



BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH MEDIA:
FOR A CLEANER, GREENER, AND SAFER TOMORROW

9th ABU MEDIA SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER PREVENTION 2025 | SRI LANKA

25 – 27 NOVEMBER 2025
MOUNT LAVINIA HOTEL, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



Asia-Pacific
Broadcasting Union



9TH ABU MEDIA SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER PREVENTION

Colombo, Sri Lanka | 25–27 November 2025

Theme: ***Building Resilience Through Media: For a Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Tomorrow***

Day 1 – 25 November (Tuesday)

Focus: Climate Resilience & Sustainable Communication

Opening & Plenary

08:30 – 09:00 | Registration

09:00 – 09:30 | **Opening Ceremony**

- Welcome remarks by **Ahmed Nadeem** – ABU Secretary-General
- Host Broadcaster Address – **Mr. Gihan De Silva**, Chairman, SLRC
- Guest Address: **Hon. Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa** – Minister of Health and Mass Media

09:30 – 09:45 | Keynote: **Prof. Mohan Munasinghe** – Ex-Vice Chair of the IPCC (shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize) “*The Role of Media in Building Climate Resilience and Emergency Readiness*”

09:45 – 10:15 | Group Photo & Networking Break

Summit Sessions

10:15 – 11:00 | **Media and Climate Action: Global Priorities and Regional Realities**

As the global climate crisis intensifies, the media stands at the crossroads between science, policy, and public understanding. Broadcasters and journalists can interpret complex climate data, simplify scientific findings for audiences, and promote evidence-based reporting that inspires informed public action. By aligning global priorities with community voices, the session highlights media’s power to drive awareness, accountability, and resilience in the face of climate change. The discussion will also highlight collaborative financing, regional partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives that empower the media to sustain climate reporting and hold institutions accountable.

Moderator: **Indra Singh** - Director, ABU News Director

Panellists:

- **Stephanie Speck** – Head of Special Initiatives, Green Climate Fund – remotely
- **Dr Ananda Malawathantri** - UN Expert on Climate Action
- **Leel Randeniya** – Director-General, Climate Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, Sri-Lanka
- **Kavinda De Zoysa** – Chairman, Bank of Ceylon
- **Edwin Salonga** – Programme Lead, Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) & Climate Based Adaptation (CBA), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) – Bangkok, Thailand

11:00 – 11:30 | **From National Campaigns to Global Commitments: The Role of Media in Sustainable Community Building**

This session will highlight the national campaigns promoting environmental sustainability through community participation and media engagement. It will showcase how public service media collaborate with government and civil society to drive public awareness, reduce waste, and foster long-term behavioural change.

Moderator: **Dr. W.M.W Weerakoon**, Agriculture – Consultant, FAO

Speakers:

- **G.M.R.D. Aponsu** – Senior Additional Secretary to the President (Finance & Economic Affairs)
- **Eng. S.P.C. Sugeeshwara** – Additional Secretary to the President (Clean Sri Lanka Programme)
- **Thinley Dorji** – Offtg. Chief Engineer, BBS Bhutan
- **Ryan Lee Chun Hoe** – Content Manager, SMG Sarawak

11:30 – 12:30 | High-Level Dialogue: Partnerships for a Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Tomorrow

This high-level dialogue will bring together leaders from media, government, finance, and international organisations to explore how strategic partnerships can accelerate progress toward sustainability. The discussion will underscore the importance of cross-sector collaboration and sustainable financing mechanisms in advancing climate action, disaster risk reduction, and environmental conservation. Through collective commitment and shared vision, the session will demonstrate how the combined power of media, policy, science, and investment can drive meaningful change and deliver lasting impact for a Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Tomorrow.

Moderator: **Ahmed Nadeem** – ABU Secretary-General

*Video Message: **Kamal Kishore** – Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Head of UNDRR*

Speakers:

- **Wataru Fujishita** – General Media Administration, NHK Japan
- **Jeanette Elsworth** – Chief, Communications, Advocacy, Knowledge Management and ICT, UNDRR
- **Prof. Devaka Weerakoon** – Head of Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences Faculty of Science, University of Colombo
- **Michelle Bellino** – Director of MEI and Women Activities, UNI Global Union - Asia & Pacific

12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 | Climate Storytelling: Turning Science into Public Awareness

Media can transform complex climate science into engaging, human-centered stories that inspire awareness and action. The focus is on storytelling approaches that highlight solutions, resilience, and community-driven responses, shifting the narrative from crisis to empowerment. The goal is to help media professionals strengthen their ability to tell hopeful, solution-oriented climate stories that motivate audiences not only to understand the challenges—but to care, connect, and act for a sustainable future.

