



2021 세계기자대회

WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2021

18(Sun.)-20(Tue.) April 2021

2021 세계기자대회 WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2021



Conference Book I

Conference Book I

The Prospect of Post-COVID Era
and the Role of Journalism

포스트 코로나 시대의 전망과 언론의 역할

Hosted by



Supported by





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※ World Journalists Conference is funded by the Journalism Promotion Fund raised by government advertising fees.

Overview



Title	World Journalists Conference 2021
Date	18(Sun.) – 20(Tue.) April 2021
Venue	International Convention Hall [20F], Korea Press Center
Hosted by	JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA
Supported by	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism Chungnam 한국언론진흥재단 Korea Press Foundation
Theme	▷ Conference I The Prospect of Post-COVID Era and the Role of Journalism ▷ Conference II Global Climate Issues and the Role of Journalism
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prospect of post COVID-19 era and the role of journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to COVID-19, which started at the end of 2019, the world is confused by the pandemic situation. - Prepare for the post-corona era amid growing hopes that COVID19 will end as vaccines are developed - Seek countermeasures of Solidarity and cooperation for the end of the pandemic - Discuss the role of journalism in establishing a safe and peaceful society. • Global climate issues and the role of the journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global warming causes abnormal weather events such as heatwaves, heavy snowfalls, and typhoons around the world. - Discuss policies for climate change in each country and the role of journalism in responding to climate change - Introduce Korea's commitment to carbon neutrality and policies, and promoting efforts to preserve the environment in Korea.

Opening Address

**KIM DONG HOON**

President

Journalists Association of Korea

[A forum for public discussion that presents peace and hope]

Welcome to the World Journalists Conference. It is nice to meet journalists who participated in this conference despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am President KIM DONG HOON of the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established in 1964, the Journalists Association of Korea is Korea's largest organization of journalists. It is celebrating its 57th anniversary this year and has about 11,000 members from 195 media companies nationwide participating and engaging in its activities.

The association became a member of the International Federation of Journalists in 1966 with the creed of "reinforcing ties with international journalists and helping each other" as one of the five major creeds. Since then, we have actively participated in the community of international journalists. In particular, we have been inviting journalists from all over the world yearly since 2013 and held World Journalists Conference in Korea. Thus, the conference is now already in its ninth year.

For World Journalists Conference, we have invited journalists from all over the world for seven years until 2019 to the Korean Peninsula, which is the only divided nation on earth, to have them personally experience the reality of the divided nation and

Opening Address

realize once again the importance of peace. Aside from that, we have discussed the future of journalism and expanded forum for mutual bonding. As such, I am proud to say that the conference is settling as one of the greatest events for journalists around the world.

However, as COVID-19 spread globally, we inevitably held the event online last year, and we're having it online this year as well. It is to our regret that we cannot show you the beautiful nature and culture of Korea, as well as the reality of a divided nation, but we are relieved that we can provide the opportunity to contribute to the development of the media by meeting in a healthy state at least online and by sharing the situation in each country.

Dear journalists,

We all share commonalities even if our country, gender, skin color, and ideologies are different. It is a fact that all journalists are working hard for freedom and peace and disseminate the truth with a warm heart and cold reasoning.

We prepared, even if still a bit carefully, the first day of this year's online World Journalists Conference under the theme "The Prospect of the Post-COVID Era" in line with the development of vaccines and the beginning of inoculation. In addition, we prepared the second day under the theme "Global Climate Issues" for us to jointly devise solutions and respond to the climate problem, which is closely connected with various fields, including society, environment, and life worldwide.

Although we are all going through difficult situations because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you present your opinions and recommendations actively at the conference so that we may all present dreams and hope to humanity and realize our calling as journalists as the conference is a precious opportunity even if held only online.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you once again for your participation in

Opening Address

the conference despite your busy schedules. I hope the conference will serve as a deeply meaningful and beneficial forum for you. Moreover, I hope that you will share the contents discussed during this year's conference with fellow journalists and disseminate them to citizens of your country so that we may draw interest to the tasks the global village faces and jointly respond to them.

I look forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic soon so I can invite you all to Korea and show you our beautiful traditional culture and the peace-loving Koreans.

I wish you good health until we meet again. Thank you.

Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea

A sentence that records history,
Images that deliver reality of the scene,
Journalists who are passionately seeking the truth as their calling,
And always standing behind them, is the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on August 17, 1964 based on the consensus of Korean journalists, the Journalists Association of Korea celebrates its 57th anniversary this year.

The association has advocated five principles which are the democratic development of Korea, the improvement of journalists, the protection of freedom of speech, the promotion of friendship amongst the association's members, the achievement of peaceful reunification and homogeneity between North and South Korea, and the strengthening of ties with journalists around the world. The five principles serve as the Association's reason for being and as its ultimate goal.

The Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest media body, boasting a current membership of 195 company members and 11,000 individual journalists. The association delivers 50,000 copies of its weekly paper across the nation to present various key issues and viable alternatives.

Also, the Journalists Association of Korea makes efforts to enhance capabilities of journalists by hosting various forums and seminars, and providing reporters with financial support for short- or long-term training programs or studies at domestic graduate schools. We present the annual Korea Journalist Award, which is the most prestigious and long-standing award in Korea's journalism, as well as the Award for Journalist of the Month. These help raise the status of journalism by boosting the morale of journalists and by encouraging the production of high-quality news articles.

Recently, the Journalists Association of Korea has been committed to ousting fake news given its escalation into a global issue and formed a committee to strengthen

Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea

the ethics of press to promote ethical awareness of journalists. In addition, the Journalists Association of Korea is working to restore the public's faith in media by collaborating with journalists associations around the world.

At the same time, with a view to bolster the public role of the press, we have steadily engaged in the so-called "talent donation" by sending reporters to elementary, middle and high schools. We also make donation for less fortunate neighbors every year. To give students a chance to deepen their thinking, we host national students essay contest. To boost members' unity and friendship, we hold national reporters soccer competition and reporters climbing contest every year.

Having recognized early on the importance of strengthening the bond with journalists around the world, the Journalists Association of Korea joined the International Federation of Journalists as a full member in 1966. It also interacts regularly with journalists of other nations by exchanging delegates with journalist associations including the All-China Journalists Association in 1993, the Vietnamese Journalists Association in 1994, the Indonesian Journalists Association in 2013, the Confederation of Mongolian Journalists in 2014 and the Association of European Journalists Bulgaria in 2015, the Russian journalists Association and Delegation of mutual journalists in 2018. The Journalists Association of Korea is also continuously interacting with the US Society of Professional Journalists.

Regular exchanges with reporters from these countries are role model cases in people-to-people diplomacy beyond conventional diplomacy and greatly contribute to harmony and improvement in bilateral relations. Looking forward, we hope to expand our network with more journalists from foreign countries.

In addition, JAK successfully hosted the IFJ's general meeting for the first time in Asia back in 2001, as well as the East Asia Journalist Forum in 2003, the Asia

Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea

Journalist Forum in 2005, and the IFJ's special general meeting in 2007. We also held a conference with journalists from Korea, China and Vietnam in 2012. We are interacting with international media organizations like the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) for announcing the freedom of speech and the rights of journalists around the world.

Through World Journalists Conference 2021, JAK hopes not only to strengthen solidarity with journalists from all over the world, but also to predict the society of post post-Covid-19 and seek the role of the media for the stable life of humanity.

Furthermore, we hope that our conference will be an opportunity to discuss another global problem, the reality of the climate environment and countermeasures.

Mr. KIM DONG HOON, the 47th president of the Journalists Association of Korea, and the Executive Department are determined to communicate with the public, realize social justice and closely monitor those who have power and authorities with keen eyes. Also, we will demonstrate journalism in which we stand by the less-privileged with warm heart. Furthermore, we will take the lead in the efforts for our members' rights and welfare as well as our people's grand unity.

To this end, we will continue to strengthen ties with international outlets and build reliable friendships in the process. And, we will prepare for what lies ahead with constant reform and innovation.

Thank you.



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WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2021

18(Sun.)-20(Tue.) April 2021

Conference I

The Prospect of Post-COVID Era and the Role of Journalism

- Biography
- Presentation Material

19(Mon.) April 2021



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Conference I

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Moderator



Min-ho Jung

The Korea Times / Journalists Association of Korea
Digital Content Editor / Head of International Relations Department
Korea

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- Digital Content Editor at The Korea Times
- Head of International Relations Department at Journalists Association of Korea



2021 세계기자대회



Speaker

**Mahbub Morshed**

The Daily Star
Joint News Editor
Bangladesh

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- Journalist at Bdnews24.com
- Graduated from the Asian College of Journalism
- Editor at The Daily Star(Present)

In Bangladesh, the Covid-19 pandemic has created a crisis that the media has not faced in recent memory.

It all began in March last year when the first Covid-19 case was detected in the country, eventually leading to a nationwide lockdown at the end of that month. All educational institutions were shut and business activities ground to a halt rendering millions jobless.

The pandemic caught the policymakers in the media organisations off guard as they had no contingency plan whatsoever. Most of the media outlets had not even thought of putting in place a system that would allow their employees to work from home.

In a matter of weeks, things took a turn for the worse. All the media outlets -- be it a private television station or a daily newspaper -- saw

Mahbub Morshed

their advertising revenue plunge. Things were dire for the print media as all the dailies -- both national and local ones -- saw a sharp decline in their circulation as well.

According to leaders of newspaper hawkers' associations, circulation of dailies plummeted by 50 to 70 percent after the pandemic hit the country in March. Seven dailies published from Dhaka ceased their print edition.

Amid a fall in revenue, most of the media outlets decided to cut operational costs at the expense of their employees -- a conventional method commonly adopted by business entities in times of financial crisis. Around 1,100 media workers -- more than half of them from newspapers -- lost their jobs between April and December last year, according to Our Media Our Rights, a platform of journalists in Bangladesh.

Despite all the hurdles the pandemic had created, journalists carried on their duties even without proper safety gears, exposing them to the deadly virus. The most vulnerable were the reporters and camerapersons of TV stations and photojournalists who had no alternative but to venture out.

And eventually the virus started taking its toll on media workers. Around seven months after the pandemic broke out, Bangladesh ranked fifth in the world in terms of Covid-related deaths among journalists, showed data released by the Geneva-based Press Emblem Campaign in November last year. At least 37 journalists died with Covid-19 symptoms and more than a thousand got infected with the virus during the period.

Our Media Our Rights put the number of deaths at 45 till March this year. It said at least 1,161 journalists tested positive for Covid-19, and most of them -- 847

Mahbub Morshed

-- are based in Dhaka.

Overworked and underpaid, many journalists, though unwillingly, now want to switch profession. A recent survey revealed that 71.07 percent of the 191 journalists, covered by it, want to leave this profession for good.

Besides, 42.09 percent of the journalists are suffering from depression linked to their profession, mentioned the study carried out by a private university.

For the print media, the only positive thing that happened during the pandemic is that some of the newspapers had to go through a technological transformation. They had to upgrade their digital systems to allow their staffers to work from home -- a new way of work method that is probably going to be an integral part of our lives.

The ongoing financial crisis is forcing the newspapers to rethink their business models. Some of them are aiming to get more revenue from advertisements on their websites. But that is certainly not an easy thing to do in a country like Bangladesh where television is far more popular than any other medium.

If Bangladesh's media outlets are to reap benefits from their online expansion, the government has to take initiatives to formulate a law, which will ensure that tech giants like Facebook and Google pay news providers for contents on their platforms.

Bangladesh can follow the footsteps of Australia which has already passed such a law -- the first of its kind -- keeping provisions for news organisations and tech giants to negotiate payment deals.

With rumours and unverified news flooding the social media networks during this pandemic, the role of the media outlets in debunking fake news has become

Mahbub Morshed

more crucial than ever. And one can hope that the media in Bangladesh will play its due role and live up to people's expectations in the days to come.

Speaker

**Pann Rethea**

The Post Media.Co.ltd.
Sub-editor
Cambodia

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- Bachelor of Khmer Art from Royal University of Phnom Penh
- Sub-editor at The Post Media

The state of affairs with Covid-19 pandemic in Cambodia has made a decisive point, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Cambodia notified, as cases rush forward with 11 deaths (4 women /7 men) and 63 infections reported On March 30 after the latest outbreak since Feb 20, 2021. Cambodia had recorded a total of 2,440 Covid-19 cases with 1,249 receiving ongoing treatment.

The WHO Representative to Cambodia, Li Ailan, also warned, as the cases surge with two more deaths and 265 infections reported on March 28 of the Covid-19. "We are concerned. Covid-19 situation in Cambodia is not getting better before it is getting worse! I urge all individuals to seriously implement all the combined measures... Wrong choices for none compliance mean the tragedy consequences of more deaths," she said in a tweet on March 28.

The February 20 outbreak has been the country's third and longest instance of community transmission Cambodia has faced since the pandemic began. On March 28 alone, the Ministry of Health recorded 86 Covid-19 cases linked to the February

Pann Rethea

20 community outbreak, which has seen cases rise to 1,708 in just over a month. Among the 86 cases are 11 Cambodian children as young as 18 months old.

Being as a journalist view with the pandemic have brought extensive change across daily lives in Phnom Penh City, Cambodia I noted that the use of food delivery services are rather than personally going to restaurants for lunch and dinner times as well as going to markets in order to prevent the outbreak of Covid-19 with the crowded. Furthermore, the Cambodian people also started to live with new style regularly by following the wise recommendations of Royal Government of Cambodia and Ministry of Health-3 prevents and 3 don'ts (3 prevents- wear properly mask, clean up the hands more often with sanitizers and keeping in social distance space and 3 don'ts-don't stay closed up place, don't get involve of the crowded and don't get in touch personally with others like shaking hands and hugging etc...).

Finally, more and more Cambodian had injected the vaccines of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine donated by China for both first and second phases and the Cambodian government has also purchased 1.5 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine recently-also originating from China but developed separately from Sinopharm as well as the AstraZeneca's Covid-19 COVISHIELD vaccinations for people aged 60 and over from March 10 in three priority areas: Phnom Penh City and the provinces of Kandal and Preah Sihanouk on a voluntary basis and free of charge.

Covid in Kingdom hits 'critical point'

The Covid-19 situation in Cambodia has reached a critical point, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Cambodia warned, as cases surge with two more deaths and 265 infections reported over the weekend.

700K China jabs to land Mar 31

A total of 700,000 doses of the Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine donated by China are

Pann Rethea

expected to arrive in Cambodia on March 31 with 400,000 to be administered by the Ministry of Health and 300,000 by the Ministry of National Defence. Defence minister Tea Banh said on March 30 the 300,000 doses allotted to his ministry would be used to inoculate members of the armed forces and their families who had not been vaccinated during the first phase.

“This is a clear demonstration of the great friendship between China and Cambodia, and I sincerely hope that Chinese vaccines will be a strong shield defending the health of the Cambodian people against Covid-19,” he said.

To date, Wang said, over 60 countries had administered Chinese vaccines to their populations after authorizing them for emergency use. China is providing vaccine assistance to 80 countries around the world and three international organizations as well. The 600,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine that China provided to Cambodia in the first phase arrived on February 7. With the next shipment scheduled for March 31, the total would amount to 1.3 million doses.

