

Asia's Communication and Media Leaders to Speak at AMIC's 32nd Annual International Conference



Communication and media professionals from Asia and beyond will gather in Manila from November 5 to 7, 2026, to discuss ways to strengthen public participation in media and communication and advance good governance.

The 32nd Annual International Conference of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) will be held at the Philippine Women's University (PWU), Taft Avenue, Manila.

Leaders in Asian communication and media will serve as speakers. Day 1 keynote speakers include **Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali** of Jordan and

Dr. Jack L. Qiu, Chair and Shaw Foundation Professor of Media Technology at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Mayor Francisco "Isko" M. Domagoso of the City of Manila has also been invited to serve as a keynote speaker. The Day 2 keynote speaker will be Presidential Communications Office Secretary **Dave Gomez**.

The initial plenary session is Making Government Make Sense: Local Governance Communication. Panelists include **Atty. Hans Roger S. Luna**,

Secretary to the City Council of Manila; **Director Engelbert Apostol**, Head, Public Affairs and Information Services Department, Quezon City Local Government Unit.

Regional perspectives will be shared by **Dr. Peixin Cao**, Deputy Dean of the School of Journalism, Communication University of China, and **Dr. Nozima Muratova**, Vice Rector of the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan. The panel will be moderated by **Dr. Edmund G. Centeno**, Dean of the College of Development Communication, University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Leveraging Technology for Good Governance will bring together scholars whose research focuses on technology and governance. The panel will include **Dr. Terence Lee**, Professor of New Media Communication and Cultural Studies at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China; **Dr. Chandrabhanu Pattanayak**, Co-Chair of the I4T Global Knowledge Network; **Dr. Emmanuel C. Lallana**, Professorial Fellow at the University of the Philippines; and **Dr. Mira K. Desai** of SNDT Women's University, India.

Outstanding journalism educators and practitioners with extensive professional experience will discuss *Power, Paper Trails, and Public Interest: Journalism and Governance*. The panelists include **Wahyu Dhyatmika**, CEO of Info Media Digital (Tempo Media Group); **Dr. Cherian George**, Professor of Journalism at Hong Kong Baptist University; **Prof. Yuen-Ying Chan**, Honorary Professor of the School of Future Media at The University of Hong Kong; **Dr. Sadia Jamil**, Associate

Professor at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China; and **Dr. Maria Diosa V. Labiste**, Dean of the UP College of Media and Communication.

Asian scholars will examine the research agendas, relevance, and representation of Asian Studies centers in different parts of the world, including Asia, North America, and Europe. The panel will take a critical look at how these centers define and pursue their research priorities, represent Asian perspectives and experiences, and contribute to the understanding of Asia. It will also consider the implications and impact of these agendas and representations on Asia and Asian scholarship.

The panel will bring together distinguished Asian scholars: **Dr. Vineeta Sinha**, Director, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; **Dr. Georgette Wang**, Honorary Chair and Professor, National Chengchi University; **Dr. S. M. Shameem Reza**, Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka; **Dr. Patricio N. Abinales**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Asian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and **Dr. Noel Christian A. Moratilla**, Dean and Professor, Asian Center, University of the Philippines.

Two Master Classes are also featured: *Communication, Credibility, and Trust in the Era of Disinformation*, by **Norman Agatep**, Chairman and CEO of Grupo Agatep; and *News Consumption in Asia*, by **Yvonne Chua**, Professorial Lecturer, Department of Journalism, UP College of Media and Communication.

The *Executive Leadership Forum: Leading Through Disruption: Strategic Foresight for Uncertain Times* explores how strategic foresight can help executives navigate a “confused” world marked by rapid technological change, geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and growing societal demands for engagement. Forum panelists include **Bernard Woods**, Principal Director of the Communications and Knowledge Management Department, Asian Development Bank; **Dr. Donald Patrick L. Lim**, President, Management Association of the Philippines; **Dr. Victoria Bantug Hoffarth**, Founder, Klaus Hoffarth Center for Critical Thinking for Good Governance; and **Dr. Kristoffer B. Berse**, Dean, UP National College of Public Administration and Governance.

There will be parallel sessions for communication and media professionals, including public information and public relations practitioners, as well as students from across Asia. Conference abstracts have been submitted by individuals from 22 countries.

The event will also confer the *2026 AMIC Asia Communication Award*, which recognizes significant contributions by Asians to communication and media education and practice. Established in 2006, the award has honored 26 individuals.

For the first time, the *AMIC Award Communication Award for Young Leaders* will recognize an Asian aged 40 or below for an outstanding career and promising contributions to communication and media in Asia.

The AMIC Online Library, featuring about 100 AMIC publications produced over the years, will also be launched during the event. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with the University of the Philippines Los Baños Library.

AMIC is co-proprietor, with WKWSC-NTU, of the *Asian Journal of Communication* (AJC) and proprietor of *Media Asia*, a professional practice journal. Both leading journals are published by the Taylor & Francis Group.

AMIC is a 55-year-old professional association of Asian communication and media educators, scholars, researchers, and practitioners. Established in Singapore in 1971, it transferred its operations to Manila in 2015.

AMIC's footprint spans the Asian continent, with members from East Asia, Oceania, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, North Asia, and West Asia.



Jordan's Princess Rym Ali to Deliver Keynote at AMIC's 32nd Annual International Conference in November



Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali of Jordan will be a keynote speaker at the 32nd Annual International Conference of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), to be held from 5 to 7 November 2026 at the Philippine Women's University. HRH Princess Rym Ali is among the few members of royalty worldwide who have consistently championed media development. Her advocacy is grounded in both academic expertise and extensive professional experience, making her one

of the leading global voices in advancing independent, ethical, and development-oriented media.

HRH Princess Rym Ali holds a Master's degree from Columbia University School of Journalism, a MPhil in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris, and a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from the Sorbonne University.

