

Manila is Calling: AMIC 32nd Conference is Coming



Photos source: <https://www.tourism.gov.ph/sights/national-capital-region>

Preparations for the 32nd Annual International Conference are well underway and making excellent progress. The conference is scheduled from November 5 to 7, 2026, and will be held at the Philippine Women's University (PWU), Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila.

PWU is the first women's university in Asia, founded by Asians in 1919.

The theme of this year's conference is Public Trust, Public Voice: The Role of Communication in Public Governance.

The Conference features plenary sessions, parallel sessions, and master classes. We have lined up four plenary sessions:

- Making Government Make Sense: Local Governance Communication
- Platform Power: Leveraging Technology for Good Governance
- Asian Studies Revisited: Agendas, Relevance, and Representation
- Power, Paper Trails, and Public Interest: Journalism and Governance

Complementing these plenaries are two master classes which aim to enhance the participants' leadership skills. These are:

- Communication, Credibility, and Trust in the Era of Disinformation
- Technology Platforms, Civil Society, and the Future of Trusted Information

One of the innovations introduced in this year's conference is the Executive Leadership Forum, with the theme, Leading through Disruption: Strategic Foresight for Uncertain Times. This session discusses how strategic foresight can help navigate a "confused" world marked by rapid technological changes, geopolitical tensions, and economic volatility. Leading public and corporate executives are among the discussants.

Invited speakers for the keynote addresses, plenary sessions, master classes, and Executive Leadership Forum include some of Asia's most respected thought leaders, scholars, and practitioners from academia and industry.

In addition to parallel sessions for professionals, there will be exclusive parallel sessions for undergraduate students, as well as special sessions in Chinese, Hindi, and Filipino.

Another exciting innovation is Communication Café: Conversations across Sectors. We have initially allocated five parallel sessions where public and corporate information officers will engage in dialogue with participants from academe and industry.

One of the highlights of the annual conference is the conferment of the prestigious AMIC Asia Communication Award. Starting 2026, AMIC Asia Communication Award for Young Leaders will be conferred.

Other special events include a book launch by AMIC members and friends, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing to foster networking and partnerships among AMIC members and partners, and the adoption of the AMIC Manila 2026 Declaration on Communication and Governance.

Over 300 delegates are expected to participate in the three-day event.

We encourage you to participate in the conference. Below are the various ways you can engage with us for the event:

- Submit abstracts for review/approval (deadline for abstract submission is 15 August);
- Register and join as paper presenter and/or engaged participant;
- Engage your organization as an Academic Partner or Conference Partner; and
- Encourage colleagues/students to join as paper presenters and/or engaged participants.

The 32nd Conference will not only be intellectually stimulating but also highly engaging and enjoyable. Cultural performances, interactive and hands-on activities, such as craft-making and art workshops, as well as games (with prizes) and networking opportunities, will provide participants with a rich and memorable conference experience.

For local and international participants who can extend their stay in Manila, a guided tour of the city's cultural and historical landmarks is scheduled for November 8, 2026.

Philippine Women's University: The first women's university in Asia founded by Asians



The Philippine Women's University or PWU is a non-stock, non-profit, non-sectarian educational institution duly existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines. The history of the Philippine Women's University began on June 9, 1919, when educator and civic rights leaders Francisca Tirona Benitez and six other women, Clara Aragon, Concepcion Aragon, Paz Marquez Benitez, Carolina Ocampo Palma, Mercedes Rivera, and Socorro Marquez Zaballero, founded the Philippine Women's College, with Benitez

serving as its first president. It was a time when women's rights and empowerment began to take hold in the national consciousness in the wake of the success of women's suffrage rights in other countries, especially in the United States. Thus, the college aimed to prepare women for life service and leadership.

The college first offered primary and secondary education. Later it added education, commerce, and philosophy.



It already had the distinction of being the first private educational institution to have a student council in 1922. It was officially recognized in 1932 as the first women's university in Asia founded by Asians. The PWU's core values are fostered through a curriculum centered on holistic character formation, cultural and national heritage preservation, family solidarity, ethical professionalism, and service to the country.

PWU offers basic education through its Jose Abad Santos Memorial School (JASMS). At the tertiary level, the university has 14 schools which offer undergraduate and graduate programs in such areas as Arts and Sciences, Education, Fine Arts and Design, Music, Pharmacy, Nursing, Nutrition, Social Work, and International Relations and Diplomacy.

The university's Research and Development Office (RDO) envisions itself as a research institution that works in consonance with the national development goals. Its social development thrusts are also linked to its historical concern for gender empowerment, family life, civic participation, health, education, environmentalism, and cultural heritage.

Today, the university celebrates 102 years of service to the country and catering to both women and men, embracing inclusion and cultural diversity.

AMIC Supports Crafting of Regional Toolkits in Digital Platform Governance



In 2023, UNESCO initiated the development of the Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms. This document calls for a human rights-based and multistakeholder approach to digital platform governance. The Guidelines ensure that governance frameworks fully guarantee freedom of expression, access to information, and cultural diversity.

Since the adoption of the Guidelines, UNESCO, together with the Internet for Trust Knowledge Network, has initiated several projects to promote their global adoption. Among these are the development of regional platform governance toolkits and the conduct of regional capacity-building programs for digital platform regulators and civil society organizations.

Such initiatives have been implemented in various regions around the world. AMIC is a founding member of the I4T Knowledge Network.

AMIC was fully engaged in toolkit development and capacity building in Southeast Asia and South Asia.

For Southeast Asia, UNESCO partnered with Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP), together with the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) and the Civic Tech Lab of the National University of Singapore (NUS). These three institutions prepared country papers and contributed inputs to the drafting of a regional toolkit.



The UNESCO Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms: Capacity-Building Workshops for Southeast Asia Regulators, Digital Platforms, and Civil Society was held from 06–08 May 2026 at UNDP in Semarang, Indonesia. The regional workshop gathered a total of 62 in-person and online participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

As project lead, UNDP will process and consolidate the workshop presentations and outputs, finalize a regional toolkit, and submit project report to UNESCO. UNDP project team leader is Dr. Wijayanto, Vice Rector of Research, Innovation, Collaboration, and Public Communication of Universitas Diponegoro.

For South Asia, Dr. Chandrabanu Pattanayak led the crafting of the South Asia Toolkit. He is the co-chair of the Internet for Trust Knowledge Network and professor at Centurion University of Technology and Management in Odisha, India. Dr. Pattanayak represents AMIC in the Internet for Trust Knowledge Network and is one of the AMIC representatives for India.

AMIC representatives to the regional project are Board of Management Vice Chairman Dr. Marco M. Polo and Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon. The AMIC team presented for validation and enrichment the toolkit scorecards on transparency and accountability. Separate scorecards/toolkits were developed for regulators and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Regulators refer to state regulators, self-regulatory bodies (usually from the industry), and co-regulatory mechanisms. Civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in platform governance typically serve as policy and program advocates, watchdogs, and providers of capacity-building initiatives.