Health minister Mam Bunheng said many people in the groups over 60 years of age were willing to use the AstraZeneca vaccine, which has caused long queues and congestion at designated centres.

The AstraZeneca vaccination campaign is being provided to the most vulnerable people in Phnom Penh and Kandal and Preah Sihanouk provinces only.

Pann Rethea



An old woman is inoculated with the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine at the Pochentong referral hospital in Phnom Penh's Por Senchey district on March 23 Photo by Heng Chivoan

Speaker

**Zhihao Zhang**

China Daily
Science and Technology Reporter
China

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- Science and technology reporter at China Daily (present)
- Former correspondent for Global People Magazine under People's Daily (2015 to 2016)
- M.S. in journalism from Columbia University
- Graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (political science)
- Winner of the China Journalism Awards (2018)
- Winner of the Science Star news award (2019, the Chinese Academy of Sciences)
- Medal of the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (The Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee)

Little over a year ago, Wuhan, a city in the heart of China with over 11 million people and 3,500 years of history, the city where I was born, was struck by a malady so malicious that on January 23, it became the world's first metropolis to enter a lockdown.

As the science and technology reporter at China's largest English language newspaper, it is my solemn duty to hold the trenches of science against a seemingly ceaseless onslaught of speculations, misinformation and conspiracies from home and abroad.

Zhihao Zhang

Truth be told, I have never encounter a story beat that has this many perplexing dimensions and spinning plates as COVID-19. There is an eerie dissonance between the public's unquenchable thirst for answers, and the ever-changing and sometimes unverifiable nature of the situation. As a result, writing a COVID-19 science story feels like driving through a fog with only one headlight on.

Thankfully, my colleagues and editors have given me plenty of advice to anchor my writing. At China Daily, we believe that the more you know, the less you fear; that in time of crisis, we should report the fight, not the fright; that we should embrace new innovations and partners to tell a richer human story; that the world can benefit from a nuanced understanding of China's effort against the pandemic in all its glory and complexity, free from the myopia of geopolitics, racism and stereotypes.

It is with these creeds that we did a story warning against taking hydroxychloroquine without medical supervision as a woman from Wuhan was presented to the ICU in February for overdosing this drug she bought online, a month later former US president Donald Trump publically endorsed the drug without clinical evidence. Who knows, maybe history will turn out differently if state leaders read China Daily.

We also examined the possible long-term effects of COVID-19 on both the young and elderly, down to the symptoms for each major organ, three months later a report by the National Institute for Health Research in the United Kingdom echoed some of our findings.

Because we revere objective truth, the scientific spirit and the scientific method, our stories often get cited by medical professionals. For instance, a study on the fangcang makeshift hospitals, published in the prestigious medical journal the Lancet, had referenced three of our stories to support its thesis.

We also collaborated with Tsinghua University and Peking Union Medical College to

Zhihao Zhang

compile a bilingual report titled China's Fight against COVID-19 to provide health workers and officials around the world a glimpse into the country's decisions, practices and sacrifices to overcome the epidemic.

Today, some countries, from China to Australia, from Vietnam to New Zealand, have successfully tamed the virus within their borders. But the world has yet see the dawn ushering in of a post COVID era, not when new viral variants are spreading throughout the world, not when France entered its third lockdown early this month, not when the US CDC chief had to make a heartbreaking plea on national television, imploring the public to get vaccinated and uphold prevention measure to avoid "impending doom" as COVID cases rise again in the states.

We are well-aware of the pandemic's enormous disruption on people's lives, the economies, and news operations around the world. We know many are already desensitized of COVID related coverage. But in this time of uncertainty, the role of journalism is ever more pronounced. Simply put, our jobs are not finished even if the threat of COVID doesn't feel so imminent.

In the public health domain, there will be a need for accurate, up-to-date, information as more countries start rolling out their vaccine programs. Vaccine discrimination, nationalism and apathy are real issues that can extend the run of the pandemic, issues that media must help tackle if we want to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

People are also deeply interested in origin of the virus, how the disease can affect their long-term physiological and psychological wellbeing, and whether humanity has to coexist with the pathogen in the post COVID era.

The digital divide, economic recovery, personal data security, scientific literacy, ethical research practices are all topics the media should shed light on with a meticulous and sustained vigor during the new normal.

Zhihao Zhang

But perhaps the most important and urgent calling of journalism is to mow the poisonous weed of racism and hate that are burgeoning from the dunghill of misinformation and disinformation.

Every lie shared on social media incurs a debt to the truth, and sooner or later, someone will have to pay in real life, with real blood, as evident in the rising violent hate crimes against Asian communities around the world.

It is not our responsibility to debunk every piece of misinformation out there, but it is our responsibility inoculate the people with a dose of rationality and critical thinking, so that when they encounter a lie, it will not infect the mind, it will not instigate anger, and most importantly, it will not divide us.

So please, stay safe, stay humble, stay curious.

Speaker



Flemming Ytzen

Politiken
Columnist
Denmark

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- Newspaper columnist and author
- Has covered <Politiken>, one of Denmark's most influential daily newspapers, and contributions in two of Denmark's television programs, 'DR2/Deadline' and 'TV2News'
- Lecturer on geopolitics and economic development in East and South East Asia at The Nordic Institute of Asian Studies at Copenhagen University, The Danish Defence Academy and Denmark's Foreign Policy Society

The world was hit by Covid-19 at a time and at a junction, where the relationship between politicians and the media was already affected disruptions, in large part due to the confusion relating to the malignant use of fake news. These disruptions may be unprecedented, but the media industry has been upended many times before. Since the turn of the century, digitization of content, the rise of social media and acceleration in mobile consumption have all forced changes to the way media companies monetize content.

Thanks to the internet's low distribution costs and the global audience it offers every publisher or distributor is a legitimate competitor, each striving to capture

Flemming Ytzen

a share of advertising spend and consumer attention. Some have thrived: their addressable market is bigger, or they have scaled to stay competitive. New companies and new ways of reaching people have been created while others struggle. Local news in particular faces major challenges. What has stayed constant is the indispensable role that media play in society. Journalism do not just help us pass the time; it keeps us informed. Increasingly, media create shared cultural moments and reflect who we are as people. The industry needs financial models that work to be able to keep fulfilling these functions, which appear ever-more important during times of Covid-19.

One of the most direct ways to gauge value is engagement, and on this front media is doing well. Between 80 and 90 percent of us read, watch or listen to news and entertainment for an average of almost 24 hours during a typical week. It is no surprise that engagement with media is high, considering the variety of quality providers there are today.

Another barometer for value is the number of paying consumers. Some argue this is the most important, because it is a critical component of financial sustainability in the industry.

The fact that the proportion of consumers willing to pay for quality journalism in future is higher than those who currently pay suggests that media companies are in a good position to prove value to greater numbers of people.

This is emphasized by the trend that paid subscriptions are higher among young people than older age groups. On average, over 60 percent of consumers aged in the age group between 16 and 34 pay for entertainment, compared to 22 percent of those aged 55+. The younger group is also more likely to pay for news. This generation grew up with the internet's culture of free, so their greater desire to consume and pay is another indication of improving value. These are

Flemming Ytzen

reasons to be optimistic.

There are immediate challenges posed to the journalism industry by the coronavirus crisis. There is evidence that self- or forced isolation as a result of covid-19 has boosted media consumption, even as traditional drivers of media consumption like sports and live entertainment have slowed. Few can argue against the value of having newsrooms that provide timely information in such situations. But all media rely on the free movement of people to produce and consume content.

Connected to this is the massive role that advertising plays in funding content creation. Low-income groups are far less likely to pay for news than people with higher incomes or social status. This suggests that concerns of emerging 'information inequalities', where wealthier consumers have access to more or higher-quality information, are very real.

The financial burden of keeping people informed and entertained may start to shift away from advertisers and onto other stakeholders instead. In the long run this may require greater government intervention.

This relates to another area worthy of attention, which is the increasingly competitive nature of media today. A lot of attention has been focused on the 'war' between media companies for consumers' eyes and wallets, potentially underestimating the impact of so-called 'super competitors' now entering the industry.

These companies, also termed 'ecosystem media', use content to drive value to other parts of their businesses. On the one hand, a portfolio of products and services may mitigate the risks of being media-only. However, the influence such companies exert on the overall media landscape is significant.

When crises like the covid-19 situation, there is no room for 'post-truth'. Denying facts and the truth endangers lives. Peddling misinformation for political purposes

Flemming Ytzen

is too reckless, even for populists. Public trust in institutions and the media has waned, as the general population is more inclined to believe that institutions such as academia or the media are simply platforms through which the establishment tries to control the narrative in society. Amidst this crisis of confidence, the current 'information age' is a perfect breeding ground for the perpetuation of multiple competing narratives, mistrust, confusion, sensationalism, polarization and creates what seems like a 'post-truth' environment.

The demand for facts-based journalism has increased after four years of an American president making use of various fake news-concepts. Despite all the misinformation about the Covid-19 virus that is floating around, the covid-19 pandemic has revealed an interesting twist in the form of an emerging truth. People can say what they want to say, but there is simply no getting around dealing with the actual numbers. Numbers such as the number of cases, number of deaths, needed hospital beds, needed ventilators and witnessing the effects of one response compared with another on this set of variables.

Responsible media outlets have a duty to accurately report how our leaders are handling the situation and what the scientific community is advising, without succumbing to further hyper-politicization of events.

Simply put, credibility is lost when one toys with matters of life and death on this scale. And even one's own true believers worry about their own life and/or death. In such a scenario, they no longer prefer to operate on the basis of suspended disbelief.

If we work together as a society to combat the common enemy of misinformation/fake news and take responsibility, people may feel the return of a sense that they can actually control their environment and contribute to a greater good.

Speaker

**Luis Beiro**

Listín Diario
Editor
Dominican Republic

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- Law Degree from the University of Havana
- Specialist at <Radio Habana Cubana>
- Winner of the Award "Caonabo de Oro"

[Memories of a pandemic]

Covid-19 and its known variants have not only left hundreds of disposable masks in the Dominican Republic on beaches, rivers, and public places, thrown by evil hands. It has also shaped the social psychology of a country and a region that, with time, has grown tired of curfews, restrictions, telework, unemployment, and steam transformations that have contributed to the isolation of human beings.

In the Dominican Republic, the curfew has just been adjusted to the early morning hours. The popular neighborhoods are no longer harassed by the custodians of order who forced the confinement. Teleworking is limited only to those over 70 years of age, and the work centers resume their regular hours.

However, the pandemic's time has helped the Dominican learn to use the mask

Luis Beiro

in a mandatory way, keep due distance and prioritize the constant hygiene of his hands and the use of sanitizing gel.

For these achievements, not only has the Sinovac vaccine been applied in a massive way to a broad sector of the population that includes doctors, educational professionals, adults, the military, and the police. What is unforgettable about this process is having spent a year with alarming economic decline rates that include some 900,000 unemployed, 3,257 people dead, and 250,157 infected people. It was necessary to build mobile hospitals because the beds available in public and private hospitals to care for patients in the Intensive Care area could not accommodate the immense number of infected.

The percentage of deaths and infected by age and sex has not been determined with certainty. Recent studies by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance indicate that most of the deceased are men over 60 years of age, with respiratory conditions, overweight and sedentary lives. But there are still no exact figures that could illustrate the national reality.

What is real is the uncontrolled cost of food prices in the family basket due to the international increases in oil prices and public transport. A country that produces and exports rice, beans, bananas, chickens, and vegetables, has seen the sale of these products reach uncontrollable proportions, as in many parts of the world.

We Dominicans do not know if new variants of the pandemic will invade the country. But at least, these first stages have helped us put our feet on the ground and stop dreaming of castles in the air.

The virus keeps attacking.

My colleague Ruddy González published in this newspaper a warning from the director of the Pan American Health Office, Carissa Etienne: "The softness or the

Luis Beiro

elimination of restriction measures can accelerate the spread of the virus and open the door to a dramatic resurgence and the spread to other adjacent areas.” And she states that “Each nation will have to decide on its measures based on a balance between economic recovery and the number of deaths it is willing to assume.”

In this regard, the Dominican Government has expressed that it will not fully sponsor the opening of commercial, industrial, educational, and institutional activities until it has control of the coronavirus pandemic, Covid-19, but business organizations, merchants, of those that small group companies and individual workers, political leaders, economists and sectors entrenched in the media, advocate a reactivation of activities and, therefore, a 'return to normality'.

The health authorities do not have a definite date of when the country will overcome the pandemic's ravages.

The dilemma is apparent: control of regular activities or give in to pressure from merchants and other sectors of the population who say they fear “a great bankruptcy” and open the doors to a tremendous economic crisis. Amid these conflicting positions, however, society's generality demands from the authorities the application of the necessary measures to stop the rise of the pandemic.

A country of 11 million people seems to be fed up with quarantine, although a percentage of the population still defies the Government's measures. At the other extreme, the Government deploys multiple actions in the health and economic order as a counterpart to the effects of the pandemic.

In one year, there were almost 200 thousand arrests for leaving their homes during the curfew. At first, they were fined with large sums of money that swelled the Attorney General's Office's funds.

The new coronavirus is frequently the central subject of journalists' work, and it

Luis Beiro

often becomes the center of their conversations.

Within the writing team, opening the range to other possible topics is healthy and also necessary. In the Listín Diario, people who work at home regularly discuss other issues such as movies, series, readings, emotions, and anecdotes. The topics also revolve around how the people with whom they live are, how the family is, and experiences about quarantine are also exchanged: physical exercises, recipes, games, series, music, and everything that can help us to carry on in the best way isolation possible. And you never talk about work.

Listín Diario, the newspaper where I have worked for more than 20 years as editor of culture and special supplements, considers the need to add one more recommendation to the health safety indications, kindness. That kindness will make us not look at others with distrust and focus our discourse on professional practice, on protection and responsibility, and not on accusation and hatred.

Speaker



Ashraf Eldaly

The Silk Road Literature Series
Editor-in-Chief
Egypt

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- President, Asia Journalist Association (Present)
- Served as Editor-in-Chief, Al Arabi Magazine, Kuwait
- Worked at Reuters, Cairo
- Winner of Manhae Prize in Literature (2014)
- Winner of Arab Journalism Award (2015)

[The True Vaccination Needed for Journalism in Post-COVID Era]

Since the dawn of history, through the centuries, humanity has been resisting diseases and epidemics that stroke the planet. We had known all about that in the past; thanks to historians. But in modern times we owe the press to document the few previous centuries since the inception of the first newspaper (1690), through all media platforms from radio (1901), television (1927), to reach the era of virtual media via the Internet, launched in the late 1960s.

Since its birth, the press has followed waves of diseases and outbreaks of epidemics, just as it has monitored the efforts of doctors and scientists to resist and discover treatments and medicines for them. Those who read specialized journalism

Ashraf Eldaly

will discover the birth of a new world of scientific media, and medical journalism that has provided all the world's citizens with a new space in which this journalistic pen can cope with all aspects of the new sciences.

