



2022 세계기자대회 World Journalists Conference 2022



2022 세계기자대회

WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2022

24(Sun) - 26(Tue) April 2022

Conference Book II

A Society Changed by Journalism

언론이 변화시킨 사회

Conference Book II



Hosted by 한국기자협회
JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA

Supported by Ministry of Culture, Sports
and Tourism

한국언론진흥재단
Korea Press Foundation



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※ 세계기자대회는 정부광고 수수료로 조성된 언론진흥기금으로 시행됩니다.

Overview



Title	World Journalists Conference 2022
Date	24(Sun) – 26(Tue) April 2022
Venue	International Convention Hall [20F], Korea Press Center
Hosted by	 JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA
Supported by	 Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism  한국언론진흥재단 Korea Press Foundation
Theme	▷ Conference I Current Status of Fact-Checking by Global Journalism and the Operation of Media Self-regulatory Organization ▷ Conference II A Society Changed by Journalism
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status of fake news verification and policy inspection in each country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, journalism has provided precise and quick information and has thus contributed to people's safety. However, unconfirmed reports have also aggravated people's insecurity. - Moreover, fake news has dramatically damaged trust in journalism, thereby reducing its influence. Journalism's intrinsic roles of monitoring, checking, and speaking for the weak, in particular, have deteriorated. - We have prepared today's opportunity to share best practices and effective systems in eradicating fake news as implemented in different countries and listen to policies related to building trust in journalism and self-reflective efforts applied in journalism. 2. A Society Changed by Journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A role of journalism is not only to monitor and check authority, but also to care for the underprivileged and nurture a healthy social environment. - We often witness cases wherein one sentence in an article or a photo helps create a better and healthier society. - At today's conference, we will provide the opportunity to present and share the best practices and instances of how certain journalism reporting has transformed entire societies in countries worldwide to boost our morale as journalists. - We hope you discover applicable article topics you may use from the presented best practices to induce specific policies in your respective countries. - We equally hope you discuss a role of journalism in fostering safe and peaceful societies.

Date	Time	Contents		
4.24 (Sun)	14:00 -	Final Rehearsal & Orientation		
4.25 (Mon)	Moderator : Min-ho Jung (Head of International Relations Department of Journalists Association of Korea, The Korea Times)			
	14:00 - 14:10	Opening	Opening Address	KIM DONG HOON, Journalists Association of Korea, President
			Congratulatory Address	Boo-kyum Kim, Prime Minister
			Congratulatory Address	Ki Yon Kil, Seoul Tourism Organization, President & CEO
	Introduction video of Korea			
	14:10 - 17:00	Conference I	Current Status of Fact-Checking by Global Journalism and the Operation of Media Self-regulatory Organization	
			Presentation 1	EunRyung Chong, SNUFactCheckCenter, Director
			Presentation 2	Hyung Joon Ahn, MBC, Journalist
		Presentation 3	Overseas Journalists	
	17:10 - 18:00	Group Discussion I		
4.26 (Tue)	Moderator : Min-ho Jung (Head of International Relations Department of Journalists Association of Korea, The Korea Times)			
	13:30 - 14:30	Special Session	Blockchain-Based News Ecosystem	Sonny Kwon, PUBLISH, Inc., CEO
	14:40 - 17:00	Conference II	A Society Changed by Journalism	
			Presentation 1	Min-Kyu Lee, Chung-Ang Univ., Professor
			Presentation 2	Hwan-bong Jung, The Hankyoreh, Reporter
		Presentation 3	Overseas Journalists	
17:10 - 18:00	Group Discussion II			

Opening Address



KIM DONG HOON

President
Journalists Association of Korea

Time for Restore the Trust in Journalism

Welcome to the World Journalists Conference 2022.

I am President Kim Dong Hoon of the Journalists Association of Korea. It is a great pleasure to greet you all in a healthy disposition albeit online, due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has been continued to spread globally for over two years now.

The Journalists Association of Korea was established in 1964 and is celebrating its 58th anniversary this year. It is Korea's largest association of journalists, with about 11,000 members from 199 media companies participating in its activities.

One of the association's five principles is to "help one another and reinforce ties with other journalists globally." Accordingly, our association joined the International Federation of Journalists in 1966 and has since actively participated in the international journalism community. In particular, since 2013, we have been inviting journalists from all over the world to Korea annually to participate in the World Journalists Conference, which is already marking its 10th anniversary this year.

Since the first conference until 2019, journalists worldwide have been invited for seven years to witness the reality within the Korean peninsula as the world's

Opening Address

only divided nation for them to personally experience and realize the importance of peace. Apart from that, we have discussed the future of journalism at the conference and expanded talks of friendly mutual relations. I proudly share that it is becoming one of the major journalism events worldwide.

However, we have had to hold it online for three years since the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 and its continued spread globally. I regret that we were unable to directly show you the beautiful nature and culture of Korea and the reality of our divided nation, but I am relieved that we have prepared an opportunity to contribute to the development of journalism and share the conditions and concerns of each country despite limiting it online.

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.

For the online conference this year, we have prepared time to discuss the theme of “Current Status of Fact-Checking by Global Journalism and the Operation of Media Self-regulatory Organization” on the first day. As distrust in journalism has accelerated since COVID-19, I anticipate the space given to listen to the efforts made to eradicate “fake news” in each country so that we may jointly introduce and supplement them to realize respectable journalism.

On the second day, we will look into each country’s best practices in journalism reporting to reflect on the role of journalism under the theme “A Society Changed by Journalism.” I hope this will become an excellent opportunity for you to listen to the speakers and the best practices they propose for you to apply them in your respective countries.

Opening Address

In this difficult time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a valuable opportunity has been prepared by online. We are looking forward to your opinions and advice so that everyone gathered here can fulfill their vocation as a journalist who present dreams and hopes to mankind.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your participation in this conference despite your busy schedules, and I hope this serves as a meaningful and rewarding time. I equally hope you will share what you gain from this year’s conference with fellow journalists in your respective countries so that trust in journalism may recover.

Once the COVID-19 situation subsides, I would be most pleased to invite you all to Korea to present our splendid traditional culture and the Korean people who love peace.

I wish you good health until we meet again.

Thank you.

Congratulatory Address



Boo-kyum Kim

Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

The Great Transformation of Civilization, the Role of Journalism

Honorable journalists at home and abroad, Welcome to the World Journalists Conference. I'm Kim Boo-kyum, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of holding the 'World Journalists Conference' hosted by the Journalists Association of Korea. At this conference, journalists around the world get together and collect their ideas on the issues people are facing every year. For the past two years, under the COVID-19 crisis, we have played a critical role in protecting human life by sharing the quarantine system and experience of each nation. I would like to express my gratitude to president Kim Dong Hoon, from the Journalists Association of Korea, and the staff who have successfully led this conference and given an opportunity to hold this valuable meeting this year as well. In addition, my thanks go to EunRyung Chong, director of the SNUFactCheck Center, Sonny Kwon, CEO of PUBLISH, and Min-kyu Lee, a professor of Chung-Ang University who will give presentations at this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been over two years since the COVID-19 spread globally.

Congratulatory Address

Korea has tided over the crisis of Omicron and slowly recovered its daily life. Through the considerable cooperation of Korean citizens, Korea has passed the COVID-19 crisis with the highest vaccination rate and the lowest fatality rate in the world.

However, COVID-19 has a significantly negative impact on us. This disaster aggravates conflicts and inequality between nations and classes. In addition, people's distrust of journalism keeps growing due to fake news. Preposterous claims or provocative false descriptions about vaccines were excitedly reported to increase online hits, and induced confusion to make the public uneasy. This situation should never happen again. We all need to think about what is the right conduct for the future of our community, and what role should journalism play.

Now, the world faces the Great Transformation of Civilization. I think, first of all, journalism needs to stand up and light up the way to overcome all challenges that may come under the transformation. Thomas Friedman, a world-renowned journalist, said "The biggest challenge we may face will come from fake news through social media, and healthy communities where people connect, protect, and respect each other will lead to changes under the transformation." I hope all the journalists at this conference will make a way to create a 'healthy community'. We need your knowledge to be collected with the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. With that power, let's make a new history for journalism and humankind.

Once again, I would like to congratulate on holding the 10th World Journalists Conference, and I look forward to meeting all journalists around the world in beautiful spring of Korea next year.

Thank you.

■ Congratulatory Address



Ki Yon Kil

President & CEO

Seoul Tourism Organization

To be an engaging platform for journalists from all around the world

Good afternoon. I'm Ki Yon Kil, the President & CEO of the Seoul Tourism Organization. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations of the "10th World Journalists Conference."

"The World Journalists Conference" not only promotes Korea to the world, but it is a place of celebration where journalists from countries all around the world come together to have in-depth discussions on important global issues.

I sincerely hope that this year's event will serve as an engaging platform for participating journalists, where meaningful discourse can actively take place, while promoting quality development and a sustainable paradigm shift in the global journalism industry.

Amid the gradual change from pandemic to endemic, tourism around the world has started to revive itself. And the Seoul Tourism Organization is in step with this transformation, ready in hand with the active implementation of various Seoul tourism promotions set for this year.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year during the spring time here in Seoul. 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 58th 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 199 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 under the theme of Journalism and providing reporters with financial support for short- or long-term training programs 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.

■ Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea -----

We have recently reinforced the journalist ethics doctrine and launched a committee for its implementation to bolster the ethical consciousness of journalists and we are persevering to eradicate fake news, which has become a global problem. In addition, groups of journalists have gathered to launch “An organization for integrated autonomy of journalism” and forge an ethical journalism culture. We are further working in earnest in collaboration with global journalism organizations to recover trust in journalism.

As such, we donate funds to help the underprivileged, support journalists who donate their talents, and hold essay contests to reinforce journalism’s public role. Furthermore, we also hold soccer competitions with journalists nationwide and cultural site visits each year to strengthen the solidarity and bond of all the association’s members.

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 and Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan.

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.

----- Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea ■

Looking forward, we hope to expand our network with more journalists from foreign countries.

In addition, Journalists Association of Korea 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 Journalist Forum in 2005, and the IFJ’s special general meeting in Seoul and Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong in North Korea 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.

The Journalists Association of Korea hopes that the World Journalists Conference serves as a forum for discussions to enhance fellowship with other journalists from various countries globally and creates a conducive environment for journalists to practice their vocation dutifully and rebuild trust in journalism.

Mr. Kim Dong Hoon, the 48th 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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2022 세계기자대회

Special Session

Blockchain-Based News Ecosystem

- Biography
- Presentation Material

Speaker



Sonny Kwon

PUBLISH, Inc.
CEO
Korea

Sonny is a serial digital entrepreneur focused on digital media and blockchain technology. He is the founder and CEO of PUBLISH, Inc., a blockchain-based ecosystem solutions provider for newspaper businesses. He is also the founder of two digital-native news websites including EconoTimes and TokenPost. In 2012, he started FxWirePro, a foreign exchange intelligence company, to provide intelligence newswire services to global financial institutions like Moody's and CME Group.



Blockchain-based news ecosystem

Read & Earn

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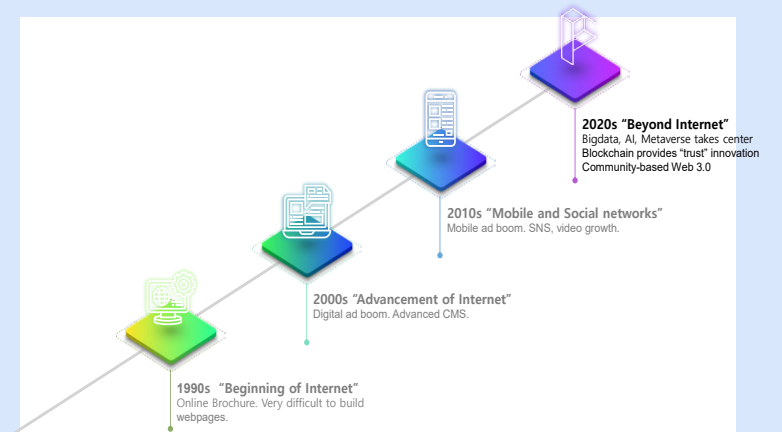
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- Current news ecosystem
- Problem & Solution
- Use cases
- Roadmap
- About PUBLISH



Short history of media

PUBLISH



Short history of media

PUBLISH



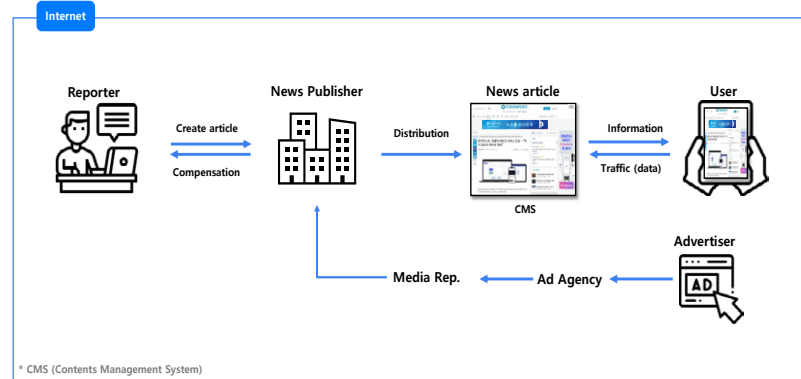
All media will be tokenized in the next 5 years.

- May 8, 2019, WAN-IFRA 'PUBLISH Asia'

"The future of news lies in adopting cryptocurrency (blockchain) to increase readers' engagement through token reward system and thereby increase advertising revenue."

Current internet-based news ecosystem

Overall process of digital news production, distribution, consumption on the internet



* CMS (Contents Management System)

5

Current internet-based news ecosystem

Overall process of digital news production, distribution, consumption on the internet



6

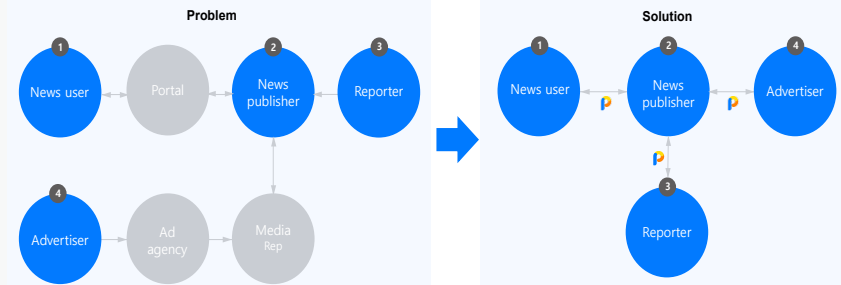
Problem & Solution

Problem & Solution

Current news ecosystem's problem & solution

- 1 Fake news exposure, zero compensation for user's data
- 2 Erosion of journalism principles
- 3 Traffic-centered news
- 4 Complicated ad distribution

- 1 R&E(Read&Earn) reward, get smart information
- 2 Increase direct visitors, provide financial sustainability
- 3 Journalism-centered news
- 4 Simplified ad distribution



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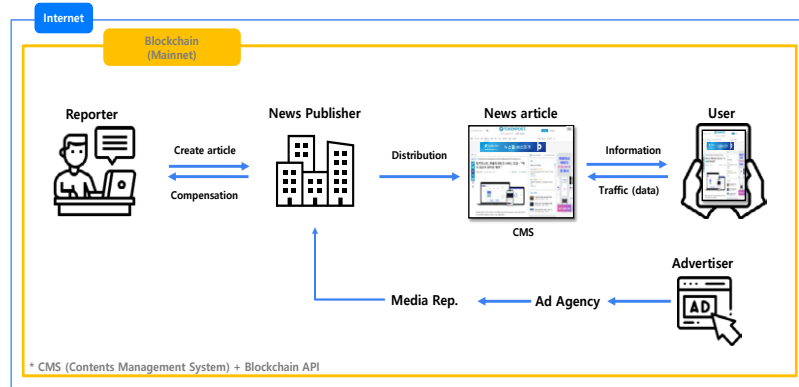
Source: 2020 Newspaper Industry Survey (Korea Press Foundation), Reuters Journalism Institute