Civic Tech Lab at National University of Singapore is a research hub on Civic Technology with team members composed of social scientists, computer scientists, and digital cultural analysts. Provost's Chair Professor and Civic Tech Lab founding director Weiyu Zhang assembled a team of resource persons for the Semarang event which included Mr. Nigel Teo, Senior Manager of SG Her

Empowerment (SHE) Singapore, Ms. We En Ng of CASMIDA, and Mr. Nicholas Thomas of the Institute for Policy Studies, NUS. SHE is an independent non-profit organization that strives to empower girls and women through community engagements and partnerships. CASMIDA is an independent research project that seeks to understand how digital technologies shape or are shaped by sexual misconduct in campus settings in Singapore.

Top officials of Universitas Diponegoro, including Dr. Teguh Yuwono, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIP), and Dr. Suharnomo, Rector of the University, delivered messages during the three-day event. Both university officials emphasized the importance of responsible and accountable platform use amid continuing digital transformation.

UNESCO programme specialist Ana Lomtadze and Ms. Yekthi Hesthi Murti explained important considerations in the Guidance on Conducting Human Rights Impact Assessment on Digital Platforms co-published by the United Nations (on behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) and UNESCO.

Issues and challenges in adopting a digital platform governance framework and toolkit were discussed during a plenary session attended by Hon. Nezar Patria, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Communication and Digital of Indonesia; Ibu Amelia Anggraini of the House of Representatives of Indonesia; Rahmat

Bagja, Election Supervisory Body of Indonesia; Anita Wahid of the Inter ASEAN Commission on Human Rights; Danny Ardianto, Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy of YouTube Indonesia and Southeast Asia; Prof. Chandrabhanu Pattanayak; Atty. Jaypee Abella of the Philippines Commission on Elections; and AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon.

The session highlighted the need to balance regulation with freedom of expression and access to information. Speakers also warned against the tendency by some governments to introduce stringent policies that serve political interests rather than the common good. Secretary-General Tuazon reminded the participants that to exercise and fully enjoy freedom of expression, one must first learn how to defend it.

The regional project team acknowledged that the envisioned toolkit would address region-specific challenges in digital platform governance, including disinformation, language and cultural diversity, crisis response, and gender equity in digital spaces.

More information about the governance workshop may be accessed through the official website:
<https://i4tguidelinesea.org/>.

Two AMIC Communication Icons Write 30



Two towering icons of Asian communication have died, yet their legacy and contribution to Asian communication will remain in the minds and hearts of present and future generations.

Professor Eddie Kuo (Guo Zhenyu), Emeritus Professor and Founding Dean of the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University (WKWSCI-NTU), Singapore, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2026, at the age of 85. He was the first Asian to be awarded the AMIC Asia Communication Award in 2007.

In a statement posted on March 23, , WKWSCI-NTU described Professor Kuo as “a pivotal figure in the history of WKWSCI.”

As Founding Dean, he shaped the School in its earliest years, establishing its academic direction, building its programmes, and laying the intellectual foundations that continue to guide its development today.” Professor Kuo also served as Acting Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at NTU, and earlier as Founding Head of the Department of Mass Communication at the National University of Singapore.

Professor Kuo was also a former chairperson of the AMIC Board of Directors and has remained a steadfast supporter of AMIC, playing a vital role in nurturing the organization. He co-founded in 1990 the Asian Journal of Communication (AJC), which has become one of Asia’s leading academic journals. AJC is published by Taylor and Francis Group for AMIC and NTU-WKWSCI.



Dr. John Anthony Lent, a pioneering scholar in media and communication and the first recipient of the AMIC Asia Communication Award, wrote 30 on May 16, 2026. He was 91.

Dr. Lent pioneered in the study of development communication, critical media studies, media and freedom of expression, mass communication and popular culture in Asia (since 1964), mass communication and popular culture in the Caribbean (since 1968), and comic art and animation. Many of the 92 books he authored/co-authored/edited were the first in their respective fields.

In the Philippines, Dr. Lent designed and taught the first mass communication courses, in 1964-1965, at De La Salle College (now De La Salle University).

One of the major contributions to Philippine mass media is his book, *Philippine Mass Communications: Before 1811, After 1966*, which was published in 1972.

An earlier work was *The Press of the Philippines: Its History and Problems*, published in 1966 in *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*. In Malaysia, he founded, organized, and directed the country's first university-level mass communication school at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), from 1972-1974; in China, Dr Lent was visiting professor at four universities, as well as one each in Taiwan and Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan). He was professor emeritus at Temple University.

On March 27, 2026, Dr. Lent submitted his biographical note to AMIC for inclusion in a forthcoming e-book chronicling the lives and contributions of AMIC Asia Communication Awardees from 2006 to 2025.

AMIC will pay tribute to both icons through a memorial ceremony during the 32nd AMIC Annual International Conference scheduled from November 5 to 7, 2026 in Manila, Philippines.

AMIC Expands Reach to Oceania and the Pacific

AMIC is expanding its reach to the islands of Oceania and the Pacific through the recent appointment of representatives for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste.

The AMIC Board of Management has approved the appointment of Mr. Neville J. Choi as AMIC Representative for Papua New Guinea, Mr. Eddie Trevor Osifelo as first-ever AMIC Representative for the Solomon Islands, and Dr. Constância Sofia Cornélio Barros as first-ever representative for Timor Leste.



Mr. Neville J. Choi is a veteran journalist with more than 20 years of experience in mainstream media in Papua New Guinea. He currently serves as President of the Media Council of Papua New Guinea and is the Managing Partner of Choi Media Solutions.

He earned a Diploma in Communication Arts from Divine Word University in

Madang, Papua New Guinea, a Certificate in Newspaper Layout and Design from the Commonwealth Press Union/South Pacific Post, a Certificate in Economics and Business Reporting from the University of Queensland, Australia, and a CNN Journalism Fellowship in TV News Management at CNN Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.



Mr. Eddie Trevor Osifelo becomes AMIC's first representative from the Solomon Islands. He serves as Sub-Editor and Weekend Editor of the Solomon Star newspaper. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Women's Studies from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, and a Bachelor of Communication Arts degree from Divine Word University. In addition, Mr. Osifelo serves as a board member of the Media Association of Solomon Islands.

Mr. Choi and Mr. Osifelo join Dr. Shailendra Singh, AMIC's long-time

representative for Fiji, in expanding the organization's footprint across Oceania and the Pacific region.



Dr. Constância Sofia Cornélio Barros is currently the Head of the Department of Social Communication of the Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTLL). Dr. Barros completed her PhD in Information and Communication on Digital Platforms from the University of Porto, Portugal and her Master's Degree in Communication Science at Dr. Soetomo University, Surabaya, Indonesia.

Her extensive research interests include Communication Studies, Digital Communication, Digital Platforms, Journalism and Media Studies, and Political Communication. With Dr. Barros's appointment, all ASEAN member states are now represented in AMIC's representation structure.