But humanity and journalism, together, faced a new type of epidemics that accompanied the spread of the Corona virus; it was the epidemic of fake news, which spreads conspiracy theories that are contrary to science and logic, and the spread of incorrect numbers and shocking rumors, with conflicting data on the tongues of doctors, politicians, and even clerics as well.

It has become necessary to deal firmly in order to control all these lies, which resemble a cancer in the body of journalism, afflicting it with an irreversible illness. Hence, last year, at this platform of WJC 2020, we dealt with a mechanism for resisting fake news.

But as we are in the post-Covid era, we should learn the lesson, and be prepared, armed with the truth as the real vaccine that will preserve the body of journalism for the post-Covid 19 era. Hence, we ask: How do we secure reliable sources that represent a trusted reference that lies cannot penetrate?

Initially, I propose to create a virtual source of knowledge, such as a medical and health news bank, it is a body similar to news agencies, that is updated around the clock, representing the large river from which the tributaries and small currents emerge, for journalists to drink from.

This source of medical information bank must derive its capital from the major international institutions accredited as sources of correct medical news, so that it is sufficient to refer to it in the footer of news in order to be certain that it is real news, and to question every anonymous news, until confirmed by the sources approved by us.

The role of this news-producing knowledge bank is to save lives threatened by fake

Ashraf Eldaly

news, rumors, wrong prescriptions, and quotes that are not based on science.

As a boy 50 years ago, I studied a school book entitled "Science & Health" for the primary education. My notebooks, on their back cover, had instructions that began with: "Wash your hands before and after having food". I recall those two personal memories from past, referring to the critical situation of the human health.

After getting school science books only interested in space, technology, machines and so on, the precarious healthy instructions faded out in our daily life, but the Pandemic era brought them back. In this age of overwhelming global media, finding fluids of news in our hands, via apps and social media platforms; we need a new strategy to involve healthy news in our journalism; whether they are online news networks, newspapers, and radio or TV programs.

What we need most is to feed these journalistic platforms from trusted sources. So, I recommend all authorities, organizations, and equivalent bodies related to human health, to start feeding true facts and news to help fighting fake news and saving lives. The new healthy information bank is the solution, a true vaccine that journalists need in Post COVID Era.

- Additional reference - https://youtu.be/T40EynJTi_U

Speaker



Tobias Kaiser

Die Welt
EU Correspondent
Germany

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- EU Correspondent at Die Welt
- Ph.D. from the University of Munich.

There will be a time after Covid and a time, when we will realize that the pandemic has only magnified the challenges that lie ahead for journalism. But there is good news: Covid has also helped us to be better prepared for what lies ahead. The public certainly re-appreciate quality journalism in the pandemic. Despite the surge of misinformation during the pandemic, audiences have turned to high quality information, reliable sources and public broadcasters in greater number than ever. That gives quality media companies a more solid footing for the time post-Covid.

The pandemic has also helped because it helped us and our societies to become more digital and more tech savvy and more open to the opportunities technology holds. That is important, because the future of journalism is digital and Covid did only accelerate this development. The good news is, that the change we are witnessing now is an opportunity to make journalism better. But for that to happen, we have to learn.

Tobias Kaiser

From data and from our users.

If we are honest, for a long time we journalists made up our own minds about what was relevant and worthy of a report - and what wasn't. And yes, I also talk about those colleagues who wrote one article after another on a topic that they found incredibly important, but possibly no one else. Of course, there has always been relevant journalism. Journalism that has explained, uncovered and entertained. There were the scoops. But whether audiences found our stories interesting, relevant or boring and whether they were as excited about the scoops as the editorial team - it did not matter, as long the money from subscriptions and ads came in.

Those days are over. I think that's a good thing. The crisis of our business model is brutal, but it also focusses our minds. Today we can not only track in real time which content our readers are digitally interested in and how they came to us, but also which digital content they are willing to pay money for. Through the data we can collect online, our users tell us, what kind of coverage they expect from us, what they consider relevant, what narrative perspective they prefer - and all of this is definitely making journalistic content better.

We also have to learn from the really large digital players. And I mean the really large ones.

Germans are stingy. Only eight percent of adults are willing to pay for digital content. Winning digital subscribers in such an environment that's not easy. But it is still a lot easier than maintaining that relationship long term. That is hard work. For every digital business that relies on subscription, it boils down to one question: How do we reduce the churn rate? And the next one: How can we ensure that our subscribers stay hooked.

There is not one answer, many roads lead to the hearts of users. One example from my company: We recently walled off the comment sections underneath our articles.

Tobias Kaiser

Ever since only subscribers can comment. The effect was encouraging: Many users subscribed to be able to comment - and the quality of the discussions increased.

These challenges has made our jobs more exciting. Media houses everywhere keep experimenting with new formats, with podcasts, videos, apps, multimedia stories or online chats. You name it. Yes, we want to inspire our readers, but they keep inspiring us as well. I don't know about you, but I find the prospect terribly exciting.

And we have to learn from each other

In these digital times the editorial team has to think more like the editor in chief. In order to gain a large number of digital subscribers, media outlets depend on reach. So it is only natural, that within editorial offices KPIs - Key Performance Indicators - become more relevant. Editorial teams get their own targets for audience reach and conversion. That drives competition - a race for the best spot on the website, for the best headlines and for the best stories. This competition can have downsides, especially in its more extreme forms. At a leading media outlet in Stockholm, for example, every journalist is a solo player: they each have their own set of goals, a dashboard and reporting tailored to their needs. Every single story he or she publishes is measured and rated. We do not have to go that far. But learning from each other is a trait that helped us to get through the Covid crisis and it will also help us to weather the challenges facing our profession.

Speaker

**Ranjit Kumar**

Independent Journalist
Strategic Affairs Analyst
India

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- Independent journalist in India
- Contributed columns of international situations in newspapers and online news
- Joined Journalism profession in 1980, Have reported and commented on International affairs and security issues.
- Reporter specialized in diplomacy at <Hindya Daily>, <NAVBHARAT TIMES>, etc.
- Author of <India's nuclear Policy>, <South Asian Union>, etc.

The Corona pandemic has proved to be one of the most dangerous life threatening and disruptor of economic and social life of the communities, the world has witnessed in its known history. Even best of medical technology and facilities and the richest of people, societies and countries could not save its people from seriously impacting their lives and livelihood. Not only the economies of the nations were severely impaired but political and diplomatic relations between nations were adversely affected. The corona pandemic has proved to be the most seismic event for all walks of life, at the personal, societal and national level.

The wide ranging impact of this is visible all around and people all over world will continue to face uncertainties in their lives in the post covid era. We are still passing through serious phase of Covid pandemic, which has seen revival in most

Ranjit Kumar

part of the world. As the countries were looking for entering in a post – covid era to seriously get to their jobs of reviving economies and putting social and economic activities back to normal, uncertainty still looms large over major parts of the world. Hence it would be difficult to say how the world would look like in a post covid era. The world economy is expected to rebound soon as economic activity and demands picks up, but there are fears that another wave of corona pandemic will deal another blow to the world community. However, the social, economic and political lives of ordinary people will be determined by the policies and programs to be formulated the Governments, who will have own national priorities.

In this backdrop, media and journalism would have to play a major role in helping the governments shape their policies through their objective reporting, which are inclusive and non-discriminatory towards their people. The job, responsibilities and duties of the journalism is to create awareness among various cross section of the society and political class, which will help the government leaders formulate a more equitable policy framework to help revive the economies and return to normalcy in every sector of social and national life.

It's almost 16 months, since the Wuhan city of China witnessed, the major outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and since then various governments world over have handled the emergency medical situation according to their own national capacities and in their own style. There are many lessons to be learnt from the sudden world wide spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. In this interdependent world, the policies adopted by government of one country would have impact on lives of other nations also, Hence, the journalists world over, should ignore national boundaries and help governments world over cope with the unprecedented challenge.

As the devastating impact of Covid pandemic has disrupted world economy, the post covid world will also see disruptions in balance of relations, as there are demands to create alternative industrial and technology supply chains so as the countries

Ranjit Kumar

do not remain vulnerable to blackmail or surge-pricing from a monopoly supplier. There would be tendency among nations towards de-globalisation , since benefits of globalisation has been cornered by a few nations at the cost of degradation of manufacturing sector, affecting employment and overall economies of the nation.

The post corona world scene will try to move towards less and less dependence on one nation dependent supply chains , The Corona pandemic has shaken the foundations of world economy moving towards monopolistic supply chain and consequentially rebalance and re-shape world diplomatic relations.

The emergence of four nation quadrilateral framework is an example. Countries like South Korea , Indonesia , Germany, France , UK etc are considered like minded partners , as these countries particularly South Korea have expressed their willingness to join the US led Indo-pacific strategy.

Post Covid world will see new alliances based on this Indo-pacific strategy under the tutelage of Quad or Quadrilateral framework, who view China as a culprit in the worldwide propagation of the Corona virus. China's unilateral action in South China Sea, claiming its sovereignty over most part of the maritime area has unnerved the strategic community. Hence major powers are joining hands to counter the Chinese challenge. The post covid world will see deepening rivalries between US led alliance and China group consisting of Russia, Pakistan , North Korea, besides West Asian power Iran . I think. Post covid world will see many upheavals in world economic and diplomatic relations.

Speaker



Mohammad Nasir

Indonesian Journalists' Association (PWI)
Director of Public Services
Indonesia

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- Vice Chairman of Adinegoro Multimedia Education Foundation
- Journalist of <Kompas> (1989-2018)
- Editorial Board of <Indonesia Today>
- Secretary General of Indonesian Cyber Media Union (SMSI)

Who says the press has no role in tackling the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? The press as the fourth pillar of democracy does not have medical equipment, masks, and personal protection, and the Covid vaccines that are needed by the public, but the press socializes all series of programs to handle the covid-19 pandemic until it is complete.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Press directed the planning of coverage according to the road map to the last post handling covid-19. The press must have a good and comprehensive coverage planning until post-corona through the news with the correct information, make clear visuals and not multi-interpretation, presenting a statistic that is constantly changing every day.

In April- December 2021, the press continues to control the implementation of vaccinations until it reaches the services of all Indonesians. Meanwhile, the press

Mohammad Nasir

also began to condition the normal atmosphere. The news should be directed at all economic activities, such as tourism, culinary, markets, industry, export-import, and busyness in the airport, as well as urban activities.

This news aims to fill people's readings so that their minds turn to normal conditions, and in turn economic growth will recover as before the Covid-19 pandemic. This is the role of the Indonesian press in participating in restoring the deterioration of life after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Road Map, January 2020

Then since when is the press media road map in controlling the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic? The stretch of road map is clear, starting in January 2020, when the coronavirus (covid-19) outbreak spread from Wuhan, China.

It is estimated that almost all press media editors of various platforms, ranging from print, cyber, television and radio around the world conducted editorial planning meeting to talk about the Covid-19 information that began to spread from Wuhan. This can be seen from radio broadcasts around the world that we monitor through internet Radio Garden spreading information of Covid-19. As well as television, print media, and cyber media, no one misses spreading news about Covid-19 with various points of view.

Editorial planning meetings are usually attended by editor-in-chief, managing editors, editors, and even involve all journalists, because Covid-19 is a big issue, a world issue.

February 2020

The press closely follows the development of handling Covid-19, especially when who declared the coronavirus increasingly serious and turned into a pandemic. Many inter-country flight services were closed. Land transportation services

Mohammad Nasir

are tightened, because it is feared that more and more people are contracting Corona-19. World lockdown, places of worship closed, malls closed.

March 2020

Press media around the world, including Indonesia are more vigorously preaching the spread of the malignant virus and at the same time socializing how to behave healthily to avoid the virus. Death data, and those exposed to Corona virus are published daily in the hope that the public can avoid the virus.

Various print, cyber, radio, and television platforms around the world are constantly preaching coronavirus. Infodemic is characterized by a flood of uncontrolled information, mixed with fake news that makes many people wonder the truth of information.

In Indonesia, the press has a strict tradition of verifying information, having the task of tracing it, and then straightening it out. This is the role and responsibility of the press. The responsible press will not reproduce fake news.

April 2020

The mass media around April 2020 then also socialized the importance of self-isolation and the use of masks, hand washing, and social distancing which became known as 3 M, and was used as a health protocol as an effort to break the chain of spread of Covid-19.

In the community, we see, everywhere people doing 3 M, namely wear masks, wash their hands, and keep a distance between people in places of worship, in markets, in stations, and in offices, and elsewhere. Even in many offices closed because it is recommended to work from home (WFH).

May 2020

Everything we see in the community, can be said to be the influence of mass media

Mohammad Nasir

coverage, and social media that also amplify or orchestrate information about the handling of covid-19. Socialization to adhere to the health protocol in a large way continues to be carried out, while controlling government policies that strive to deal with Covid-19 sufferers and try to break the chain of transmission.

June, July, August, September 2020

During June to September, the press continued to struggle through the news to help the government socialize health protocols to fight Covid-19.

Mask assistance and personal protective equipment are distributed to the public which is the help of the community and all parties, including private companies and individuals.

The mass media amplified the movement for personal protective equipment through the news so that more and more people do.

October-December 2020

Seeing the importance of the role of the press in Indonesia, Chairman of the Covid-19 Task Force, Donni Monardo collaborated with the Press Council to intensify the role of the press by designing the Behavioral Change Journalism Fellowship (FJPP).

The FJPP recruited about 5,000 journalists over three months from October to December 2020. The journalists in this program are given the task to advocate the use of health protocols, namely 3 M. When the mass media was busy preaching the handling of Covid-19, the Covid-19 Task Force together with the Press Council gave the same program. The journalists who participated in this program were given the honorarium.

January 2021

The next step is to walk the press road map, even though the FJPP program has

Mohammad Nasir

been completed, the press continues to echo plans to make various vaccines to fight covid-19 from within the body. The pros and cons of vaccines are presented to the public so that the public can also think. However, the press has a target in directing its audience to receive vaccine injections. The goal is to stop the chain of transmission of the virus.

February 2021, Vaccines

Through the momentum of National Press Day 2021, the Chairman of Indonesian Journalists' Association or Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia (PWI) who is also in charge of National Press Day Atal S. Depari implored Indonesian President Joko Widodo to give vaccines to the press. Joko Widodo granted the request. The first phase as many as 5,512 press personnel from Jakarta, Bogor, Depok, Tangerang, and Bekasi (Jabodetabek) registered as vaccine recipients.

They (the media crews) were then facilitated by two ministries, namely the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia and the Ministry of Communication and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia. The implementation of the vaccine of thousands of press personnel took place 25-27 February 2021 at Hall A Basket Gelora Bung Karno, Senayan, Jakarta, in collaboration with the Press Council, PWI and other constituents of the Press Council.

The joint movement of the press community from all constituents of the Press Council and the Pemred Forum can be read as a message of press support in receiving the covid-19 vaccine. Symbolically the press gave the example of the public so as not to hesitate to accept vaccines.

March 2021, Vaccine Expanded

Through subsequent news, the press encouraged the equalization of vaccines for people of all ages, there is no age discrimination in receiving the covid-19 vaccine

Mohammad Nasir

in all provinces in Indonesia. This has been realized, starting from Jakarta province first, and then to all provinces.