Her extensive media practice experience includes working for CNN, BBC, Bloomberg TV, Radio Monte-Carlo Moyen-Orient, and United Press Institute.

She anchored the establishment of the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) in 2007 and argued that journalism education is about building democratic culture, not just defending freedoms. JMI also runs Akeed, a fact-checking and media-monitoring site.

Princess Rym Ali also actively promotes gender equality, especially the rights of women in media and film. She supports independent film distribution networks in the Arab world to ensure that regional

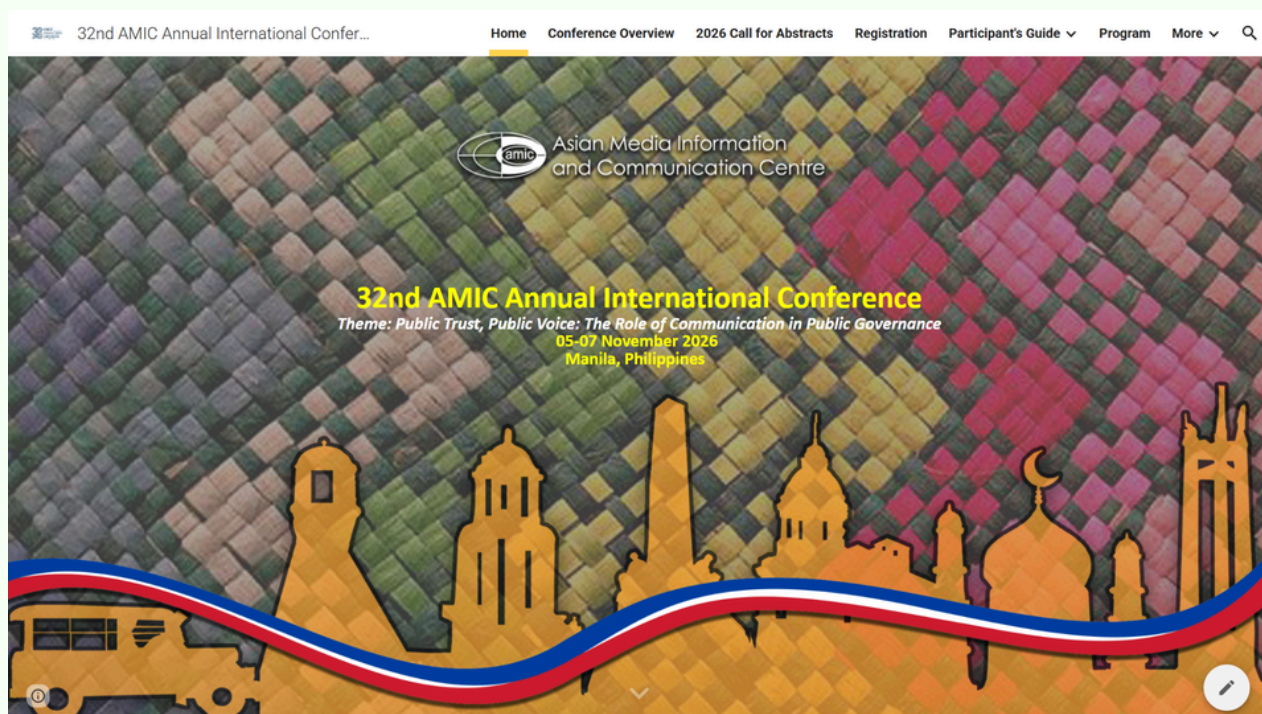
stories reach global platforms. She held several leadership positions at the Royal Film Commission – Jordan (RFC) over the years.

As President of the Anna Lindh Foundation, she focuses on intercultural dialogue, youth empowerment, and countering polarization/disinformation. As a leading Media and Information Literacy (MIL) champion, Jordan became the first country in West Asia to include MIL in its national curriculum. She launched the 2nd National Strategy for Media and Information Literacy in 2026 and champions UNESCO's MIL Cities.

During the Global Media and Information Literacy Week Conference 2024, the Amman Declaration on Strengthening Media and Information Literacy was adopted which called for stronger global cooperation and greater support for public interest information in the digital age. Among her many recognitions are the French National Order of the Legion of Honour (2011), Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Alumni Award (2011), and Global Thinkers Forum Award for Excellence in Media (2012).



AMIC Conference Highlights Journalism's Vital Role in Public Governance



Asia's leading journalism educators who have extensive practical experience will be among the speakers at the 32nd Annual International Conference of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC). The conference theme is *Public Trust, Public Voice: The Role of Communication in Public Governance*.

The conference will be held from 5 to 7 November 2026 at the Philippine Women's University in Manila.

Journalism-related principles continue to influence governance policies, standards, and practices. These include press freedom, transparency and accountability, access to information (the right to information), information integrity, information as a public good, and public engagement.

AMIC invites journalism and communication educators, scholars, researchers, practitioners, public

information and public relations professionals, and students from across Asia and beyond to join this important conversation. The conference offers an opportunity to exchange ideas, share research and professional experiences, and explore how journalism can strengthen public trust, amplify public voices, and contribute to more responsive and accountable governance.

Citing a recent UNESCO publication, *Journalism for Development: The Role of Journalism in Promoting Democracy, Political Accountability and Sustainable Development* (2024), AMIC Secretary-General Ramon Tuazon emphasized that accurate and publicly accessible information is fundamental to accountable democratic governance.

Among the distinguished journalism educators and practitioners who will serve as panelists are **Dr. Cherian George**, Professor, Department of Journalism, Hong Kong Baptist University and AMIC Asia Communication Awardee (2024); **Prof. Yuen-Ying Chan**, Honorary Professor and Curriculum and Development Advisor, School of Future Media, The University of Hong Kong; **Dr. Nozima Muratova**, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation, University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan;

Dr. Sadia Jamil, Associate Professor in International Communications, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Nottingham Ningbo China; **Dr. Peixin Cao**, Professor and Deputy Dean, School of Journalism, Communication University of China; and **Wahyu Dhyatmika**, CEO of Info Media Digital, the digital arm of Indonesia's Tempo Media Group, and an Indonesian investigative journalist.