AMIC's Curated Open-Access Resource Collection Now on Its Sixth Series

Encyclical Letter *Magnifica Humanitas* (2026); *Rights at the Core: Towards a Rights-Respecting Digital Ecosystem in ASEAN: A Briefing Paper* (2026); *Information in the Age of AI: Challenges and Solutions* (Stiglitz, 2025); *Indigenous Peoples and Media* (UNESCO, 2025); and *MIL Global Analysis of the Current State of Play* (UNESCO, 2025) are among the 27 publications featured in the June 2026 edition of Open Access Materials on Communication, Media, and Education, a resource compilation curated by AMIC.

This is our 6th series! Our initial listing began in 2024, and since then, we have curated approximately 450 open access materials covering diverse topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Freedom of the Press, Access to Information, Media and Information Literacy (MIL), and Disinformation Studies.

Our aim is to inform and alert communication and media professionals—particularly educators, researchers, and students—to recent publications available across various platforms. Please note that the views, findings, interpretations, and

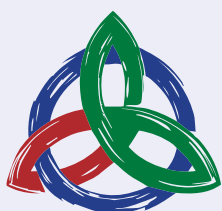
recommendations expressed in these works are those of the authors and/or the institutions they represent and do not necessarily reflect the official position of AMIC. Nevertheless, we believe that these carefully selected publications offer valuable insights and make worthwhile contributions to the fields of communication, media, and education.

AMIC institutional and individual members are provided with a copy of the letter containing links to the curated publications. Non-members who wish to receive the latest edition or previous editions may contact the AMIC Secretariat at info@amic.asia.

Colleagues who are aware of communication-, media-, or education-related publications available through open-access platforms, particularly those authored by scholars and practitioners from Asia and the Global South, are encouraged to share this information with the AMIC Secretariat for possible inclusion in future editions of our curated resource collection.



AMIC at 2026 IAMCR: Labor Migration Communication and Journalism Education



IAMCR 2026

GAILLIMH GALWAY

AMIC will feature Labor Migration Communication and Journalism Education in its Partner Session at the 2026 IAMCR Conference.

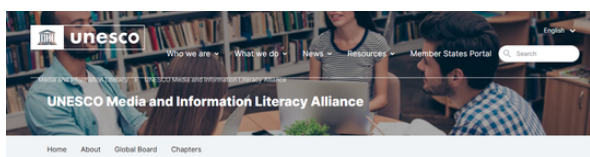
The 2026 IAMCR Conference is scheduled from 28 June to 02 July 2026 and will be hosted by the University of Galway, Ireland .

The 2026 IAMCR central theme is Peripheries and Connections: Media, Communication, and Transformation. According to the conference website, the theme “addresses the complexities of contemporary media systems in a polarized and interconnected world. By emphasizing intersections between the global and the local, IAMCR 2026 will provide a platform for reimagining media’s role in addressing critical challenges such as climate change, migration, representation, and digital inequalities.”

The AMIC’s session theme is Lessons from the Field in Labor Migration Communication and Journalism Education. Labor migration is a growing and complex reality in numerous Asian societies. Educating current and future journalists and communicators is critical to ensure that migrant workers, who often stand at the periphery of society and global discourse, are seen and their stories presented accurately and with respect.

Panelists to the AMIC session include Dr. Aysu Arsoy of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus; Dr. Maria Auroral Lolita L. Lomibao, Department of Communication Research of the University of the Philippines - Diliman College of Media and Communication; and Dr. Jack Linchuan Qiu, Chair and Shaw Foundation Professor of Media Technology at Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information-Nanyang Technological University. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Padma Rani, Professor, Manipal Institute of Communication, Manipal Academy of Higher Education. Dr. Arsoy and Dr. Rani are AMIC representatives for North Cyprus and India, respectively.

AMIC Joins UNESCO MIL Alliance



About the MIL Alliance

UNESCO's MIL Alliance is a global network of organizations and individuals committed to advancing policies, strategies, and practices that strengthen MIL worldwide.

AMIC is now a member of UNESCO's Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance, a global collaborative network of organizations and individual experts committed to advancing policies, strategies, and practices that strengthen media and information literacy worldwide.

According to UNESCO, the Alliance brings together more than 300 organizations and 200 individual experts from over 100 countries. This pioneering initiative was launched in 2013 during the Global Forum for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy in Abuja, Nigeria. AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon attended the Forum and was one of its featured speakers.

The UNESCO website also outlines the Alliance's objectives, which include facilitating the global exchange of information, knowledge, and resources;

enabling the media and information literacy (MIL) community to effectively contribute to and influence the development of MIL-related policies; promoting international, regional, and national cooperation and collaboration; and supporting the development and dissemination of MIL-related research.

According to AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon, although AMIC's formal registration with the Alliance was completed only recently, the Association has long been actively engaged in both global and local MIL initiatives. Secretary-General Tuazon is co-editor of two pioneering UNESCO publications on media and information literacy—Media and Information Literacy: Curriculum for Teachers (2011) and Media and Information Literate Citizens: Think Critically, Click Wisely (2021). He also co-authored three other UNESCO books on MIL.

Recently, AMIC participated in the Crafting of Regional Toolkits in Digital Platform Governance (2026). It also endorsed the inclusion of two Metro Manila cities—Quezon City and Malabon City—in UNESCO's Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Pilot Cities initiative. In 2022, AMIC provided consultancy services in the development of Cambodia's Promoting Media, Information and Digital Literacy Framework. Earlier, on November 18, 2020, UNESCO's regional offices in Jakarta,

Bangkok, and New Delhi jointly commissioned AMIC to convene the Youth's Voice for the Future of Media and Information Literacy in Asia and the Pacific forum.

AMIC has long been a leader in advancing media and information literacy in the region. In 1993, it published *Media Education in Asia*, the first-ever book on media education in Asia. Since its establishment in 1971, AMIC has published about 20 books related to media and information literacy. Its two scholarly journals—the *Asian Journal of Communication* and *Media Asia*—regularly feature MIL-related research and scholarship. Since 2024, AMIC's quarterly curated open-access publications have also included a dedicated section on media and information literacy.

AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon is also among the more than 200 media and information literacy (MIL) experts listed in the UNESCO MIL Alliance registry. He has been a strong advocate for the integration of MIL into basic education in the Philippines and served as a consultant in the integration of MIL into Cambodia's school curriculum. He also co-authored the *Myanmar Media and Information Literacy Framework* (2020).

Secretary-General Tuazon was a member of the UNESCO Experts Group that developed the *Global Standards for Media and Information Literacy Curricula Guidelines* (2019) and contributed to the *Belgrade Recommendations on Standards for Media and Information Literacy Curricula Guidelines* (2021).

Individuals and organizations interested in joining the UNESCO MIL Alliance may learn more and apply through the UNESCO webpage, [About the MIL Alliance](#).

Media Asia, Volume 53, Issue 3 (2026), Now Available Online



Media Asia, Volume 53, Issue 3 (2026), was published online on 18 June 2026. This issue features 26 contributions, comprising 7 research articles, 7 commentaries, 3 book reviews, and 7 media reviews. To date, Volume 53 has published a total of 78 articles. The average number of articles published per issue across Volume 53, Issues 1–3, is 26.