April- December 2021

The press continues to control the implementation of vaccinations until it reaches the services of all Indonesians. Meanwhile, the press also began to condition the normal atmosphere. The news is directed at all economic activities, such as tourism, culinary, markets, industry, export-import, and business in the airport, as well as urban activities.

In my point of view, without good planning, the press will lose its way, losing its strategy in tackling the handling of the coronavirus-19. Therefore, the press must have a coverage plan and set a road map against covid so that it is in line with efforts to address the disconnection of the Covid-19 transmission chain by the government, the Task Force on Covid-19 Prevention, the Ministry of Health, and all parties involved.

Speaker



Frank McNally

The Irish Times
Columnist
Ireland

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- Columnist at The Irish Times
- M.A. in Journalism at Dublin City University

About 20 years ago now, the editor of my newspaper, The Irish Times, returned from a trip to France where he had visited the headquarters of a big regional newspaper, Sud-Ouest, based in Bordeaux. Although still in its early days, the revolution in information technology was farther on there than in Ireland. And I recall that our editor was especially impressed by one thing in Sud-Ouest: there was hardly anyone in the office. Journalists were almost all working remotely.

This was just about possible then even in Ireland, and became increasingly normal in The Irish Times in more recent years, as improving Wifi coverage and other factors allowed. But I'm not sure we would ever have made the leap to mass remote working, unless something had forced it.

Then one day in March 2020, we learned that a sub-editor had tested positive for Covid. And overnight, without a dress rehearsal, the newspaper had to be produced remotely, from staff member's homes, for the first time in its 160-year history.

Frank McNally

Initially, the arrangement was for 48 hours only, to allow for deep-cleaning. Then after a couple of stressful days and nights, when people realised it could work, the arrangement was extended. We recently marked a whole year of remote publishing with a full-page picture of the hundreds of front pages produced from journalists' kitchens, living rooms, or garden sheds.

On the plus side, therefore, the pandemic has demonstrated the extraordinary resilience of our profession. It has also provided reassuring proof of how much the results were appreciated – and needed – by readers. Like most newspapers, we have suffered big losses in print sales, since so much of our public is also now working from home or on furlough. But we have also enjoyed record levels of online subscriptions, from people hungry for news they can trust.

So, in some cases at least – remote working and the shift from print to digital readership – the pandemic has merely accelerated changes that are already happening. But as we head into a second year of all of this, with no clear end in sight, there are also bound to be consequences that we cannot foresee yet. We must hope that, contrary to the most pessimistic views, this is not an “extinction level event” for traditional journalism, although for some smaller media companies, it already has been.

Certain things will never change, meanwhile, as the continuing good work of journalists is already showing. After a year of “we’re all this together”, human nature is reasserting itself in less agreeable ways, at least in Ireland. With the mass vaccination programme gathers speed in Ireland, recent journalistic scoops here have included revelations of queue jumping by people in positions of power and privilege: an old story given a new twist.

At international level, in Europe, we have also been seeing the rise of vaccine nationalism: the same story writ larger. And as the world emerges from this crisis,

Frank McNally

with Governments of the richer countries prioritising their own survival, the struggle of poorer part of the world to get a share of vaccines is – or should be – a subject we will all be covering over the next year.

Another running story in Ireland in the coming months will be the proceedings of a State commission into the Future of Media, which is expected to report in the autumn. This was not a response to Covid-19. It was a legacy of our last government and featured – well down the list of priorities – in the programme for the new one that emerged from an election in February 2020, when Covid was still just a rumour to most of us.

The idea had been forced onto the agenda by an existing problem: the domination of social media and in particular the twin monoliths of Google and Facebook, which had built their empires on the back of free media content, on the way to hoovering up most of the advertising on which that media depended.

The need for some State support for journalism is now increasingly accepted in Ireland, by our prime minister among others. In a statement to the commission this year, the company that owns my own newspaper added its voice to those calls.

A day later, in the best traditions of free speech, one of our columnists argued strongly against accepting such handouts. They would be a stick for critics to beat us with, he suggested. And even if politicians were well-meaning at the start, they might change their tunes when under pressure from the same media they were now funding. Embellishing the Covid-era theme of “PPE” – “personal protective equipment” – my colleague joked that we would need “political protective equipment” to avoid the dangers of censorship, self-imposed or otherwise, that subventions might bring.

Besides, he said, the idea of State funding did not address the basic problem

Frank McNally

presented by the social media giants. Until that was dealt with, state subvention to traditional media it would be like pouring water into a leaky bucket.

Not for the first time during the pandemic, we in Ireland found ourselves looking admiringly towards Australia and New Zealand this spring. Not only have they avoided the worst of Covid, but the Australian government at least tried to grab the bull by the horns in February with a law requiring Facebook to pay for its content from traditional media. A compromise is now playing itself out there. Many of us will be watching with interest.

Speaker



Antonio Moscatello

Askaneews
Journalist
Italy

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- Journalist for Asia in Italian News Agency ASKANNEWS
- War correspondent in Iraq War
- Correspondent in Tokyo and in Budapest
- Author of <Megumi – Storie di rapimenti e spie della Corea del Nord>(Megumi - kidnapping and spies from North Korea) (2018) and <101 cose da fare in Giappone una volta nella vita> (101 Experiences to do in Japan Once in a Lifetime) (2020), etc.

My country, Italy, is one of the founder states of European Union and our post-COVID prospects are linked to the EU funding, in particular the project Next Generation EU (750 billion euro).

In this framework, the member states of the Union agreed a strong funding for project in fields of sustainable technologies, environment friendly industries, green transportations, connectivity.

The global Recovery Fund of EU connected to this project is around 1.800 billion euro in loans and grants. Italy will be one of the larger earners of this funds, for more than 200 billion euro.

Antonio Moscatello

This is now the central point of Italian government action: to make every effort in order to have timely a plan to earn this year this funding.

This was the main reason for the political changing we had some months ago. The political majority collapsed and was formed a national unity government with professor Mario Draghi as prime minister.

Draghi was the former governor of European Central Bank during perilous times and he was able to stabilize the euro through the acquisition of bonds from EU Member States by the central bank. He has a strong reputation not only in Rome, but also in Frankfurt and Berlin. Because, to be clear, the trend-setting nation in EU is Germany.

Now, as a leader of a larger-than-ever political majority, Draghi has before him two main tasks:

- 1) To complete as soon as possible the vaccination program of the Italian population. Italy began formally at the end of December to inoculate shots, but really the starting of the program was in January. Rome acquired many millions of doses by German American maker Pfizer, and from US AstraZeneca, Moderna, Johnson&Johnson. Also, we are waiting for the approval by European Medicines Agency (EMA) of the Russian vaccine Sputnik and others. There is also a testing phase for an Italian vaccine named Reithera. The process of vaccination is going too slowly for many Italians not only because of poor organization but also because vaccine companies are very slow in manufacturing&delivering.
- 2) To complete the Recovery Plan e to go to Bruxelles for approval with a sounding project and a good timeframe. We have more than 200 billion euro to allocate. It is not so easy: Italy, in the past, didn't show the capacity to design and realize projects funded by European Commission. We have to create this know-how from a very low level.

Antonio Moscatello

These two tasks are crucial for a new normal in Italy. Through vaccination we will restart our economy, in particular the tourism and travelaa. Through the EU Recovery Plan we want to build the infrastructures for a new economic reconstruction of the country.

Speaker



Asaph Young Chun

Statistics Research Institute of Statistics Korea
 Director-General
 Korea

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- Faculty Chair/Director, PSI International for Data Science and Interdisciplinary Research
- Editor-in-Chief, Administrative Records for Survey Methodology (Wiley)
- Research Chief for Decennial Directorate ('11~'19) U.S. Census Bureau
- Vice President ('13~'15), Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST)
- Senior Survey Methodologist ('09~'11), NORC at the University of Chicago
- Behavioral Scientist (1991~1999), US Department of Labor
- Authored over 110 papers published in leading journals and books devoted to evidence-based policymaking, survey methodology, and prediction science.
- Studied Journalism, Sociology, and Public Policy at the University of Michigan, University of Maryland, and Harvard Kennedy School of Government

[Data-based Journalism in the Wake of COVID-19 Pandemic]

Flattening the COVID-19 epidemic curve, like every struggle against a pandemic, is a race against time. Predicting the course of COVID-19 pandemic in the 21st century has been as challenging as forecasting the Spanish flu that took away over 55 million lives

Asaph Young Chun

across the world in the early 20th century. Likewise, journalists today face challenges of reporting the post COVID-19 world that is uncertain, unpredictable, and dividing.

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year, its variants have been identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil, and threaten to overrun the promise of vaccines that have been developed in record time. Journalists learn that stopping the pandemic from claiming millions of more lives will require a global response. Data-based modeling COVID-19 pandemic is a prerequisite to such a response, globally and locally. Journalists report that governments across the globe have varied measures of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), such as masking, social distancing, and business closures, often based on models that capture one's own nation's characteristics and available data. Science-based modeling provides evidence that drives policymaking. What have journalists offered in the wake of data-based transformations at hand?

The World Journalists Conference 2021 is the meeting place of discussing the changes in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic across countries, learning from each other, and making journalistic innovations to support each other in a global scale. The transforming data-driven changes of which journalists are encouraged to be mindful include: 1) data-based prediction of the impact of vaccine strategies and non-pharmaceutical interventions; 2) short-and-long-term prediction of infection cases, patients in ICU, and mortality, as well as treatments leveraging artificial intelligence, statistics, and data science in a transdisciplinary manner; and 3) interdisciplinary models and metrics showing tradeoffs among health merits, economic effects, and post-COVID19 changes in social and mental life.

I encourage journalists' collaboration with modelers and scholars of pandemics across this flattening globe. Together, we can advance prediction science, innovate data-based journalism, and make changes that benefit the disadvantaged people across corners in this global village.

Speaker



Kyungil Kim

Department of Psychology, Ajou University
Professor
Korea

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• Education

1993, B.S in psychology from Korea University
1995, M.S in psychology from Korea University
2005, Doctor of psychology in University of Texas – Austin(Concentration under the major: Cognitive psychology)

• Work Experience

• Present position

A chairman of the board of Game Culture Foundation
The director of Institute of Creativity Studies in Ajou University

• Previous position

A representative of the Korea Psychological Autopsy Center
A member of a mediation committee of the Seoul Central District Court
A member of a mediation committee of the Korea Medical Dispute Mediation and Arbitration Agency
A Consultant in HR department of Samsung

Kyungil Kim

[Post corona -Media dealing with the warmth of contact.]

Corona Pandemic is changing everything. There are many people who ask what kind of life will be important in the future. And there is something I consistently include in the answer. It is psychological warmth. Even after the corona, non-face-to-face communication will settle in our society in part. This is because there is a high possibility that remote work and distance learning will become one way of life. However, there is a limit to such the non-face-to-face that the efficiency is improved, but the sense of temperature is inevitably lowered. We have already experienced that the atmosphere of the online graduation ceremony is inevitably quiet and cold. The Online reunion is also empty.

Because of this, the seasons are physically getting warmer, but people are forced to feel cold like winter. Therefore, above all else, everybody in the world want to feel warmth. This means that it is not a problem that can be solved with technology.

So, how is it possible to feel a sense of temperature in a non-face-to-face society?

A good example is the consideration of residents at the entrance of an apartment. And this is the content introduced by a blogger in Korea. A small box was placed at the entrance of an apartment, and there were wipes, snacks, and a mask. There was a piece of paper on the box and the handwriting that seemed to be written by a child was impressive.

'Postman, delivery driver. Thank you for always delivering the necessary items safely to our house even now when infectious diseases are spreading. It contains hand sanitizer, wet wipes, and snacks. Take as much as you need and do your best.'

Even though it is not a special content, our heart warms up. Even though two-way communication, the basic principle of human relations, has not been achieved, everyone will agree with this feeling. Perhaps the resident who prepared this box

Kyungil Kim

and the delivery man will not meet in person. However, when the he/she picks up a wet wipe and puts it in pocket his/her hands will remember the temperature and texture. It's a completely different texture from holding hands, but it conveys the same warmth. Only the skin can feel the temperature. And the real substance that can be touched becomes the medium of the senses.

The media should act as a bridge. Of course, sharp criticism of the world is the most important purpose of the media. However, in the post-corona era, which is inevitably colder, the media should pay greater attention to the role of delivering heartwarming news especially of touch and physical contact. This is because happiness is the most essential tool and purpose of human existence and survival.

Speaker



Dongcharn Cho

SBS
Medical correspondent/M.D.,Ph.D.
Korea

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• Educational Background

Ph.D. in College of Medicine, Hanyang graduate school (Neurosurgery)
Aug 2008 - Present Journalist, SBS

• Achievements

Korea Broadcasting Prizes award for Journalists (2014)
Democratic Press Award for Special Prize (News sector, 2016)
Science Journalist of Korea, Science Journalists Association (2016)
Ministry of Health and Welfare Award (2017)
Korea Broadcasting Prizes award for Journalists (2019)
Korean Journalist Award (newsgathering sector, 2019)

• Publications

<Are you sleeping well now?> (Pampas)

In March 2009, a child living in California, United States, suffered from influenza symptoms and was rushed to the hospital for treatment. The hospital diagnosed the child with novel influenza—swine flu. This disease rapidly spread to 129 countries, including Mexico and those in Europe and Asia. Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO) counted as many as 17,583 fatalities from swine flu that year. Although not

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as fatal as COVID-19, the disease caused enough damage, shocking many in 2009. Fortunately, the preventive vaccine was distributed three months after the outbreak, and portable medicines were prescribed that year. However, swine flu still exists as a seasonal illness now, even though over a decade has passed.

Similarly, our dream of entering the post-COVID-19 era might never come true; instead, other pandemics might plague each season. Nevertheless, the lessons learned from COVID-19 will boost our medical information in the future, which is beneficial given that the pandemic is likely to persist with the media at the center of activity. However, we need to analyze what we've learned reasonably and realistically. The press should enhance publicity to balance quarantine outcomes and privacy protection at present, not during the post-COVID era. It should be cautious of false news yet not mistakenly fall into the third-party effect, a standard error made by intellectuals, and it must pay continuous attention to ensure the equal, worldwide distribution of vaccines.

1. Successful K-Quarantine and Privacy Protection

The world sees the Republic of Korea (ROK) as a successful country amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As of January 2021, according to the Organisation for Co-operation and Development (OECD), the ROK ranked as the 3rd country with the lowest confirmed cases per 0.1 million people after New Zealand and Australia. Moreover, it ranked 2nd in the least fatalities reported after New Zealand, having only 2.31 deaths among 0.1 million people. Such are the numbers evidencing the success of the so-called K-Quarantine, which is composed of three Ts: test promptly (test), trace infected people through the mobile GPS (trace), and isolate close contacts (track). The ROK's government enthusiastically affirmed the 3T policy's infection prevention effect, as medical staff performed effectively, and most importantly, the people voluntarily cooperated. Thus, the International Organization

Dongcharn Cho

for Standardization (ISO) acknowledged K-Quarantine as the international standard for diagnosing infectious diseases.

Nonetheless, the system was not perfect, as many countries enforced containment policies in the early stages of COVID-19 as the most obvious way to prevent external viruses from entering their borders.