They will be joined by equally distinguished Filipino journalism educators such as UP College of Media and Communication's Dean, **Dr. Maria Diosa V. Labiste**, Professor **Dr. Danilo A. Arao**, and Professorial Lecturer Yvonne T. Chua; and University of Santo Tomas' Journalism Professor and AMIC Board of Management Chairperson **Jose Ma. G. Carlos**.

Among the journalism-related plenary sessions are *Power, Paper Trails, and Public Interest: Journalism and Governance*; *Making Government Make Sense: Local Governance Communication*; *News Consumption in Asia*; and *Communication, Credibility, and Trust in the Era of Disinformation*.

Be part of the conversation and help shape the future of journalism and public governance in Asia.

AMIC Issues 7th edition of Curated Open Access Materials on Communication, Media, and Education



What are some of the initial findings and recommendations of the Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI? As a parent or caregiver, what guidelines do you need to know to effectively support children as they navigate the digital ecosystem? What are some of the emerging news consumption habits around the world and in Asia? These and many other timely issues are addressed in the September 2026 edition of Open Access Materials on Communication, Media, and Education, a resource compilation curated by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, Inc. (AMIC).

This is the 7th edition in our series! We began compiling our initial list in 2024, and since then, we have curated approximately 450 open-access materials covering diverse topics, including Artificial Intelligence, Freedom of the Press, Information Integrity, Media and Information Literacy (MIL), and Human Rights. For this series, we feature 19 publications.

Our aim is to inform and alert communication and media professionals—particularly educators, researchers, students, and practitioners—to recent publications available across various platforms.

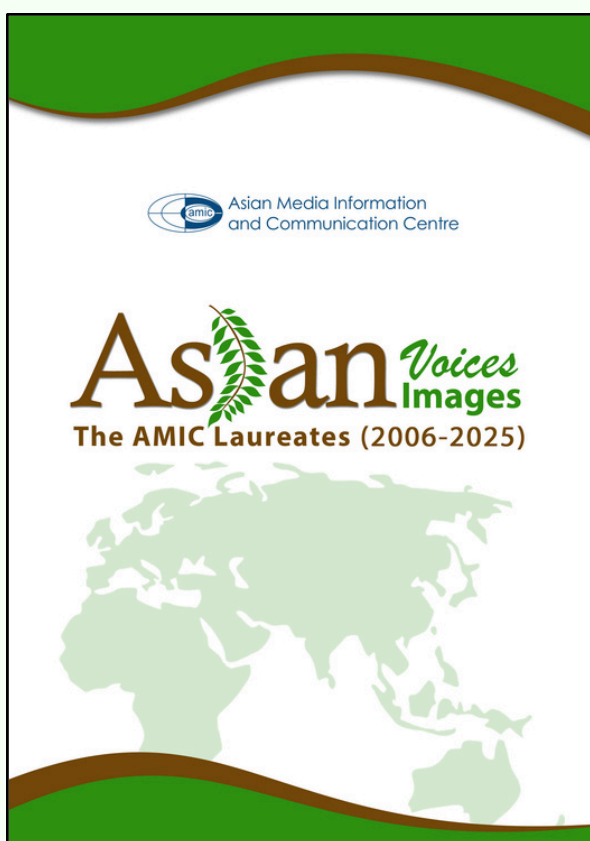
AMIC notes that the views, findings, interpretations, and recommendations expressed in these works are those of the authors and/or the institutions they represent and do not necessarily reflect the official position of AMIC. Nevertheless, AMIC believes that these carefully selected publications offer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

To continue receiving these curated resources, AMIC invites individuals and institutions to become an AMIC member or renew their institutional or individual membership.

AMIC invites members and colleagues who are aware of other communication, media, education-related publications available through open-access platforms —particularly those authored by scholars and practitioners from Asia and the Global South to share relevant links to the AMIC Secretariat for inclusion in future editions of our curated resource collections. You can reach us at info@amic.asia.

AMIC reiterates its commitment to supporting the open access system while recognizing proprietary rights.

Asian Voices, Asian Images: The AMIC Laureates (2006–2025)



AMIC will launch the book, *Asian Voices, Asian Images: The AMIC Laureates (2006–2025)* during the AMIC 32nd Annual International Conference. The volume features biographical notes on 26 individuals who received the AMIC Asia Communication Award for their significant contributions to the communication and media landscape in Asia.

Established in 2006, the AMIC Asia Communication Award has recognized laureates who are predominantly Asian, with three exceptions—individuals who were not born in Asia but have demonstrated a deep commitment to, and affinity for, Asia.

Most of the articles in this volume are based on the citations presented to the laureates when they received their respective awards. As full written citations were formally introduced only in 2014, the profiles of the earlier laureates were written by the awardees themselves, their close colleagues, or the AMIC Secretariat, based on research and available sources.

The book not only seeks to honor the contributions of these individuals but also to showcase that Asians can stand tall among the world's leading communication scholars and practitioners. It is a treasure every Asian communication student and professional should have, to remind them of their illustrious forebears.

The stories captured also serve as an inspiration to young Asian communicators to continue the laureates' commitment to enriching Asian communication theory and practice.