To learn more about the articles published in this issue, please visit [*Media Asia*, Volume 53, Issue 3.](#)

Published since 1974, *Media Asia* is a peer-reviewed journal that focuses on journalism, advertising, public relations, entertainment, and other aspects of media and communication in Asia. The journal publishes research and scholarly analyses on a wide range of media-related issues, including media freedom, ethics, working conditions, ownership, campus and community press, corporate and alternative media, media literacy, language, and cultures of impunity.

Media Asia is published quarterly by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) and Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. Journal editor is Dr. Danilo A. Arao of the Department of Journalism, University of the Philippines College of Media and Communication.

The journal is abstracted and indexed in Scopus, EBSCO Research Databases, ProQuest, Dimensions, IngentaConnect, Portico, Informit Full Text Content, and J-Gate.

New Issue Alert: Asian Journal of Communication, Volume 36, Issue 1 (2026)



Asian Journal of Communication, Volume 36, Issue 1 (2026) is now online. The issue features four articles and two book reviews. Articles featured include Balancing Utopian And Dystopian Paradigms: Trust, Values, and AI Literacy In Generative AI Adoption by Dongmi Kim, Sunyoung Bak, Sungtae Kim, Brandon Hwansun Lee, Youngjin Lee & Somin Park; Eastern Aesthetics In Advertising: The Role of Traditional Cultural Harmony Imagery In Brand Communication by Chenxu Liu & Zheng Zhang; Qualitative Differences In Young Asian Australians' Relationships With Social Media Influencers: The Impact of Identity Match and Implications For Influencer Marketing by Eunah Kim, Wonsun Shin, Jiacheng Huang & Jisu

Huh; and How News Consumption Through Different Media Sources Affects Political Trust: Longitudinal Evidence From China by Shuhuan Zhou & Xiaokun Yang.

Meanwhile, books reviewed include Disrupting Mainstream Journalism In India: The Rise of Alternative Journalism Online by Kalyani Chadha and Language, Health and Culture: Problematizing the Centers and Peripheries of Healthcare Communication Research, edited by Olga Zayts-Spence and Susan M. Bridges.

To learn more about the articles published in this issue, please visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rajc20/36/1>.

Launched in 1990, Asian Journal of Communication (AJC) is a refereed international publication that provides a venue for high-quality communication scholarship with an Asian focus and perspectives from the region. The journal aims to highlight research on the systems and processes of communication in the Asia-Pacific region and among Asian communities around the world.

It publishes articles that report empirical studies, develop communication theory, and enhance research methodology.

The journal is published by Taylor and Francis Group for the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and with the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC). Dr. Peng Hwa Ang of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, is the editor.

AJC is abstracted/ indexed in C S A Worldwide Political Science Abstracts; Communication and Mass Media Complete; Current Abstracts; Electronic Collections Online; International Bibliography of the Social Sciences; OCLC; Social Sciences Citation Index; Sociological Abstracts; Scopus and P A I S International in Print.

AMIC Reps in Action: Uzbekistan

Central Asian Media Forum Tackles Evolving Media Ecosystem in The Age of Artificial Intelligence



Dr. Nozima Muratova, Head of Research and Innovation of the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan and AMIC representative for Uzbekistan, actively participated in the Central Asian Media Forum held in Tashkent on May 22-23, 2026.

The forum, organized by CFI Développement Médias with the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, brought together representatives from academia, media organizations, journalism, digital technology, regulatory bodies, civil society, and international institutions from Central Asia and France. Discussions focused on the rapidly evolving media ecosystem in the age of artificial intelligence.

Dr. Muratova served as a panelist in the session titled, "Media and Information Literacy: How Can We Meet the Challenge Posed by New Technologies?" Fellow panelists included regional and international experts working in the fields of artificial intelligence, journalism, fact-checking, digital rights, and media resilience.

Dr. Muratova's presentation focused on the evolving requirements of media literacy in the era of generative and algorithmic artificial intelligence. Her presentation drew on the latest UNESCO frameworks, initiatives of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO), and ongoing international discussions on AI governance and information integrity.

Among the key issues raised by Dr. Muratova during her presentation were:

- the shift from traditional media literacy toward integrated media, algorithmic, and AI literacy;

- the growing influence of recommender systems, platform architectures, and large language models in shaping content visibility and public perception;
- the risks associated with AI-generated misinformation, hallucinations, synthetic media, and algorithmic bias;

- the risks associated with AI-generated misinformation, hallucinations, synthetic media, and algorithmic bias;
- the importance of transparency, explainability, and ethical safeguards in AI systems;
- UNESCO's 2024 AI Competency Frameworks for students and educators;
- the need to integrate AI literacy into journalism education and media pedagogy; and
- the challenges faced by low-resource language environments, including the development of Uzbek-language corpora and AI-sensitive fact-checking ecosystems.

Dr. Muratova emphasized that in the AI era, media literacy can no longer be confined to distinguishing between “true” and “false” information. She noted that it now also requires an understanding of how algorithms prioritize content, how visibility is engineered, how engagement economies operate, and how data-driven systems shape civic and information environments.

Participants in the forum discussed the widening gap between the rapid deployment of AI technologies and the level of public trust, as well as the need to preserve human critical judgment within increasingly automated information systems. The forum also served as an important regional platform for dialogue on AI regulation, digital rights, information integrity, journalist safety, fact-checking, and international cooperation in the media sector across Central Asia.

AMIC Reps in Action: Russia

The Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities: 10 Years of Collaboration and Friendship



The Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities was established in 2016 as part of the Year of Russian Mass Media in China and the Year of Chinese Mass Media in Russia. The Union's founding ceremony took place at the Renmin University of China as part of the of Humanities and Social Sciences Forum – 2016, titled *Journalism Education and Media Development in China and Russia*.

The Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities aims to promote collaborative scientific and practical activities, facilitate exchanges between students and teachers for academic growth, and strengthen international cooperation.



A key focus is on jointly training media specialists, creating educational resources, and providing advanced training for journalists in print, audiovisual, and online media.

From the Russian side, the Union is headed by Professor Elena , Dean of the Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University and Academician of the Russian Academy of Education. From the Chinese side, the Union is led by Professor Zhou Yong, Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Renmin University of China.

Since the Union's inception, numerous international projects have been organized, and a substantial number of conferences have been held.

On September 17, 2018, the Faculty of Journalism at Lomonosov Moscow State University hosted an international conference titled, *Journalism Education in Russia and China in the Era of New Media*, organized by the Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities. Delegates from Lomonosov Moscow State University, Renmin University of China, Beijing Normal University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Chongqing University, and other institutions delivered presentations at the event.

On June 8-9, 2023, the Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, hosted an international conference titled, *Journalism Education in Russia and China in the Age of Digitalization*. The conference focused on examining the current state of journalism education in both countries, reviewing best practices, and discussing challenges related to technology, social politics, culture, and economics, while also exploring opportunities for collaboration in journalism education. Presentations were made by researchers from various Russian institutions, including Lomonosov Moscow State University, RUDN University, Voronezh State University, Ural Federal University named after the first President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin, South Ural State University, and St. Petersburg State University. Participants from Renmin University of China, Zhengzhou University, and Xinjiang University made online contributions, while researchers and students from Huazhong University of Science and Technology attended the event in person.

