's first modern newspaper. In February 1992, Matiur Rahman partnered with others to found The Daily Bhorer Kagoj (“Morning News”), which he edited for the next six years. In 1998 he founded Prothom Alo, or “First Light,” a daily newspaper Rahman established Prothom Alo’s credibility which today reaches a half million readers.

Australia

Peter Cave
Former ABC Foreign Affairs Editor

Peter Cave is an Australian journalist. He retired as Foreign Affairs Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in July 2012. His first overseas posting was to Japan (1983-86). He later became the chief correspondent for Europe and the Middle East based in London (1987-92) and then bureau chief in Washington (1996-97). In his career with the ABC he has reported on the end of apartheid in South Africa, the Palestinian intifada in the Occupied Territories, glasnost and perestroika in the former Soviet Union, the break-up of Yugoslavia, the 2011 Libyan civil war and the uprising in Syria. Peter has covered five years’ experience in media, two of which he spent working in North Korea as a special correspondent for the Global Times and the International Herald Tribune. He has covered various stories, including the death of Kim Jong-il, the Boston Marathon bombings, the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17/19 and the Sewol Ferry sinking.

Yuan Suwen
Reporter and Editor
New Media Section, World Service Dept., Xinhua News Agency

Yuan Suwen is a reporter/editor working in the New Media section, World Service Department of Xinhua News Agency. Her interests lie especially in the fields of new media such as e-learning, IT technologies and public welfare, and rare diseases in China. Suwen has received numerous awards and achievements for her work, including the third prize of China News Premium, the second prize of Capital’s Outstanding Female Reporters, Peking University Charity Publicity Awards (for stories on pneumoniosis patients), and Outstanding News Prizes within Xinhua News Agency. At the senior editors conference, Suwen will outline her thoughts on the topic of “the fine line between allegation and accusation, media responsibility,” especially with regards to the case of China.

China

Rong Liu
Editor
People’s Daily Online

Rong Liu is an editor of People's Daily Online. Liu has gained five years’ experience in media, two of which she spent working in North Korea as a special correspondent for the Global Times and the International Herald Tribune. She has covered various stories, including the death of Kim Jong-il, the Boston Marathon bombings, the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17/19, and the Sewol Ferry sinking.

Indonesia

Johanes Heru Margiartio
Assistant Managing Editor
Kompass.com/News

Johanes Heru Margiartio has been working for kompas.com since 2000 and is currently News Assistant Managing Editor. Kompas.com is the online version of Kompas Newspaper, the largest circulating print media in Indonesia. Prior to joining Kompas.com, Heru was a lecturer at Bakrie University in Jakarta for an online and multimedia production course and an online journalism trainer for various organizations. He graduated from Drianakara School of Philosophy and got his master degree from Paramadina Graduate School, both in Jakarta, and also took a short course on multimedia and online journalism at the International Institute of Journalism in Berlin, Germany. Heru has experience in covering human right issues in Indonesia since 1998 and reported on the military operation that took place in Aceh Province in 2003.

Maria Andriana
Senior Editor for international news department
Antara

Maria Andriana has 29 years of experience working as journalist at Antara News Agency in Indonesia. Currently the International Desk Editor, Andriana has also worked as Journalist School Manager, National Desk Senior Editor, and Manager of the Feature and Opinion Desk - all at Antara. Andriana has also worked at the Antara News Agency’s Chief Bureau in Tokyo and as a lecturer in Nihon University in Wushima, Japan. Outside of Antara, Andriana is a working group member for the training program on disaster reporting at the Indonesian Board for Disaster Management. Andriana has also provided training in the fields of multimedia at the Radio Nederland Training Center and environmental journalism under an Indonesia Australia specialized training project. The books on journalism Andriana has co-authored or edited include Menegalkan Benang Basah, Dari Sembahan Untuk Indonesia, Duta Masa Depan, Kisah-kisah Inspiratif Kumpulan Tulus Antara, and Jangan Panggil Septi Monyet.

Yostinus Tomiaryanto
Senior Editor
Tempo Magazine

Yostinus Tomiaryanto is a journalist/editor at PT Tempo Inti Media Tbk PT, an Indonesia-based media company. A native of Indonesia, he has been working in the field of journalism since 2001. Prior to joining PT Tempo Inti Media Tbk PT, Tomiaryanto worked as a coordinator of the research and monitoring division at the Commission on Disappearance and Victims of Violence, where he gained the UNHCR Human Rights Capacity Building and also as a volunteer member of the First Lady’s Office. As a journalist, Tomiaryanto has received the BNI Press Award and has been certified through the Newspaper Management Course at the International Institute for Journalism in Berlin. Tomiaryanto holds a masters in management from Binus Business School, Jakarta.