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Problem & Solution

Blockchain-based news ecosystem

Provide efficiency, transparency and sustainability



9

Problem & Solution

Blockchain-based news ecosystem

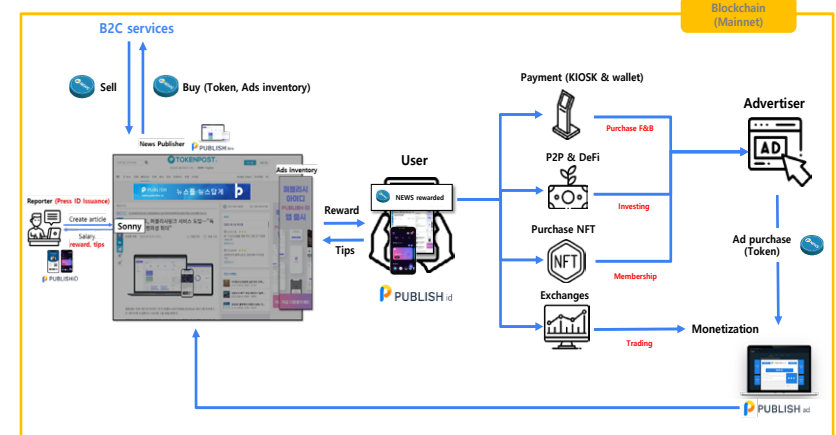
B2B services



10

Problem & Solution

News ecosystem based on blockchain



11

Summary

Sustainable news ecosystem based on blockchain



* Fake news: False or misleading information presented as news

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Use cases

Use cases

Token reward system widget API – PUBLISH link

47 news publishers signed to join closed-beta test until May 2022 (approx. 7.6 million unique visitors)

User

Users to securely authenticate with multiple websites by using just one set of credentials

Publisher

Reward system that connects readers and media

Main (Dashboard)

Statistics (User activities)

Reward settings (amount, activity)

Swap (Points<->NEWS)

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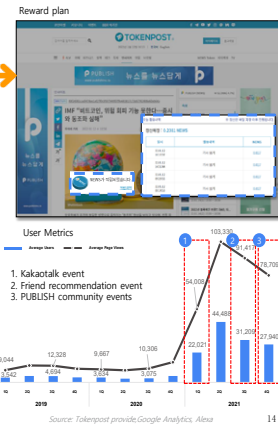
Use cases

TokenPost – R&E (Read-and-earn) reward system

Maximize user activities with token reward system and generate non-ad revenue

Operating Company	Publisher	Monthly Visitor	PV/User	Bounce Rate	Visit Duration	
PUBLISH PUBLISH	Tokenpost	308,800	4.3	46.6%	4:14	
한겨레	The Hankyoreh	Coindeskorea	599,600	1.5	67.0%	2:41
SPERO	SPERO Partners	Coinreaders	724,400	2.1	59.7%	2:23
한국경제	Hankyung Media Group	bloomingbit	59,900	2.0	55.6%	1:53
BTC Media	BTC Media (Co-founded Ethereum founder Vitalik)	Blockchainpress	50,600	1.9	63.0%	1:23
서울경제	The Seoul Economic Daily	Decenter	49,000	1.8	64.2%	2:00
매일경제	Maeil Business Newspaper	D.STREET	47,100	2.8	43.4%	2:29
Average		251,585	2.34	57.07%	2:26	

2022.03 Alexa, Google Analytics



Use cases

Press DID (Decentralized Identifier)

The world's first contactless, decentralized identity proof system for journalists

Trust proof

Provides proof-of-ownership, proof-of-authenticity, and proof-of-integrity.

Fraud resistant

Credentials are verified against tamper-evident blockchain records.

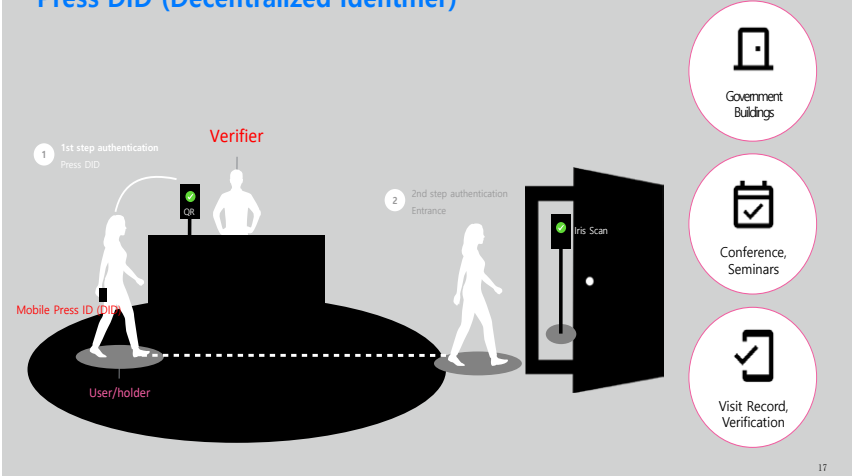
Easy-to-use

Press DID can be easily transferred, enabling government departments and agencies to do away with time-consuming press credentialing processes



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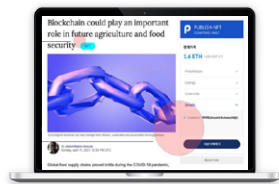
Press DID (Decentralized Identifier)



Media NFT (Non-Fungible Token)

Publishers can easily mint its own NFTs

Newspaper NFT use cases



Storytelling + Contents + Partnership
-> NFT mint = Membership, Monetization



L.A. Times to release NFT collection marking Rams run to Super Bowl

- Partnered with blockchain tech company
- Sold out almost immediately
- Collectible \$30
- Collectible \$50
- Current average cost \$650

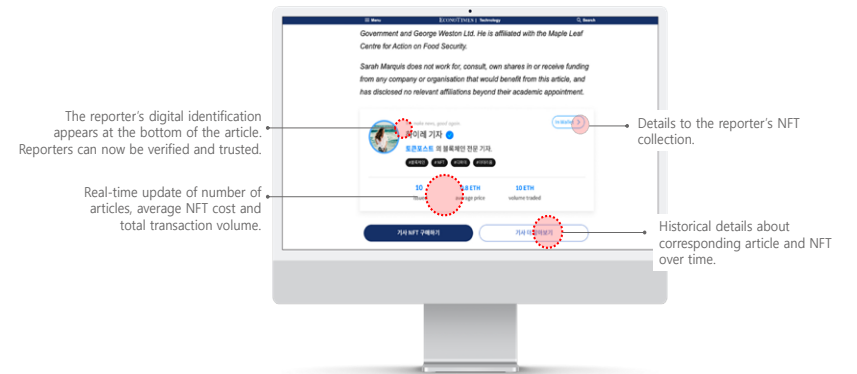


South China Morning Post releases NFTs, featuring news archives from Hong Kong's historical year 1997

- Sold out in 2 hours
- US\$127,000 total worth
- 1,000 "boxes" of NFTs
- Each box costing US\$97

Media NFT (Non-Fungible Token)

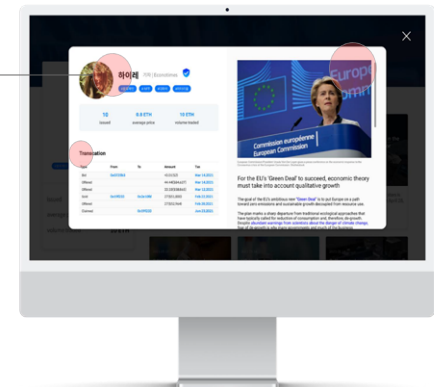
Concept design showing NFT service within the article page.



Media NFT (Non-Fungible Token)

Concept design showing NFT service within the article page.

Users can find more details about the publisher, reporter, historical details on prices, transactions, users and trading volumes of the corresponding article NFT.



Roadmap

PUBLISH

Ecosystem growth goals

2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2026
1.5 million users 1,000 partners South Korea, Japan, India	20 million users 5,000 partners Southeast Asia	100 million users 10,000 partners Europe, Africa	500 million users 50,000 partners North America
PUBLISH ID & PUBLISH link PUBLISH mint NEWS pay	PUBLISH fact (factchecking)	PUBLISH open source	PUBLISH Ecosystem Cycle

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Blockchain alliance

Roadmap PUBLISH

Media (47) Monthly Unique Visitor 7,600,000

Media, Law, Investment Association, Institution (15)

Technology (7) Media Tech, Big Data, AI, Ad Tech

P2P, Payment, ESG, NFT Service (7)

About PUBLISH

PUBLISH

About PUBLISH

PUBLISH, Inc.

PUBLISH

Company name	PUBLISH, Inc.
CEO	Sonny Kwon
Location	Seoul, South Korea
Founded	October 2018
Main business	Provide IT service and software for online newspaper companies with blockchain technology
	NFT, DID, DeFi
	B2B / B2C service
	A platform that connects news producers and consumers
	[PUBLISH link] Blockchain Technology API: reward and news notarization
	[PUBLISH id] Decentralized identifier (DID) platform, crypto wallet, NFT, DeFi
	[PUBLISH mint] NFT platform
	[PUBLISH ai] News recommendation AI

인력 구성

Workforce Composition	Details	Blockchain patent
Total 69 Engineer 31	Blockchain Service Blockchain Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated transaction Donation system Content management with fact-checking and search function
	Total engineers 31	

Key Elements

Blockchain service	Contextual, targeting, retargeting ads Provide verified and transparent information
Blockchain platform	User acquisition/membership through rewards Notarization of news articles
DID technology	Difficulty using cookie data (Google, Apple) Self-sovereignty, identity, security Use of DID information through rewards

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Source: PUBLISH provide 25

Thank you.



About PUBLISH

Company History

PUBLISH

	Alliance	Business/Service	Awards/Certifications
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Vision Blockchain donation platform business MOU NFTSTAR Collaborated with NFTSTAR for Korean marketing and NFT donation part (Son Heung-min NFT) 뉴스유니온 Independent media incubation IBDO RISTI MOU for joint promotion of blockchain-based ESG convergence service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUBLISH institute Opened News and Technology Research Center (PINT) PUBLISH link Introduction of blockchain-based reward service PUBLISH link LINCROX NEWS Pay development and utilization plan introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KAPPA Registered as a regular member of the Association of Personal Information Professionals (KAPP) ISO 9001:2015 (International Standard for Quality Management) ISO 37301:2021 (Compliance Management System) ISO 37001:2016 (Anti-Corruption Management System)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU Korea Internet Newspaper Association (Creation of Sustainable Media Ecosystem) MOU with Korea Journalists Association (DB-based journalists Association membership card issuance) International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) regular meeting speech (DB-based press ID issuance) MarketLink MOU (Big data, block chain development) IDI MOU Internet Newspaper Voluntary Disclosure Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUBLISH alliance Publish Alliance Partners 1st and 2nd release World's first national treasure level NFT issuance (Hunminjeongeum NFT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korea Internet Newspaper Association 2021 Internet Newspaper Press Ethics Grand Prize Excellence Award Xangle Credit rating excellent (Solid) BBB
2020 ~ 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU with NDSoft (the largest CMS service company in Korea) (2020) KLB Korea Private Broadcasting Association (KLB) signed a new media platform development contract (2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUBLISH with Blockchain-based Internet Newspaper Solution PUBLISHsoft (CMS) released (2019) Token reward system, news notarization PUBLISH Established PUBLIC Co., Ltd. (2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TADS AWARDS TADS AWARDS NFT Grand Prize (Hunminjeongeum NFT) Introduced in Financial Supervisory Service Newsletter (2020) (only blockchain case) 1st place in IR pitching hosted by Tim Draper hosted by the Korea Startup Promotion Agency (2020) KVCA Venture Company Certification (2020)

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Source: PUBLISH provide 26

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Conference II

A Society Changed by Journalism

- Biography
- Presentation Material

26(Tue) April 2022



Conference II		
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26(Tue) April 2022

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Moderator



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Journalists Association of Korea

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2022 세계기자대회



Speaker



Ahmed Jamil Ibrahim

Asian Television
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Jamil Ahmed obtained Masters degree in English Language following completion of a BA in English Literature. He had advanced training on 'Civil Society Outreach' from Institute of Development Studies IDS-UK. He received training from CARE International, Atlanta, USA. He was awarded Eisenhower Fellowship (USA). Jamil Ahmed worked with renowned agencies including BBC London, The Daily Star, Action Aid - UK, Save the Children-USA, USAID Governance programs, TIB & CARE-USA. He is pursuing PhD. on 'Role of Media in Disseminating Local Governance Policy Reform Agenda in Bangladesh'. Jamil Ahmed was the Executive Director of Journalism Training and Research Institute of USAID/BRAC University. Currently serving as the Director at North South University.

"The Challenges of Fact-Checking and Media Self-regulation to journalism Transformation in digital news Era and social media effects of news reporting."

A. Introduction:

Journalism plays a very important role in democratic societies. One of its main purposes is to supply citizens with the information they need to make informed choices, for

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example, about how they are going to participate in an election. The democratic principle of 'freedom of speech' - meaning that people have the right to freely express their views and opinions, and to question or criticize the government - is enabled by a free, independent media.

Journalism serves an important role in providing investigative reports, debate, discussion, background and analysis, as well as news stories. Programmes like "Question Time" serve an important role in questioning the government, politicians and other public officials. The presenter of this paper also designed and moderated similar live dialogues in TV/Radio channels.

Journalism serves as a public 'watchdog' by monitoring the political process in order to ensure that politicians carry out voters' wishes, and that they don't abuse their positions. A free press is important because if the media was not able to report truthfully on events, important information might be hidden and voters would remain in the dark. Equally, if the media was not allowed to facilitate open and free discussion, the views and concerns of ordinary people might not be heard.

B. How Journalism Can Benefit a Society:

There is always a common question, why journalism remains an Indispensable part of society. In response to this question, it can be mentioned that there are five different ways how journalism and journalists can benefit a society. These are as follows:

- 1) An invisible fourth branch of government
- 2) Produces original content
- 3) Code of ethics
- 4) Provide content to shape opinions
- 5) Makes our lives better

Ahmed Jamil Ibrahim

1. An Invisible Fourth Branch of Government:

Journalists are not simply writers, editors, and news anchors. Journalists are essentially the watchdogs of society and are the most visible proponents of the rights of free speech world wide. It can be mentioned that, The U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of the press, meaning that journalists are not subject to censorship by the government. This also means that prior restraint, which is an attempt to keep a story from being published or broadcast, is also prohibited. Thus, by their very jobs, journalists are preserving the right to free speech in the United States.

2. Producing Original Content:

We live in an age where people retweet and repost everything from social platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and more. While some may repost actual articles, others repost rumors. When articles are posts, it's original content. Who creates original content? Journalists do. Journalists look for sources to tell the truths published in their stories. In other words, journalists perform research. It's the research that is important here. Without doing the research, without performing verification, the news that is found on the internet is nothing more than a meme or a series of rumors that one may have difficulty proving.

3. Code of Ethics:

Any individual who defines themselves as a journalist works by a code of ethics. The Society of Professional Journalists lists four tenets by which all journalists must abide. These are:

- Seek the truth and report it
- Minimize harm
- Act independently
- Be accountable and transparent

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Ethical journalism requires that journalists act with integrity. These principles ensure that integrity occurs while also promoting the free exchange of information. This is to be mentioned that the presenter of this paper conducted a research on "Ethics and Standards in Journalism"

4. Providing Content to Shape Opinions:

Journalists do research and provide reliable content that reports various aspects of subjects. The writing that they do helps us understand complex issues. Journalists fame issues and present the corresponding side to those issues. In this manner, journalists help provide the public at large with the information needed for intelligent public discourse.

5. Makes Our Lives Better:

Journalists are expected to provide a fair opinion because they are committed to finding the truth and presenting it to the public. The "news" is a function in peoples' lives. As such, it provides people with the best possible available information so they can make informed decisions about all aspects of their lives.

The world of journalism has exploded in the 21st century. Many people are interested in the profession can expect to find a wide variety of journalism jobs that can help make people make better and more informed decisions.

C. Way Forward/Recommendations:

- As journalism and journalists can vital role in creating impact in policy reform agenda, government agencies and private organizations can promote this sector;
- Build capacity of the journalists, organize training and capacity building initiatives for the journalists regarding ethics and standards;
- Journalists and media professionals can be linked with nation building initiatives.

Speaker

**Rethea Pann**

The Post Media
Reporter
Cambodia

Pann Rethea lives in Phnom Penh City, Cambodia and graduated from the Master of Art in English at Norton University and Master of Law at Cambodian University for Specialties, Bachelor of Art in Khmer at Royal University of Phnom Penh. Now, he is being employed over 12 years' experience in journalism as translator and reporter, and sub-editor at The Post Media Co., Ltd (Phnom Penh Post Newspaper/PostKhmer) with writing daily articles in Khmer and translate in English in case.