3RD QUARTER 2026

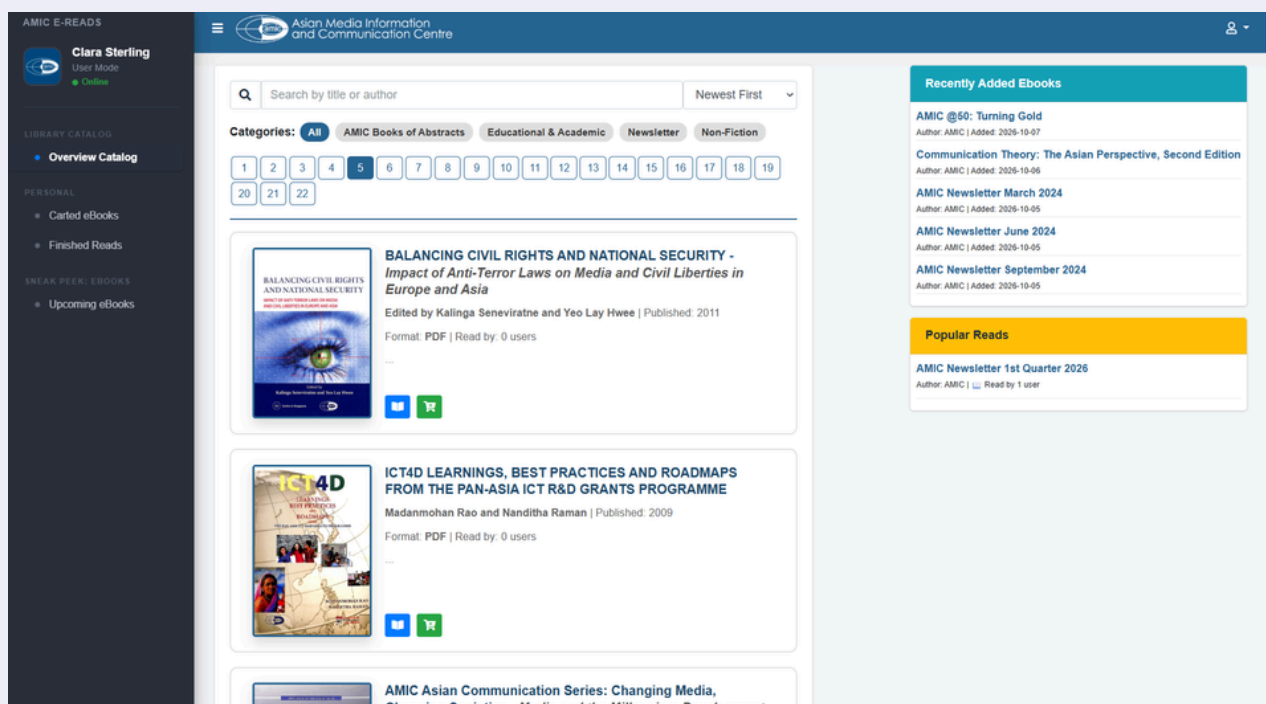
AMIC NEWSLETTER



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SEPTEMBER 2026

AMIC Launches Online Library



AMIC will launch its Online Library during the 32nd Annual International Conference, scheduled for November 5–7, 2026. The library will feature more than 100 books published by AMIC since its founding in 1971. Among the latest publications included are *AMIC@50: Turning Gold (2024)* and *Communication Theory: The Asian Perspective, 2nd edition (2021)*.

Among the books featured in the online library are works authored or edited by some of the leading figures in Asian communication, including pioneering

scholars who helped shape the field in the region. According to AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon, examining these books provides an opportunity to trace the evolution of communication and media disciplines in Asia.

Among the authors and editors represented in the repository are Dr. Eddie Kuo, Dr. Ramanathan Sankaran, Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, Dr. Shelton Gunaratne, Dr. Wimal Dissanayake, Dr. Peng Hwa Ang, and Dr. Cherian George. The collection also includes works by pioneering communication scholars Everett M. Rogers and John A. Lent.

The Online Library will also include the Books of Abstracts from previous AMIC annual international conferences held from 2019 to 2025, as well as past issues of the AMIC Newsletter.

The Online Library will serve as an important knowledge resource for communication educators and students, scholars, researchers, and practitioners, particularly those in the Global South. The platform is part of AMIC's contribution to open access and aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange among communication and media professionals worldwide.

The Online Library will be initially accessible to AMIC members. The books and other publications can be read on any device or platform but will not be available for download.

The Online Library was developed with the assistance of the University of the Philippines Los Baños Library.



Dr. Wimal Dissanayake Writes 30

It is with a heavy heart that AMIC announces the passing of Dr. Wimal Dissanayake on August 6, 2026.

Dr. Dissanayake was the recipient of the 2021 AMIC Asia Communication Award. He served as editor of *Communication Theory: The Asian Perspective* (1998, 2021), a pioneering and bestselling AMIC publication that has helped advance and amplify Asian perspectives in communication studies.

At the time of his passing, Dr. Dissanayake was coordinating with the AMIC Secretariat on the publication of *Wimal Dissanayake's Communication Theory: The Asian Perspective*, which is being co-edited by Dr. Fernando Paragas, former Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Media and Communication (UP CMC). The book is scheduled for release in the second quarter of 2027, with chapters contributed by leading Asian communication scholars.



The AMIC citation for Dr. Dissanayake's conferment as the 2021 AMIC Asia Communication Awardee is included on page 5.

AMIC extends its heartfelt condolences to Madame Doreen Dissanayake, the Dissanayake family, and their friends and colleagues. Those who wish to extend their condolences may send their messages to:
wimaldissanayake01@gmail.com.

In Memoriam: Dr. Wimal Dissanayake: The Passing of an Era?

by Ronny Adhikarya Ph.D.

AMIC's Asia Communication Award Laureate 2022 for Transformative Leadership



I felt a profound sense of sadness when I learned that my former colleague and good friend, Dr. Wimal Dissanayake, passed away at the age of 86 on August 7, 2026. We have lost one of the pioneering scholars and leading proponents of the study of Asian communication theory and research. His intellectual contributions helped advance the recognition and understanding of Asian perspectives in the field of communication, and his scholarship has left an enduring legacy for generations of scholars and students.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Wimal and I were colleagues the East-West Center (EWC) in Honolulu during 1976-79. Educated at University of Pennsylvania and Cambridge University, Wimal was a leading scholar specializing on Asian communications theories, and also an Asian cinema and literary critic. Prior to joining the EWC, Wimal was a former student of Prof. George Gerbner at University of Pennsylvania, and he worked on Gerbner's important Cultural Indicators Project (CIP) on global television trends of the 1970-80s.