Although the ROK government did not follow suit, its hesitance in executing such a policy could not be simply criticized given its diplomatic and economic implications. However, the quarantine authority's explanations for such reservations led to critical statements; one was that "the containment policy does not work for preventing infection." During a time when the mask supply was insufficient, the ROK government even said, "There is no need for healthy people to wear masks." Such criticism was unscientific and antimicrobial, but the media was not keen enough to point it out. Privacy protection issues were more severe. As Korea experienced the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) crisis in 2015, the nation established an Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act to manage and disclose the personal information of those who could potentially spread the virus. The disclosure of possible viral traces is a legal act, but the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act did not indicate that the nation would manage every citizen's movement through entry logs and QR codes in public places, restaurants, etc. for a month. Instead, the country used extralegal force to prevent infections, to which the media responded with a criticism of the government. Some citizens might have prioritized privacy protection over diseases, but the government unilaterally decided to put "public interest first," the press reported. They set the scene of criticism by saying that "privacy disclosure is more frightening than COVID-19 cases."

2. False News and Third-Person Effects

Amid the urgent pandemic, false news maliciously confuses society. However, the media

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should not refrain from releasing real news for fear of such confusion, as one such attempt culminated in reports of death after vaccination. Many nations, such as Norway, Germany, the United States, and even Korea, saw fatalities after immunization, mostly among people aged over 65 or suffering from stroke or heart disease. Even though the mortality was not high, the people paid much attention to it. "Although vaccination might not be responsible, we saw fatalities after vaccination," reported the media. Many intellectuals, such as professors, experts, and reporters, severely criticized the media out of concern that readers and viewers would "avoid vaccination because of their misunderstanding that it drove people to death." As educated people hurled blame to the press, society started to think that "publicizing death cases that have occurred after vaccination was a bad thing to do." In addition, some intellectuals posted that the "underlying diseases triggered the deaths" on social media sites, but the government has not completed its investigation yet. These intellectuals adversely influenced society, as people showed sarcasm and distrust through comments under the article entitled "No Correlation Found between Vaccination and Fatalities." Some comments read, "Weren't underlying diseases responsible for the deaths? Why investigate on a concluded matter?" and "Underlying diseases sparked fatalities after vaccination. This will be the case forever." Around 90% of teachers responded with approval for COVID-19 vaccination in the early stage, but the rate dropped to 60% recently.

The third-person effect comprises the fundamental attribution error. It insists on restricting the media from affecting third persons because the press influences other people beyond its network. The third-person effect error is often seen by educated people, such as professors, experts, and reporters, through their sense of superiority over others. "I am 'reasonable' enough to understand what mass media try to say, but other people accept it 'uncritically'" is what they think. Furthermore, this wrong mindset seen in intellects prevents the public from accessing real news and even spreads distrust in society. Although real news claimed that "fatalities were reported after

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vaccinations and investigations are being made accordingly," intellectuals judged that only they could reasonably evaluate the article's accuracy. As a result, the public ended up reading false articles that claimed that "vaccines did not cause the deaths," even though the corresponding investigation was ongoing. However, the intellectuals were wrong, and the distrust of vaccines only worsened in society.

3. Vaccination and Monopoly of Powerful Nations

Vaccination seems to be the most realistic antidote to COVID-19. Although many nations saw rising COVID-19 cases since the end of March, indicating a possible fourth wave of pandemic infections, Israel and the United Kingdom report rapid drops in pandemic cases as vaccination rates increased over 50%. However, vaccine supplies are becoming scarce. Some analyze that 16% of high-income countries in the world will monopolize 70% of COVID-19 vaccine supplies to be launched this year. The WHO implements a COVAX Facility Project to provide vaccinations for the world's poorest countries and vulnerable classes in developed countries. However, the organization is blocked by the lack of funds and advanced countries' monopolization of vaccine supplies. The pandemic can only end through an even and widespread provision of vaccines; its eradication is not guaranteed by a drop in infections in several developed countries because of sufficient vaccination supplies. We need to distribute and share vaccines strategically worldwide to overcome the shortage. Although somewhat late, the media emphasized the reality of uneven vaccination supplies to help developing nations receive vaccines by approval, procurement, distribution, etc. "We need to execute a step-by-step access strategy," stressed the press.

After these reports, France donated 5% of its COVID-19 vaccine supplies to COVAX. The United Kingdom shared its remaining stores after all citizens received vaccinations, and the United States decided to donate up to USD 4 billion (approx. KRW 4.428 trillion). However, this is not enough to even out the vaccine supply imbalance. COVID-19

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inoculations are expected to be held annually, so advanced countries will strive even more to secure vaccine supplies. We need to find an extreme measure to supply every nation with vaccines, including underdeveloped ones.

Speaker



Norila Mohd. Daud

Malaysia World News
Senior Editor
Malaysia

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- Former President of National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM)
- Former President of Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ)
- Present Senior Vice- President of Asian Journalists Association (AJA)
- Present Senior Editor at Malaysia World News(news portal)
- Former Journalist at <Utusan Malaysia>, <Bahasa Malaysia>

[Prospect of Post COVID-19 Era and Role of Journalism in Malaysia]

The policy of the Malaysian government during the COVID-19 era is to have a balance between life and livelihood. The policy has been implemented when most of the states in Malaysia have reached the status of Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) and Recovery MCO (RMCO) meaning that they have less than 500 daily new COVID-19 cases. The people are now allowed to continue doing their businesses and inter-district travel is allowed but not inter-state travel. Only people from RMCO states can travel to another RMCO state for tourism activities via transportation registered under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC). This programme is called the "Green Travel Bubble".

Norila Mohd. Daud

Since the new COVID-19 cases had been recording 1,200 a day since the middle of March 2021, the Work from Home (WFH) directive had been called off and starting 1st April 2021 the private sectors including the industrial and manufacturing sectors will be fully opened.

The Work from Home concept is now the new norm and has been an accepted work culture. It is not impossible for some companies and sectors to retain that work culture as it is economical and productive besides it is a win-win situation for both the employer and employee to a certain extent.

On 17th March 2021, the Malaysian government had announced the implementation of Strategic Empowerment of the People and Economy or PEMERKASA worth RM20 billion with a new physical injection of RM11 billion.

In this plan the government will focus on five main areas namely for the recovery and economic empowerment including the control of COVID-19 from spreading, to spur the economic recovery, to strengthen the competency of the country, to implement the inclusiveness agenda of the territories and the society and economic transformation.

Among the 20 initiatives implemented under PEMERKASA are to help every qualified micro-industry and small medium enterprise (SME) by providing them with RM1, 000 via Prihatin Special Grant (PSG) and application starts from 1st April 2021. This grant is expected to benefit one million entrepreneurs.

The government had also launched the PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 (career creator) and under the Social Security Organization (SOCSO), 200,000 workers had been placed in the formal sector. To help the people who have lost their jobs and income, the government will extend the scope of recruiting workers involving temporary jobs and gig work.

The government has also allocated RM300 million that could benefit 60,000 workers in which every worker will receive RM600 per month for a maximum of six months

Norila Mohd. Daud

and for the employers they can offer jobs on short basis or the platform provider for gig services that are registered under SOCSO and will receive RM200 for the placement of each worker.

Realising that certain sectors are still badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has allocated RM700 million to extend the Payment Subsidy Programme 3.0 for three months in a targeted manner.

Among those affected include the tourism sectors, wholesale traders and retailers and other businesses that were closed during the MCO such as gymnasium for sports and spa. This initiative is expected to benefit 400,000 workers and 37,000 employers.

Meanwhile the Malaysian National Bank (Bank Negara Malaysia) also helps the SME's to get loans by increasing the Assistance Facilities and Targeted Recovery amounting to RM2 billion while Automation Facilities and Digitalisation for RM700 million. With the additional facilities provided by Bank Negara, the SMEs will benefit RM6 billion.

With regards to women entrepreneurs' empowerment, the Kempen e-Dagang PKS and SME Micro and Shop Malaysia Online, the government will provide RM30 million fund to help the people to shift to online market.

In addition Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) will also provide RM50 million for Financing PEMERKAS-Nita scheme to encourage them to involve in businesses.

Regarding the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (NCIP) which was launched on 24th February 2021, to date more than 500,000 front liners consisting of Health Workers, Defence and Security personnel had been vaccinated in the first phase.

Meanwhile the second phase involving the senior citizens above 60 years old, handicapped and the co-morbidities starts on 19th April 2021. To date (31st March 2021) seven million people have registered with MySejahtera Apps to be vaccinated.

Norila Mohd. Daud

The role of journalism in Malaysia is still very important and effective medium for the people to get the latest information about COVID-19 and the national immunization programme, political development, business and economic growth.

Before the newspapers were very important and effective medium to get information especially for the people in the remote and rural areas. However, as the print media is slowly phasing out and replaced by online journalism via news portal, the rural people and the old generation have not been keeping abreast with the latest news.

The local newspapers in Malaysia had started to exercise retrenchment in 2019. Before October 2019, they were 1,050 journalists working with the newspaper companies. However, in March 2021, there are only 438 members registered with the National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM). Many have retired or resigned apart from being retrenched.

The journalism in Malaysia is considered healthy meaning they write following the media ethics and very much aware of the national laws and restrictions even though the Perikatan Nasional (PN) government that took over in March 2020 claims to give more press freedom. Nevertheless some journalists alleged the present government is “not so media friendly”.

Most of the news portal journalists are independent and not backed by any political parties as compared to the existing newspaper companies. Throughout the COVID-19 era, the ministers and government agencies prefer to invite the mainstream media either owned by the government or linked to the government for press conference and only selected news portals are invited.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the strict standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the government, the news portal journalists are not free to meet ministers face to face but merely via Zoom, emails and whatsapp.

Norila Mohd. Daud

The role of journalism still runs well and very important in this post COVID-19 especially reporting on economic growth, employment opportunities, education achievement and the social issues as the COVID-19 pandemic had caused many problems in the community and the country at large.

The only hindrance for the local media today is the government’s move to gazette an ordinance purportedly to combat “fake news” relating to COVID-19 or the emergency proclamation.

The NUJM in its statement on the ordinance said, the ruling government is trying to silent the voice of every citizen regardless of their race, religion or various background. NUJM called the government’s plan of setting up the Media Council to tackle any issues regarding the media practitioners especially journalists in the front line.

The Union is in the view that Media Council can also be in charge of looking into the alleged fake news crime committed instead of the government having to gazette a new law to tackle this. This in turn will display transparency over the alleged crime committed.

Speaker



Rafael Robledo

Nest Taller de Communication
Deputy Director
Mexico

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- Journalist and political communication consultant
- Master in Journalism, Carlos Septien School of Journalism
- Journalist at <El Universal> the most read newspaper in Mexico.
- Producing and operating the Mexico's government ministries web (migration to gob.mx)

[Journalists: protagonists of the post-COVID era Dedicated to all journalists victims of COVID-19 around the world.]

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a series of challenges for the exercise of journalistic work in all countries of the world.

The first and most important of them, the fact that the most useful and important journalistic methodology was restricted: personal humane treatment, interviews, personal reporting of events that allows good journalism to complete its mission: serve society.

Another of the most important challenges that face not only journalism but also

Rafael Robledo

global society as a whole, is the battle against disinformation and fake news which the World Health Organization (WHO) itself has described as a second pandemic and in which journalism has a role to play. Definitive to ensure that people consume researched and verified information.

It is also because of the challenge it has brought to the protagonists of this global information machinery: journalists. There is, among journalists, a very true phrase: when the journalist becomes the news, something is wrong. However, it is necessary, without excessive starring eagerness, but as a sense of elementary justice, to speak about journalists.

During a virtual conference in may 2020, the representative of UNESCO in Mexico, Frédéric Vacheron¹ expressed his gratitude to all the journalists who, despite the circumstances, take to the streets to tell the stories of the pandemic and even those who remain at home. or newsrooms, analyzing data, researching, getting stories through the available means.

"The pandemic endangers not only our health, it also attacks the social condition, and journalism and freedom of expression with essential tools to overcome this situation," and it is this double condition that should be sufficient reason for journalism to be recognized and safeguarded by society and governments.

However, in most countries, this is more of a wish than a palpable reality. And this is the most important challenge facing journalism and on which I would like to pay special attention: that those who make it possible, carry out their work in conditions of safety, dignity and freedom.

Therefore, I propose, from the experience of Mexico, which can be useful for many

1. <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/politica/La-pandemia-pone-en-peligro-al-periodismo-y-la-libertad-de-expresion-Unesco---20200520-0067.html>

Rafael Robledo

more countries that share some of the conditions indicated below and that can achieve that not only journalists, but also journalism is strengthened and enriched for a post-pandemic world.

The precariousness

Journalism, at least in Mexico, my country is a poorly paid medium. According to the 2020 Article 19 report for Mexico, approximately half of Mexican journalists earned between \$ 3,000 and \$ 5,000 annually².

This wage is half the country's average annual income per capita. Sadly, being a journalist does not guarantee a competitive salary or the opportunity for a career in the media. I am sure that Mexico is not the exception in the world and the situation should be the same in most countries.

This precariousness avoids the specialization, continuous preparation and dedication that journalism after the pandemic requires from its informants. You can't fight the disinformation machine on an empty stomach and unpaid bills.

Lack of specialization

The COVID-19 pandemic also demonstrated that the preparation of journalists must be constant and that in the same way that the lack of specialist doctors affected many countries, the lack of specialized journalists also affected not only the media but also audiences. that they received inaccurate information.

"Having health specialists in the press is an absolute necessity and without a doubt journalists and doctors must be allies in scientific journalism, that is what we must aim for in the following years", stated in September 2020, Dr. Mar a Luisa

² https://articulo19.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Book-1_ARTICLE-19_2021_V02_en-baja.pdf

Rafael Robledo

vila, former Minister of Health of Costa Rica³.

In this regard, the journalism schools themselves should stop and take this opportunity to reformulate and update the study plans that allow training journalists more specialized in the issues that in the present and the near future will dominate the public agenda: the new challenges health, biotechnology, data science and artificial intelligence, among others.

Without a compromise between journalists, schools and employers, the opportunities for specialization for reporters will be undermined, leading to the deterioration of trust in journalists. And if a society does not trust its journalists, who can it trust?

Security and freedom of expression.

In UNESCO's "Journalism, Press Freedom and COVID-19 Report", this organization already detected, at the beginning of the pandemic, at least four types of risks that journalists face and will continue to face in the post-COVID-19 era.

Physical security, for example, is perhaps the most dangerous of them. Journalists went out to report and tell the stories in the midst of uncertainty, without full knowledge of the security measures and with security teams that they had to pay for themselves. In Mexico, 80% of journalists had to pay for their own security equipment, according to what Article 19 documented.

The lack of social security and protection for the health and integrity of journalists makes them an easy target not only for diseases but also for various ailments resulting from the risks inherent in their work.

³ <https://www.jornada.com.mx/ultimas/politica/2020/09/05/covid-19-revelo-debilidades-en-materia-de-informacion-6198.html>

Rafael Robledo

Unfortunately, journalists are not only victims of diseases like COVID, but of vested interest groups, organized crime, and even governments themselves. Without legal certainty and security, translated into effective protection mechanisms, the exercise of the profession will be impossible.

