ASIA NEWS NETWORK SUMMIT

The Asia News Network (ANN) held its annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from September 4 to 7, 2024, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the alliance. The event carried the theme 'Future of Asia,' a reflection of the ever-dynamic and challenging regional landscape.

The four-day regional summit aimed to promote journalistic professionalism and nurture more meaningful partnerships among its 20 member publications across Asia. The event also saw the launch of the Asia Dialogue sessions, a platform to discuss various regional and global issues. Along with this, network editors unveiled ANN's Hidden Heritage Treasures project, which aims to raise awareness of the different heritage sites in the region.

Here are some of the stories published about the ANN Summit.

Voice of Asia must be heard Gerard Gimino and Junaid Ibrahim, The Star

Mr Fahmi Fadzil, Malaysia Communications Minister, said the media grouping has the role as a bridge to bring forward conversations that Asian governments need to have and create close relationships between media organisations in the region.





Mr Fahmi Fadzil, Malaysia Communications Minister, at the Asia News Network Summit 2024 at Hilton Hotel, Petaling Jaya. PHOTO: THE STAR

PETALING JAYA: The Asian voice must be heard and Malaysia can take the lead in fostering closer relations among regional media houses ahead of the country assuming the Asean chairmanship next year, says Fahmi Fadzil. Congratulating Asia News Network (ANN) on its 25th anniversary, the Communications Minister said the media grouping has the role as a bridge to bring forward conversations that Asian governments need to have and create close relationships between media organisations in the region.

"We hope this gives more room for stories on developments throughout Asia to be better heard, understood and enjoyed, as it's not written by foreign media but Asian organisations themselves.

"This way, we can hear more authentic voices from Asia itself," he told a press conference after attending the ANN anniversary celebrations here yesterday.

ANN marked its 25th anniversary at the ANN Summit 2024 co-hosted by Star Media Group and Sin Chew Daily.

Also present was ANN director and board member Datin Paduka Esther Ng, who will assume the grouping chairmanship from Jan 1 next year.

Fahmi added that Malaysia can take the lead in fostering closer relations among regional media houses ahead of the country assuming the Asean chairmanship next year.

He said a more comprehensive network of media houses in the South-East Asian region will also nurture closer ties among its countries.

"I believe some efforts are already there and this can always be further strengthened.

"Ahead of Malaysia's chairmanship, I hope we can gather media organisations across the region to collaborate closely," he said.

Fahmi also said Asian countries must learn and hear directly from each other for the region to prosper together.



He said that Asia's voice cannot be left unheard or suppressed given its large population.

"We must hear from each other directly, ideally without intermediaries."

"By discovering and appreciating each other's cultures, values and history, we can hope to prosper together," he added.

In her welcoming remarks, Ng, who is Star Media Group's chief content officer, said today's media landscape is very different from when the grouping was first established.

"It has become increasingly challenging to uphold news credibility, particularly with the emergence of digitalisation and AI, which are both good and bad, but surely complicates the fact for mainstream media in maintaining their role as the reliable and trusted source of news providers.

"To my fellow delegates, I think we have done a great job in combating this effectively whilst upholding journalistic integrity," she said.

Ng said there is no exception for the media industry at a time where digitalisation and Al took centre stage in most industries.

"I say, we embrace it. We ride the waves but we keep our eyes fixedly on the horizon and our feet firmly on the surfboard we are perched on," she said.

A cake cutting ceremony was held later to commemorate the anniversary celebration.

In the evening, delegates headed for dinner at the Malaysian Petroleum Club to mark the conclusion of the two-day summit.

ANN is the leading regional alliance of news titles striving to bring the region closer through an active sharing of editorial content on happenings in the region.

Formed in 1999, the network's members hail from the 10 South-East Asian countries as well as several others in East and South Asia.



Apart from Malaysia, other media outlets in the ANN are from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Tech access, bridging skills gap vital for youth to face post-pandemic challenges, says Nurul Izzah

Gerard Gimino and Junaid Ibrahim, The Star

The Social Economic Research Initiatives (Seri) chairman said that despite advancements such as artificial intelligence and automation, access remains limited, benefitting only a select few.



"This generation has notably felt the impact as we move into the post-pandemic period," she said during the Asia News Network (ANN) panel discussion on Asia's Youth and their Future in Petaling Jaya, on Friday (Sept 6). PHOTO: THE STAR'S YOUTUBE PAGE

PETALING JAYA: The skills gap, sub-optimal vocational training, and limited access to technological advancements remain significant issues faced by the younger generation, particularly in the post-pandemic era, says Nurul Izzah Anwar.



The Social Economic Research Initiatives (Seri) chairman highlighted that Malaysia experienced one of the longest school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, which posed challenges for a generation of students, especially those in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes.

"TVET students were the most affected during the pandemic as their coursework required in-person training, which could not be substituted with online learning.

"This generation has notably felt the impact as we move into the post-pandemic period," she said during the Asia News Network (ANN) panel discussion on Asia's Youth and their Future here on Friday (Sept 6).

She further stated that despite advancements such as artificial intelligence and automation, access remains limited, benefitting only a select few.