The Journalism Roles for Social Change

Today people depend on the press on being informed of what's happening. A modern newspaper is something very much more than a mere source of the news; it is also a store-house of current information, an instrument of public criticism, a creator of public opinion. The media plays a vital role in a democratic society. Their influence on forming a public opinion is very great. They may be said to do political thoughts on behalf of the man in the street. Then there is the news-editor and his staff. They receive news from different agencies, staff reporters and correspondents. They edit, arrange, and display them. They can flash a headline and create a sensation. The

Rethea Pann

staff-reporters interview people elicit views by "scooping" news in advance.

They are responsible for making or breaking the image of a public personal, and also for making a persona well known to the rest of the world. They are responsible for spreading news fast and accurately to all corners of the world, and for shaping public opinion. Journalism is much more than straightforward reporting; journalists investigate an incident and attempt to uncover hidden truths, if any. Instead Journalism for Social Change intends to leave a journalist with the experience of being a player in publicizing policy reform around the issues facing in various aspects in society as following.

Keeps people updated, Journalism is different from reporting, so journalists attempt to follow up a story and find out new details, and keep the public informed about the same one. News reports are the sole source of information to us most of the time. If it had not been for the constant presence of the media all of the time in every place, we would never get to know about events occurring in different parts of the world.

Finds important clues, by snooping around, the journalist is often able to uncover vital information that is key to their story, and even more important in solving a case. Investigative journalists are responsible for the task of following up a story, for which they have to meet with prime suspects and interrogate witnesses, all the while posing as common people with no ulterior motive behind their investigations other than idle curiosity.

A journalistic report is not an opinion piece, but it certainly provides insights into a matter that is informed, educated, and highly analytical. Thus, the information present in the piece can strongly act toward shaping popular public opinion. For instance, when the news reports make a comparative analysis of the pros and cons of a new law, we tend to lean toward the side which weighs down the scale. It is kind of how to form public opinion by journalism.

Rethea Pann

Conducts in change, by reporting what happening anywhere in the world, they can give rise to mass social outrage against and awareness of certain social practices, which can lead to criminalization of the act. Journalists are key players in bringing about social and political change. That is why it is important that journalism be free from biases and remains neutral and humanitarian in its approach.

Expose public personalities, public figures tend to stand on a platform as far as the common public is concerned. Despite being so called public figures, every little of their lives is known to us, and what we do get to know is carefully moderated and trimmed and then showcased by their public relations teams. Naturally, the image they usually project is a flawless one. Thanks to journalism, however, and journalism that is today aided by state of the art technological devices, it is no longer that easy to maintain a pristine image. If a public figure makes a grave mistake, it becomes almost impossible to hide it from the general public.

Finally, in the vibrant democratic countries, journalism and media have the power and responsibility to both inform and inspire the public to political action. To achieve this requires a deep understanding of current social problems and how policy is formulated, along with the ability to notify that stories in a manner that obliges an uninterested public into action from the journalists.

Speaker



Sophal Chhay

Cambodia News
Advisor and Columnist
Cambodia

Sophal Chhay, senior advisor and columnist of Cambodia News Online. Sophal is also a Media and Communication Professional and Professor. He is a founder and advisor of the 2000-established Club of Cambodian Journalists. His main educations are PhD Candidate, Political Science at the Royal Academy of Cambodia in Cambodia. Also gained a Master of Art in Journalism at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines. He traveled various countries such as America, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Italy, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, North Korea, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. (Repeated trips for several countries)

Journalists Can Change Society

First of all, let me start with the word "Society" and I really know that you are all aware of it. Though there are several definitions of "Society", I just repeat that it is referring to a group of people living together in community, club, organization, association, union, and country with common tradition, belief, ideology, and interest. Undeniably, parts of the world have different society, the West, the East, The Middle East, the South, and so on.

Sophal Chhay

As you may know that journalists are the “Watchdogs” and “Gatekeepers” in every society around the Globe. They seek the truth and reporting to the public in their respective society for a better life with fairness, balance and accountability. Anyplace where no journalists’ work, it is dull and nobody knows what the worst things happen daily. Without the presence of journalists, especially professional and independent ones, plenty of negative issues can occur like: corruption, human rights violation, human trafficking (especially women and child trafficking), child sex and labour exploitation, drug trafficking, bad public services, and other social issues, even religion and cultural extremism.

With the absence of journalists and their articles in a society, negative issues are hidden and authoritarian and military rulers, as well as the powerful and the rich can do what they want while the ordinary citizens are suffering.

Since journalists’ roles are to provide both negative and positive information and education, including entertainment to the public, leaders, policy makers and other decision makers can make amendment their laws and policies to absorb the society’s needs. This is also able to change, positively change, both individual and institutional attitudes in the society. Through journalists’ works such as features, news analysis, opinion articles, investigative reporting, journalist forums, media talks and debates, including journalist conferences like the annual World Journalists Conference organized by Journalists Association of Korea (JAK), social justice, transparency, good governance, and policy reforms have been applied. As such some social equity and equality have been found. Through journalists’ writing and reporting, a society can do critical thinking and start sharing with each other, and even dare to challenge what encounter their interests in the daily life.

Notably, because of journalists’ powerful and sharp articles in societies around the world, many journalists have been killed, injured and imprisoned. At present, social

Sophal Chhay

media and citizen journalists are popular and it is also part of social change. Since the Arap Spring in 2011, social media have played a key role for citizens to freely post and share information. With this, it is also a good opportunity for professional journalists to follow up and develop news stories for their society.

Once again, a society can be changed by journalists.

Now, I just share with you all two examples in Cambodia indicating that social can be changed by journalists:

1. Up to the early 1990s, one of the Cambodian minority groups living in the remote mountainous areas still took unexpectable belief for human. Their old belief is that when a mother gives birth to a baby and the mother is immediately dead, the family and villagers would bury the alive baby with the dead mother. Such horrible case was reported by journalists, and the government then took firm action and banned the cruel belief as it is a crime against the country’s law.
2. The second one is about condom use. For Cambodians and perhaps other nationals in Asia, when talking about condoms, people are shy and sometimes angry due to their cultural norms. But when journalists repeatedly reported about it, people started being aware that when talking about condoms, safe sex and reproductive health are concerned. Such reports took time to educate the people and now the Cambodian society really understand about condoms referring to birth spacing, HIV/AIDS, and STDs infection.

Recognising the journalists’ role in the society, the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Information on March 24, 2022 launched its first-year programme of grant gratitude awards to 14 selected veteran journalists who have had different careers since the 1970s and benefited the society.

Sophal Chhay

Last but not least I'd just like to urge all governments and authorities to free journalists and provide them the real press freedom and access to information. At the same time, I would also like to appeal all journalists to increase your capacity building and improve your professional and ethical works so that your news stories and opinion articles can be powerful to change your society for better life with sustainable and inclusive development.

Then, we all have to join hands to fight against FAKE NEWS and INFORATION for the sake of the truth, and to get "The Fact Deletes the Fake" or "The Truth Replaces the Fall".

May journalists at every corner of world get safe, particularly those who are working in Ukraine and Russia, including other conflict areas. Peace is really needed for our safe earth with no nuclear weapons. Instead, the world need to work together for climate change, fighting against terrorism, combating drug and human trafficking, and so on. Please stop the WAR!

Speaker



Angel Galindo

Thepharmaletter
Latin American Correspondent
Colombia

Angel is a professional Spanish and English teacher and a freelance journalist with twelve years of experience. Also, he has been invited to the World Journalist Conference three times in 2014, 2020 and 2021.

Citizen Journalism: The Good, The Bad and the ugly of this way of journalism

The concept of Citizen Journalism appeared in 2000 with the South Korean show 'Everybody is a reporter', where the South Korean businessman Yeon Ho's gave the chance to people from different backgrounds to report news from their own community. After that media from all the worldwide adopted this idea. In the United States this kind of way of spreading the information got its zenith in 2017 when the protest in some states become citizens not only in witness of the facts but also they decided to upload videos in social networks and send their opinions to the main television Channels around the country.

In Latin America, Colombian mass media like City TV, a local TV channel that belongs to Casa Editorial El tiempo, the biggest news media in Colombia and RCN the second media corporation in the country generated spaces that are still important

Angel Galindo

where the communities complains against problems of security, infrastructure in their neighborhoods with the goal to obtain a solution or at least an answer about the causes and possible ideas that can help them to solve their problems.

With this brief historical review, I would like to analyze the pros and cons of this kind of journalism and how the different media must contribute to improve this way of expression to avoid misunderstanding or generating a new source of misinformation around the world.

This new way of journalism has as one of its advantages that the people that have been affected by crimes, natural disasters or have special community problems in their communities can tell their stories without censorship or ask for help by themselves using not only television but also social networks where they post their problems and seek an answer from the authorities in charge of providing some solutions.

For that reason, there are three main ways of citizen journalism firstly one where common people upload to social networks, blogs and mass media videos showing the facts that are happening in their community without any kind of edition or context that allow to other audiences to identify the reality of the information showed. At second place some media have organized this kind of citizen and with the support of professional journalism they assist to the citizen to narrate their stories or communities' problems helping them to narrate with more professionalism their own news to ask an answer from the proper authority that can give them an answer to their specific questions.

Because of these ways of journalism common citizens currently have achieved spaces in social media, video blogs, newspaper and crowdfunding organizations sometimes, that have made them a great popularity in social networks or become them in voices for their own community. However, in some occasions they are not able to establish the limits between opinions and real information, becoming their

Angel Galindo

community problems in a way of spreading their specific political or social ideology leaving behind the original purpose of reporting in an objective way the troubles or community and increasing the radicalism of ideas that instead of promote a healthy discussion about local or particular issues become opinions and points of views in facts without any logical base.

Also, due to the advance of this new way of journalism the traditional media has lost a lot of its credibility and several of this citizen journalists have become celebrities just for narrate the events since a subjective perspective and directly showing the different kinds of news without try to analyze them or provide to the viewers a deeper perspective of the news or information that they are presenting.

In addition, traditional media have changed their natural neutrality and they have adopted political views that have affected their sense of neutrality not separating the news from the opinions due to different conflict of interests that have weakened the trust of the audiences on them and made them to check information from citizens who do not all the time follow a commitment with the objectivity and neutrality necessities to make a honest practice of the journalism.

In order to prevent this issue the Syracuse university has established four principles that every citizen who wants to be a reporter must follow in order to developed their activities with neutrality, objectivity and respect for the viewers these characteristics are: Observing, but not participating in the events that they are reporting, Abstaining, this means do not express their views about the facts without choosing a perspective that affects the neutrality of the information, documenting legally obtained information in a public space, just like a professional journalist, and Sharing that information with their community or with a news organization.

Nevertheless, sometimes the people involved in the broadcasting of the news forget those simple rules and take direct participation of the events, social media creators spread contend without any kind of neutrality or just focus his attention on

Angel Galindo

one point of view of the issues, forgetting the golden rule of the objectivity that has been the standard of the journalistic process.

For that reason, is important that the citizen journalism is supported by the knowledge of professional journalist who reinforce the rules of impartiality and help them to organize the information obtained and spread to the audiences not with the purpose to manipulate or change the perception of the real facts of the even but with the goal to keep the criteria of objectivity necessary to obtain the solutions that communities really need.

To conclude, the citizen journalism offers to the communities the opportunity to express by themselves and show the talent that people who are not professionals but that they have the desire and the skills to report the life and problems of their own community and become in an important source of information for many people. However, it is necessary to emphasize the neutrality and the basic principles established by academic institutions by Syracuse university to make that the information provided by this new kind of journalism has the quality and verification that the audiences need.

For that reason, the big media and the citizen journalist must work together in creating process to verify in a stronger way the information presented by this journalists keeping a sense of neutrality, respect of the facts and avoid destroy the achievements gotten by a new way to introduce the information to the community with the purpose to show the realities and necessities of traditional forgotten communities with responsibility and coherence, something that can improve the way of reporting and showing the different news that affects the reality of the communities with a more neutral and objective perspective that can provide to the audiences better tools to assets the reality.

Speaker



Ashraf Eldaly

The Silk Road Literature Series
 Editor in Chief
 Egypt

Ashraf Aboul-Yazid (Ashraf Dali) is a President, Asia Journalist Association, Editor in Chief, The Silk Road Literature Series. Worked in Cultural Journalism for 30 years, publishing his travels to 33 countries. He authored and translated 40 books. He won Manhae Grand Prize in Literature, Korea (2014), Arab Journalism Award in Culture, UAE (2015), and Gold Medal in LIFFT Eurasian Literary Festival, Istanbul, 2021. He has been chosen as a judge and a jury member for global events in Costa Rica, India, Tatarstan and Africa.

Seriousness is the Key

As a boy, I started my career as a dreaming journalist. I only had in mind the image of that young journalist (Tin Tin) in his adventures; traveling, writing, photographing, chasing the bad guys, revealing the truth, using science, putting his hands in the hands of good societal institutions, and exposing corruption.

This ideal image of a journalist with multiple talents, means, and goals is the goal that all of us - the community of world journalists around the globe - strive for, and it is the image that we seek to succeed for the sake of a better society.

Ashraf Eldaly

In this short paper - due to the available time to speak - I will note down the types of journalists needed in the mission of change.

These descriptions represent the product of my experience that exceeds three decades in print, visual and electronic journalism, as well as a summary of extensive readings and intensive follow-ups.

1. A good journalist is a person of justice; a voice of truth and a hand of society. This will be approved by speech and writing.
2. A good journalist should be aware of both traditional and modern types of communications. Society might only accept any of them.
3. A good journalist should go beyond reporting numbers, figures and diagrams. Society would better understand the meanings of those abstract digits.
4. A good journalist is a good researcher; he should be seeking a change for better solutions of the society's problems. This needs a better knowledge acquired by intensive reading and continuous research.
5. A good journalist is oriented to be an open-minded person. To respect other opinions, without accepting wrong practices.
6. A good journalist must assist and get help, as well, from science. He/ She will not spread false facts or misguided opinions against science.
7. A good journalist is a good example of trust, honesty, and care. If sources trust you they will certainly lead you to truth. An honest journalist is dependable. And a caring journalist will feel the pulsing power of people.

In the last decade, peoples in the Middle East sought for change, they wanted democracy, freedom and social justice, but they did not get any of that.

The same regimes with different faces were re-elected with their corruption and dictatorship. Whoever did not have this option was destroyed, and civil wars

Ashraf Eldaly

erupted, infrastructures were demolished, and millions were displaced outside their homelands.

Unfortunately, the role of the targeted media has been, and still is, the cause of the misery of the peoples of these countries. I do not think that the misery of these nations is but a result of the misery of their media, with its subordination, and its failure to fulfill the role assigned to it.

I am concluding by asking you, and myself: **What is the solution?**

The answer is simple; we need to be more serious. I am not against entertainment journalism, but I don't encourage "Titainment" or distraction journalism. Climate change's issues are no longer a concern only rich or developed countries, but they're literally everyone's interest.

These issues are essential part of our daily life, which is completely subject to climate issue; in health, education and economy. So it is important for everyone to engage in caring about and working to protect the Earth's climate. The role of a good journalist is to include this issue in his/her written literature, in a scientific manner, understandable to all.

Seriousness is the key to raise awareness of climate change, among other issues not taken seriously enough by the press. It is the core topic for all of us, not to neglect or underestimate; we could frankly add racism, bullying, warming, and other vital issues.

A good journalist makes a difference, doing something serious and important to change people's lives for the better, and lead social change to create a chain reaction, and empower people by educating them.

Speaker

**Bilal Bassal**

Asia Journalist Association
 Journalist & Art Critic
 France

Bilal is an artist who has been drawing since his childhood. He uses his journalistic glasses to help him, from time to time, see the world from another angle. He follows exhibitions all over the world, especially in Paris where he has lived for more than two decades. He sees the world through the eyes of an artist who lived through many human experiences, most notably the Lebanese Civil War. He writes from time to time for a number of international press organizations, including AJA in South Korea. In short, he is Artist, Journalist, Art critic, author, and business owner.

A Society Changed by Journalists or A Journalism changed by The Society?

The press was and still plays an essential role in directing the general thought of the people, whether at the local, regional, or global levels. But is its role still as crucial as before the advent of modern technology, or what is called "web journalism"?

With the emergence and spread of digital journalism at a tremendous speed, journalists worldwide are realizing that there is indeed a danger to traditional journalism. As the latter has lost a lot of its audience, some analysts even predict its demise soon. But the real problem is not in the survival or end of the paper press,

Bilal Bassal

but in the loss of credibility of press information, which can become, or somewhat has already become, a real danger that can change an entire society.

We cannot do any injustice to the traditional press, which took some time to deal with the new situation and understand how it works, especially on a commercial level. In its infancy, the electronic press canceled the idea of selling the paper product and replaced it with a free electronic product, which directly contributed to the loss of many distinguished journalists of their jobs. It opened the way for journalism to become accessible to all universally.