The challenges of journalism in a post- COVID-19 world necessarily involve understanding the challenges, needs, and shortcomings of all journalists in the world, with special emphasis on those practicing in countries where journalism is a high-risk job.

Without journalists, there is no journalism. But there cannot be journalists without security, living with precarious salaries or without specialization. The challenges of journalism must be assumed by journalists but also by the schools that train them and the media companies that employ them.

There is no possible future in journalism if the COVID-19 pandemic does not bring with it a reevaluation of the trade by the media, academia and audiences, of people than today more than ever before. It will need trained journalists who can safely and freely exercise this profession, which the Colombian Nobel laureate Gabriel Garc a M rquez once called, and with good reason, the most beautiful in the world.

Speaker



Gantuya Ganburged

Nomadic Content LLC
CEO
Mongolia

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- CEO of < Nomadic Content LLC >
- Member of the board of Press Institute

Covid-19 local transmission case in Mongolia reported in November 2020. Since then, the total cases of COVID-19 in Mongolia now stands at 7,589 and 5 coronavirus related deaths reported and 4,711 have recovered. Coronavirus infections in Mongolia are at its' peak, the highest daily average reported now at 500 new infections in each day. Currently, 300,366 people in Mongolia got inoculated with the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Mongolian economy is heavily dependent on its mining sector, with China being the main buyer of Mongolia's minerals. Exports of minerals dipped 30 percent in the first eight months of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, due to the coronavirus pandemic In the first half of 2020, its gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by 9.7 percent. In the first eight months of 2020, exports and imports declined by 16.9 percent and 15.6 percent respectively, compared with the same period in 2019. Mining sector output also declined by 25.5 percent. The other sector that has contracted significantly is transportation, which is

Gantuya Ganburged

strongly linked to the mining sector.

China accounted for 89 percent of exports and 33 percent of imports in 2019. China is the main buyer of Mongolia's raw commodities, with refineries and smelters located on the Chinese side of the border. Owing to the pandemic impact on economy, The Bank of Mongolia has lowered its policy rate by 2.0 percentage point. The government of Mongolia has already placed 2 week's strict quarantine measures in 3 times to curb the COVID-19 infections in the country.

Due to the increased number of the economically inactive population the workforce participation rate declined by 1.3 points which is at 59.6 percent currently compared to the same period of the previous year.

In terms of first 9 months, the government spent 37.7 billion tugrik for unemployment benefit, which is 22.5 percent increase compared to the same period of the last year. Employees of the entities with decrease of more than 50% of total sales or halted its business activities were granted monthly subsidy of 200000 MNT. In the first 10 months of 2020, social welfare and pension expenditure sharply increased by 19.5% and government benefit and grant have increased 3.4 times. Moreover, social welfare and pension expenditure sharply increased by 19.5%, social assistance increased 2.3 times, and government benefits and grants have increased 3.4 times.

1. Financial pressures and occupational safety for media sector workers

In the present situation, it is financially challenging for many newsrooms. Most media organizations revenue decline accelerated by the impact of lockdowns. Broadcast is being disrupted by streaming and other digital services. Social platforms like Facebook are gobbling up a large share of the digital advertising market. The vast majority of freelance journalists have lost their income or lost job opportunities.

Journalists facing psychological and professional pressure to adapt to working

Gantuya Ganburged

remotely. The challenges of working remotely for journalists range from the lack of adequate equipment, the lack of a strong internet connection for work, weak data protection systems, and extend to greater challenges such as the balance between private and professional life, longer working hours, and the problem of maintaining the quality of the journalistic product. The sector also did not receive an economic aid package to help it overcome the consequences of the pandemic

2. Digital transformations

Many of changes were assisted by technology. Newsrooms built new routines, keeping in touch by using video conferencing tools and messaging apps to share best practices and other resources. Journalists are gathering information in new ways including remote interviews.

3. Freedom of the press and editorial independence

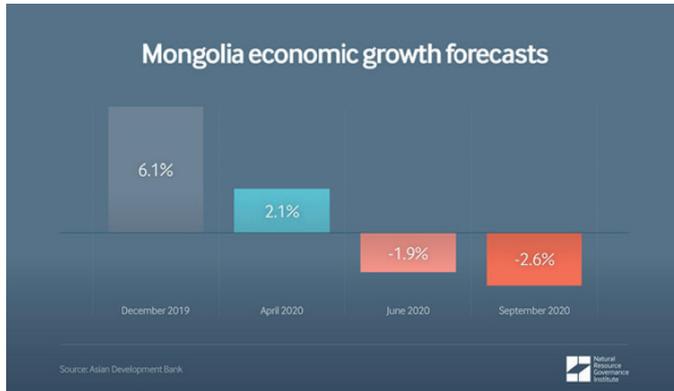
Due to the quarantine restrictions it's getting harder and harder for journalists to access politicians directly, whether it's in press conferences or through interviews. Also the government distributing covid related information through only the health ministry press briefing at 12 pm. It's become very easy to seal off certain areas, whether they're hospital wards or certain regions, and say, "You're not permitted to go in and report." This is a real issue for press freedom.

(Example: On January, Mongolian Minister Khurelsukh and his entire Cabinet resigned due to the protests erupted over Mongolians saw as the inhumane treatment of a COVID-19 patient and her newborn baby. The incident came amid growing public dissatisfaction with Mongolia's economic situation and a lack of job opportunities.

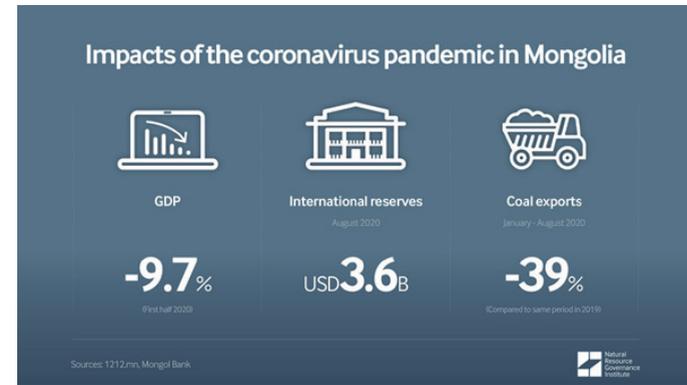
This occasion happened on January 20th, police forbidden correspondents to enter the hospital and make report, despite this restriction, Eagle tv's journalist

Gantuya Ganburged

secretly recorded the situation of a woman and her newborn baby being transferred to a COVID-19 quarantine facility, with the mother dressed only in a hospital gown in the bitter cold and posted it on social media. The mishandling of the newborn baby and COVID-19 patient is just one example. The government has been increasingly skeptical of freedom of speech on widely used social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook – enforcing identification requirements. The government has been limiting people’s right to express and assembly under the premise of the 2017 Administrative Offense Act.”)



Gantuya Ganburged



Speaker

**Kuber Chalise**

Karobar National Economic Daily
Editor
Nepal

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- Editor in chief at the first economic daily newspaper of Nepal, Karobar National Economic Daily
- Journalist at Janata weekly
- Producer at Himalayan Broadcasting Corporation (HBC)
- Journalist at the Himalayan Times and Annapurna Post, etc.

Background

Since last one year from May 2020 to May 2021, the pandemic-affected year, 26 incidents of misbehaviour, 4 arrested, 10 threatened, 8 attacked, and 3 journalists been obstructed while on doing their duty.

Covid-19 caused psychological and financial crisis as no one prepared and had any idea of any such severe condition Print Editions of almost all the newspapers halted, though many resumed the print edition, a couple of broadsheet daily have not been able to resume print edition.

The frequency and pages of newspapers have been reduced and are not able to come to full phase as of today. Media houses lost some 80 percent revenue and the rates of advertisement is one-fourth compared to pre March 24 2020,

Kuber Chalise

the date Nepal government imposed nationwide lockdown. The safety of the journalists remained key as we the journalists are also the frontliners.

Prospect

The value of news increase in such hard times of pandemic, endemic or any types of natural disaster as the public needs to get the right information. The psychological and financial wellbeing of journalists key to keep the information flowing The mental and physical wellbeing needs to be taken care not to suffer from depression.

Since the businesses cut their advertising expenses directly hitting the newspapers in such hard times like pandemic or natural disasters, needs an alternative fund to keep the ball rolling. Preparedness of both the journalists, and the media houses should be well planed.

The work from home culture could be developed in the long run with flexible hour for journalists.

The budget support and relief package for suffering media houses, and journalists needs to be planned. The mechanism to check flooding fake news in the difficult times with proper verification should be established. The role of Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and media rights bodies increases. Future of online news portal, television stations and multimedia. Post Covid-19 pandemic era has thus huge prospects for journalism not only to prepare people to fight such adverse situation but also to keep the governments awake for any types of emergency.

The journalists must be more responsible and dedicated to give right and timely news and prepare to fight the flooding fake news.

Speaker

**Abubakar Adam Ibrahim**

Daily Trust Newspaper
Features Editor
Nigeria

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- Features Editor and columnist of Daily <Trust> newspaper
- Michael Elliott Award for Excellence in African Storytelling, awarded by the International Centre for Journalists, New York (2018)
- Regularly appears in <The Economist>, <Granta>, <Aljazeera> and <BBC>.

Since COVID-19 struck, the media, like the rest of the world, has been in a state of flux. Adjusting to the new reality, occasioned by economic losses and movement restrictions, have seen thousands of journalists losing their jobs across the world and newsrooms trying to be innovative to cope with the sudden changes, while desperately trying to stay ahead of stories.

Like in every great world-changing moment such as the World Wars, this pandemic, described by the UN as the worst crisis faced by humankind since the great wars, will bring about new dynamics and changes in the workspace. There would be great losses but there would also be many opportunities. Thankfully, technology has meant that newsrooms could be small, functional and not necessarily in the same physical space. That is a prospect journalists could exploit because it means that media organisations can be smaller, efficient and adaptable

Abubakar Adam Ibrahim

and don't necessarily have to function in a conventional workspace.

In Nigeria, for instance, this has meant more and more journalists who have either left their jobs or have been forced out have banded together to set up their own media startups that use the internet as the primary means of disseminating information and providing employment. This has also meant more focus on digital journalism and a focus on investigative reportage.

This set up also means job opportunities for digitally savvy journalists, tech people, graphic artists and the likes. It also means the exploitation of democratized digital spaces and a tougher job for regulatory authorities. In the next few years, things will be difficult both in terms of regulating the space and the sustainability of these new media spaces. Many of them will not have the stamina to last the distance, others will have to adapt to survive.

It will take a few years for the media space to find a sustained period of equilibrium following the flux created by the pandemic and to also regulate itself in these new circumstances. But this is not the first time the media is facing such challenges and like in all previous occasions, it has found ways to adapt and survive. This time might be more challenging but journalism would reemerge from the clouds of this pandemic in a new more dynamic form.

Speaker



Rahul Aijaz

Freelance

Journalist/Writer/Filmmaker

Pakistan

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- Former Culture Reporter/Film Critic at The Express Tribune (2016-2018)
- Former Photojournalist at Asia Journalists Association (2014-2016)
- Director 'A Train Crosses the Desert' (short film) – official selection in six festivals in the US, Mexico, India and Turkey
- Member at Film Independent (USA)

I made the mistake of watching Scottish filmmaker David Mackenzie's Perfect Sense earlier this year... or last year. The dates have been a bit fuzzy since the pandemic began. But the film showed a succession of pandemics after intermittent periods with each one causing a loss of sense, from smell to taste to sight and so on. At the height of the pandemic, it was starting to feel the world as we knew it was no more and this would be permanent, just like the characters in the said film.

Now with the access of vaccine, I can definitely see the world coming back to normal. Maybe not so fast, but in a year or two or three. No one can say for sure. American filmmaker David Lynch said last year he saw the future of the world as bright and that we would come out of this as better, kinder human beings. The pessimist in me

Rahul Aijaz

doesn't think so. The idealist in me can only hope.

The rise we've seen in misinformation, hate crimes, shootings, inequality in pay, disregard of human lives and a million other self-inflicted problems and self-caused destruction won't end all of a sudden because of one pandemic. The world has seen pandemics before and nothing has changed so far.

So, if we are to come out of this as "better, kinder human beings", that change must begin within ourselves. At the risk of sounding like a fraud motivational speaker, I insist that is the only way we can go through this and into a brighter future.

How do we achieve this now? This is where the role of journalism actually becomes more important than it has been in a while. There are two aspects to this: how do journalists adapt to a post-Covid world and how do journalists aid the world to return to normal?

The answer to both of these questions lies in journalists embracing new technology and new ways to not only be better, more efficient journalists but also using the said methods to reach a wider audience.

Charlie Beckett, professor at London School of Economics and Political Science, in his blog 'The Future of Journalism post-COVID19: technology, diversity and collaboration', suggests us leaning toward AI and Machine Learning for this, especially when it comes to data journalism. He also gives an example of the BBC Faith Correspondent Sophia Smith Galer who uses Tik Tok as a creative way to provide news.

I believe, though, the biggest challenge for journalists right now, is to get the anti-vaxxers out of the conspiracy theories. It's necessary because we can't think about the post-Covid era unless everyone on the planet is at no risk of the virus. As journalists, all we can do is talk. And write. And spread the word and the facts and the cases. As terrible as it is, this does become a case of who's shouting the loudest. And we don't just need to shout the loudest but we need to shout in every street and square.

Rahul Aijaz

This is where adapting to newer technologies and utilizing every tool in the box becomes a necessity.

Hopefully, someday soon, we can envision and almost see the finish line and the post-Covid era. Although, I, personally, think one of the better things to come out of the pandemic is that most meetings have become emails and calls. So, that should definitely stay.

It's more likely that vaccinated or not, even in the post-Covid era, we will still experience the anxiety and hesitation when it comes to human contact for at least a few years to come. It also means that for the next few years, healthcare will sustain its place as a topic of discussion in the public sphere, whether or not states and governments do anything about it. The role of the journalists should then be to bring to light the cold, hard truths of the effects of the pandemic and not just report them, but force a change on an institutional level and the governmental policies to fix the system that failed millions around the world.

In Pakistan, post-Covid era is still a distant dream, although you won't feel like that if you see people in the street. There's still a long way to go before everyone can be vaccinated. And then, most of the population is still unsure or even scared about vaccines. Yet, by miracle or not, we have come this far. And, if our Covid-positive Prime Minister Imran Khan can be confident enough to still conduct in-person, indoor meetings, we will be fine too.

Speaker



Abdelrahman Khraishi

Palestinian Journalist Syndicate (PJS)
International Relations Coordinator
Palestine

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- Communication Officer, Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate
- Radio Sawa, West Bank's Reporter
- Birzeit University, Lecturer
- Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused transformations in political, economic, and social contexts worldwide and led institutions to change their priorities. This includes media institutions, which find themselves in a challenging situation, trying to explore ways of informing the public about the nature of the epidemic and ways to encounter it while fighting their own battle to survive as journalists. Covid has altered a media industry that was in crisis even before the outbreak more than one year ago, mainly regarding the nature of journalistic work and its patterns. These changes have brought many questions, including how media institutions can adapt to the epidemic. How does the pandemic affect media economics? And most importantly, what is next?