Japan

Miki Ebara
Editor-in-Chief
NHK World

Miki Ebara is currently Editor-in-Chief for NHK World, the 24 hour English Channel. She joined NHK, Japan’s sole public broadcaster in 1987 and has been posted as foreign correspondent in London, Bangkok and New York. She has covered many of the world’s conflicts and disasters, including war in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel/Palestine, as well as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the Haitian earthquake.
Miki has covered major political events in the US, including the US Presidential election and the Iran Nuclear Deal. He also served as Cairo correspondent from 1989 to 1992 and covered a number of events including the Gulf War and Middle East peace efforts. In 1995, he was invited by the Harry S. Truman Research Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a visiting journalist fellow. His works include The Curse of the Arabs, published by Shinchosha in 2001.

Hiroshi Fuse
Senior Editorial Writer
Mainichi Newspapers

Hiroshi Fuse has been a senior editorial writer of the Mainichi Shimbun Newspapers since 2010 and also works as general editor of a quarterly magazine called The Arabs. He served as a Washington correspondent and North American manager of the Mainichi from 1998 to 2002, covering 9/11 and the war in Afghanistan. He also served as Cairo correspondent from 1989 to 1992 and covered a number of events including the Gulf War and Middle East peace efforts. In 1995, he was invited by the Harry S. Truman Research Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a visiting journalist fellow. His works include The Curse of the Arabs, published by Shinchosha in 2001.

South Korea
Wonsuk Choe
Deputy Editor
The Chosunilbo, South Korea

Wonsuk Choe is the Deputy Editor of the World News Desk in the Chosunilbo, one of the major newspapers in Korea. A journalist since 1997, Choe has covered stories in various fields of society, culture and industry, and has specifically focused on the automobile industry and Hyundai Motor Company. Choe’s interviews with international CEOs and field coverage of successful companies and industries have been reported in the Weekly Biz column of the Chosunilbo.

Singapore
Augustine Anthuvan
Editor
Channel News Asia, Singapore

Augustine Anthuvan is a journalist, TV producer, radio producer/presenter, voice talent, forum moderator, facilitator and commentator for major ‘live’ events. His more than 30 years of experience in TV and radio make him one of the most effective media trainers in the region. In addition to conducting the annual 5-day broadcast journalism course in Singapore, he lectures in mass communications in Singapore and travels abroad to teach backpack journalism and conduct media literacy workshops. Augustine also designs and conducts specialized strategic media & communications training for government agencies, corporate clients, foundations, think tanks & NGOs and is also a regular conference speaker on themes like: ‘Media as a catalyst for change’.

Myanmar
Sann Oo
Editor
The Myanmar Times

Sann Oo is currently the editor of The Myanmar Times, a weekly paper published in English and Burmese. He has held this position since 2006. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Yangon’s Dagon University and holds several journalism certificates including in Reporting Disaster and Crisis from the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Wai Minn Phyo
Chief Editor
Eleven Media

Since 2000, Wai Minn Phyo has been the Chief Editor of Eleven Media Group Co Ltd, which produces Myanmar-language news and was awarded Media of the Year 2011 by Reporters Without Borders. He holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Yangon and has attended several journalism courses including by APP.

Thailand
Thin Lei Win
Asia Correspondent
Thomson Reuters

Thin Lei Win is an accomplished multimedia journalist with some 14 years’ experience writing for local and international news agencies, magazines and online titles covering topics from travel and lifestyle to human interest and hard news. Born and bred in Myanmar, Thin has for the past six years been based in Bangkok, Thailand, as a regional correspondent for Thomson Reuters Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Reuters news agency. Thin was the first Foundation journalist to be based outside of London. Thin has covered the humanitarian issues arising from disasters in the region extensively, including Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Padang Earthquake and Typhoon Ketan in 2009, Typhoon Bopha in 2012 and Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Thin is also a member of the Reuters’ Pulitzer Prize winning team that covered the plight of the stateless Muslim Rohingya minority in western Myanmar. Prior to joining the Foundation, Thin lived in Vietnam and Singapore, working for various publications. Thin has a masters in Multimedia Journalism.

Japanese Red Cross Society

Midori Tasaka
PR officer
Japanese Red Cross Society

Midori Tasaka is a member of the Planning and Public Relations Department at the Japanese Red Cross Society. Before her current position as Communication Officer, Midori was working for the Youth Red Cross Department, where she served until March 2013. Midori has experienced living in various countries such as the Philippines, South Korea, Jordan and Bangladesh.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Ewan Watson
Communications Coordinator
ICRC Geneva

Born in Scotland, Ewan Watson is currently in charge of public and media relations for Asia, East Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific at ICRC headquarters, where he also manages the ICRC’s communications around weapons issues. Prior to that, he worked for the ICRC in Colombia, Central African Republic and South Sudan. He holds a degree in modern languages from Saint Andrews University in Scotland. Before joining the ICRC, he worked with the UNHCR in Khartoum and for a refugee law firm in London.