In 2024, heads of the Union's member universities participated in the International Conference of Deans of Journalism and Communication Schools on the theme, *Global Challenges and Knowledge Innovation in Journalism and Communication Research*," dedicated to examining the impact of artificial intelligence in the media. A meeting of the Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities was also held as part of the event, which was hosted by Renmin University of China. The official ceremony was conducted by the Co-Chairs of the Union from the Chinese and Russian sides.

In 2025, the Union's meeting, dedicated to the current challenges facing journalism education and the media industry, served as a key event within The 17th International Media Readings in Moscow on the theme, *Mass Media and Communications - 2025*. The conference was organized with the support of the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation at the Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University. The topic of the 2025 event was *Exploring Past and Foreseeing Future: Education for Media Professionals in Russia, China and Beyond*.

During the Union's meeting, special reports were delivered by the Co-Chairs of the Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities — Professor Zhou Yong, Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication, Renmin University of China and Professor Elena Vartanova, Dean of the Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Academician of the Russian Academy of Education.



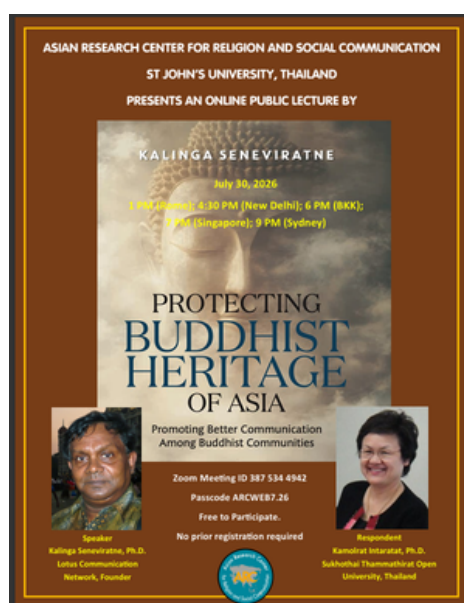
The event was attended in person by heads of schools of journalism and mass communication from eight Chinese universities, including Renmin University of China, Nanjing University, Chongqing University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Heilongjiang University, Xinjiang University, Shanghai International Studies University, Beijing Foreign Studies University. On the Russian side, the meeting featured presentations from representatives of the Union's member universities, such as MGIMO University, Voronezh State University, Irkutsk State University, Lobachevsky State University of Nizhny Novgorod.



In summer 2026, the first summer camp for undergraduate students from Russian universities, members of the Union of Journalism Education of Chinese and Russian Universities will take place in Beijing. The two-week program will include both educational and cultural activities aimed at bringing students from Russia and China together. The program is organized and hosted by Renmin University of China as part of internationalizing strategy of the Union.

AMIC Reps in Action: Thailand

AMIC Representative for Thailand to Speak at Online Public Lecture



Dr. Kamolrat Intaratat, Director and Founder of the Research Center of Communication and Development Knowledge Management (CCDKM) of Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) and Chair of STOU's Communication Arts for ASEAN International Program (Master Degree Program), will serve as Respondent at an online public lecture by Dr. Kalinga Seneviratne on the topic, "Protecting Buddhist Heritage of Asia," on 30 July 2026.

Dr. Intaratat will deliver a 15-minute response following Dr. Seneviratne's



presentation, and will answer questions from the audience together with Dr. Seneviratne.

She was invited by the Anthony Le Duc, SVD, PhD, Executive Director of the Asian Research Center for Religion and Social Communication based in Bangkok, Thailand.

The online public lecture will be on the Zoom platform at 6:00 p.m., BKK time. Interested participants may check out the poster for the access details.

AMIC Reps in Action: Kazakhstan

The 2026 academic year at the Faculty of Journalism is coming to an end

By Saule Barlybayeva

Ak-Farabi Kazakh National University



Much has happened at the Faculty of Journalism at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 academic year. Academic and pedagogical results are being summarized, the indicative plan rankings for faculty members have been announced, and the defense of master's and diploma theses has concluded for our Kazakhstani master's and bachelor's students, as well as students from China, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. By the end of their studies, they had demonstrated relevant and engaging final projects and research projects that

meet the modern requirements of the digital age and artificial intelligence.

This is reflected in the titles of the theses themselves, such as "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Television, the Internet, and New Media in Kazakhstan" by Damir Kulbayev, "The Development of Folklore in Screen and Online Media" by Guzyal Manbaeva, "Interactive Book Formats in Inclusive Education: Analysis of Technologies and Development Prospects in Kazakhstan" by Malika Salieva, "The Development of Online Sports Journalism"



by Yelzhan Bisenbayev, "The Development of Media Cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the Socio-Political and Cultural Spheres" by Wang Yazhu, and many other insightful research papers presented this summer. Time and the rapid growth of information technology and digitalization are bringing forth new topics and problems that are quickly grasped by the young, inquisitive generation.

At the faculty, Dean A.B. Alzhanova met with our faculty's 1977 graduates, professional journalists now retired, who were eager to meet and talk with their professors, Doctors of Historical Sciences Sagynbay Kabashevich Kozybaev and Lyailya Seisenbekovna Akhmetova. And despite the passage of almost 50 years, the maestro of journalism and mass communication, S.K. Kozybaev, remembers them all by name. When I asked how they all remembered each other, Sagynbay Kabashevich replied, "They were all very talented, gifted, and all worked in their respective fields in the media." At the meeting, they shared their memories of their studies, their work in the media industry, and their invaluable experience for the benefit of Russian journalism. They also presented their published books and poetry collections.

On the eve of Mass Media Workers' Day (28 June), a joint meeting was held between Al-Farabi KazNU and the Academy of Journalism of Kazakhstan. Leading journalists, media executives, and editors-in-chief were greeted and congratulated on their professional day by the university's rector, Zhanseit Kanseitovich Tuimebayev.



The 2026 academic year is drawing to a close at the Faculty of Journalism, a year that will be remembered for its talented students and exciting events. It brought new experiences and will remain in our memories for a long time.

AMIC Reps in Action: Bangladesh

From Dhaka to Silicon Valley: How the American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB) is Producing World-Class Graduates



American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB), founded in Dhaka in 1994 under its motto “Where Leaders Are Created,” has emerged as Bangladesh’s most globally recognized private university. With over 13,500 students and 33,000+ graduates, AIUB is ranked in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025 and QS Asia Top 301–350.

In 2026, AIUB achieved a historic double: the QS World University Rankings by Subject (651–700, Computer Science & Information Systems) and the Subject Rankings (801–1000, Computer Science & Engineering) making it the first

Bangladeshi private university to earn simultaneous subject-level recognition from both bodies. AIUB is also the only QS 4-Star rated university in Bangladesh, the highest institutional quality rating in the country.