Yes, here the change began, and the real problem with the journalism profession started. I am not talking about paper journalism, but journalism in general. Despite all the advantages of electronic journalism, on top of which is freedom of expression for all. Unfortunately, it has brought many problems, especially to societies with all its components, whether professional, cultural, political, or health, which is the worst. Studies have begun to prove the harmful effects of electronic journalism on physical and psychological health, not reflected in particular societies but rather in the global community.

During the hurricane of electronic change, the profession of journalism passed a challenging test, especially when it became available to everyone, without accountability or control. A project to create a newspaper requires studies and a substantial financial budget. Also, one of its most important objectives is to secure a decent income for the journalists to devote themselves to writing serious and in-depth articles. How can this project compete with another one that seeks to create an electronic newspaper that could be released, for FREE?

Society was affected by the emergence of thousands of electronic newspapers. "free content" became the most popular, especially among the middle and poor groups, which represent the main component in most, if not all, societies. Here the real

Bilal Bassal

danger began, not because the authentic or committed press is no longer accessible to everyone, but rather because it has melted into a sea of electronic journalism saturated with lies and misinformation. It was awful but quickly became much worse with the advent of Social Media, which can be called Social Destruction, despite all its advantages. Most of its users, intentionally or unintentionally, became journalists "against their will," circulating and promoting news and information, wishing they were without a source, stolen or fake.

I can cite many examples of how online journalism has transformed entire societies, but these examples are quickly becoming, thanks to the Internet, popular and accessible. The most crucial topic to discuss here is that serious journalism was and still is a prestigious and respected profession by everyone. But, the pioneers of the new press world, as mentioned before, are now us! Yes, everyone can access the Internet and write what he likes, publish news, discredit another, etc... So, the real journalists can still change and influence societies like in the past after all that was mentioned? Are they still capable of changing Society, or was the Society itself the one that changed them?

Speaker



Hassan Humeida

GEOMAR/ University of Kiel and University of Flensburg
Doctor
Germany

Dr. Hassan Humeida is a nutritionist, works for GEOMAR, CAU Kiel, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences and various educational institutions in the State "Schleswig-Holstein". One of his most important focuses and goals is the global sustainability.

In addition, Dr. Hassan Humeida is a journalist and author for children and young people. He is the founder and owner of the book publisher "Bush Bear Publishing" for intercultural communication and integration in new societies.

Journalist's Perspectives Change Societies

As carriers of important messages, journalists are able to positively change entire societies and make them better and special. Journalists do not carry guns, but they have stronger influence with their peaceful means - such as pen, paper, camera, news, information, facts that they use to communicate with the outside world and convey truth and facts to them on a daily basis. Journalists provide the information and the basics that people need to know what is happening and understand what can or should be done. This allows every community to see the benefits of factual communication for themselves and for other people, and engage in a positive change.

Hassan Humeida

Every community in society, regardless of its social characteristics, will be enthusiastic about the change and, whenever possible, make its own contributions. This positive spirit often started by journalists leads to better networking between journalists themselves, the media, the public and society as a whole.

The changes to society that journalists had initiated have been reinforced in recent years by the social media and its amazing potential for human development. Some of the changes were positive, but others were negative, which resulted in society being cautious not to be hit by the disaster of misinformation and disinformation, or as it is today better known as fake news.

In many cases, social media messages are half-messages that are directed to undefined recipients and are waiting for a "Like" with a thumbs-up. Many lies and allegations are hidden here and, in some cases, personal insults, racist attacks and much more come from social media. The misuse of social media serves neither the goals of a society nor the awakening of a community. If we look at social media as technologies that isolate people from their surroundings and turn others, we find that this hypothesis is slowly being confirmed. This is a case of negative change caused by the media on society.

There is a lack of communication between parents, children and young people in households. It often happens that two friends meet in a coffee shop, sit across from each other, don't look into each other's eyes, but instead talk into their cell phone. At the end they coldly say goodbye to each other and go home as if they had never met or known each other before. The misuse of social media is thus seen as accelerating the decay of human values.

A turning point in which the digitization of media becomes an obstacle and not a tool for progress in human development. In order to achieve a change in society, it is necessary to exploit the positive potential of social media and use it to build a fitter and healthier world.

Hassan Humeida

Many media activists have also worked on making changes in society by addressing inequalities between people. To them, the basis for reducing existing inequalities is the elimination of prejudices that dominate in a society, so they focus on their reports and coverage on how to deal with all forms of prejudices, bias and discriminations. These journalists worked on both informing and educating the people so that they know their rights and learn to defend them.

Thanks to great work and immense pressure from the media, several societies dared to look at their weaknesses and appreciated that the minorities and the disadvantaged living within them deserved better conditions and greater chances to live their dreams while contributing with their work and ideas. Such positive changes reinforce the opportunity for social inclusion and all people live together with equal duties and rights. For example, people who are impaired or disabled should no longer be excluded. They are full components of society and can make very special contributions thanks to their ability and talent.

Throughout the last two centuries, journalists have done a lot to help their societies change for the best. And where freedom of journalism thrives, the chances for change are bigger and better.

The tsunami of misinformation and disinformation, like the one we have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, should motivate journalists and the media to do more and better to ensure the society is safer and better and is changing beautifully.

Speaker

**Gunjeet Sra**

Subculture Media
Editor
India

Gunjeet Kaur Sra is passionate about gender, human rights and the environment. Gunjeet Sra was just 21 years old when she started her career with India Today magazine, one of India's prolific news magazines, where she worked with for 5 years to hone her skills as a reporter and an editor. She then joined Open Magazine as a reporter to pursue her passion for ground reporting where she spent the 3 years exploring the nuances of ground reporting and developed a penchant for stories beyond the usual cityscapes. She quit open to pursue an independent career. In 2017, she launched subculture media, a platform aimed at curating lesser known stories.

Journalistic storytelling is intrinsically tied with truth, ethics and Impact

Why do we become journalists? The obvious answer to this question is storytelling. But truth be told, it is way more complicated. For the majority of us in this profession, the idea of storytelling is intrinsically tied with truth, ethics and of course, impact. After all, what more can a journalist hope for, that someone somewhere read their report and be impacted by it. Yet, in contemporary times there have been numerous debates and discussions about the idea that journalism is not activism. And if journalism is truly

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not activism, then how does it change society? Perhaps by holding a mirror to the very society that those reports emerge from.

Sometimes all you hear are reports of how hostile the world is to journalists increasingly. Yet, according to a recently published report by Reuters, Trust in news has grown amid the coronavirus pandemic with 44 percent of the respondents globally saying they trust most news most of the time.

As an example of how society is directly changed by journalists, I am going to cite three examples which have moved me in times of doubt about the role and relevance of journalism in this day and age.

Around 2018, news reports started emerging that women workers in the sugarcane belt of Maharashtra, India were subjugated to forced hysterectomies in order to not hinder productivity. By 2019, the report had gone viral and eventually caught the attention of the National Commission of Women, who then flagged the states' health department to probe the matter. A seven-member committee was subsequently appointed to look into the matter and new directives were released under which private hospitals now have to seek permission to carry out the procedure from either the district civil surgeon or the health officer.

Chattisgarh, home to India's largest coal blocks, is also home to one of the oldest forest reserves in the world--Hasdeo Arad and its native inhabitants, the ancient Gond tribe. Plagued by the idea of dislocation and the rapid industrialisation, the Gond community has consistently used journalism as a tool of community activism and has armed themselves with enough knowledge so as to challenge giant industrial conglomerates such as Adani and maintain resistance.

The Farmers Protest, an agricultural movement that became the longest running protest in the history of the world, against the introduction of three since repealed controversial farm laws, which had the farmers alleging a push for corporatisation of agriculture

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had independent media as the heart of the movement. Armed with its own newspaper The Trolley Times, started by a young journalist and myriad of independent reporters who gave out authentic ground reports via social media, it became a case study in the important role that media can play in the ever changing dynamic of a cultural movement, especially in the age of social media where news breaks, spreads, discussed, trolled and then forgotten, all in less than 24 hours.

In this dynamic sphere that is the digital world and also the equally volatile world around it, the health of a society can be measured and impacted directly by the news that they consume and the one's delivering it to them. It is not for nothing that the media is called the fourth pillar of democracy. The value and responsibility of journalism lies in that statement alone.

Speaker



Neha Banka

Journalist
India

Neha Banka is a journalist based in Kolkata, India. Neha reports on Asia with a focus on the Korean Peninsula, Africa, international borders, foreign affairs and India.

How journalism impacts society

The topic of discussion is 'A Society Changed by Journalism', but my question is whether journalism can actually change society. It is not a new phenomenon and it is certainly not limited to India, but if you monitor international news media, you may have often come across headlines or articles saying that following a certain news report, the local government or national government stepped in to give attention to or rectify what the news report had highlighted or criticized.

This is where we get that answer to the question: that journalism can actually change society. So while the importance of and the role of journalism is well-acknowledged in democratic systems, I feel that we cannot simply discuss how journalism changes or impacts society without addressing how the profession in so many countries around the world, as well as in India, is going through very challenging times.

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There are persistent attacks on the freedom of the press, particularly independent press, in addition to challenges like shrinking newsrooms and fewer jobs in the profession, a development that has accelerated particularly over the past few years.

We see the kind of impact that independent journalism has had in countries not just in Asia, but also those in Europe. Some of the most high-impact journalism that comes to mind over the past few years have been from independent news organizations around the world, like the now-closed Apple Daily in Hong Kong that was absolutely integral in providing news and information about the crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

As someone who reports on and has monitored the Korean Peninsula for over a decade now, one of the most striking examples of how journalism can change and impact society is of course South Korea's news media because of whose persistent reporting former President Park Geun-hye was impeached for corruption and removed.

In India, following the Covid-19 outbreak, particularly during the second wave, journalists—from both traditional media outlets and independent news organizations—were absolutely integral in holding government authorities accountable. Without the work of journalists, particularly those in India's smaller towns and cities, away from the big metropolitan centers, it would not have been possible to understand how Covid-19 had affected the country and its poorest and most vulnerable citizens and residents.

So many stories that were published by my colleagues over the course of 2020-2021 have impacted the everyday lives of ordinary people, in many cases for the better; in some others, these reports have made sure that those people did not remain a statistic in a government report.

I don't like to say that "journalists" change society, because we aren't heroes or central to reporting or the news report, but I like to believe that it is our journalism that changes society—both locally and on a wider scale, one report at a time.

Speaker



Ahmed Kurnia Soeriawidjaja

Indonesian Journalists Association
Head of Foreign Affairs
Indonesia

Ahmed graduated from University of Indonesia majoring in Sociology. Then he studied at International Institute of Journalism, Berlin and Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

Ahmed is an author of many books including biographies of several prominent persons in Indonesia such as General Wismoyo Arismunandar (former Army Chief of Staff), Ali Alatas (former Minister of Foreign Affairs). Others about the role of the Indonesian Army Elite Troops in several battlefields, Landscape Media in Indonesia, and digital transformation. He often becomes a jury to assess journalistic works, including the prestigious Adinegoro Award and M.H. Thamrin Award and also a permanent judge since 2014 for the Best Indonesian SOE CEO and Corporate Award.

Media and Social Changes in Indonesia: What's in It for Me?

If you wish to see the people of a country, look at the media. It is a reflection of the dynamics of society.

Changes in society in Indonesia in consuming news information have occurred very drastically in recent years. Conventional media has been abandoned. Most people no

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longer read newspapers, listen to the radio, or watch television as the main sources of information to follow a trending event. Indonesians now prefer to get news information from new media, namely digital media.

Perhaps the main reason is that the younger Indonesians are, of course, bringing new habits in consuming information. They are citizens who grew up with the digital world. Therefore, they are used to access digital media on a multi-platform basis.

According to the Central Statistics Agency, which released the results of the 2020 Population Census, Indonesia now amounts to around 270 million people and dominated by young people, namely Generation Z between 8-23 years old reaching 75.49 million people (or 27.94 percent of the total population) and Generation Y (or millennials between 24-39 years old) of 69.38 million people (or 25.87 percent of the total population). This means that more than half of Indonesia's population is of young productive age!

Meanwhile, the Indonesia Millennial Report 2019 document made by the IDN Research Institute states that Millennials rely on digital media as supply of information. Around 70.4 percent of millennial respondents access digital media to find out the latest news. Ease of access, multi-tasking, and speed are the main reasons for choosing digital media.

Another finding from the study showed that around 97 percent of Millennial respondents still watch TV but only once in the past month, 55 percent accessed online media, 16 percent listened to the radio, 13 percent read newspapers, and only 3 percent read magazines or tabloids.

Seeing the behaviour of young people in Indonesia as reflected in the IDN Research Institute's research, dozens of newspapers and magazines have stopped publishing their printed versions in recent years. For example, Suara Pembaruan newspaper – the most popular afternoon newspaper in Indonesia – closed on February 1, 2021. Previously, the English newspaper The Jakarta Globe, as well as a number of magazines such as Bola,

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Hai, National Geographic Traveller, Chip and several others also stopped publishing and a small number turned to digital media – to maintain business continuity.

Other factors that also need to be studied and receive special attention are: What are the causes of the decline in reading interest and reading power of Indonesian citizens, especially in consuming information in text form? Why do people easily turn away from print media to digital media, which are more creative in presenting information in audio-visual form?

A media observer sees critically that most of the journalistic works in conventional media – especially in print media – are of very poor quality. He considered that most of the articles written by journalists in the print media were talking news. "There is no answer to the problem, and the articles are not comprehensive. Journalists are too lazy to go deeper," he said. This might contribute to the low readership of print media in Indonesia.

According to him, only a few or a handful of mainstream media have consistently presented quality news information with in-depth, comprehensive writing, and has a sharp analysis in exploring social, political, economic, and cultural phenomena.

One thing that is important in meeting the news information needs of young people is that it has to be brief, concise, and meaningful – something that millennials want is information or journalistic work that goes straight to the point: what is the problem, why, who is involved and more importantly what's in it for me, what's the advantage, what's the importance, and what's the impact for me.

The same thing also happened in the television world. A number of TV stations – especially local ones have stopped broadcasting. Most of them suffered heavy losses. There were massive layoffs to close the gap between revenue and operational costs.

According to Professor of the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia, Prof. Rhenald Kasali the television business in Indonesia in recent years has faced a fairly

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heavy blow in the face of digital industry innovation.

TV stations whose bases are heavy assets are being eroded by new business actors with light assets with very low investment and operational costs. Newcomers like YouTube, Netflix, and Vidio and the like are able to provide the same content as television, plus can be accessed by the public easily. The presence of this over the top (OTT) player has drastically changed the climate and conditions of the television business. Conventional television station production costs are more expensive than platform-based television. In this digital era, many people access information and entertainment via smartphones.

This situation is also worsened by the declining Indonesian Television Program Quality Index. According to research by the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission together with 12 universities in Semester 1 in 2021, compared to the previous year, the quality index value decreased from a score of 3.21 to 3.09.

Therefore, it is inevitable that there will be a massive migration of information consumption from conventional media to digital media. The development of social media users in Indonesia shows a trend that continues to increase rapidly. Based on We Are Social report, the number of active social media users in Indonesia was 191 million people in January 2022. This number has increased by 12.35% compared to the previous year with 170 million people.

The change in communication patterns is significantly influenced by the birth of various social media platforms that utilize internet technology. Social media not only changes people's interaction patterns, but also the way they connect with companies and public institutions. This situation also occurs in the pattern of public access to news or information which has now shifted through social media.

In Indonesia, the changing pattern of consumption of information and communication is strengthened by the applied democratic system. Everyone has the space to express their opinions and attitudes towards public policies. When there is a policy that is

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considered not in favour of their interests, the public can express criticism or aspirations and even apply pressure through social media. Often times the issues that developed on social media turned into a movement that was previously only possible through protests.

This new reality demands mass media to enter the social media and build new communication patterns to connect with their audience, as it is no longer a secondary medium for mass media managers in building communication with their audiences.

Social media management is very important. The media business management strategy must be carefully reworked considering the many elements of social media that require a special approach. This is because each social media platform has unique characteristics.

It's time for Conventional Media not only to change its form into digital media, but also to change the pattern of content that meets the needs of young people, namely answering: what are the advantages, the importance, and the impact? What's in it for me?

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Speaker



Bayan Ramazanova

Union of Journalists
Executive Secretary
Kazakhstan

Journalist with more than 45 years experience in journalism, graduate of diplomatic academy of Kazakhstan, 6 years expert and deputy head of PM press-service of Kazakhstan.