During his tenure at the EWC's Communication Institute, he encouraged and mentored many international students, including non-Asians, of the University of Hawaii and research interns of the EWC to study, research, and develop communication concepts and theories based on Asian cultural values and indigenous local wisdom.

Wimal was one of the earliest professional colleagues of mine at the

EWC, in addition to Kanwar B. Mathur of UNESCO Paris, who encouraged and motivated me to develop, and implement the use of, Folk Media (including Shadow Puppets, etc.) for Development Communication (including Family Planning and Population and Agriculture) projects, especially in Asia and Africa, which was the core of my Master's Thesis at Cornell University in 1972.

At the East-West Center in Honolulu, Wimal and I were also joined by our mutual good friend, Prof. Dr. Georgette Wang, who had closely collaborated with Wimal on several publications and books with topics such as, the study of Indigenous Communication Systems in Development, Continuity and Change in Communication System: the Asian Perspective, etc. Georgette was Dean/Chair of Dept. of Journalism, at National Cheng Chi Univ. in Taiwan, and also my classmate at Cornell's Master program in 1971, and an AMIC's Asia Communication Award Winner.

Soft-spoken, with a warm and calm personality, Wimal was a dependable and caring friend. I will always remember and appreciate his personal attention and kindness when interacting with me for decades. Wimal and I fondly remembered our meetings in several countries in the last decades, particularly, when our old-time friends of the 1970s era were assembled by AMIC.

At the AMIC Annual Conference of 2017 in Manila, the AMIC Distinguished Forum - Rethinking Communication in a Resurgent Asia featured me and my former colleagues of 50 years ago from the East-West Center: Prof. Florangel "Flor" Rosario Braid, Prof. Wimal Dissanayake, and also my old colleagues at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang: Prof. Shelton Gunaratne and

Prof. John Lent. All of us were Winners of the AMIC Asia Communication Awards. Unfortunately, only Dr. Flor Braid and I survive today from this group.

The passing of Wimal Dissanayake, and also recently of our other Asian Communication stalwarts, such as, Prof. Alwi Dahlan, Prof. Eddie Kuo, Prof. John Lent, Prof. Binod Agarwal, and Dr. Ben Lozare, signals the tail end of the era of early Asian Communication scholars and practitioners.

I am fortunate, after more than five (5) decades, to still enjoy the company of few remaining old-time friends, who are early Asian Communication educators & researchers, such as Prof. Crispin Maslog, Prof. Flor Braid, Prof. Delia Barcelona, and Prof. Monina Escalada of the Philippines, Prof. Boonlert Suphadiloke of Thailand, Prof. Larry Kincaid and Prof. Arvind Singhal of the USA, Prof. Ang Peng Hwa of Singapore, Profs. Sulaiman Yassin, Ramli Mohamad, Khor Yoke Lim, and Syed Idid of Malaysia, and Prof. Georgette Wang of Taiwan.

However, we are also fortunate to have the new Generations of Asian Communication scholars and leaders who are capable, brilliant, and making new strides in applying adaptive innovations in meeting the challenges of the digital and virtual communication and AI technological revolution in today's Disruption Era, especially in Asia.

Wimal Dissanayake had done the pathfinding, and left a legacy for present, new, and future Asian communication leaders to build on, and further enrich and develop new directions and paradigms for communication education, research and practice relevant to the changing needs of society. Thank you, Wimal, and Requiescat in Pace.



Sec-Gen Diary

SG Tuazon Joins Online Panel on MIL Cities: Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, Planet, and Society



AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon was one of the panelists in the webinar MIL Cities: Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, Planet, and Society, held on July 25, 2026. The event was organized by the Platform of Actions and Training in Media Education for Children (PAFEME), UNESCO MILID Network, MIL Institute, and Criatividade, Inovação, Comunicação e Marketing com ênfase nas Cidades (CRIARCOMC).

SG Tuazon emphasized that “the future of AI is the future of humanity.” However, he

warned that misguided and short-sighted AI planning risks undermining humanity’s long-term well-being. He also reminded participants that media and information literacy (MIL) competencies should inform AI competencies.

“With the evolution of AI, there will be a convergence, or blurring of distinctions, between AI and MIL competencies, making both essential for individuals and societies to navigate the digital age,” Tuazon said.

AI is expanding the traditional concept of information, shifting the focus from the reduction of uncertainty, as proposed in Shannon’s Mathematical Theory of Communication (1948), toward context, interpretation, factuality, and meaning. Facts alone are insufficient. Making sense of issues and events requires context, verification, and explanation, as discussed in *The Elements of Journalism*, 4th edition (2021).

For SG Tuazon, writing, organizing, and synthesizing information may no longer

be considered foundational skills in the age of AI. Instead, the ability to evaluate factual accuracy (“factuality”), verify information, and exercise critical judgment has become essential. He posits that information auditing has emerged as a composite media and information literacy (MIL) competency.

Discussing the role of higher education institutions (HEIs) in building AI-ready communities, SG Tuazon noted the shift from structured, time-bound learning toward lifelong learning in the context of AI—from formal degrees toward continuous learning supported by stackable microcredentials. He considers microcredentials one of the defining features of AI-driven learning ecosystems, making learning more personalized, continuous, and competency-based. Examples of AI-related microcredentials include Information Auditing, Knowledge Management, Human–AI Collaboration, and Digital Forensics.

SG Tuazon also reminded education leaders of the need to rethink curricula and develop new professions and fields of study.