These rankings reflect what alumni data already confirms. A tracer study of 6,847 graduates shows an overall employment rate of 61%, with Engineering leading at 63.4%. One in three employed alumni (33%) works in IT & Digital Services. FBA alumni hold 42.57% of all top management positions among AIUB graduates, while 65.4% of FST alumni in top management are in the IT sector.

Over 35 AIUB graduates work at Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Cisco, Bank of America, AT&T, and Warner Bros. The most prominent is Zaheed Sabur (Class of 2007, Valedictorian), now a Distinguished Engineer & Senior Director at Google Zurich, the first Bangladeshi to hold that title at Google.

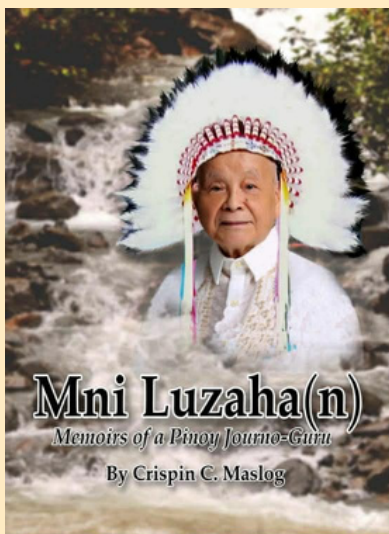
Underpinning this success is world-class infrastructure: a 40-unit NVIDIA DGX Spark

AI Supercomputing Lab (40 petaflops aggregate), a national-grade Cyber Forensics Laboratory and Bangladesh's only Fortinet Network Security Academy, and state-of-the-art Animation & Multimedia Studios.

From pioneering AI research to cybersecurity and creative technology, AIUB's investment in people, infrastructure, and global partnerships continues to produce graduates who don't just enter the workforce, they lead it. From Dhaka to Silicon Valley, AIUB's leaders are, indeed, being created.

New Publications

An Unending Grace (and Writing)



There is no stopping Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, who turns 95 in December 2026, from writing books. The AMIC Chairman of the Board of Directors has just published his autobiography, *Mni Luzahan: Memoirs of a Pinoy Journo Guro*.

Mni Luzahan was the American Indian name bestowed on Dr. Maslog in 2009 during his two-year stint as an English and Science teacher in an American Indian reservation in North Dakota.

The term means “Swift Flowing Water,” derived from the Lakota language, a Native American language traditionally spoken in areas that are now part of North and South Dakota.

“Swift Flowing Water” aptly captures Dr. Maslog’s remarkable life journey — from a determined schoolboy in Maribojoc, Bohol, Philippines, to one of the enduring icons of Asian communication.

The 266-page book has 33 chapters — from *Growing Up Beside a Church by the Sea* (Chapter 1) to *Secrets of a Long Life – Retiring Gracefully* (Chapter 32) and *Awards and Recognitions* (Chapter 33). According to Dr. Maslog, “I chronicle my journey of 94 years and counting, presenting it as a life lesson plan that can serve as a roadmap for your own journey... I offer my life’s lesson plan, both out of love and gratitude.”

The book was formally launched on 07 May 2026 at the CDC Library, Nora C.

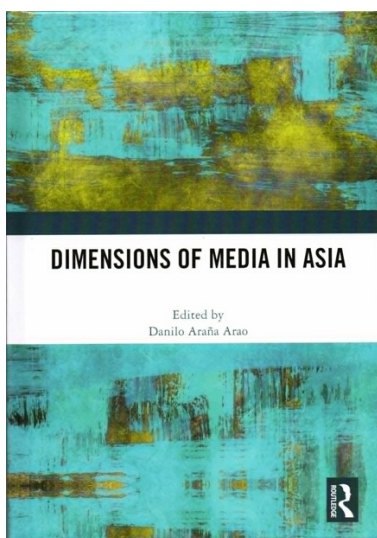
Quebral Hall, through a program hosted by the UPLB College of Development Communication, where Dr. Maslog once served as a distinguished professor before his retirement.

Dr. Maslog ends the introduction of his book with both humility and a stirring warning: “With God’s grace and mercy, I hope to write at least 300,000 more words — about the length of this book...” Autographed copies of the book will be available during the AMIC 32nd Annual International Conference.

For those interested in getting a copy of the book, please email Mr. Edgar Maslog at enuvidawp@gmail.com. Purchasing a copy also helps support the next generation of community journalists through the Maslog Foundation.

New Publications

Media Asia editor edits three new books



Routledge published in 2026 three books edited by Danilo Araña Arao. These are *Dimensions of Media in Asia*, *Going Digital in Asia*, and *Media and Conflicts in Asia*.

Dimensions of Media in Asia examines the evolving landscape of media across Asia, offering critical insights into contemporary challenges facing journalism, digital communication, and media representation in the region.

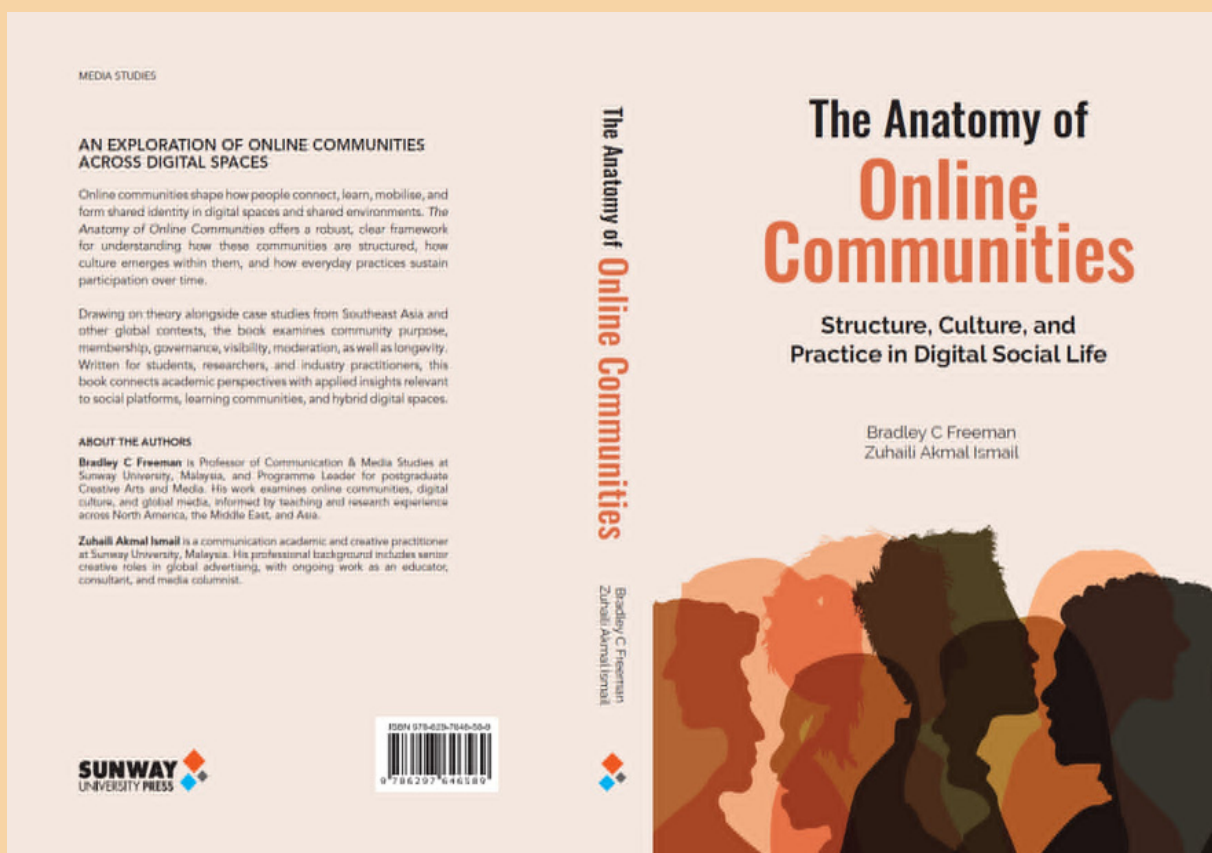
Going Digital in Asia analyzes the transformative impact of digital technology across diverse Asian communities and social contexts.