Can the media change the world?

Can journalists change the world? They can. Even one person can do a lot. A journalist can do even more than anyone else. Today we have more opportunities to do so. Even in semi-totalitarian societies that face serious problems with freedom of speech, media can do a lot. Can we become even more efficient? Yes. And we do not need much to do so.

We must support each other and share success stories.

Many problems have been solved with the help of media. About a year ago, the media in Kazakhstan raised the problem of children with a very serious illness. Just one injection can save the lives of such children. It should be done before a little patient turns two years old. But that injection costs over two million dollars. The average salary in our country is less than five hundred dollars. About one hundred children in our country

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suffer from that disease. But the Ministry of Health refused to provide money for their treatment. Parents had to do crowdfunding in social networks. Some of the children were saved. Some of them died. Journalists wrote about this problem. They tried to save the children's lives. This year Halykna Foundation was created in Kazakhstan – the "Foundation for the people of Kazakhstan". Money will be allocated from it for the treatment of such children. The children will survive.

You know that mass riots took place in Kazakhstan in early January. Law enforcement is still investigating those events to find out exactly what happened. Though there were quite a number of messages in social networks and in the media about abuse of power and tortures at police departments. Such cases are currently being investigated.

Alas, not all important problems of the society can be solved this way. But a start has been made. The situation is changing for the better. Unfortunately, in some countries media has little opportunities to influence the situation. There are totalitarian regimes. There is no freedom of speech in such countries. It is very difficult for the media to raise acute problems there. We see cases of persecution and murder of journalists in different countries. We see cases of blocking social networks. We see cases of pressure on the media. It can be difficult for journalists there to believe that they can change something. And we must support our colleagues who work under such in difficult conditions.

There are international journalistic organizations. There are international human rights organizations. Their work is highly appreciated. But the Unions of journalists should not stand aside.

Unions of journalists should tell the stories of success. Every case when media changed the situation is important. Even if it was possible to change something on the scale of one town, village or district. Such stories are very inspiring. They give hope to those media that work under hard conditions. They help to educate young journalists.

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We must combine efforts

There are many problems in the world that can be solved by joint efforts. One such issues were the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtually every journalist in every country has contributed to the fight against it. But each media acted on its own. Each country acted on its own. Journalists in every country struggled to continue working under restrictions and lockdowns. They struggled on their own.

The media in different countries often cover the same issues and face the same problems. It would be easier to solve any problem if we join efforts.

Another global problem acute for all countries is professional skills of journalists. It is no secret that the level of education is falling in all countries. The function of the media is not only to report news. Media influence the society. Media can teach people to think, make them more curious and intelligent. Only educated highly professional journalists can do this.

We need a single platform for the exchange of experience, for the posting educational materials that would help to make journalists more skillful. It can become the basis for future fruitful cooperation. Maybe someday this will result in the creation of the Global Union of Journalists.

Sure, organizing student exchanges or student summer camps is a complex and costly task. But we can unite journalists online. We can work together.

We must keep up with the times

There is a lot of talk these days that social media will replace traditional media. It is unlikely that this will ever happen. But social media cannot be ignored. Media and social networks should not be antagonists. They must cooperate and complement each other.

We could exchange experience on cooperation of the media and social networks. Not all countries treat bloggers as journalists. And these countries really need to change their

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media laws. Can a blogger be considered a journalist? What rights should bloggers have? There is still a lot of confusion about this issue in many countries. We need common interpretations, terms, common understanding of blogging. And we need effective ways of interactions between media and social networks. Maybe there is some other useful experience that we could share with each other.

We have the power to change this world. Not just informational world. Not just virtual online world. We can change the world we live in. Together we can do it. United we stand.

Speaker



Min-Kyu Lee

School of Media and Communication, Chung-Ang University
Professor
Korea

He has been teaching journalism at Chung-Ang University for the last 28 years. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in the U.S. He also worked for the Columbia Missourian Newspaper. He served as the 44th President of the Korean Society for Journalism & Communication Studies, which is the largest academic organization in journalism. He was on evaluation committee for some of the most coveted awards in South Korea, including the Korean Journalists Award and the Journalists of the Month Award organized by the Journalists Association of Korea. As an expert in data-driven, computer-assisted reporting, he consults and participates in numerous investigative news and projects.

Three representative cases of social change brought by media reports in Korean journalism

(1) The first case of media coverage to bring about social change:

The Busan-Ilbo's (Busan Daily) Exclusive Photo Coverage of Kim Ju-yeol's Dead Body Rhee Syngman's regime, in the early 1960s, betrayed the basic principle of democracy by arbitrarily revising the constitution twice (including the amendment known as Sa-

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sa-oh-ip) and manipulating presidential election that took place on March 15. It was all in attempts to make 'serving (more than two) consecutive terms' possible and to consolidate infinite power. To condemn this rigged election and undemocratic system, citizens of Masan rallied up to protest. The state under Rhee's command, as a response, deployed police force to violently suppress demonstrations.

On April 11, 1960 - 28 days after the protest - dead body was found floating in waters near the central pier of Hapcho Bay in Masan. It was the body of none other than 16-year old protester, Kim Ju-yeol. He had a tear gas bomb stuck in one of his eye sockets. Huh Jong, a reporter at Busan Ilbo photographed such horrifying image and sent it to the news desk at The Busan Ilbo.



<Picture 1> On April 12, 1960, The Busan Ilbo breaks story about Ju-yeol Kim's dead body being found

The initial and principal agents of April 19 Revolution were unarguably students who protested dictatorship. It, however, was media that awakened such 'revolutionary spirit.' Therefore, it is not a leap to define April 19 Revolution under the umbrella of 'Media Revolution.'

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The far-reaching impact of The Busan Ilbo was rendered possible because it was a single photo, rather than an editorial piece detailing the wrongs of Rhee's administration. Picture, sometimes, is louder than words. It tells so much without saying a word. This tragic photo of a boy in a buzz cut (the most common haircut among high school students) was enough to get people riled up. The bullet pierced through his face revealed the madness and ruthlessness of government. The minimum courtesy towards the dead was thrown away into the sea along with the dead body. It exposed the barbarity of power.

Rhee's regime has tried to cover this incident up using the trope of 'brainwashed mob' - propagating this young man was manipulated by Communists to overthrow the government and henceforth was killed. This type of narrative was not only prevalent but also somewhat valid in Korea after being torn apart by Cold War. Regardless, this shocking picture of 'callously murdered schoolboy' spoke loud and clear to the public. This picture was simply too powerful for people to be misguided by the conventional trope.

Had Huh Jong not taken this picture, had the news desk at The Busan Ilbo not approved this piece; in other words, had these reporters not been courageous enough to complete their duty as a journalist, would 'revolutionary spirit' have ever been invoked amongst the crowd?

In the 60s, advanced democracy was yet to be settled in Korea. Bruised by brutality of its own regime, freedom of speech was constantly in suffering. This is all the more reason why we need to hold the journalists' discretion and valor close to our heart to this day.

Albeit April 19 Revolution remained incomplete - for this revolutionary force may have overthrown the prevailing dictatorship but failed to deter the following one - it was, without a doubt, a steppingstone for more revolutions to come. Until now, this report serves as an exemplary case where journalists sought out truth, and protected people's

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right to know. Their professionalism sheds light upon those who wish to know about the role of media in sustaining justice - just as the blazing torch does.

(2) The second case where journalism ignited social change:

Reports of Korea JoongAng Ilbo (JoongAng Daily) and Dong-A Ilbo (Dong-A Daily) on Park Jong-cheol's torture leading to his death in 1987

Park Jong-cheol, a junior linguistics major at Seoul National University, was abruptly taken to custody when he was at his boarding house. When in questioning, the authorities not only assaulted Park but also used waterboarding technique - shoving one's head into a tub of water for several times - to have him reveal the whereabouts of his club leader. Park Jong-cheol died that evening from the aftermath of torture. It was the JoongAng Ilbo's coverage that first reported this tragic incident.

Since then, Catholic Priests' Association for Justice (CPAJ) attempted to raise awareness of police brutality leading to deaths of citizen. Moreover, Dong-A Ilbo re-ignited the case by revealing there has been tampering with the number of culprits involved and downplaying the number. It eventually set fire on the democratization movement nationwide.

With this coverage, Roh Tae-woo, the leader of the Democratic Party, managed to declare constitutional amendment in 'direct and single-term presidential election system'. This fight against dictatorship wrapped up with the arrest of Kang Min-chang, the head of the police department.

This investigative piece on Park Jong-chul's torture and his following death will forever hold a special place in the history of Korean democracy and freedom of speech. This piece functioned as a catalyst in building formal democracy in Korea.

The contemporary history of Korea and its struggle for democracy can be summarized as a series of oppression and resistance against its oppression. Journalism should

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take full credit in sparking such resistance and therefore contributing to the country's democracy.

(3) The third case of social change undertaken through news reports:

Report on the presidential scandal involving Choi Soon-sil, the confidante

On August 2, 2016, TV Chosun reported Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) managed to raise about 90 billion won (\$80 million) in just two months to fund the Mir foundation and K-Sports foundation. On August 3, the next day, the news outlet raised question as to how minutes of both foundations' meetings and the board members were almost identical. The media suspected same person could be running both foundations behind closed door.

Soon after, the Hankyoreh broke news about Choi Soon-sil's involvement with Jong-beom Ahn, the presidential secretary. This scandal started to rise in full swing as the paper revealed the connection between the Blue House and Economic enterprises.

Journalists did not rest until they found "smoking gun". Some reporters went far and beyond, breaking into closed offices and salvaging the remains of shredded paper and putting them together. This type of tenacity eventually led JTBC to discover the 'tablet PC', which served as the ultimate smoking gun of this corruption scandal.

On October 24, 2016, JTBC disclosed the 'Choi Soon-sil file' (on the discarded tablet once owned by Choi). It revealed her direct involvement in editing some of the president's most important speeches. This served as evidence in align with Ko Young-tae's comment that "the only thing Choi is good at is revising the president's speech." Ko Young-tae is one of the key advisers under Choi as well.

JTBC reported that Choi's tablet contained a wide collection of presidential speeches - ranging from the speech of President Park as a candidate to her inaugural speech. The period of Choi receiving these files all preceded the time president made speech,

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implying she had authority over editing process. On the next day, JTBC followed up with more files found on the tablet. It included not only the president's speech at Dresden but also some sensitive and confidential issues regarding personnel and national security. This exposed how Choi Soon-sil, this 'shadowy adviser' was the serious behind-the-scenes show runner of Park's administration.



<Picture 2> JTBC released story about tablet PC for the first time

The media informed public that the person who oversaw the state affair was not the person people voted for, but a random confidante. The impact made by media was enormous. The Blue House, which remained its ambiguous position was brought to judgement. They were basically set on fire. The administration could not deny any longer. Immediately after JTBC made its first report, the president came forefront giving public apology. It was too late and too little to defend her government from the strong accusation. Motivated by media coverage, a national candlelight vigil as a form of protest

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was held by public. As a result, the incumbent president was impeached and arrested.

When portraying journalists as those who ignite social movement, the following is implied. Journalists take action without hesitation when structural framework with which public makes value-oriented judgement is jeopardized. In this regard, the three coverages mentioned above are exemplary cases where journalism served the people to wield their power righteously. Moreover, these instances show why media must exist. Generation may change, platforms would inevitably diversify. However, what will remain intact is the purpose of media and the accountability journalists hold.

Speaker

**Hwan-bong Jung**

The Hankyoreh
Reporter
Korea

Reporter Hwan-bong Jung was born in 1979 and joined Hankyoreh, a Korean daily newspaper, in July 2011. In 2013, he reported on the NIS's manipulation of public opinion in the presidential election. The report was awarded the Korean Journalist Award given by AA. In 2017, he won the Korean Journalist Award for covering the fact that the NIS operated a private public opinion manipulation organization. He mainly conducted coverage on power institutions, and participated in reports on the status of elderly nursing facilities and the sinking of Sewol ferry.

Reports on online public opinion manipulation committed by authorized organizations

Outline

The Hankyoreh newspaper revealed that from 2013 to 2018, authorized organizations such as the National Intelligence Service(NIS), the military, and the police manipulated public opinion on the Internet at politically important times such as the presidential election.

Hwan-bong Jung

NIS Online Public Opinion Manipulation Case

- On December 11, 2012, eight days before the 18th presidential election, opposition party officials claimed that an NIS official was manipulating public opinion through online comments at a studio in Seoul. Opposition party officials at the time confronted the NIS official at the studio, and police arrived at the scene. Eventually, the NIS staff submitted her laptop to the police, ending the confrontation.
- The police announced the results of the investigation at 11 p.m. on December 16, 2012, three days before the presidential election, saying, "We found no traces of the NIS employee writing online comments related to the presidential election."
- Eventually, the election ended with the ruling party's victory, and the investigation slowed down. The police told the media that NIS employees were active online, but mainly posted articles on traveling and shopping. The NIS claimed that the employee had never posted anything on the Internet community.
- However, on January 31, 2013, Hankyoreh confirmed and reported that the NIS employee had written 91 articles defending the ruling party on the Internet community during the presidential election. Hankyoreh obtained, analyzed, and reported all the writings written by the NIS staff, and the police also acknowledged these as facts.
- Hankyoreh then reported on March 18, 2013, that Won Se-hoon, head of the NIS, made orders to intervene in online public opinion, to keep government criticism activities by religious groups in check, to trigger public opinion battles on state-run projects, and to oppress trade unions.
- On May 15, 2013, Hankyoreh obtained and reported a document on NIS's political maneuvering, namely to attack the mayor of Seoul, who was a member of the opposition party at the time.
- In April 2017, Hankyoreh covered and reported the fact that the NIS used a private organization called the "Alpha Team" to manipulate public opinion on the Internet.

Hwan-bong Jung

- The prosecution's investigation confirmed that the NIS conducted extensive public opinion manipulation and political maneuvers from 2009 to 2012. The Hankyoreh report was also approved as a result of the investigation.
- In April 2018, the Supreme Court finally sentenced former NIS chief Won Se-hoon to four years in prison, acknowledging that he had his employees write 2027 online postings and write 288,926 tweets to create favorable public opinion for the ruling party.

South Korean Army Cyber Command's Online Public Opinion Manipulation Case

- Hankyoreh reported in October 2013 that the Cyber Command, which is in charge of cyber warfare in the military, manipulated public opinion on the Internet.
- Hankyoreh reported that soldiers and military personnel of the Cyber Command posted messages defending the ruling party on online communities and Twitter under the direction of the command, and revealed that thousands of political postings were posted on overseas Korean online communities.
- Since then, military police and prosecution investigations have revealed that cyber command's online public opinion manipulation has been true, and cyber commander Yeon Je-wook and others have been indicted. The investigation found that the military manipulated public opinion from 2010 to 2012.
- The Supreme Court sentenced former cyber commander Yeon Je-wook to two years in prison in March 2020, acknowledging that he ordered 7,500 postings supporting the ruling party before and after the 19th National Assembly election (April 2012) and the 18th presidential election (December 2012).

Police Internet public opinion manipulation case

- Hankyoreh reported in March 2018 that the police also manipulated online public opinion between 2011 and 2012.

Hwan-bong Jung

- Hankyoreh interviewed police insiders and confirmed that the police also wrote online postings defending the ruling party, centering on the National Police Agency's security cyber investigation team.
- The police's manipulation of public opinion on the Internet was similar to that of the NIS and the military.
- Hankyoreh also interviewed Cho Hyun-oh, who was the head of the National Police Agency from 2010 to 2012, and reported that he had instructed his employees to write postings that were controversial over public opinion manipulation.
- In the end, former National Police Agency Commissioner Cho Hyun-oh was sentenced to one and a half years in prison at the Seoul High Court in February 2022 after being admitted to ordering 12,700 political postings.

Changes brought about by these press reports

- Hankyoreh revealed that authorities such as the NIS, the military, and the police carried out extensive online public opinion manipulation to sustain the regime. The report led to an investigation, and as a result, the heads of all organizations involved in public opinion manipulation were punished.
- Hankyoreh reports have raised the perception that illegal public intervention by state agencies harms democracy and is followed by punishment. As a result, the conditions for a more democratic public opinion have been formed.
- Various laws, including the National Intelligence Service Act, have also been revised, and the system has been improved, such as the strengthening of punishments for political intervention of state organizations.

Speaker

**Nurzhan Kasmalieva**

Kabar News Agency
Chief of International Affairs and Translations Department
Kyrgyzstan

Nurzhan Kasmalieva is the chief of the translations department of Kabar News Agency, the only source of official information in Kyrgyzstan. Working for Kabar News Agency for 22 years, Nurzhan got vast experience in journalism.