Moderator: **Varinder Gambhir** – BBC Media Action, Regional Director, India

Speakers:

- **Nora Gale** – Assistant Programme Specialist, ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat, Australia
- **Dao Son An** – Newscaster, Vietnam Today, VTV International, Vietnam
- **Elakeyaa Selvaraji** – Presenter, CNA TV International, MediaCorp, Singapore
- **Aman Ul Haq** – Deputy Controller International Relations, PTV Pakistan
- **Viswa Dulanjee** – PhD. Student, Sri JAYAWARDANEPURA University

15:00 – 15:45 | No One Left Behind: Inclusive Climate and DRR Communication for All

This session explores how media can ensure that climate information, education, and early-warning messages are accessible to all — including children, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, women, and remote or low-income communities. As climate change deepens existing inequalities, inclusive communication becomes crucial to saving lives and strengthening resilience.

Moderator: **Krishna Karkee** – Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Action (CA), Humanitarian Response (HR), and Development professional

Speakers:

- **Biena Magbitang** – Climate Tracker.Asia, Philippines – *remotely*
- **Tyne Logan** – Weather Newscaster, ABC Australia – *remotely*
- **Senali Wijesooriya** – Communication Specialist, ChildFund Sri Lanka
- **Arush Balalla** – Young Journalist, SLRC Sri-Lanka
- **Michelle Bellino** – Director of MEI and Women Activities, UNI Global Union

15:45 – 16:15 | Coffee / Networking

16:15 – 17:15 | Workshop: **Battling Climate Misinformation: The Media's Role in Protecting Truth and Public Trust** | Media and Information Literacy (MIL) principles in work of media organizations

Climate misinformation spreads rapidly across digital and social media, the credibility of science and journalism faces unprecedented pressure. Broadcasters can combat false narratives, politicization of climate issues, and public fatigue, while maintaining trust and accuracy in their reporting. Integrating Media and Information Literacy (MIL) principles into work of media organizations can empower audiences to critically assess information, identify false narratives, and engage responsibly in climate discussions.

Facilitator: **Nargiza Numanova** – Head of SG's Office, ABU

Contributors:

Varinder Gambhir – Regional Director, BBC Media Action, India

Dilrukshi Handunnetti – Director, Centre for Investigative Reporting, Mongabay, Sri Lanka

Ma'a'y Hazzaz - UNESCO's Regional Advisor for South Asia, UNESCO Delhi Cluster Office

Day 2 – 26 November (Wednesday)

Focus: Disaster Preparedness & Response

09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome & Opening Remarks – *Ahmed Nadeem, ABU Secretary-General*

09:15 – 09:30 | Keynote Address: *Dr. Tawfik Jelassi UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (Video Message)*

09:30 – 09:45 | Launch Ceremony of the UNESCO Model Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) for Media Institutions

09:45 – 10:30 | Case Studies: The status quo: good practices and lessons learned

These presentations will highlight real-world experiences from media organisations across the region, showcasing effective approaches to disaster preparedness and response. This segment aims to encourage peer learning and reflection, providing valuable input into how the Model DPRP can be locally adapted and implemented by media institutions worldwide.

Moderator: **Xu Jing** – Programme Specialist, UNESCO

Speakers:

- **Marina Kostova** – Deputy Editor-in-Chief, SDK, North Macedonia
- **Mohamed Boudouri** – Vice-President, Conseil national de la presse et de l'audiovisuel (National Press and Audiovisual Council), Comoros
- **Alex Fernando Rojas Figueroa** – Data Journalism Editor, Prensa Libre, Guatemala
- **Timoci Driudriu Takalau** – News Digital Content Officer, FBC Fiji
- **Shimakawa Eisuke** – Senior Correspondent, NHK Japan

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break & Networking

11:00 - 12:00 Panel Discussion: An increasing need for dedicated support for media in the field of disaster management

Media plays the critical role in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and recovery, and the growing need for systematic support mechanisms that strengthen media's capacity in crisis communication. Training, coordination, and policy support is important to help media organisations operate effectively under disaster conditions.