Examples of emerging academic programs include AI Engineering, Prompt Engineering, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Digital Forensics, Machine Learning, Robotics, Human–AI Interaction, AI Ethics and Governance, Responsible AI, Cloud Computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain Technologies, Extended Reality (XR), Digital Health, Computational Social Science, and Quantum Computing.

A key question for education planners is: How can HEIs balance technology-driven skills with lessons in the arts, humanities, ethics, and social sciences?

The AMIC official concluded that the genie of AI is already out of the bottle, and we can no longer put it back in. However, by equipping people with appropriate AI and Media and Information Literacy (MIL) competencies, we can help ensure that this genie serves the best interests of humanity, rather than the other way around.

The panel was co-moderated by Dr. Felipe Chibas Ortiz of the University of São Paulo and Dr. Emmanuel Komi Kounakou of the University of Montreal. The panelists were Ms. Maja Zaric of the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Serbia; Ms. Elaine Torres and Ms. Sofia Florencio of the University of São Paulo; and Ms. Oyebanke Wara Oyelaja of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Sec-Gen Diary

AMIC Joins ECREA Panel on Global Dialogues and Communication for Peace



AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon joined the panel on Global Dialogues and Communication for Peace during the European Communication Conference (ECREA) 2026, held September 8–11, 2026, in Brno, Czech Republic. The conference carried the theme *“Shifting Grounds: Paths, Connections, and Futures.”*

Secretary-General Tuazon participated in the panel discussion online on September 9. The session was organized by the Latin American Association of Communication Researchers (ALAIIC) and brought together

representatives of regional and global communication associations, including ALAIIC, the International Communication Association (ICA), and International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR).

During his interventions, SG Tuazon proposed concrete forms of collaboration among regional and global communication associations. These included the establishment of a Global South Common Research Fund, the creation of Communities of Practice for

Peace Advocates and Researchers at the national and regional levels, and the exploration of a joint digital library of multiplatform publications or a Global Observatory on Social Inclusion, Diversity, and Peace.

SG Tuazon emphasized that calls for joint research and capacity building among international communication associations and higher education institutions should be pursued through a reciprocal model involving joint agenda-setting, shared principal-investigator authority, equitable budget allocation, shared ownership and governance of datasets, transparent authorship agreements, and locally appropriate ethical procedures.

On the issue of greater representation of the Global South in global communication research agendas and academic governance, SG Tuazon proposed that a research study or audit be undertaken to examine the geographic representation of editorial boards of leading academic and professional journals.

He also raised the feasibility of adopting multilingual journal publications so that intellectual discourse would not be limited by English-language proficiency. Many new and emerging concepts, theories, and paradigms are developed and articulated in local languages and, consequently, do not receive sufficient global amplification.

To promote greater South–South dialogue, the AMIC official noted that AMIC has been pursuing Talk ASA: Asia–Africa & the Pacific Dialogue since 2023. A declaration supporting this initiative was issued during the AMIC 29th Annual International Conference in Bandung, Indonesia.

Sec-Gen in Action

AMIC Joins Silicon Valley Peace Conference



Palo Alto, California, SEP 17–20, 2026

The social dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI) throughout its lifecycle were underscored during the four-day Silicon Valley Peace Conference (SVPC), held in Palo Alto, California, USA, from November 17 to 20, 2026. The conference theme was AI's Role in Community Development and Peacebuilding in Developing Nations.

AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon attended the conference as a speaker in two plenary sessions and moderator of the closing roundtable discussion, *The Road Ahead: Advancing the Silicon Valley Peace Conference*. Secretary-General Tuazon also served as a member of the SVPC Organizing Committee and Editorial Board.

AI and Indigenous Peoples'
Communication Rights: Advancing

Inclusion or Creating New Barriers? was presented under Session 3, Human Rights and Peacebuilding: Responsible AI Governance and Societal Security. The paper was co-authored by AMIC Deputy Secretary-General Ma. Sophia B. Varlez.

The paper examines AI's dual potential to facilitate or constrain the realization of Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) human rights, with particular emphasis on communication rights. It analyzes how current and emerging communication issues affect IPs' capacity to exercise their voice, advance culturally appropriate policies and structures, address historical injustices, and promote sustainable development.

The paper proposes three guiding parameters for AI engagement: human rights, ethics and morality, and cultural

sensitivity. It concludes with concrete policy and program recommendations for engaging IP communities across the AI lifecycle, guided by the common good and a preferential option for Indigenous Peoples.

Community-based Peacebuilding Practices was featured in Session 8: AI and Social Transformation in Developing Societies: Institutions, Justice, and Grassroots Practice. In his presentation, Secretary-General Tuazon drew on his experience as a UNESCO communication specialist in managing community-based peacebuilding initiatives in Myanmar. The initiatives were framed around four parameters: positive counter-narratives; the Culture as Project paradigm; children and young people as priority intended audiences; and evidence-based program planning and implementation.

According to the forum organizers, the 2026 gathering inaugurated the planned Silicon Valley Peace Conference series, which seeks to provide a continuing forum where academic institutions, technology professionals, policymakers, practitioners, and communities can collectively shape the ethical use of emerging technologies and translate technological advances into knowledge, partnerships, and practical initiatives that promote human well-being, strengthen communities, and advance peacebuilding.

Other activities during the four-day event included tours of downtown San José and downtown San Francisco, the Google Shoreline campus, Stanford University, and Santa Clara University.



AMIC Reps in Action: Papua New Guinea

Mr. Neville Choi is new PINA President

Mr. Neville Choi, President of the Media Council of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and AMIC's representative in the country, was recently elected President of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) Ltd. The election took place during the 8th PINA Pacific Media Summit, held on September 21–25, 2026, at Wasawasa Lodge in Savusavu, Fiji.

PINA is the premier regional organization representing the interests of media professionals in the Pacific. It brings together radio and television broadcasters, newspapers, magazines, online media organizations, national media associations, and journalism schools from 23 Pacific Island countries.