Starting her career as a translator of news at Kabar Agency, Nurzhan could achieve promotion in her office. She is entrusted to head the translations department, where all the materials are translated into 5 languages (English, Turkish, Kyrgyz, Chinese, Arabic). Her news, articles, interviews are published not only at Kabar's website, but also republished in other media as well.

Journalists and society

The media and the society have had a relationship that has existed for centuries. Nowadays not only journalism, but the social media also have had such a huge impact on society that it is almost impossible people could live without them.

The media serves as witnesses of the events happening within our societies and then report them and through the social media, people become aware of events and issues occurring around them.

Nurzhan Kasmalieva

And to say that journalists have influenced society and left a great impact is a gross understatement.

Journalists have not only affected many layers of societies, but also changed the course of history on many occasions.

While many people tend to associate journalism with politics and holding officials responsible, the effects of journalism go well beyond that to include various aspects of life.

While it is true that the most spectacular effects of journalism are in the political field, such as the role of reporters in covering the wars, conflicts or scandals, journalists have also been instrumental in reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic, the threats of climate changes, the empowerment of women and minorities, the plight of refugees, sports events and others.

Their role has been to inform and educate the public on such issues, providing people with crucial information taken from experts and protecting them from the disasters of misinformation and disinformation that have been circulating very quickly across the world thanks to advanced technology.

And through providing information, journalists help people know better about what is going on and through providing analyses, they help people understand better the causes and effects of political, social and economic developments as they happen and their future ramifications.

The amazing advances in social media have made huge impacts on societies think and behave. Combining technology, speed and ease, social media has changed behaviors, affected attitudes and imposed a new way of life and communication throughout the world.

Unfortunately, they have also helped misinformation and disinformation spread

Nurzhan Kasmalieva

quickly across the world.

There are many journalists, bloggers and activists, who actively use the social media and use it to their own advantages. Nowadays almost every person, who actively uses the social media can impact on the society. They usually criticize the authorities, their actions and decisions and lead the public behind them.

Journalists analyze those actions and decisions and give reports of the consequences to the public. Thus, sometimes the media is able to hold the authorities to account for their actions.

My country Kyrgyzstan is full of natural beauty and great opportunities. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was in Kyrgyzstan a strong drive to build a vibrant country with a vivacious society.

The media motivated by freedom of expression and press thrived and journalists had a crucial role in the nation-building process. According to several international reports, "the pluralism of the Kyrgyz media is exceptional in Central Asia."

At the same time, the young generation has been highly active in using digital tools to express their personal views, providing the media with a new way to influence society, spread freedom of expression, widen democratic practices and incite social debates.

Despite the challenges, and they are not simple, journalists and social media users in Kyrgyzstan continue, amid an unprecedented period of transformation for the region, to have a significant role in changing society.

Speaker



Norila Mohd. Daud

Malaysia World News
Editor in Chief
Malaysia

She had been invited to talk on various issues regarding the Malaysian media in Australia, United States of America, Sweden, Bangladesh, Egypt, Belgium and ASEAN countries, China, India, South Korea and Taiwan during her NUJM Presidency. Attended International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Congress held in Seoul- Korea, Athens- Greece, Andalusia - Spain and Moscow-Russia.

In Malaysia, she had been invited to talk on journalism in the local universities, Malaysia Press Institute (MPI) and government agencies. Worked as a journalist in Utusan Malaysia - a leading Bahasa Malaysia newspaper for 35 years. She had been assigned to cover local politics, economy, social issues, sports, crime and court stories and features on successful companies and conglomerates. For sports event she has been sent by Utusan Malaysia to cover Badminton World Cup Tournament in Bangkok, Thailand and New Delhi, India and also attended many sports seminar and forums in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Norila Mohd. Daud

Online journalists are more influential in the digital era to change the society's mind-set.

This topic covers a big scope and perspective depending on the medium used by the journalist whether newspaper or online news portal.

Before the social media and online news portal came into the "information and media world", some journalists who managed to strike by lines on the front page of the newspaper often will become famous among readers.

They will be considered as successful "propagandist" to change the society in several aspects such as political ideology, culture, religion, economy, international relationships, lifestyles and fashion trends.

Once they succeed to capture the readers' interests, in one way or other they could become strong influencers and able to change the mind set and the lifestyle of the readers/society from their writings.

These journalists will also become popular among the politicians and public figures who want their programmes and thoughts to be passed to the public via news reports in the newspapers or online news portals.

The programmes and articles could either be disseminated to the public in newspapers and news portal, radio and via television news.

Unlike now, many mainstream newspapers belonging to the former ruling government have either been closed down or experiencing shrinking in readerships following the emergence of too many independent news portal, social media and sponsored bloggers in the country.

The society today has many options and choices to get their information. It depends on what they like to read, what they want to know and what they will gain from the

Norila Mohd. Daud

information gathered.

From the selection made by the readers, it is obvious that in one way or other they will be lured or influenced by the idea and information posed by the writer or journalist as they only read what they like.

If the feature or news is about COVID-19 for example, obviously the readers will be taken in by what has been written by the journalist in whatever medium, newspaper or online because it is related to the current pandemic.

The pandemic situation has transformed the people to become more informed and always on the alert and looking forward to know the latest COVID-19 cases in the country, number of deaths and what are the latest global developments on the pandemic.

The same goes if there is a state election. Here I would like to quote examples in Malaysia where three states namely, Sarawak, Melaka and Johor under Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition parties have garnered landslide victories in the recent elections.

In the Johor State Election held on 12th March 2022, many people had expected the opposition parties might win some seats as it was the first time people aged 18 were eligible to vote following the Constitution Amendment Bill 2019 was passed by the Parliament on July 16, 2019.

The Bill was passed under the Alliance of Hope or Pakatan Harapan coalition government. It was then led by Dr.Mahathir Mohamad as the 7th Prime Minister reigning the country for 22 months. The Malaysian government was later taken over by Muhyiddin Yassin as the 8th Prime Minister under Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition that lasted from March 2020 until August 2021.

Today the government is led by Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob from the BN with other parties under Perikatan Nasional coalition still in control.

Norila Mohd. Daud

In this political context, it was not wrong to say that the journalists had changed the society in the states to choose which political parties to help them build their lives again in the post COVID-19 pandemic.

Leaders representing the parties contesting in the state elections had organised political campaigns before the polling day. Their speeches and manifestos were reported in the newspapers, news portal and local TV channels and it had directly influenced and changed the minds of the people to vote for the party that could help them manage their lives and businesses after the pandemic.

Several TV channels and online news portals from the government and private owned companies did many live interviews with renowned professors and public figures regarding the state elections. They too have played their roles in convincing the people to vote the political parties that could help them manage their lives after the pandemic.

Before the 14th General Election in 2018, the BN coalition had ruled the country for 61 years since independence in 1957. Unfortunately in the 14th GE (2018) BN had lost badly due to alleged mega corruption and money laundering scandals involving the political party leaders.

The alleged corruption and money laundering scandals had widely been covered by the independent online journalists and from the opposition supported newspapers and stories about it had also gone viral in the social media.

In 1917 and before the GE in 2018, many politicians from the BN ruling parties had denied all the stories written by the journalists in the online news portals. They associated the news on the alleged corruption and money laundering as just hot stories in the social media. They did not recognise the existence and the roles of the new online media journalists in influencing and changing the mind-set of the society nationwide.

The mainstream newspapers, TV channels and online news portal owned by the

Norila Mohd. Daud

government were not allowed to publish or cover such stories especially relating to the then Prime Minister Najib Razak on the alleged corruption and money laundering scandals.

This was the moment when the people refused to buy the mainstream newspapers, watch the national TV news and programmes and also boycotted the government's programmes.

That was the first time the Malaysians really voiced up and made their decisions not to vote and support the BN government in the 14th GE in 2018. The result was that BN government collapsed and taken over by the opposition party coalition- Alliance of Hope or PH.

Based on the political scenario before the GE in 2018, a scholar of Master of Art Mass Communication, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Ziinine Abdesselam has completed his research thesis, Online Journalism: Changing Public Mindset and Political Conflicts in 1917.

His research among others had launched questionnaires engaging with members of the society, media practitioners, students, professionals and political analysts and lecturers in social/political sciences asking about the effectiveness of online journalism. in changing the mind-set of the society.

His researches and findings have proven that online journalism and journalists have succeeded to change the society in Malaysia in 2018. This is the most realistic example whereby the roles and the effectiveness of the new media or online journalism has succeeded to change the mind- set that has resulted in the change of government in Malaysia in 2018.

Speaker

**Arun Ranjit**

Foreign Affairs News
Editor in Chief
Nepal

Arun Ranjit has been involved in the journalism profession for four decades. Starting his journalism career from a junior position, he was able to reach the top position as Executive/Managing Editor of the nation's first English broadsheet daily of Nepal. After serving nearly three and half a decade he quit to join the UN service. Then after, currently, he is a Chief Editor of the Foreign Affairs News.Com A recipient of numerous Decorations and various Awards his articles and research papers have been published in newspaper magazines published from various countries. He has also served as Correspondence of various newspapers.

Journalists: A Societal Changers

Journalism is the profession to deliver accurate information to the people and is what makes it indispensable to democratic societies delivering citizens with correct information they need to make the best possible decisions about their lives, their communities, their societies, and their governments. Thus, it can be defined as the tool of the voice of the voiceless.

Although the media cannot solve the world's problems on its own but plays a vital

----- Arun Ranjit |

role among people to act, react and interact by contributing to create awareness, sympathy and encouraging people to take action for those affected.

In a democratic society, the role of journalism has been to act as the Fourth Estate to change society by feeding the people about remarkable actions happening around the world with factual news and views in helping to hold accountable. As so, journalism is considered as the weapon that can change the world completely to root out the immoral and merciless acts through indirect social influence.

Whereas in an authoritarian society, the role of journalism is to help cement the ruling party's narrative in the minds of the public for politico-ideology support.

Whatever it be, journalists play a dynamic role in society to bring awareness among the societal groups and change in particular to build up a good society.

Talking in the context of Nepal, the media are running in unknown numbers. Though the market share of media in Nepal is small in volume even though there has been mushrooming the media outlets. Figuratively, there are thousands of newspapers and online portals. Same as nearly three digit numbers of radios and TVs.

Though journalists have been contributing to create Nepalese society with change, sometimes they can also experience that critical content has been made by specific interest based on ownership, political ideology, business company or by influence from different sectors.

It is believed the content in the media determines images of society. But sadly, there are a number of media establishments functioning in an unhealthy competition catering for publicity of politics without feeling social responsibility instead of serving people and society with proven data.

In today's advanced technology based digitalized modern era, each and every one depends on current happenings, news and views to keep their daily lives updated.

Arun Ranjit

As society depends on mass media, like anything for everything, journalists have the power and play a vital role for social changes going through the way of information, globalization bearing social responsibility satisfactorily.

As the world is evolving in 21st century society where information is everything, where the media is the powerful tool of communication and connectivity, journalists, thinking of responsibility towards the society, need to be aware of the values they hold, the beliefs they harbor and the decisions they make should be based on facts not on fiction. So journalists are considered as a backbone of social growth that brings changes and creates public opinion for societal changes through to the point information and motivating the people.

Journalists have quite a considerable influence on the way society thinks journalism plays an important role in everyday life in the society. Therefore, they undoubtedly act as a catalyst for social change and growth.

As soon as people wake up in the morning, almost all people begin to check the news happening around the world, look into social media and check their email in their hand phones through the use of the internet.

Today, most online portals have their own smartphone apps with the function of alerting people to stay informed that helps individuals to explore various choices of news and other concerned activities of their interest.

No doubt as part of society changed by journalists, in Nepal, the media has contributed, big or small, to establish the universal values of human rights, democratic value based politics, fair-minded justice and harmonized peace in the society.

The rise of online media has pluralized the scope of digital space by building opinion for social change with a high influence in shaping contemporary society, evolving and

Arun Ranjit

nurturing both its positive and negative aspects.

Today journalism is not only necessary but also becoming part of daily activities of people that has been changing the world with the way journalists tell about and determine people's attitude towards it.

Hence, no doubt, journalists have a great responsibility in society. They are the societal changers holding a pen for the development of a positive attitude. Importantly, journalists can make good use of influence towards the people for changing not only the society but also the entire world for the betterment.

To sum up, it can say Yes, good journalism can change the people, society and the world.

Speaker

**Bishnu Nisthuri**

Asia Journalist Association (Nepal)
Editor in Chief
Nepal

Bishnu Nisthuri (Bishnu Prasad Ghimire) is now senior vice president of Asia Journalist Association (AJA) for south Asia and president of Nepal Chapter of Asia Journalist Association. He has been in journalism for about four decades. Bishnu who started his career a journalist from Ilam, a town in Eastern Nepal. He led the Federation of Nepali journalists (FNJ) the umbrella organization of Nepali journalists from 2005 to 2007. Before getting elected as FNJ President, he also served as its General Secretary. And it was during his term as General Secretary he led the Press freedom movement in Nepal after the Royal take over 2005. While leading the press freedom movement he continued to voice for democracy, peoples right which established himself as a popular face in Nepal's democratic movements. Also as poet Nisthuri has two books in his credit. Currently he is Editor in Chief of drishyatv.com a leading multimedia news portal.

Journalists Can Change Society

The primary task of a journalist is to inform the public by providing correct, objective, unbiased and balanced news to them. We, the participants of the event, have been fulfilling this primary duty for years, if not decades.

Bishnu Nisthuri

But while working over the years many of us have realized that journalists have done more than fulfilling this primary duty. A few of us gathered here have played an important role to bring about a change in the society. I mentioned here 'a few of us' deliberately because only a few journalists could maintain neutrality while informing people about any incident. And only a few journalists could bring about changes in the society, work for the betterment of the humanity, and for the rights of the people. Others work for particular political parties, for the promotion of particular political ideology and even religious faith. And a few others for their personal gains. News relating the Russian invasion of Ukraine could serve as the best example to this because the readers around the world have to be satisfied with news pouring in from beyond the borders of the warring two countries. We have felt an utter lack of neutrality in news relating to the human crisis caused by the 21st century war when we have technologies in abundance to collect news from the battle filed.

However, maintaining neutrality alone will not be enough for journalists to cause the desired change in society unless they possess a high level of conscience. Because neutral reporting sometimes can harm the society.

Over the years, we have witnessed how journalists played important role in ushering in democracy in many Asian countries and triggering democratic movements in African countries. Of course, the movements succeeded because of journalists who generated awareness among the people about the injustices meted out against them by the rulers, corruption and other anomalies which thrive in the protection of those in power.

I feel pleasure to share with you here that I myself had been to the center of the republican movement in Nepal in 2006 immediately after the king took over in February 2005, first as a movement for press freedom after the king started suppressing free press. When the mainstream political parties were not ready for

Bishnu Nisthuri

the republican movement, I raised the voice for the end of monarchy for press freedom, encouraging the civil society to intensify the pro-democratic movement. The political parties also joined the same movement with same demand. Although I was arrested, the political movement succeeded a year later by restoring democracy, press freedom and overthrowing the monarchy.

Of course, we, journalists could bring about changes if we continuously work for people's boarder wellbeing by maintaining high morals. We could at least work for strengthening democracy by bridging the people and rulers by informing both people and rulers, press freedom and peace in the world.

Speaker



Gokarna Awasthi

Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Deputy Director General
Nepal

Gokarna Awasthi is an award winning former journalists of Nepal. He worked as the business editor of country's largest daily Kantipur for 11 years. He is the past president of Society of Economic Journalist Nepal (SEJON). After working as an economic journalist for 18 years Awasthi joined United Nations Nepal office as SDG advisor. Currently he is associated with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry apex organization of private sector as Deputy Director General.

Changes that came through the power of pen

I worked as a journalist for 18 years in broadcast and print media. I am not an active journalist at the moment. However, I am still follow journalism closely. I left journalism but journalism has not left me and hence I am now a critical audience of the media.

There are hundreds of examples where journalists through extensive coverage have changed the lives of people all over the world. Today, I am going to speak about two things- how journalism has changed the lives of people in my country with examples and what more can be done in this sector.

Gokarna Awasthi

Nepal has seen many political and cultural changes in recent history and the media has played a huge role to bring about these changes. Politics is rampant in all sectors of the society and front page news consists of political news in Nepal. In this context, media played a huge role in restoring democracy in the country. Then king Gyanendra Shah had dismissed the government and started autocratic rule in 2005. All the political parties joined hands and protested against the king's autocracy. People took to the streets and politicians would give their speeches against this move every day.