In the first months of the epidemic, Palestinian journalists started to report from their homes. This was a tough test of their capabilities. It was difficult for media

Abdelrahman Khraishi

institution structures to perform necessary tasks and, via digital reporting, to offer news and entertainment for a public who were spending most of their time at home. This situation has led to changes in editorial policies regarding how to meet consumers' needs. Covid has confounded journalists who work in newspapers and magazines that were already facing crises. The Covid situation dropped the circulations of newspapers to more than 70% because of reports that the virus might infect people via the paper itself. As a result, many newspapers have stopped printing and have laid off reporters to cut expenses. The Covid outbreak has been accompanied by the popularity of more digital and TV news, and entertainment content consumption has risen. There has been an increase in medical reports and information on government procedures to deal with the epidemic. In the Covid era social networks have flourished. Young people aged 15 to 25 are interested mainly in entertainment rather than news, in contrast with older people who consume news on social platforms and YouTube. Chatting, video clips on Covid, and discussions of ways to resist the virus are taking place, but some content published in social networks lacks credibility and should be classified as fake.

The primary role of journalism is to educate and inform its readers, so they can make positive, constructive decisions about their society and their lives. Journalists perform a "watchdog" function, helping to assure that governments serve the people responsibly.

Generally, but particularly during the Covid pandemic, society needs qualified journalists of integrity to perform this role, and these professionals must be financially compensated. Even before the pandemic – due to economic factors and the digitization of information – newspapers have been suffering increasing pressure and difficulty to survive. The internet promised free and universal access to every type of information, but without consideration of how to compensate those

Abdelrahman Khraishi

who provide the information.

The pressure for news outlets to survive is not new but certainly it has been intensified by the economic impact of pandemic-related closures. The combination of circumstances has revealed multiple ironies:

- Increased need for valid news: concerning health, economics and decisions being made by authorities.
- Decreased means of paying for journalism: business shutdowns and widespread income loss.
- Increased chance for fake news to proliferate: easy digital spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories.

THE PROBLEMS

With the dominance of mobile applications and social media platforms, media content providers must still find ways to make profits. A major problem is that everyone wants and needs more information now, but still no one wants to pay for it. For example, media consumption across North Asia during the pandemic found a sharp increase in the use of television and digital news sources in 2020 due to worries about COVID-19. However, at the same time shrinking revenues crippled many local newsrooms.

The public is losing credible sources of news, especially local news. When this happens, they lose a crucial source of the information needed to navigate daily life; they also lose the only organization working to make sure that governments, businesses and powerful individuals are held accountable for their actions. With fewer journalists, papers inevitably offer less of everything that readers care about: coverage of local budgets, land-use decisions, schools, sports, arts and entertainment. When there are not enough reporters watching, the public may never

Abdelrahman Khraishi

find out about corrupt local officials, poor construction-safety regulation, how tax dollars are spent, or details that help them make wise decisions at voting polls.

Speaker



Gorethy Maria Kenneth

Post Courier
Senior Political Journalist
Papua New Guinea

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- Journalist with Post Courier, the oldest and largest newspaper in Papua New Guinea
- Member of editorial board at new desks, newspapers and broadcast stations throughout Europe, US, Asia and Australia and the Pacific

The pandemic situation in Papua New Guinea is rapidly changing as community transmission of the COVID-19 virus accelerates. The month of March has seen the highest number of cases recorded in a single week.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every industry in PNG. For the media sector, coronavirus creates both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, social distancing has led to a spike in at-home media consumption, and growing numbers are turning to news providers for timely and trusted information on the crisis.

At the same time, some of the most valuable broadcast content – such as live sports – is being postponed or cancelled, leading to spending reallocations by advertisers and a subsequent drop in income for media companies.

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in PNG is now 5, 184 (28/3/2021) and 46 deaths. Health workers and people in closed settings (such as prisons and mine sites) are among those worst affected. Low testing rates, particularly outside of Port Moresby,

Gorethy Maria Kenneth

means there is concern the actual number of infections may be higher.

If the virus continues to spread within PNG, it will be difficult to contain given the poor health infrastructure in the country and the limited capacity of the state. Its spread and impact will highlight the capacity of households to respond and adapt their livelihood and farming systems to the pandemic.

It will also reflect how social and economic inequalities within communities' structure levels of vulnerability. Those living in high density informal settlements within the major towns and cities seem particularly vulnerable. But over the last few weeks, we have seen empty shelves in a grocery store, an empty church in the capital city of Port Moresby, and offices empty.

As the coronavirus spreads in PNG, there is increased worry about higher death tolls because of the more fragile health systems in our Papua New Guinea.

Our media in PNG, have taken strict measures amidst the vital role in dissemination of correct information to the public and the masses. While the media industry may be among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis, it is also the one humanity is relying on for crucial up-to-the-minute information — and as a way to counter the isolation caused by social distancing.

Ultimately, consumers want to stay informed. They want to be entertained. And the media industry —continues to find novel, engaging ways to help deliver on the promise of keeping customers informed and entertained. The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is causing widespread concern and economic hardship for consumers, businesses and communities across the globe.

Speaker



Benjamin Fernandez Bogado

Radio Libre
Director
Paraguay

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- Doctor in Law and post graduate courses in Syracuse University
- Completed the Harvard Nieman fellow
- Founder and director of Radio Libre and El Independiente newspapers
- Wrote a political essay, <El jardin pand mico> (2020)

Information is the first victim in a war and during “the war against covid-19” we realized how true became that expression. Fake news disseminated at the beginning tried to apply “damage control” without success but put on people mind many weird stories of conspiracies by states, corporations and people.

Journalism has the main duty to put these stories in the right position this kinds of stories and I can say that pandemia gave us a great opportunity to exercise the best part of our aim. That situation demands better cultural, economic and political comprehension on elements playing in this worldwide situation. Also show how far many governments dominated by corruption was from people and how weak the health system was in order to sustain the problem.

We reflect: the bad, the ugly and the worse but at the same time we describe physicians, nurses and people in general working on behalf of other people under

Benjamin Fernandez Bogado

difficult conditions. Solidarity emerges as a key factor that put society working together during pandemia times.

We are still in the middle of the storm in Latin America where if we include the US the amount of deaths is still raising. Vaccines are in huge demand and public capacities to buy, distribute and inoculate people is showing again how corruption not only is an economic problem but also a healthy one.

Journalism needs to point out how we face this war telling the truth about the quality of democracy and more than that .. government's capacity to manage crises of this size. A deep State reform will be required, stressing health and poverty behind that as a key part in order to understand what needs to be done and how efficiently to overcome this kind of situation we can be. It will also be key to stress on corruption and its cost on people's lives. We were portraying this endemic problem in our region as something related to economic and political aspects but not seen as something related to people's life. Corruption is a synonym of death. If we reduce its size and amount through a deep judicial reform it will be very easy for people in democracy to follow leaders' advice and not to refuse it. We need to recover trust as a key element to put people and democracy working on behalf of health and development.

It will be very important to rebuild the bridge between people and governments. Many of our failures including deaths were the result of this mistrust among both of them.

Civic society needs to be seen as an ally in order to promote well being among people. Voluntarism needs to be part of the public strategy in order to work together when a pandemia or social crisis arrives, avoiding giving all responsibilities to corrupt, weak and less diligent governments to solve this kind of crisis. It is very naive and irresponsible to conclude that this kind of

Benjamin Fernandez Bogado

government can do it. . Pandemia shows how nude we are as a social organization and social values as generosity, solidarity and empathy to be seen and put in value as national elements of cohesion.

Countries need to work together. We see too much egotism among nations. The vaccine war is a clear description of how far we are a global society to work together. Rich countries bought large amounts of vaccines and put poor countries well behind in accessing them. Among the most developed nations also we saw how far the scientific societies worked together in order to develop ideas and products to fight his kind of diseases more quickly and effectively. Laboratories need to exchange information and people if we really want to be successful in the future.

Journalism needs to reveal all these problems in order to understand the size and magnitude of the problem. Put in context will help a lot and explaining every aspect of this pandemia will help to combat the problem in the coming future. It is not enough to tell what is going on, we need to explain why it happens and how we need to work together in order to be ready to face other similar pandemia in the future.

We have a high responsibility as a social key element dealing with news, we should avoid to be part of lies, fake news and alarmism. On the contrary we should clarify why happened and what lessons need to be learned for this traumatic world experience. As a journalist we need to be part of the social reconstruction of truth which will be a key part of rebuilding our nations.

Speaker



Sang-hyun Lee

Sputnik News Agency
Correspondent to Seoul
Russia

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- Jan. 2015 ~ Present: Sputnik News Agency
- Nov. 2011 ~ Oct. 2015: THE AsiaN
- Sep. 1999 ~ Aug. 2005: Labor Daily

[Post-Covid era: will journalists be also swept away by Geopolitics and Techno-nationalism?]

"I think it's time to gradually return to usual lifestyle patterns, there's no need to be terrified."

That is a sentence from a journalist's column published on February 11, 2020 in <Nocut News>, an online media brand of South Korean <Christian Broadcasting Service(CBS)>. Even though prefaced with "although we should take serious preventive actions", this sentence implies return to normal situation of 'pre-COVID-19' from abnormal 'now'. And many people still live with a similar hope.

But according to a recent column by Haim Israel, a Head of Thematic Investing at Bank of America (BoFA) Global Research, "the coronavirus is not just a temporary

Sang-hyun Lee

crisis; it's a permanent disruptor. It's one of those rare events in history that will completely reshape geopolitics, societies and markets."

There have been lots of conspiracy theories around COVID-19, but nothing managed to pass a verification test. The world has just been caught by surprise that a life of SARS-CoV-2 in its microscopic universe could be shaping a macroscopic universe of Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and Techno-nationalism for a bit more than a year and five months already. At the same time Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and Techno-nationalism have been called by Moon Chung-In, a chairman of Sejong Institute - one of the most famous South Korean diplomacy and security think tanks - as 3 major aspects of US-China confrontation.

Even though COVID-19 originally broke out in China, it was much more rampant in the United States, with multiple massive outbreaks. China as well as Vietnam and other authoritarian states could effectively prevent massive spread of infection. While in Europe that both lacks resident registration system and is common with laws protecting rights to self-determine use of personal information, we're still seeing lockdowns due to ongoing outbreaks and clashes with people protesting against that.

The virus therefore looks to have inflicted a serious wound on the traditional frame of 'Western countries as def-ininitely superior in terms of liberty and democracy', as far as authoritarian governments proved their higher competitiveness in curbing the spread of infections. And the fact that the country where the virus originated (China) and one with the most serious outbreak (US) are coincidentally in a state of fierce rivalry remind us of the linkage between the micro world of viruses and macro world.

Firstly, when it comes to confrontation in Geopolitics, it's a contend for the hegemony over Eurasian continent and Rim land, as well as Indo-Pacific. US and China are in the strategic arms race, and are confronting at Taiwan strait, South China Sea, East China

Sang-hyun Lee

Sea, and Korean peninsula.

Second friction is in Geoeconomics. While trying to improve its chronic trade deficit with China, the US is deeply worried about China's unfair trade practices, including intellectual property rights and China's exclusivity in 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Based on this, the US is putting forward a strategy to exclude China from international division of labor thorough 'decoupling' in trade and investment.

Third, Techno-nationalism, is a sign which shows very well how weak was the logics of 'universal humanism' composed if it can be easily ruined by the virus. As far as scientific and technological competitiveness affects not only economic power but also military power, it is assumed that the state should directly manage technology development and scientific technology transactions. Techno-nationalism is composed of three axes: state-centrism, technology protectionism and technological supremacy. State-centrism implies that the state should actively promote core technologies needed for the industry and national defence. Technology protectionism means that the state should protect the technologies from being acquired or stolen by enemies or competitors. Technological supremacy stands for setting the international technology standards based on their national technology. US and China have been fiercely competing in these 3 categories.

There is no better example to illustrate the state of competition between US and China more easily and precisely in all 3 aspects (Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and Techno-nationalism) than competition for leadership in currency. Anti-China restraint methods of US Biden administration can develop from trade & high tech into finance & currency war because China Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) set its sights on the hegemonic position of US dollar as a key currency. Needless to say, the fact that the US plays an unfair game of being able to limitlessly print more and more money without inflation has produced complaints from countries holding Special

Sang-hyun Lee

Drawing Rights(SDR) including EU, China, Japan and UK. And we should notice that dissatisfaction has seriously grown over time.

Anyway, the United States dispatched its best experts on digital dollar to Department of the Treasure and other economic departments in order to counter China's digital yuan. The secretary of the treasury Janet Yellen spent 4 years since 2014 as the first woman to chair the Federal Reserve - US central bank - and is the best expert in currency. Gary Gensler who has been recently appointed by president Biden as the chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission is an MIT professor and a person who's been associated with the digital dollar that is co-developed by the Fed and MIT. Lael Brainard who's leading research on digital dollar at the Federal Reserve is very close to Democratic party and is one of strong candidates to become the next chair. While her husband Kurt Campbell is the National Security Council Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific (so-called 'Asia Tsar'). And formally digital dollar is developed to make cash payments to low-income citizens eligible for federal budget support.

In China even before COVID-19 it was possible to pay for everything with the use of WeChat or AliPay - even to buy street snacks. It is also impressive to see Chinese youths engraving their personal QR codes on their tops. China is putting forward state-led monetary economy and managed to establish a digital currency economy skipping credit cards and other various forms. It's enough to make the United States feel nervous.

Through the hegemony competition over currency China and US got naturally involved into areas directly linked with COVID-19, such as healthcare and medicine, as well as other science and technology fields. But fierce com-petition is continuously happening also in diplomacy, military and security, internal politics etc.

In a post-covid era, journalists from all countries are facing a new challenge of being free from exclusive interests of each government that are based on Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and Techo-nationalism in order to keep reporting as much objective as

Sang-hyun Lee

possible. If deglobalization and trade protectionism intensify, then honestly keeping an attitude of reporting from a perspective of co-prosperity for the whole humanity would be a challenging task even for countries with strong traditions of free press.

When Russian vaccine ‘Sputnik-V’ was first introduced at South Korean broadcasting news, some anchors were laughing behind their hands. But even after a news that the quality of Russian vaccine was verified through a publication in an international academic journal, almost no South Korean journalist raised a question of “why don’t we import Russian vaccine?”

Even though conspiracy theorists deny that, the virus is a matter of natural science. But the way humanity is dealing with this natural phenomenon is not an inch free from Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and Techno-nationalism. And journalists are not an exception. We can of course console ourselves with the thought that it’s because we’re in a situation where no one can bet on scientific rationality in front of an unprecedented virus. But when journalists are looking at a completely new world order that was made by the virus, they have to be different.

We need not to stick to current frames and not to bury ourselves only with exclusive interests of certain states, but we need to deal with challenges and tasks that are common for the whole humanity - with an open mind. We have to overcome ‘Geopolitics’ and ‘Techno-nationalism’ and set topics and tones listening more to ‘Geoeconomics’ as far as it presupposes peace, prosperity and co-existence. We need to actively find good examples, share them and write about them.