The new PINA Board also includes Frank Genaia, representing print media; Charles Sumbe, representing television; Viola Ulakai, representing radio; Rose Amos, representing online and digital media; and Autagavaia Tipi Autagavaia, representing national media associations.

AMIC Reps in Action: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's AMIC Country Representative Receives NSF Lifetime Award for Science Popularization



Asoka Dias receives the National Science Foundation Lifetime Award for Science Popularization in Media 2026 at the BMICH, Colombo, on 18 September 2026.

Photo source:

<https://www.sundaytimes.lk/260920/news/schoolchildren-and-scientists-honoured-at-national-science-foundation-awards-657503.html>

Asoka Dias, Sri Lanka's Country Representative to the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), has been awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Lifetime Award for Science Popularization in Media 2026, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to science communication through mass media over nearly four decades.

The award was presented at the NSF Award Ceremony on Science Popularization 2026, held on 18 September at the BMICH, Colombo, under the theme "AI for Safety and

Resilience." The Lifetime Award is the highest recognition conferred by the NSF in its media category and is awarded to a single recipient.

Asoka began his professional career specializing in science communication before moving into news and current affairs journalism. Throughout his career, he has remained committed to promoting scientific knowledge and critical thinking among the public. He is currently a Director of the Maharaja Media Network, one of Sri Lanka's leading media organizations, operating television, radio, and digital media platforms.

Through his long-running television program Pathikada, Asoka has helped make scientific and technological knowledge accessible to wider audiences, covering subjects ranging from health and agriculture to innovation and environmental sustainability.

For more than 20 years, Asoka has represented Sri Lanka within the AMIC network. In addition to his media career, he serves as a visiting lecturer in undergraduate and postgraduate degree program, teaching media and communication-related subjects at universities in Sri Lanka.

AMIC Reps in Action: Thailand

Headline: Empowering NBTC Thailand: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamolrat Intaratat Speaks on Digital and AI Literacy Ecology



Bangkok, Thailand — Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamolrat Intaratat, representing the School of Communication Arts and the Research Center of Communication and Development Knowledge Management (CCDKM), was invited as a distinguished speaker for the staff of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of Thailand, last September 22, 2026.

Held at Meeting Room 502 of the NBTC Office, the session focused on the critical framework of "Digital and AI Literacy Ecology." Dr. Kamolrat shared invaluable insights aimed at upskilling the workforce for the modern digital era,



highlighting a comprehensive ecosystem that bridges Connectivity, Capability, Trust, and ultimately, Cyber Sovereignty. This collaborative partnership continues to drive forward the essential integration of AI tools and digital competencies in professional environments.

AMIC Reps in Action: India and Kazakhstan

Asian Academic Collaboration: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and SNDT Women's University Mumbai



Senior Professor Mira K Desai was invited to teach M.A. students at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan. Desai was invited by Karlyga Myssayeva, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair of the Dissertation Council, and Aigerim Alzanova, Head of Print and Electronic Media, Faculty of Journalism.

The then Vice Chancellor of SNDTWU, Prof. Ujwala Chakradeo (who inaugurated the 31st AMIC Annual International Conference hosted by SNDTWU in 2025), granted permission for this arrangement. Desai will teach for two hours/week, without compromising her local commitments.



Prof Desai taught online 12 international (mostly Chinese) students a four-credit subject titled, "Journalism in the Digital Ecosystem," in February to April 2026. As part of the teaching, she also presented an online deliberation titled, "Media Education, Responsible Society & AI: Critical Challenges Ahead," for the International Roundtable on "Use of Artificial Intelligence in Journalism Education in Central Asia during the forum, "AI, Media and Education: A Knowledge-Based Nation and a Responsible Society," hosted by the Faculty of Journalism at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University on 9 April 2026. The teaching enabled Desai to share perspectives about Asian journalism practices and contemporary challenges during the semester in which India and China became collaborators through Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. This was also a collaboration between two AMIC country representatives--Kazakhstan and India, central Asia and South Asia.

Prof. Joyce L. Arriola Named to ISC Social Science Matters Steering Group



Prof. Joyce Arriola, chairperson of the Department of Communication of the Faculty of Arts and Letters at the University of Santo Tomas (UST), has been named to the steering group of the International Science Council's (ISC) Social Science Matters program.

According to The Varsitarian, the official student publication of UST, Prof. Arriola is the lone Filipino among the 18 members of the expert panel, which will help guide the program's direction and priorities in advancing the role of the social sciences and humanities in sustainability policies.

Prof. Arriola holds two doctoral degrees: a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of the Philippines (2013) and a Ph.D. in Literature from UST (2003). She also chairs the Humanities Division of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), whose mandate includes promoting scientific research and strengthening the research capabilities of Filipino scientists.

The ISC is an international non-governmental organization that brings together the natural and social sciences. It was established in 2018 through the merger of the International Council for Science and the International Social Science Council. The ISC brings together more than 40 international scientific unions and associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations.

Photo source: <https://www.ust.edu.ph/profile/arriola-joyce-l/>

Professor Mohan J. Dutta Ranks Among the World's Most-Cited Scientists in 2025



Professor Mohan J. Dutta, Director of the Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE), has been recognized among the world's most-cited scientists in the 2025 standardized citation indicators released through the Elsevier Data Repository.

Based at Massey University in New Zealand, CARE is associated with the university's School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing. Established in 2012 at the initiative of Dr. Dutta, the Center describes itself on its website as "a global hub for justice-based communication research that uses participatory and culture-centered methodologies to develop community-

driven communication solutions for building and sustaining human health and wellbeing."

In Communication and Media Studies, Dr. Dutta ranks 15th worldwide in career citations and 25th in citations recorded in 2025 alone. He ranks first in Oceania and second in the Asia-Pacific region, placing him among the top 0.09% of the 16,468 scholars indexed in the discipline.