Then the king sent the army in the newsroom to regulate the news. The media houses protested against this move by keeping the editorial space blank, while some of them left blank spaces in the news content that was edited by the army. This protest got serious and the media was later called the 'eight party' that was responsible for restoring democracy in the country. As you must have guessed there were seven political parties that had united against the king's move.

This changed the political context of the country, Nepal then got a new Constitution that brought political and social changes in the country.

I would like to share yet another example where journalists played a huge role to abolish a harmful social practice in Nepal. Women in Karnali and the Far western region of the country were sent to live in huts during menstruation. As a result, they had to live far away from families in small congested huts and were not allowed to eat nutritional food during menstruation. Journalists started covering the issue and as they dug deeper they found that many women had lost their lives while living in these huts due to snake bites while some others had choked to death from the fire they had lit to warm themselves. There were also reports of adolescent girls being raped and sexually harassed while living in these huts.

Gokarna Awasthi

These issues were reported for years by journalists. Extensive coverage of these tragic incidents helped women right activities raise the issue more seriously. As a result, chhaupadi, the tradition of staying away from family during menstruation was outlawed by the Supreme Court of Nepal in 2005. After this verdict from the court the government passed a law in 2017, as per the law people who force women into exile during menstruation can be sentenced up to three months in jail or fined up to Rs 3,000.

Let me tell you media has played a huge role in changing the rules and laws of the country in Nepal.

I would like to share yet another example where journalists have helped to bring positive changes in the lives of women and through them the economy of the country. There was a lot of talk about enhancing women entrepreneurship in the country. However, there were no provisions to attract women into a cut-throat competition business sector run by men. It was only after journalists like me pointed out that women need some incentive to enter into business that the government made some changes in the policy. We pointed out that one of the best incentives for women entrepreneur would be giving them tax relief and easy access to finance. The government provided these facilities to women entrepreneurs as a result number of women entering the world of business is increasing every year.

I am sure many of you are aware of the devastating earthquake Nepal experienced in 2015. Almost nine thousand people lost their lives. Nepal lost many of its historical monuments as well. During the reconstruction of historical monuments, the government started using concrete instead of local traditional raw materials. The media prioritized this issue. Building of Ranipokhari a pond in the heart of Nepal's capital, was one of those. After the media coverage the government stopped using concrete and had to start reconstruction using the local traditional raw materials

Gokarna Awasthi

in the traditional way. It was the same case with Singha durbar, the country's administrative center.

We are all aware of the fact that journalism is changing and newsrooms are focusing more on breaking news and the number of viewers rather than the issues they raised. This is a serious issue in Nepal too and this is something that needs to be discussed in forums like this. I am worried about this new trend that is thriving in Nepal and elsewhere too. I am concerned that the very norms of journalism – like raising the voice of the voiceless, verifying facts and figures at least twice before sharing it with the audience is slowly dying as newsrooms compete to be the first to break news. I hope this forum will help us find ways to address this huge issue faced by journalists all over the world.

Speaker



Rahul Aijaz

Film N' Chips Media Productions
Writer · Filmmaker · Journalist
Pakistan

Rahul Aijaz is a founder at Film N' Chips Media Productions (2021-present) and visiting faculty at Institute of Business Management (2018-present). He also works as a freelance writer/editor at Red Bull Pakistan (2019-present). In the past, he had been working as a culture reporter/film critic at Express Tribune (2016-2018), and Deputy Editor at Asia Journalists Association (2015-2016). He had been a writer/director/co-producer of 'A Train Crosses the Desert', first ever Sindhi short film from Pakistan to screen at international film festivals. Also, he was a writer/director/producer of another Sindhi short 'The Imperfect Human', and a fellow at the Screenwriting Workshops by Locarno Open Doors and Vidhi Films (2019), and Goethe-Institute Pakistan's Film Talents II (2019-2021).

Society Changed by Journalists – The Necessity of Culture Journalism

Hello everyone, I am Rahul Aijaz. I'm a writer, filmmaker and journalist from Pakistan. It's wonderful to be part of the World Journalists Conference once again this year. The topic for today's conference is 'Society Changed by Journalists'. I would like to focus on an area of journalism that's not taken much seriously in Pakistan, that is,

Rahul Aijaz

culture journalism.

It's hard to begin to talk about it as most of what happens here in the name of culture and, especially film journalism, cannot be called journalism at all. It's no surprise that even worldwide, writing about culture and film and art comes under fluff or something that's not as important as politics or sports. And much of that, culture and lifestyle journalism has brought upon ourselves by choosing to publish stories about what this celebrity wore on the red carpet or who is dating whom for the sake of clicks and hits.

And that's the point. You feed people garbage and they will eventually start to like the taste and they will want more of it. But if you do it right, offer them delicacies in a silver bowl, give them something to think about or challenge them, they slowly develop the taste for it and grow.

So, today, I would like to present another perspective on what, if done right, culture reporting has the potential and the power to do. While working for one of the most read English daily in Pakistan, The Express Tribune, a few years ago, I found out about a Pakistani film student in Bahrain who had made a documentary about a young man in Punjab province.

Living in a remote village in Punjab, his family had the only motor vehicle which the entire village would use when travelling to and from nearby cities, especially in case of medical emergencies. He then sold it, borrowed money from relatives and friends and went to Dubai to find work and support his family back home. He returned soon after, unable to adjust to the urban lifestyle. But his failure cost him his respect around the town as he and his family now owed money to most people they knew.

The short documentary titled 'Pakistan: No Place Like Home' made by Syed Owais Ali was picked up by Al-Jazeera. Meanwhile, I also did a story for the print publication I worked for. The story and the Al-Jazeera platform provided a boost to the story to

Rahul Aijaz

the point where they launched a crowdfunding campaign and the young man from Punjab received enough money from around the world to be able to buy a new van.

I never knew him personally but a few weeks later, I received a photo of a hi-roof Bolan with a print of my article enlarged and pasted on the back. I assume it was the guy who had finally got a new vehicle for his village and gained back his respect and self-confidence.

Recently, I was also on the other end of such a story. Right as the Covid19 spread and the world began to shut down in 2020, I was working on a short film called 'A Train Crosses the Desert'. Another participant of the World Journalists Conference present here, Mr. Ashraf Aboul-Yazid, was also involved with it as he allowed us to use two of his wonderful poems in the film, the title of which is also based on one.

We shot it two days before Pakistan shut down, edited it during the pandemic and sent it out. Once film festivals started accepting it, we realized it was the first ever Sindhi-language short film from Pakistan to make it to international film festivals. This USP attracted a lot of press coverage in several countries and in all mediums – print, digital, radio and TV – and started a sort of a conversation on a national scale about the necessity of regional cinema in Pakistan. It also turned the Sindh provincial government's attention to it. How they follow up or not is a different debate.

But Sindhi cinema doesn't exist in Pakistan. It hasn't for over 40 years and even before that, there has never been any representation of Sindhi cinema on the world map of cinema. And I think it's important to share this story because for a short film to kick start that conversation wouldn't have been possible without culture journalism. It wouldn't have been possible without culture journalists willing to write about something that's not 'sensational', perse But it's important.

There are many more examples that I can recount, such as starting the trend of pro-wrestling coverage when no one in the country covered it despite there being a

Rahul Aijaz

massive audience interested in the combat sport. On some days, as I recall, we even outdrew major politics and social issue news with our wrestling stories and brought together a community of fans online. It eventually built up to the first ever wrestling shows being held in Pakistan, which were attended by thousands of people.

Now how does all of this ‘change’ the society? How does journalism, and particularly culture and lifestyle journalism change the society? Well, I do believe art and culture and cinema and music and theatre and literature are the true catalysts to change society for the better. And in times when we are bombarded with the news of all the chaos of the world – plague, war, human rights violation, and whatnot – it’s important to take a step back and immerse ourselves into art and culture. And reporting on such topics encourages us as humans to, perhaps, pick up a new book, watch a new film, check out that emerging artist’s paintings and reflect on it in the context of our society, our personal convictions and how they coincide or conflict with each other. It helps offer people ideas that start a conversation about their beliefs and values, or art and culture in the context of social issues and plant seeds for developing curiosity and knowledge and growth. I can’t remember how many times reading an interview of a filmmaker, a feature about a certain practice in the film business or an analysis of a film made me question myself and how I function or realize something important about my own work.

I feel qualified and educated culture journalists are perhaps the third most important people, after artists and poets, who can definitely help mold the shape of society for the better by giving people something to aspire to. And that is how journalists change the society, because, after all, what else do we live for if not to preserve our culture and foster and nurture its evolution?

Speaker



Benjamin Fernandez

Radio Libre
Director
Paraguay

Founder and general director of Radio Libre and the financial newspapers 5DIAS and El independiente. One of the most outspoken Paraguayan journalist on democracy, freedom of information and public access to information. He is one of the draftee of the Paraguayan Constitution (1992).

Strong Sense of Community

A community is a creation of people gathered around words and meanings. We are as a social collective the result of sharing common values giving transcendental ideas. Journalists as a depository of news made possible individual jumps from egotistical interests to social and communarians interests. Greeks used to define the first as illiots (idiots) people who just cared about themselves. Romans talked later on about citizens. People who created the sense of fate all together. What really matters in this transformation is what we define as news and how these news shape our common visions. Ideas such as freedom or democracy do not mean anything if somebody puts it in context even in conflict situations. We are the result of words, ideas, news, a sense of community and more transcendent: how we see

Benjamin Fernandez

and treat foreigners as a people against our common values. That condition is the highest peak to reach all together.

I am coming from a country which suffered 35 years of cruel dictatorship. Times when many of us were sent to exile, prison and even killed, but courageous attitudes toward freedom as embodied in many journalists challenged authoritarian regimes and gave people the sense of walking together in a broad space of freedom and democracy. Words challenged reality at the beginning and later on: changed. Generally journalists put together common ideals because autocratic regimes tend to divide society in order to govern easily using fake news and making people fight against each other. In this context journalists put reality in context and explain the process of dividing society. Putting news rightly requires cultural capacity and a high doses of courage in those environments but this process is very sensitive in building a democratic society because journalist are choosing and drafting to the people individual and social references with whom it will be possible to build a democratic society, Also are teaching values such as respect to the differences and diversities.

When journalists choose issues, people and contexts are shaping democratic societies.

When you reach democracy, journalists need to help build institutions.

This process is a very complex one because generally many people coming from the ancient regime changed their suits and disguised them as a democratic ones but deeper inside they really hate this political system and with a corrupt management of public goods that made some people feel nostalgia of the authoritarian times. In this process journalists need to individualize who they are, how they are destroying democratic's bases and how people need to learn how to choose public servants compromised with high values in democracy in every election. Many times political interest makes this process difficult and journalists need to have cultural, political and social knowledge in terms of separating the good from the bad. This is a very dynamic process where

Benjamin Fernandez

many interests that are put in conflict. Under an authoritarian regime it was easy to fight against people who oppressed and hid the truth but in democracy there are many trials that require a journalist savvy approach in order to know what really matters or not in order to build a strong democracy.

Institutions are key in any country but not many public servants really appreciate its transcendence. Being against corruption with good and strong investigative journalism. It helps to strengthen democracy. This process also requires a real justice who really judges and punishes corrupt people. If journalists denounce cases of corruption but impunity is the norm the sense of frustration could be a virus to destroy institutions first and democracy at last.

Healthy and vibrant democracies are based on rigorous journalists with high values of words, ideas and meaning of citizenship. There is a direct relationship between good journalists and people who read, discuss and participate in democracy. Generally poor democracies are also the consequences of poor journalism. There is an expression that says: "From the health of the body speaks the tongue". Journalists are the high democratic expression of social values, those that make it possible to abandon idiot conditions to reach citizenship in a free country.

We are still under attack from the promoters of fake news and lack of tools to dismantle them is a problem. Many aggressors used some false news organizations to spread lies and search tools in google and other platforms are not effective one to search for the truth because they organize a system in order to give false impressions of truth. I support the media self-regulatory system which is going to give strength and importance to the media in front of the audience and reinforce the sense of belonging to people's interest. Social media has many people whose ignorance make some people follow their ideas.

Vaccinations during COVID times show the devastating effects upon people spreading

Benjamin Fernandez

false news.

It could be a good idea to create country and regional bodies of contrasting information that will give assurances that news is a real one. A kind of Wikipedia of fake news could be a good idea to implement. Public could help a lot in creating a healthy environment where news reflect reality and not to manipulate them.

Speaker



Ivan Lim

Environment Communicators of Singapore
Editor
Singapore

Lim Sin Chin, pen name Ivan Lim, is currently a regional correspondent of the Asia Journalist Association (AJA) online news website, The Asian.Asia, and Magazine N. He has been working as a freelance journalist after a full-time career in the national flagship newspaper, The Straits Times. He last held the senior title Labor correspondent, specializing on issues concerning trade unions and employers.

Role of Journalists in Changing Society for Weal or Woe

1. In the Western tradition, the soft power that ensues from the pen excels the power from the barrel of the gun.

The 19th century adage, The pen is mightier than the sword, is attributed to English novelist and playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton. The quoted came from his historical play Cardinal Richelieu, the chief minister to King Louis XIII. On discovering a plot to kill the King, he declared: The pen is mightier than the sword...Take away the sword; states can be saved without it."

The latter quotation came straight out of Mao Zedong's little Red Book. Yet a Chinese convention holds the hand that wield the pen or brush as the "uncrowned king". For

Ivan Lim

the writer often has the last word.

2. In modern communication theory: Journalists both inform but influence. Therein, lies their transformational power. For weal or woe, the potential of the Press to shape popular thinking and change peoples' attitudes and behavior has been recognized and respected.

3. None other than Napoleon had said:" Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than 1,000 bayonets."

"He respected the press and feared it too. He realized all his life the power of literature and the power of the press," (Michael Broers, (Oxford professor of Western European history).

"He knew that he could undermine the allies who had defeated him through his memoirs and he did."

4. For Mahatma Gandhi, the newspaper was his early weapon of choice as he embarked on a long struggle to liberate India from the British Raj.

The guru of non-violence used Young India, a weekly publication in English to propagate his ideas .He also published vernacular newspapers such as Harijan Bandu in Gujarati and Harijan Sevak in Hindi to highlight national and international social and economic problems.

5. In the contemporary society, the range of soft power of the media has expanded with advent of practitioners such as the photo- an video-journalists, political cartoonists.

6. Graphic images of deaths and devastation as well as refugees on TVs and cell-phones from the on-going Ukraine-Russian conflict have triggered world-wide demonstrations for peace and humanitarian aid for civilian refugee.

Ivan Lim

7. Case study: The media have been instrumental in Singapore 's recovery from the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic in the past two years.

8. Working in tandem with the government, the local newspaper, TV and radio have kept the people well informed of the nature of new Sars virus, an invisible enemy, how it spreads and the symptoms.

9. The pro-Establishment newspapers and electronic media have given full coverage of the government's policies and measures designed to counter the impact of the pandemic.

10. TV and broadcasts by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and ministers in the taskforce combating the pandemic are reported in the major newspapers published in English, Chinese, Malay and Indian languages. The topics covered included: What Singaporeans must do to live with COVID-19 for the long haul to go about their daily lives safely;

and How Singaporeans can work together to emerge stronger from this crisis.

11. Beyond information, the media gave daily updates on the case figures, the hospitalization rates and fatalities.

Journalists also provide commentaries and interviews with medical experts to help correct misinformation on vaccinations and change attitudes. They help to convince Singaporeans, in particular some skeptics and elderly folks who were fearful of the adverse side-effects of vaccines. These efforts have borne fruit. To date the public drive to get over 90 per cent of Singapore fully vaccinated -two shots of the vaccines-- against the Delta and Omicron viruses, have been successful. Further, as many as 73 per cent of the population has also received the booster shots.

12. The high vaccination rate, designed to boost the population's immunity, couple with safety measures like contact-tracing and social distancing and restricted

Ivan Lim

gatherings have been crucial in the government latest decision to take a step forward to living with the COVID-19 virus.

The faces of collateral damage and friendly fire are generally not seen. This was not the case with 9-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc. On June 8, 1972, Associated Press photographer Nick Ut was outside Trang Bang, about 25 miles northwest of Saigon, when the South Vietnamese air force mistakenly dropped a load of napalm on the village.