Nurul Izzah was the chief guest of the discussion, which also featured Thailand's The Nation editor-in-chief Patpon Artie Sabpaithune, Myanmar's Eleven Media Group executive director Min Thaw Htut, and Fung Global distinguished fellow Tan Sri Andrew Sheng. The session was moderated by Star Media Group senior news editor Philip Golingai.

"During my last tenure as MP, we conducted a quality index study that included Covid-related measurements to assess internet access, the ability to continue online studies, and the availability of gadgets.

"Unfortunately, the disruption caused by the pandemic led to significant losses for generations," she said.

Nurul Izzah also stressed the importance of acknowledging the struggles of the younger generation as they navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, healthcare scares, and other uncertainties.

She added that adaptability should not only be demanded of the youth but should also be practised by the older generation.

"As a politician, I found it challenging to engage with the community and adapt to new communication dynamics.



"While it is easy to demand change from others, it is equally important to reflect on and change our own behaviour," she stressed.

Acknowledging that each generation faces its own set of challenges, she called for a less judgmental approach.

"Youth must feel recognised, not patronised," she concluded.

ANN is a leading regional alliance of news organisations committed to bringing the region closer through active sharing of editorial content.

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Apart from Malaysia, member media outlets are from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Asean nations should urge US and China to curb their rivalry, says academic Kishore Mahbubani

Gerard Gimino and Junaid Ibrahim, The Star

"Both the US and China should press the pause button on their contest and focus on fighting climate change. That's the message we have to convey to Beijing and Washington," said Prof Kishore Mahbubani at the "Why the Future is Asia" session at the Asia News Network (ANN) Summit 2024 on Friday (Sept 6), in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.





Prof Kishore Mahbubani (photo), a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, said the region will be affected by the turbulence, adding that countries here had to focus on economic growth. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

PETALING JAYA: South-East Asian countries must tell both the United States and China that their increasing rivalry could impair the region's growth, says a professor of international relations.

Prof Kishore Mahbubani, a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, said the region will be affected by the turbulence, adding that countries here had to focus on economic growth.

"It's difficult for us to focus on this if we have to worry about dealing with both the US and China without being caught in the crossfire.

"We should take it one step further and tell both of them to find ways of moderating their competition as it is hurting other countries, including Asean nations," he said at the "Why the Future is Asia" session at the Asia News Network (ANN) Summit 2024 here on Friday (Sept 6).

Prof Kishore, a key speaker at the summit's opening session, said the contest also has negative effects on efforts to tackle global challenges such as climate change.



"Both the US and China should press the pause button on their contest and focus on fighting climate change.

"That's the message we have to convey to Beijing and Washington," he said.

Prof Kishore said China-India relations were another geopolitical challenge, and Asean may also try to play a bridging role.

He said Asean could try persuading India to reconsider its decision not to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal.

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Fostering regional collaboration and celebrating 25th anniversary of ANN

Viet Nam News

The four-day regional Summit aims to promote journalistic professionalism and foster deeper collaborations among its 20 media delegates across Asia.





Established in 1999 with the founding principle of 'Bringing Asia Closer', ANN has grown into a leading alliance of 20 established media titles across Asia. PHOTO: ASIA NEWS NETWORK

PETALING JAYA- The Asia News Network (ANN) holds its annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from September 4-7, 2024, a landmark year for the alliance as it celebrates its silver jubilee.

Held in Malaysia for the first time, the meeting this year coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Asia News Network, with the theme centred around the 'Future of Asia', cognisant of the challenging media landscape, coupled with the increasing need to strengthen journalistic professionalism and foster deeper regional collaborations.

The four-day regional Summit aims to promote journalistic professionalism and foster deeper collaborations among its 20 media delegates across Asia. Established in 1999 with the founding principle of 'Bringing Asia Closer', ANN has grown into a leading alliance of 20 established media titles across Asia, including Việt Nam News as one of the founding members.



The Summit's dialogue session on the third day was attended and addressed by Malaysian Communications Minister, Fahmi Fadzil, who congratulated ANN on its 25th anniversary, highlighting how it fostered close relationships between media organisations in the region.

The third day of the Summit featured a full day of panel discussion and inauguration of the Asia Dialogue sessions covering various topics that focus on the Summit's theme as well as ANN's 25th Anniversary Cake-Cutting Ceremony.

Star Media Group's Esther Ng elected as incoming ANN chairman Gerard Gimino and Teh Athira Yusof, The Star

She will assume the post from outgoing chairman Mahfuz Anam, with her term beginning on Jan 1 next year.



Outgoing ANN chairman Mahfuz Anam (left) with Star Media Group chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng, who has been elected as incoming ANN chairman. PHOTO: THE STAR

PETALING JAYA: Star Media Group chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng has been elected as the incoming chairman of the Asia News Network (ANN).



She will assume the post from outgoing chairman Mahfuz Anam, with her term beginning on Jan 1 next year.

This marks the third time a woman has been appointed as the ANN chairman.

"I intend to tell stories differently. Times have changed and there are modern ways of storytelling now.