AMIC extends its warm congratulations to Professor Dutta on this outstanding achievement and recognition of his contributions to communication and media studies.

New Publications

Dangerously Online: A Study of Young Women and Cyber Violence from Maharashtra

By Prof Ruby Ojha, Pro-Vice Chancellor & Prof Mira K Desai, Senior Professor, SNDTWU



SNDT Women's University took up a research project for the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, in 2023. The study used a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectional approach, using an exploratory design and mixed-method approach, covering four districts in Maharashtra (State in Western part of India)—two urban and two rural districts. The districts were: Mumbai and Aurangabad (urban), and Osmanabad and Nanded (rural). A questionnaire was administered in person to 2,500 women students in 12 subject disciplines, from 52 colleges and six universities, who resided or were present in these districts at the time of data collection.

Moreover, 39 women participated in focus group discussions (FGDs), and seven women who were victims of cyber-violence were interviewed in person. Interviews in person were also conducted with 20 cyber-cell officials, one cyber-psychologist, one cyber-investigator and two non-government representatives, and a group discussion was held with experts in Aurangabad. The book presents the findings of the study spanning over a year and concludes that while women across geographies are facing cyber-violence, rural women are at higher risk. Factors such as stronger social ties contribute to higher fears of stigma among rural women. These women often feel that they are unable to freely discuss their experiences, and their limited awareness and practices make them more vulnerable. Also, there are fewer cyber-cells and higher rate of transfers in rural areas. Many women confirmed 'secondary violence' from family after voicing about cyber violence experiences.

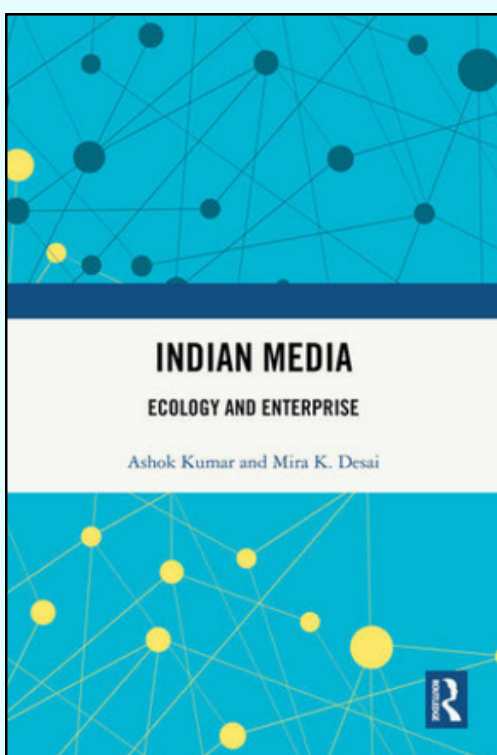
Even though cyberviolence has become a universal concern, much of the academic and policy framing remains rooted in Western-centric paradigms, which often prioritize individual rights, platform regulation, and free speech—while underplaying the deep-rooted socio-cultural, economic, and political dynamics that shape online abuse in the Global South.

To advance theory and practice, especially for a global audience, new conceptual tools, like Digital Patriarchy 2.0, Cultural Algorithms of Harm, Networked Honor Economies, and Digital Resilience Ecologies may not be just reactive but transformative, grounded in local realities yet globally resonant.

New Publications

Indian Media: Ecology and Enterprise

By Ashok Kumar and Mira K Desai



2026

ISBN 9781032766386

224 Pages 20 B/W Illustrations

Published July 20, 2026 by Routledge

This book offers an extensive study of Indian media, exploring its development through socio-cultural, economic, and political lenses while connecting these interrelated spheres. It inspects the history, geography, economics, sociology, and politics of Indian media, presenting a refined understanding of its evolution over time and across India.

The book examines how the Indian media have transformed into enterprises dominated by private players, while remaining deeply influenced by government interventions, creating a dynamic landscape with diverse stakeholders. It explores various dimensions of Indian media—historical, socio-cultural, political, religious, economic, and ethical—using specific examples from varied geographies and contexts. Additionally, it reflects on the regional differences within India's federal structure, offering insights into the complexities of media across the nation. Adopting a media ecology approach, this book provides a fresh perspective on the Indian media landscape, making it an important resource for students of media studies, communication studies, journalism and advertising, mass communication, media management, entertainment management, and film studies. It will also appeal to general readers interested in understanding the multifaceted nature of Indian media.

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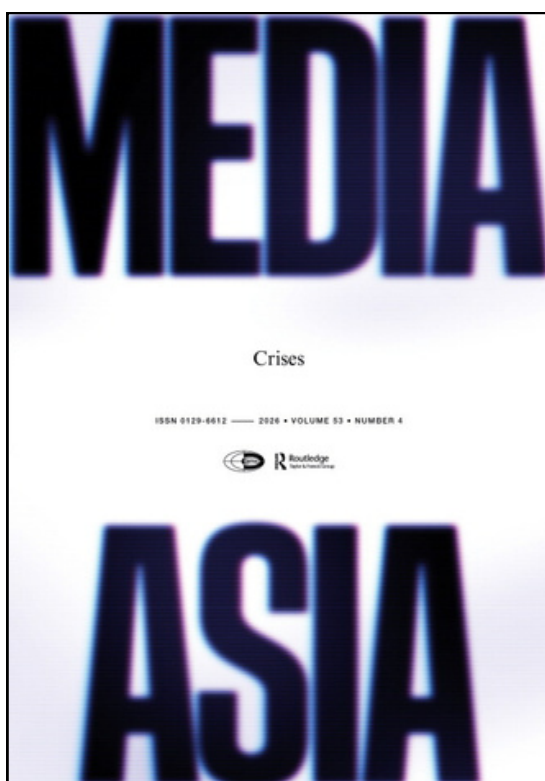
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