Speaker



Leo Nirosha Darshan Sathasivam

Express Newspapers Ceylon Limited
News Manager
Sri Lanka

Leo Nirosha Darshan is the news manager for Veerakesari, a newspaper published by Express Newspapers Ceylon Limited. He has about 20 years of experience as a journalist. He still pursues his media career. An island country as far as Sri Lanka is concerned. Bilingual people live here mainly. Sri Lanka is also a country facing 30 years of civil war. He has worked as a journalist since 2004 and has experience in war. He has realized the importance of peace and tranquility. He has also visited many countries, including South Korea, and have followed media studies. He is a resource person in the Department of Media Studies at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka and a part time lecturer at the Sri Lanka College of Journalist. He has also received national media awards. This is the 4th time in a row that I am participating in this World Journalists Conference. Congratulations on hosting the 2022 World Journalists Conference.

Society and Journalism

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for inviting me to participate in this forum and best wishes to all attendants for a successful event.

I would like to start my remarks with a quote from Benjamin Franklin, saying, "Whoever

Leo Nirosha Darshan Sathasivam

would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by judging the freeness of speech." In my small speech, I focus on society and the journalism.

According to the American Press Institute website, "the purpose and importance of journalism is to inform society with the information they need to live their lives. Information that they need to make decisions about different things." It's all about letting the world know about what is going on in the world. Journalism is very important in our world. It was important in the past and it is still very important now. Over the years, journalism has changed a lot. Now a lot of journalism is digital. There's television, radio, computers and phones, and there is social media. With people nowadays, it's important to know everything that is happening. And it has come to the point that basically everyone is a journalist nowadays.

With increased social media and more expedited modes of communication, the face of journalism has changed from television hosts to a purported public population. With technology allowing us to broadcast information to a wide audience, printed newspapers, magazines and television no longer appeal to us, and we turn to other sources to abstract information.

In this day and age, particularly among millennials, we are able to find out about the news from social media sites like Facebook and Twitter or online versions of well-established newspapers. Regardless of the outlet, the rise of technology in our society has allowed for voices of regular people to be heard by millions of people within seconds. As a result, this ability for the layperson to inform the greater public with a tweet or Facebook post has carved the way for anyone to become a journalist. Editing and news information no longer require a long tedious process, and we can appeal to a wide audience as technology has allowed information and popular culture to spread at speeds much faster than the press.

The "umbrella revolution" in Hong Kong in 2014 and "Black Live Matter" protests

Leo Nirosha Darshan Sathasivam

around the world following the murder of George Floyd in 2020 were good examples for how social media played a key role in spreading the information/news among different countries and people. News on the umbrella revolution were spread through Facebook and the world was informed about the ongoing protests in Hong Kong within seconds. The same thing happened with the murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests. The video recorded of Floyd's arrest and death on a mobile phone quickly went viral after it was posted to Facebook. Numerous individuals and celebrities used social media to document the protests, spread information, promote donation sites, and post memorials to George Floyd.

This is what currently happening in my country, Sri Lanka. Social media is being used as the tool to mobilize people across the country to protest against the government for their failure in addressing the daily basic needs of the people, such as fuel and LP Gas shortages, power cuts and unbearable rise in the cost of living, which are unprecedented in Sri Lanka.

As the world becomes more globalized, our networks and community expand. Some may say the information we receive through peers on social media platforms are reliable, while others argue it is less reliable. Even though the press could be viewed as more reliable than social media platforms, biased views could take place regardless of the official title of established companies.

Speaker

**Dilmurod Djumabaev**

Asia Journalist Association
Correspondent
Uzbekistan

He is an experienced international media and publishing professional since 2008. As a multilingual journalist, writing in four languages, founded several successful media projects. Currently works as the head of press service of Fergana regional government, Uzbekistan. Also represents Turkish IHA News Agency in Uzbekistan. Together with career in journalism, established a publishing company, specialized in English written books. He obtained MA in Linguistics at Namangan State University.

Do not stop delivering justice, do not be afraid – Policy on freedom of speech of New Uzbekistan

Till 2016, for many years, the role of the press in Uzbekistan was significantly weakened. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who was elected president of the country in 2016, immediately and unequivocally stated that without accelerated development of the sphere, without ensuring the freedom of speech and press in Uzbekistan, reforms are impossible. He set the task, according to which state bodies should establish a direct dialogue with the people, and the mass media should become the real “fourth estate” in the country.

----- Dilmurod Djumabaev |

An American political activist Ralph Nader once said, “Information is the currency of democracy. Its denial must always be suspect.” Increasing the role and influence of the media in society, the effectiveness of their activities, strengthening the material and technical base and personnel potential, all-round stimulation of the work of employees in the field has become a priority for the new Leader of Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that over the past years, in order to strengthen the relevant regulatory and legal framework, 12 acts of legislation were adopted, the media sphere and the system of information services are being radically updated.

It should be noted that number of registered mass media has risen from 1514 in 2016 to 1893 in 2022. Of the total number of media outlets, newspapers – 642, magazines – 482, TV channels – 72, news agencies – 5. The electronic media, in particular, internet journalism are increasingly becoming part of the society in Uzbekistan. Thus, 638 of registered mass media, or 33.7%, are websites of Internet publications. Following the policy transparency and openness, Uzbekistan has hugely simplified accreditation procedures for foreign journalists. There are almost 60 accredited correspondents of foreign media in the country.

Today in Uzbekistan the media is the real voice of the people, the shifts are undeniable. Information cannot be hidden today, it circulates freely and this is directly related to freedom of speech. The media, along with objective coverage of large-scale changes taking place in our country, draw the attention of government departments and the public to pressing issues on the ground and encourage leaders at all levels to address them.

What’s more, regular meetings of heads of governing bodies of all levels with representatives of the media, journalists, as well as a broad discussion in the form of an open dialogue of topical issues related to the life of the state and society have become traditional. This approach is considered to be one of the most important

Dilmurod Djumabaev

directions of the policy of openness, transparency and democratization being pursued in Uzbekistan.

Fair criticism of journalists and bloggers points out the mistakes and shortcomings of the old-fashioned officials, forcing them to change their style of work and increase responsibility. People are also freely expressing their opinions through the internet. These critical views are heard by public authorities. They analyze their activities through criticism, take measures to solve existing problems, learn to communicate. In this way, governing bodies are operating in a new reality, in a new Uzbekistan. Yes, it is not getting easy, some officials with outdated thinking may not like the need to work in an open and transparent manner, to learn to accept the criticism in relation to their activities. However, willpower, hard work, perseverance and walking in the right direction are making this possible.

Mass media and social networks in Uzbekistan is very active today in the process of fighting the shadow economy and corruption through covering their consequences and forming an intolerant attitude towards these negative phenomena in society.

Mirziyoyev such expressed his strong support towards assiduous journalists: "Do not stop delivering justice, do not be afraid. We will not deviate from this path. If you advocate justice, write the truth, the leaders may hate you now, but eventually they will start working. This will lead to systematic work."

Uzbekistan has gained a reputation in the new world. The role of the media in this is enormous.

Speaker



Lan Phong (Lan Cu Thi)

Dantri Online Newspaper
Editor
Vietnam

Cu Thi Lan is a journalist living in Hanoi, Vietnam. She has graduated from Hanoi National University's College of Foreign Languages, majoring in English Literature in 2003. Now serving as an editor at the World News Desk at Dantri Online Newspaper, sub-editor at the newspaper's English site Dtinews.vn. Before that, she worked as a reporter, editor, and freelance writers for many newspapers in Vietnam, writing in culture, education and tourism in both English and Vietnamese. Member of the Asia Journalist Association in South Korea, contributing to The AsianN website and magazine as a reporter.

Journalism is changing society for the better

Over the years, journalism has been creating social changes by providing information for the public, thus helping raise awareness among them and pushing local authorities to have sound decisions and policies. Journalism has actually changed society in some ways.

Firstly, journalism has the ability to incite social change by reporting on subjects that have been deeply-rooted in people's minds.

For instance, in Vietnam, gender inequality is a long problem that was influenced by

Lan Phong (Lan Cu Thi)

Confucianism and the feudal view of male preference. In the past, men used to play the most important roles in the family and always have final say. Men were allowed to go to schools while girls were not.

The primary factor driving son preference among many couples is deeply rooted in the traditional culture, and this has resulted in sex selection at birth, which is still common in Vietnamese society now.

With their voices, journalists in Vietnam have actively joined in fighting against gender discrimination to defend the rights of women and girls. They have organised or promoted various events and propagandas on gender inequality in order to raise public awareness to change people's behaviours and call for the amendment of relevant laws and policies on the issue.

My newspaper Dantri is the voice of the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. We pay a lot of attention to protecting the rights of vulnerable people including women and girls. Last year we together with UN agencies in Vietnam launched the national action month for gender equality and gender-based violence prevention and response. The event was held as reports have revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a spike in inequality, with women and girls bearing more disadvantages in the past two years.

Secondly, I think that journalism has acted as a public watchdog to help fight against corruption and demand accountability from local authorities.

A lot of corruption cases in Vietnam have been uncovered by local investigative journalists who have helped provide the general public with information, which allows for demands of greater transparency from governments.

In 2016, the vice chairman of the Hau Giang Province, Trinh Xuan Thanh, was brought under scrutiny after he was found driving a luxurious Lexus 570 with a

Lan Phong (Lan Cu Thi)

blue-coloured plate which is a designated car for a government official. Photos of the car were spread on various social websites with the public questioning that it was not designated by the government for an official at Thanh's position. Many newspapers have joined in the issue and revealed lots of illegally acquired assets and wrongdoings by the official. He was then sentenced to 18 years in jail.

This was just one among many other corruption cases that have been uncovered in Vietnam by local journalists. Several high-profile government officials, top military officers and business figures have been arrested and jailed for crimes including graft, money laundering and economic mismanagement after the media brought them to light.

Third, journalism has become the voice of the voiceless and those who seek representation.

This is another role of journalism in which journalists help speak for some certain groups of people such as prisoners of conscience in pursuit of justice, refugees seeking shelter or victims of violence and trafficking in need of rescue.

The 2019 National Study on Violence against Women in Vietnam which was carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, with technical and financial support from UNFPA and Australia Government showed that 62.9 percent of women in Vietnam experiencing at least one form of violence, including physical, economic, emotional, and controlling behaviour and sexual violence. 90.4 percent of gender-based violence survivors did not seek help from authority and half of them never told anyone about the violence.

Local journalists have helped bring out many cases of trafficking and gender-based violence against women and rescued many victims.

Fourthly, journalism has been spreading good work by introducing ordinary yet

■ Lan Phong (Lan Cu Thi) -----

inspiring people, such as activists who run charity groups to provide free meals to poor people, save abandoned dogs and cats, or collect rubbish on the beaches, etc. By reporting on their work, journalists have contributed in inspiring and calling on the public to do helpful work for a better society.

According to the American Press Institute website, “the purpose and importance of journalism is to inform society with the information they need to live their lives, information that they need to make decisions about different things.”

With all those contributions, I believe journalism is a powerful tool to make the society change for the better.

2022 세계기자대회

WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2022

24(Sun) - 26(Tue) April 2022

Participants List

참가자 리스트



No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
1	Bangladesh	Mahbub Morshed	The Daily Star	Joint News Editor
2	Dominican Republic	Luis Beiro	Newspaper Listín Diario	Editor
3	Germany	Tobias Kaiser	Die WELT	EU Correspondent
4	Colombia	Angel Galindo	Thepharmaletter	Latin American Correspondent
5	Nepal	Keshab Prasad Poudel	New Spotlight	Editor
6	Bangladesh	Md Tawfique Ali	The Daily Star	Former Senior Reporter
7	Romania	Tinica-Octavia Galescu	Romanian National Broadcasting Company	Senior Musical Editor/ Producer
8	Kyrgyzstan	Nurzhan Kasmalieva	Kabar News Agency	Chief of International Affairs and Translations Department
9	Somalia	Khadar Awl Ismail	National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)	Secretary of Information and Human Rights
10	Cambodia	Rethea Pann	The Post Media	Reporter
11	Paraguay	Benjamin Fernandez	Radio Libre	Director
12	India	Ranjit Kumar	Ravivar	Strategic Affairs Analyst
13	Nepal	Arun Ranjit	Foreign Affairs News	Editor in Chief

Participants List / 참가자 리스트



No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
14	Nepal	Gokarna Awasthi	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Deputy Director General
15	India	Neha Banka		Journalist
16	Albania	Elira Canga	OSCE	Media Project Manager
17	Italy	Antonio Moscatello	Askanews	Journalist
18	Ghana	Malik Sullemana	New Times Corporation	Senior Journalist
19	Poland	Marek Traczyk	Polish Media Association	Chairman
20	United States of America	Lynn Walsh	Trusting News	Assistant Director
21	Papua New Guinea	Gorethy Kenneth	South Pacific Post	Political Editor
22	Georgia	Avtandil Otinashvili	News Day Georgia, News Agency	Director
23	Bulgaria	Pavleta Davidova	DUMA Daily	News editor
24	Honduras	Rosa Pineda	Newspaper The Tribuna	Journalist
25	Laos	Sengthong Phasavath	Lao News Agency (KPL)	Editor in Chief for News in English Division
26	Cambodia	Chanritheara Torn	Thmey Thmey Media	Journalist

Participants List / 참가자 리스트



No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
27	Ghana	Jefferey De-Graft Johnson	The Ghanaian Publisher Newspaper	Senior reporter
28	Bangladesh	Ahmed Jamil Ibrahim	Asian Television	News and Current Affairs Advisor
29	Portugal	Leonidio Ferreira	Diario de Noticias	Deputy Editor in Chief
30	Colombia	Margaret Ojalvo	Al Dia Noticias / SIR Radio	Editor and Senior Journalist
31	China	Qimin Wu	Global Times	Editor in Chief
32	Kyrgyzstan	Kuban Taabaldiev	Kabar News Agency	Director General
33	Denmark	Flemming Ytzen	Politiken	Editor
34	Cyprus	Petros Soutzis	Press Agency	Editor in Chief / Director
35	Nepal	Niraj Ranjitkar	Arthik Sanjal	Editor in Chief
36	Ireland	Frank McNally	The Irish Times	Columnist
37	Panama	Alma Solís	Snip Noticias	Director / CEO
38	Yemen	Mohammed Abdullah Almuhaimeid	Peace Initiative	Vice President
39	India	Sabina Inderjit	Indian Journalists Union/ IFJ	Secretary General/ Vice President

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
40	Kazakhstan	Kanat Auyesbay	LLP (Media Holding)	Deputy Director
41	Kazakhstan	Bayan Ramazanova	Union of Journalists	Executive secretary
42	Pakistan	Rahul Aijaz	Film N' Chips Media Productions	Writer·Filmmaker·Journalist
43	Pakistan	Nasir Aijaz	Sindh Courier	Editor in Chief
44	Sri Lanka	Leo Nirosha Darshan Sathasivam	Express Newspapers Ceylon Limited	News Manager
45	Egypt	Ashraf Eldaly	The Silk Road Literature Series	Editor in Chief
46	Vietnam	Lan Phong (Lan Cu Thi)	Dantri Online Newspaper	Editor
47	Iran	Alireza Bahrami	ISNA News Agency	Editor in Chief
48	Iran	Pooneh Nedai	Shokaran Magazine	Editor in Chief
49	India	Neelima Mathur	Formedia	Trustee / Trainer
50	India	Gunjeet Sra	Subculture Media	Editor
51	Bahrain	Habib Toumi	Bahrain News Agency	Media Advisor
52	Singapore	Ivan Lim (Sin Chin)	Environment Communicators of Singapore	Editor

Participants List / 참가자 리스트



No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
53	Nepal	Bishnu Gautam	Rising Nepal	Editor in Chief
54	Philippines	Rosalin Garganera	Asia Journalist Association	Correspondents
55	Cambodia	Sophal Chhay	Cambodia News	Advisor and Columnist
56	Germany	Hassan Humeida	GEOMAR/ University of Kiel and University of Flensburg	Doctor
57	Malaysia	Norila Mohd. Daud	Malaysia World News	Editor in Chief
58	France	Bilal Bassal	Asia Journalist Association	Journalist & Art Critic
59	Uzbekistan	Dilmurod Djumabaev	Asia Journalist Association	Correspondent
60	Nepal	Bishnu Nisthuri	Asia Journalist Association (Nepal)	Editor in Chief
61	United States of America	J. Alex Tarquinio	Society of Professional Journalists	Past National President
62	Vietnam	Do Hoa Mi Nguyen	Vietnam Journalists Association	Deputy Head of International Desk
63	Indonesia	Ahmed Kurnia Soeriawidjaja	Indonesia Journalist Association	Head of Foreign Affairs
64	Russia	Timur Shafir	Russian Union of Journalists	Executive Secretary
65	Mongolia	Chuluunbaatar Dolgor	Asia Journalist Association (Mongolia)	President

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

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