Journalists should firmly reject frames that take into account only interests of their respective states, and as much as possible actively share and cite reports about public interests overcoming state borders. Therefore journalist should play an active role in helping different communities not to get overwhelmed by the harmful effects of radical state egoism.

Speaker



Kiratikorn Blauw

Thai PBS World
Editor-in-Chief
Thailand

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- An editor-in-chief for Thai PBS World
- Former editor-in-chief for International news of Springnews
- Journalist for Thai ASEAN News Network (TANN)
- Journalist for Thai ASEAN TV

“Why don’t you know? You are a news person. You know everything”

A big expectation from my 5-years-old son is that as I work in the news, I’m supposed to know everything.

He is not wrong to expect that of me, as his mother. but my answer is always that I don’t know everything, but I’ll try my best to find him the right answers.

Finding factual information is, in my opinion, always the main purpose of journalism. But in deciding how we present our findings, are we right or wrong in deciding what to share and question if it adds value to society, or if it is just pure “entertainment?”

I am fortunate that I am working for a public broadcasting service that doesn’t bind me to ratings, views, or likes, although it is my aim this year to double the page views by the end of 2021.

Kiratikorn Blauw

-- The Odd Year --

2020 has been an odd year for everyone on earth. It has changed people, changed society, changed the ways many works and how we live our lives. Of course, it has affected journalism too.

This odd year has lost and changed many media outlets forever. The lockdowns made many anxious. Hungry at first for oversupply of information at every angle of the pandemic, until it simply got too much to bear. Those looking for different answers and reasons in alternative news quickly found solace in opinionated, independent, user generated stream services, delivering a more radical version of the news. It is also a wakeup call for many traditional media outlets that their approach to content needed change.

On the mass media, there were cosmetic changes, such as how the media interviewed the sources, packaged the final products, and published work. With a wide array of technologies, those that could, quickly adapted themselves to new tools, formats, ways of working and new platforms.

It has been said digital disruption is giving the media industry a hard turn. But COVID-19 practically killed off the ones that couldn't adapt. Online is winning the viewership battle over broadcast and the peers that are not adapting, might end up losing their ways.

Pattaree pattarasopasakul, a senior journalist and TV anchor at PPTV in Thailand said recently that it was speculated that traditional media still has another 5 to 10 years left. But COVID-19, has simply rushed the process. While many media outlets in Thailand still operate "old-school journalism" that produces content for new media, which is often not compatible with changing audiences, lifestyles and the vast array of competing streaming content.

Kiratikorn Blauw

-- The unchanged --

While governments around the world were quick to introduce emergency laws that restricted movement, and subsequently restricted civil liberties that we once took for granted, many countries also took this opportunity to clamp down on media with what they call "fake news" laws, citing the media were spreading misinformation.

While the digital age is obviously a huge change technologically, some professionals think that media will not change much in Thailand.

A senior broadcaster and broadcast news sub-editor at ThaiPBS World, Hugh Brammar, said that little will change in Thailand as with the Thai government reinstating police powers to close news outlets at their discretion, many of Thailand's journalists have slipped into the safety of just regurgitating the latest, usually press releases that the government, or any other entity issues.

"COVID-19 has not moved anything for the better or the worse, it has had no real impact because it would have, as we say in English, been kicking a dead donkey," Brammer said.

For a country that has more coup d'etats than other countries have elections (our last coup was 4 years ago), one thing that has not changed is self-censorship. Regularly media outlets have to choose between going completely off air, or broadcasting sanitized information. Media organizations are not forced to do so, but the ones that are more critical of administrations can see themselves quickly shutdown, albeit temporarily. As always, this sends a quick reminder to others in the industry to be "aware."

-- Challenges --

Media ethics can be compromised when ratings and advertisers impact what

Kiratikorn Blauw

we do. How do we balance an impartial piece, with enough human touch to attract readers or viewers, yet not be too dramatic that it gets too emotive and taken out of context?

“Great journalism will always attract readers. The words, pictures and graphics that are the stuff of journalism have to be brilliantly packaged; they must feed the mind and move the heart,” said Rupert Murdoch.

Separate from politics of Murdoch and his empire, whether we are in a pre, during or post COVID world, I believe this quote will always ring true to our industry. It does not matter how hard we work on our news piece, where it will be published, or like my son asks, if we have all the answers to every question...if it is not attractive, no one is going to see it.

This does not mean presenting only the news people want to see, but presenting it in a way that drives intrigue, thought, discussion... and most importantly adds value to people’s busy lives.

Speaker



Jim Boumelha

International Federation of Journalists
Former President
United Kingdom

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- Former President of International Federation of Journalists (2007-2016)

COVID-19 has given media analysts a bumper year, ranging from the prophets of doom and gloom who saw in the waves of job losses, lay offs and furloughs and the disappearing of vast swathes of advertising as putting the final nails in the coffin of the newspapers industry – “an extinction event” some called it, to those who advocated a new vision including a pioneering replanting strategy that will regenerate an already ailing industry already.

Journalists, on the other hand, kept plugging away despite the public health restrictions. Everywhere journalists had to work around the clock to boost the coverage of the coronavirus.

They had to navigate the daily infernal news cycle of government information – having to deal with its mixed messages and, at times, unravel its muddled narratives but also work together and share tips or cross-reference their virus stories when information is leaked to the selected few and, most crucially, when it is weaponised for political gain.

Jim Boumelha

From the onset of the pandemic, Tedros Adhanom, the World Health Organization director general, gave a boost to the role of journalists by hammering repeatedly the vital importance of accurate, timely information in the fight against COVID-19. Governments globally needed journalists to make sense of it all – combating a pandemic it was said isn't just a matter of "medical technology, but of informational hygiene".

One year on, one can measure the massive multi-dimensional contribution of journalists to help their readers grasp the severity of the situation. They helped the health professionals fight life and death situations involving lack of equipment, procurement deficiencies and more recently vaccine nationalism. They also made sense of the advice and analyses of medical pundits in their efforts to demystify the virus or interpret statistics and give a clear explanation of every wave. They highlighted in depth the impact where the pandemic intersected with underlying crises in poverty, housing, and health. Even when reporting the closures and openings of schools, they laid bare complex issues such as the digital divide which affected differently school children or documented the impact of the pandemic on their mental health. Equally important have been the role of journalists in raising awareness on how the pandemic has affected differently various social groups, how lockdown has brought social isolation to many, particularly people living alone or those who have been shielding, how the resulting economic impact has hit people unequally in particular those whose lives were upended when they lost their jobs and had to cope with the stress of having to meet basic needs for their families.

When historians of the future set out to write the definitive story of 2020, they will find a treasure trove of hundreds of thousands accounts of hard-hitting personal tragedies already documented by journalists. Many worked under intolerable conditions where media and unions had to fight bruising battles until authorities accept journalists as key workers. Unions had to negotiate the new working

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conditions for journalists involving their physical well-being and safety as well as their economic survival including financial packages for freelance journalists.

But it is when journalists set out to scrutinise policies and leaders that they found themselves inside the eye of the storm. This ranged from the fight back to circumvent censorship as it happened in China to finding a way around the sweeping restrictions on coverage imposed by some governments justified by the need to combat misinformation. Some countries, such as South Africa and Hungary among others, enacted special legislation which punished journalists deemed to have published false information about the pandemic. Even in Western democracies, we have seen at one end of the spectrum former US president Trump lashing out at journalists who ask him difficult questions and, on the other, a creeping and dangerous acceptance that a win against the pandemic may necessitate the curtailing of some liberties.

As well as the rich debate among journalists on the coverage of the pandemic, the onset of COVID has also opened up a space to discuss plans for the post-pandemic era for the media industry. The central role played by quality journalism compelled some governments to provide emergency funding to help media outlets and freelance journalists. This opened the breach for media pundits and organisations representing journalists such as their unions and their global body, the International Federation of Journalists, to argue and lobby for major plans to save journalism.

Some of these proposals have been plans discussed since on the onset of the economic crises of media a decade ago, but which have been polished and adapted to the current crisis. During all these years, fixing a broken business model has been a major joint effort throughout the media industry involving corporations as well as journalists and their organisations. This ranged from the use of philanthropic funds

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whereby foundations were able to give seeds money to hyperlocal media start ups and help hundreds of media outlets around the world to survive. At the same time, the crisis has ushered in a stronger appetite for public policy solutions involving government support aimed at shoring up existing outlets, something that was unimaginable a year ago. This ranges from taxes to fund journalism to writing this financial support into wider post-COVID economic recovery legislations.

However the most exciting and innovative effort has been to try and make tech companies pay for quality journalism. What has been until recently a shaky battle cry has now become an ambitious and credible campaign backed by draft legislation in some countries.

Journalists the world over have proved that today they are more relevant than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has made people realise that correct, fact-checked information is the key to survival. It has laid bare changes in the newsroom and the need to value journalists and protect their livelihood. One of the main lessons of this pandemic is to ensure that quality journalism is properly resourced and helped to thrive.



2021 세계기자대회



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WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2021

18(Sun.)-20(Tue.) April 2021

Participants List

참가자 리스트

Participants List / 참가자 리스트



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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
1	Germany	Tobias Kaiser	Die Welt	EU Correspondent
2	Colombia	Angel Fernando Galindo Ortega	The pharmaletter and debatesdecineblogspot.com	Freelance journalist
3	Romania	Tinca-Octavia Galescu	ROROR Romanian Broadcasting Company	Musical Editor/ Producer
4	Papua New Guinea	Gorethy Maria Kenneth	Post Courier	Senior Political Journalist
5	Nigeria	Abubakar Adam Ibrahim	Daily Trust Newspaper	Features Editor
6	India	Ambica Gulati	Independent Journalist	Independent Journalist
7	Costa Rica	Mora Dennis	Horizontes Television And Radio Costa Rica, National and International Frecuency Por Central America and Caribbean Countries	Director
8	Nepal	Arun Ranjit	Foreign Affairs News	CEO/ Chief Editor
9	Russia	Timur Shafir	Russian Union of Journalists	Executive Secretary / International Director
10	Georgia	Avtandil Otinashvili	News Day Georgia LTD	Chief Editor
11	Palestine	Abdelrahman Khraishi	Palestinian Journalist Syndicate (PJS)	International Relations Coordinator
12	Bangladesh	Mahbub Morshed	The Daily Star	Joint News Editor
13	Indonesia	Mohammad Nasir	Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI)	Director of Public Services
14	Somalia	Awl Khadar Ismail	National Union of Somali Journalists	Information Secretary and Human Rights Officer
15	Cambodia	Pann Rethea	The Post Media.Co.ltd	Sub-editor

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
16	China	Jing Zhu	All China Journalists Association	Staff Member
17	Dominican Republic	Luis Beiro	Listin Diario	Editor
18	India	Ranjit Kumar	Independent Journalist	Strategic Affairs Analyst
19	Portugal	Leonidio Ferreira	Diario de Noticias	Deputy Editor-in-Chief
20	Philippines	Rosalin Garganera	On Target Media Concept and Public Service & Asian Journalist Association	Columnist/ Broadcaster
21	Italy	Antonio Moscatello	Askaneews	Journalist
22	Tanzania	Peter Nyanje	Jamhuri Media Limited	Editor
23	Kuwait	Reaven D'Souza	The Times Kuwait	Managing Editor
24	Kyrgyzstan	Nurzhan Kasmalieva	Kabar News Agency	Chief of translations department - editor
25	Afghanistan	Fathulbari Akhgar	The Kabul Times	Deputy Editor-in-Chief
26	UAE	Rasha Abdelrahman	Ajman University	Head of psychology department
27	Nepal	Kuber Chalise	Karobar National Economic Daily	Editor
28	Egypt	Ashraf Eldaly	The Silk Road Literature Series	Editor-in-Chief
29	Pakistan	Nasir Aijaz	Sindh Courier	Chief Editor
30	Ghana	Malik Sullemana	Ghanaian Times	Senior Journalist

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
31	Denmark	Flemming Ytzen	Politiken	Columnist
32	Pakistan	Rahul Aijaz	Freelance	Journalist/Writer/ Filmmaker
33	Cambodia	Chanritheara Torn	Thmey Thmey Media	Journalist
34	Uruguay	Sebastián Auyanet	NowThis News	Publisher / Strategic Consultant
35	Bangladesh	Md Tawfique Ali	The Daily Star	Former Journalist
36	Laos	Saylakham Khayongek	"Lao Economic Daily Newspaper	Editor in Cheif
37	Nepal	Niraj Ranjekar	aarthiksanjal	Chief Editor
38	Cambodia	Phearun Roeurn	The Office of the Council of Ministers of The Royal Government of Cambodia	Officer
39	Mexico	Rafael Robledo	Nest Taller de Communication	Deputy Director
40	Malaysia	Norila Mohd. Daud	Malaysia World News	Senior Editor
41	Paraguay	Benjamin Fernandez Bogado	Radio Libre	Director
42	Ireland	Frank McNally	The Irish Times	Columnist
43	United Kingdom	Jim Boumelha	International Federation of Journalists	Former President
44	United States of America	Lynn Walsh	Trusting news/ Freelance Journalist/ Point loma Nazarene University	Assistant Director/ Professor
45	Lebanon	Ghena Halik	Laha Magazine	Reporter

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
46	Singapore	Ivan Lim	Environment Communication of Singapore	Chairman
47	Kyrgyzstan	kubanychbek Taabaldiev	Kabar News Agency	Director General
48	Vietnam	Thi Lan Cu	Dantri Online Newspaper	Editor
49	Germany	Hassan Humeida	GEOMAR/University of Kiel University of Flensburg	Doctor
50	Georgia	Khatuna Chapichadze	Georgian Technical University	Professor
51	Bangladesh	Ahmed Jamil	Asian Television	Advisor-News&Content Affairs
52	China	Zhihao Zhang	China Daily	Science and Technology Reporter
53	Thailand	Kiratikorn Blauw	Thai PBS World	Editor-in-Chief
54	India	Neelima Mathur	Spotfilms	Executive Producer
55	Honduras	Rosa Pineda	Diario La Tribuna	journalist
56	Mongolia	Gantuya Ganburged	Nomadic Content LLC	CEO
57	Israel	Avi Pitchon	Haaretz	Editor, writer
58	Mongolia	Bolortulga Erdenebileg	Confederation of Mongolian Journalists	Secretary General
59	Bahrain	Habib Toumi	Bahrain News Agency	Media Advisor
60	Malaysia	Mohamad Nasir Yusoff	Formerly with Bernama, Malaysia's national News Agency Now with Malaysia-Indonesia Journalist Friendship Association	"Formerly Managing Editor Now Secretary General"

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
61	Cambodia	Rinith Taing	Khmer Times	Chief Reporter
62	Cyprus	Petros Soutzis	www.autokinito.com.cy	Editor in Chief
63	Russia	Sang-hyun Lee	Sputnik News Agency	Correspondent to Seoul
64	Cambodia	Sopha Chhay	Cambodia News	Advisor and General News Writer
65	India	Sabina Inderjit	Indian Journalists Union	Secretary General
66	Colombia	Margaret Ojalvo	Al D a Noticias / SIR Radio / OjaNoticias	Director and Journalist
67	Vietnam	Nguyen Do Hoa Mi	Vietnam Journalists Association	Reporter

※ The list is based on the order of application for registration.
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