Media and Conflicts in Asia examines the complex relationship between media and conflict across diverse Asian contexts, offering critical insights into how news coverage shapes public understanding of violence, protest, and social tensions.

A journalism professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Arao is also the Editor of Media Asia. For more information about Arao's three edited books, please visit Routledge's website (<https://www.routledge.com/search?author=Danilo%20Ara%C3%B1a%20Arao>).

New Publications

New book on Anatomy of Digital Communities published

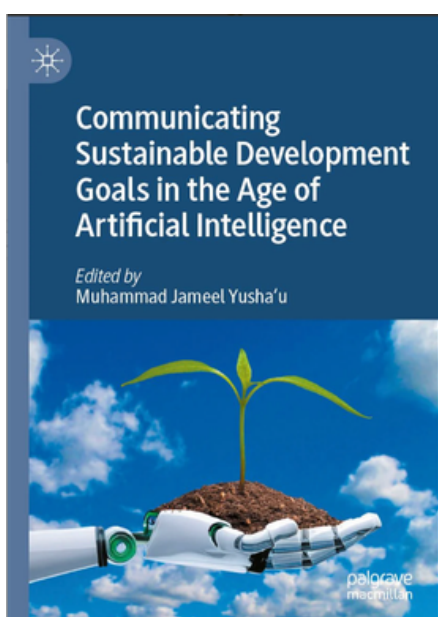


Prof. Bradley C. Freeman of Sunway University, Malaysia, has published a new book, *The Anatomy of Online Communities: Structure, Culture, and Practice in Digital Social Life*, through Sunway University Press. Developed over eight years, the book examines how online communities are formed, managed, sustained, and transformed across digital platforms.

Drawing on theory, research, and case studies from Asia and beyond, the volume explores the social, cultural, and technological dimensions of contemporary digital communities.

New Publications

New Book Explores the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



A new international scholarly volume, *Communicating Sustainable Development Goals in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, edited by Muhammad Jameel Yusha'u, brings together leading researchers from around the world to examine how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming communication for sustainable development. Published by Palgrave Macmillan, the book is among the first comprehensive works dedicated to exploring the intersection of communication, AI, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The volume presents a wide range of perspectives on how AI can support—or hinder—the achievement of the SDGs. The book opens with theoretical and global analyses, including the editor's proposed "AI Sustainability Exclusion Theory," which examines how technological biases can exclude communities from the benefits of AI-driven development. Other chapters explore the geopolitics of AI, digital dependency, and the global state of research on AI, communication, and sustainability.

Several contributors focus on ethics, governance, and social justice. Topics include AI and environmental activism, the risks of greenwashing in sustainability communication, and the challenges that AI poses to Indigenous and First Nations communication systems. These chapters encourage readers to critically assess the narratives surrounding technological innovation and sustainable development.

The book also examines the impact of AI on media and information ecosystems.

Contributors discuss digital democracy, algorithmic disinformation, media education, AI's influence on the future of work, peacebuilding in polarized societies, educational responses to misinformation, and the changing nature of credibility and truth in journalism.

Among the contributors are Professor Jude William Genilo and Dr. Kamolrat Intaratat, whose chapter, *The Need for Non-Polarizing Communication to Attain Sustainable Development Goal 16*, examines how responsible and non-polarizing communication can contribute to peace, justice, and strong institutions in increasingly fragmented digital environments.

The final section of the book showcases regional and sectoral applications of AI for sustainable development. Case studies examine media framing of AI and the SDGs across Europe, sustainable software development in Lebanon, and AI-driven approaches to reducing digital inequalities in Puerto Rico. Together, these chapters demonstrate how local contexts shape both the opportunities and challenges of AI-enabled development.

Bringing together scholars from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America, and Australia, the volume offers a truly global perspective on one of the most important questions facing contemporary society: how can AI be harnessed ethically and inclusively to advance sustainable development while ensuring that no one is left behind?

The book will be of interest to researchers, educators, students, policymakers, development practitioners, journalists, communication professionals, and anyone seeking to understand the opportunities and challenges of AI in the pursuit of sustainable development.

The volume is available through major academic booksellers and publishers, including [Barnes & Noble](#).



Tributes

Remembering Professor Eddie Kuo in the Rain



Soft rain nourishes Nanyang by the
southern shore,
Where Professor Eddie Kuo opened
learning's door.
East and West in shared intellectual
pursuit set sail,
A hundred tongues, united, breathed an
enduring gale.
The light of sociology burns on, forever
shines,
Students in communication bloom
through fruitful lines.
Now the School stands tall on the
world's broad way –
Still we recall the pioneer who first lit
the day.

The poem was written by Jack Linchuan Qiu, Ph.D., Chair and Shaw Foundation Professor of Media Technology at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

Tributes

Statement from the NTU Wee Kim Wee School of Media and Communication on the passing of Dr. Eddie Kuo, Founding Director

The Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information mourns the passing of Professor Eddie Kuo (Guo Zhenyu), Emeritus Professor and Founding Dean of WKWSCI, who passed away peacefully on 23 March at the age of 85.

Professor Kuo was a pivotal figure in the history of WKWSCI. As Founding Dean, he shaped the School in its earliest years, establishing its academic direction, building its programmes, and laying the intellectual foundations that continue to guide its development today. His vision and leadership were instrumental in positioning the School as a leading centre for communication and media studies in Singapore and the region.

Beyond his leadership at WKWSCI, Professor Kuo made significant contributions across NTU and Singapore's higher education landscape. He also served as Acting Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at NTU, and earlier as Founding Head of the Department of Mass Communication at the National University of Singapore.

Through these roles, he helped shape the development of communication as a discipline in Singapore.

A distinguished scholar of media, language, culture, and society, Professor Kuo was deeply committed to scholarship, teaching, and public engagement. Over a career spanning more than five decades, he contributed to important conversations on multiculturalism, identity, and social change, and was widely respected for his ability to bridge academic insight with public discourse.