Moderator: **Ma'aly Hazzaz** - UNESCO's Regional Advisor for South Asia, UNESCO Delhi Cluster Office

Panellists:

- **Jeanette Elsworth** – Chief, Communications, Advocacy, Knowledge Management and ICT, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Manish Bhardwaj** – Secretary, NDMA Ministry of Home Affairs – *remotely*
- **Krishna Karkee** – Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Action (CA), Humanitarian Response (HR), and Development professional
- **Nargiza Numanova** – Head of SG's Office, ABU
- **Pradeep Kodippili** - Director, Disaster Management Center, Sri-Lanka

Next Steps: Commitments, Partnerships, and Support Mechanisms

Follow-up actions, potential cross-sector partnerships, and ways to mobilize resources for continued capacity building, regional cooperation, and implementation of disaster preparedness and response frameworks for media institutions.

12:00 – 12:30 Interactive Session 1: Understanding the Model DPRP and Implementation Strategy
| *Simulating Disaster Newsroom Scenarios: How the Plan Works During Emergencies*

Facilitator: **Xu Jing** – Programme Specialist, UNESCO

12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch

14:00 – 14:45 Interactive Session 2: Media in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

Facilitator: **Indra Singh** – ABU News Director

Contributors:

- **Amal Jayasinghe** – International Journalist, SLRC Sri-Lanka
- **Francis Dave Orcio** – Reporter, ABS-CBN Corporation, Philippines
- **Selvarajasingham Umakanthan** – Senior Officer, Programs, IFRC Sri Lanka Office
- **Md. Al Mamun** – Country Director, Bangladesh & Regional Director, South-East Asia
- BBC Media Action

14:45 – 15:30 | Strengthening Media's Role in Early Warnings and Emergency Communication | Focus on Radio

Radio remains one of the most trusted and far-reaching communication channels during crises. This session will explore how broadcasters—especially radio—can enhance their role in early warning dissemination and emergency response to save lives and reduce disaster impacts. Collaboration models between media, meteorological agencies, and disaster management authorities can ensure warnings are reliable, timely, and clearly understood by all audiences.

Moderator: **Ganga Kariyawasam** – Head of Programs, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS)

Speakers:

- **Mohammad Tofazzal Hossain** – National Coordinator for Pillar 3 of Early Warning for All Initiative in Bangladesh, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Mathew Phillips** – Steering Board Member, Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM)
- **Rita Noujaim** – Programme Manager, Radio Liban
- **Nguyen Kieu Anh** – Reporter of VOV Online Newspapers, Voice of Vietnam
- **Daulat Pane** – Head of News Team of Directorate of Program and Production, Radio Republik Indonesia

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee / Networking

16:00 – 17:00 Innovative and People-Centred Approaches to DRR Communication

Emerging technologies are reshaping disaster risk reduction (DRR) communication, enabling faster, clearer, and more inclusive information sharing. AI tools, mobile platforms, and data-driven storytelling are enhancing early warning systems, strengthening community outreach, and improving real-time communication during crises. By adopting audience-centred and culturally sensitive approaches, broadcasters can design communication that not only informs but also motivates action. Through innovative media practices and technology-driven solutions, the media can empower communities to prepare, respond, and recover more effectively — turning information into resilience.

- **Kanokporn Prasitphon** – Digital Media Director, ThaiPBS, Thailand
- **Shimakawa Eisuke** – Senior Correspondent, NHK Japan
- **Meysam Mashayekh** – Expert of International Affairs, IRIB Iran
- **Jae-hwan Lee** – Executive Managing Director News&Current Affairs, KBS Korea

17:00 – 17:15 | Adaptation of the Summit's Call for Action & Closing

EVENING GALA:

19:00 – 21:30 | Together for Planet, People, Peace (T4P) Media Awards Gala

Day 3 – 27 November (Thursday)

Field Visit / Excursion

- **09:00 – 16:00 | Excursion: Media in Action for Climate Resilience**
 - Visit to local disaster risk reduction / climate resilience initiatives
 - Demonstrations of community-media collaboration
 - Cultural & networking experience
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