Even after his formal leadership roles, Professor Kuo remained closely connected to the WKWSCI community. He continued to engage with colleagues, students, and the broader academic and cultural circles, leaving a lasting impression through his generosity, wisdom, vision, and quiet strength.

Professor Kuo's legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of WKWSCI and NTU. His contributions will continue to inspire generations of scholars and students.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Tributes

Professor John A. Lent A Tribute

By (Prof.) Dr. Sankaran Ramanathan, FIPR
Principal (Rtd.) Mediaplus Consultancy



Prof. Emeritus John A. Lent (Prof. Lent) was a towering personality in the field of mass communication in more ways than one. As pioneer member of the communications faculty at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) from 1972 to 1974, he was responsible for initiating and teaching courses of study in mass communication at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang. Starting with the first batch of 20 students, he had taught and/or mentored about 100 students while in Malaysia.

The early 1970s was an interesting period in the development of mass communication in Malaysia, as there were a lot of mass communication ventures taking off, including the introduction of pioneering courses in

USM and Institut Teknologi MARA (now Universiti Teknologi MARA – UiTM) and other institutions of higher learning. In March 1973, he led the review of the USM mass communication programme, inviting leading media professionals to the campus to provide feedback on the different components of the inaugural mass communication degree.

Prof. Lent left Penang at the end of 1974, primarily as his daughter was unwell. By the time he left, USM's communications programmes had expanded and the student and faculty populations had grown. I first met him prior to his departure at a dinner hosted by mutual friend R. Balakrishnan, first head of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), located at the Angkaspuri Complex, Kuala Lumpur. In the mid-1980s, he returned to USM as consultant to review its programme and also give a talk.

After leaving Malaysia for the first time, Prof. Lent served with distinction at Temple University in Philadelphia until his retirement in June 2011 as *Professor Emeritus*. During the 37 years of his service, Prof. Emeritus Lent has taught and/or mentored thousands of students in the field of mass communications.

The second time Prof. Lent returned to Malaysia was in 1987, as principal speaker at the 15th Anniversary Seminar of the School of Mass Communication, MARA Institute of Technology. I facilitated his interview with world-famous cartoonist Lat at the latter's home at Subang Jaya. The interview was subsequently published in the journal he founded.

Opting to remain as an academic at Temple University, he turned his attention to the rapidly-growing field of comic art. Lent started this modest venture as a newsletter. It became a biannual journal known as International Journal of Comic Art (IJOCA) in 1999 as a new venue for scholars to publish academic articles on comics. Prof. Lent provided most of the finances for the publication of this journal.

The third time Prof. Lent came to this region was in 2004, as principal speaker for two symposiums on Asian Comic Art, one in Singapore and the other in Malaysia that were organized by Mediaplus Consultancy. The Singapore event was sponsored by the Ministry of Information and Communication and attracted more than 100 participants.

The Malaysian event was held at a leading hotel in Petaling Jaya, attracting some 80 participants. During the Malaysian meeting there was also a dinner for Lent and all the Asian cartoonists at the Royal Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by Balakrishnan.

In the fall of 2019, I visited Prof. Lent at his sprawling home at Drexel Hill, Philadelphia. Not only did he personally meet me at the airport, he also sent me back after the two-day visit. It was mostly filled with books and copies of the IJOCA, and there were photographs of leading cartoonists. I had intended to visit him last month but as fate would have it, the Drexel Hill visit was to be my last encounter with him.

We have lost not only an international scholar who had been recognized by AMIC as an outstanding Asian communication scholar, but also a pioneer founder of Malaysian mass communication, as well as a trailblazer in publicizing the field of comic art.

May his soul rest in peace.

Tributes

Eddie Kuo and John Lent: Farewell to two exemplary scholars

By Cherian George



When I was a college student, I would occasionally visit the AMIC Library on Newton Road in Singapore. That's where I first came across publications by Eddie Kuo and John Lent. I could not have known then that, years later, I would have the privilege of getting to know them as people, not just names on bookshelves.

Both were committed to pushing scholarship in new directions, including by promoting the study of Asian media and communication. But they went about it in distinct ways. Their deaths within the space of eight weeks invite a comparison of their lives. It has made me realize how different, and therefore complementary, their influences on me have been

Eddie Kuo

Eddie Kuo was an institution builder. He spearheaded communication as a distinct field of study first at the National University of Singapore and then at the Nanyang Technological University, where he was the founding dean of what we know today as the Wee Kim Wee School.

He wanted to make Singapore academia world-class. His ambition changed the course of my life. I got to know him when I was covering the media beat early in my career as a Straits Times journalist. So, when I was toying with the idea of quitting my job to pursue a PhD, I figured I should visit him in his NTU office for advice. I will always remember how his face lit up as he responded, "You should apply to Stanford!"

He didn't stop there. Even before I'd won admission to any PhD program, he invited me to teach a class and gave me the title of Adjunct Assistant Professor. He explained it would help prepare me for my new journey. I realised only much later that the more appropriate title, which I would have been perfectly content with, was Part-Time Lecturer. While I was oblivious to such distinctions, Eddie was trying to build my CV.

Eddie's belief in me gave me a sense of direction. He was a champion of building scholarship about, for, and by Asia. He walked the talk, and opened a path for people like me.

John Lent

I first encountered John Lent in person as a friendly, fuzzy face at AMIC conferences. I got to know him better in 2013, when I featured him in an interview series that I did for Media Asia (Vol. 40 No. 4, December 2013, pp. 300–305).

That was when I discovered that although he was based in the United States' northeastern seaboard — the global hub of elite higher education — John was the quintessential outsider. His academic career was a story of smiling but stubborn rebellion against institutional priorities and protocols that he felt were in the way of the life of the mind.

He refused to be deterred by the fact that his Asian research agenda was considered fringe. Similarly, when he decided that communication studies should take cartoons seriously, he did not seek mainstream approval or worry about journal impact factors and citation counts. I don't know what his H-Index was, but the more meaningful metric is the stupendous number of leading political cartoonists in Asia and the world who considered him a friend.

My book on cartoon censorship, *Red Lines* (MIT Press, 2021), opens with an homage to John. The book would scarcely have been possible without his guidance. Even when I interviewed him for the book in 2018, I was painfully aware that his encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject, gained through his indie approach to scholarship, would be irreplaceable when time finally caught up with him.

R.I.P.

Eddie and John thus embodied two divergent approaches to academic life. Eddie understood the elite higher education industry and guided generations of Asian scholars like me to get a foot in the door. John understood the game too — and reminded us not to take it too seriously. I continue to carry a bit of both perspectives with me, hoping to maintain them in creative tension.

It is hard to accept that we will not see them again at AMIC events or enjoy their warm collegiality. But we can be grateful for their example and the generosity with which they helped their juniors.

*— Cherian George (Hong Kong Baptist University)
was the 2024 recipient of AMIC's Asia
Communication Award, which was bestowed on
John Lent and Eddie Kuo in 2006 and 2007
respectively.*

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Submit your abstracts by 15 August 2026.

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