"We have to showcase Asia at the forefront," Ng said on the sidelines of the ANN 25th anniversary summit here on Thursday (Sept 5).

She also said that women, climate and issues concerning the younger generation were close to heart.

Ng expressed gratitude to Mahfuz for helming ANN during a difficult time.

"He helmed it for three years due to the pandemic. He was a calming factor for all of us.

"The pandemic itself was a crisis and out of the blue we found ANN at a crossroads where we had to find our own fundings at some point. We started something and my job is to continue," said Ng.

Ng was unanimously elected as the ANN chairman during its board meeting on Thursday.

Mahfuz said Ng's election marked a transition from an elder to a younger leader.

On ANN, Mahfuz said they had decided to launch an Asia Dialogue programme featuring dialogues between Asian think leaders, business and political leaders.

"We will bring in voices from our own countries to share their thoughts to the rest of Asia.

"It will have political and intellectual leaders as well as musicians, writers and more extraordinary people who reside in our countries to voice their views to the rest of Asia," he said.

Other projects in the pipeline include recognising young changemakers in Asia.



He also said ANN has the task of projecting Asia to the rest of the world.

"We are known for our magnificent achievements, mostly through the Western media. ANN is a platform that tells Asian stories through Asian newspapers to the rest of the world," he said.

Mahfuz added that the media scene has evolved with the rise of social media and various digital platforms.

He also expressed gratitude to Star Media Group and Sin Chew Daily for organising the event.

ANN is the leading regional alliance of news titles striving to bring the region closer, through an active sharing of editorial content on happenings in the region.

The network's members hail from the 10 Southeast Asian economies as well as several other locations in East and South Asia.

Apart from Malaysia, other media outlets are from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Bernama chairman and Star advisor Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai congratulated Ng on her appointment.

"This is most timely as Malaysia will assume the post of chairmanship of Asean next year.

"With Ng at the helm, we hope she will provide a greater voice on the role of Asean.

"Asean media outlets make up the core members of ANN."

Wong said he was proud that a Malaysian journalist would be heading ANN.



Asia Dialogue gets down to business Junaid Ibrahim and Gerard Gimino, The Star

The Asia News Network's (ANN) Asia Dialogue is a platform to discuss various regional and global issues, according to ANN members.



Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil (third from left) receiving a token featuring a portrait of himself on the front page of 'The Star' from SMG group chief executive officer Chan Seng Fatt (fourth from left). They are flanked by (from left) Wong, Ng, Mahfuz and ANN editor Shefali Rekhi. PHOTO: THE STAR

PETALING JAYA – The Asia News Network's (ANN) Asia Dialogue is a platform to discuss various regional and global issues, according to ANN members.

Star Media Group (SMG) chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng said the Asia Dialogue would serve as a great avenue for discourses, especially with journalists spearheading it.

"The dialogue is very important, especially as it was set up by journalists not only from Malaysia but also from the entire region. We are a very powerful alliance.

"We're setting up this dialogue because we know what the issues at hand are," the incoming ANN chairman said during the panel discussion on the Inauguration of Asia Dialogue.

Other panel members are The Daily Star editor-in-chief and ANN chairman Mahfuz Anam, Bernama chairman and SMG adviser Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai, Sin Chew Daily executive editor-in-chief Chan Aun Kuang. The session was hosted by The Statesman editor Rayindra Kumar.

Wong echoed Ng's sentiment, saying that the introduction of the dialogue organised by journalists has added more reliability and credibility.

"The Asia Dialogue is a meaningful platform. It is credible and trustworthy.

"With over 25 organisations coming together, I think we can create an impact," he said.

He also suggested that the dialogue include business-minded individuals such as chief executive officers of companies so that the media industry could learn from them.

"I really hope that the ANN will take a step further, perhaps by expanding the dialogue to involve CEOs and various members of the public as well," Wong added.

In conjunction with the organisation's 25th anniversary, the summit also unveiled the ANN's Hidden Heritage Treasure Project.

During the session, Zaffar Abbas, editor-in-chief of Pakistan the Dawn daily, emphasised the media's crucial role in raising awareness of heritage sites.

"There's a conscious effort by many media houses in Pakistan that whenever there is a new discovery, we campaign about it.

"When something is being destroyed, you campaign about it, and the same goes for fortune hunters who come and smuggle them out," he said.

He also noted that the preservation of heritage sites can promote tourism, leading to positive economic effects.

"There will be a realisation that history needs to be preserved," he said.



Viet Nam News editor-in-chief Minh Nguyen highlighted that efforts to promote and protect heritage sites are being made not only by the Vietnamese government but also by the people.

"We have to preserve them in a way that benefits the surrounding communities as well," he said.

The session showcased various heritage sites, including Sabah's Danum Valley, as part of the project. Other featured sites include Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Songkhla Old Town in Thailand, among others.

The compilation aims to bring forward lesser-known yet historically rich sites and share them with readers.

Asia can be a dominant force, says Air Asia's Fernandes Syazwani Hasnizam, The Star

While Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, chief executive officer of Capital A Bhd, stated that he is a big believer in Asean's potential to play a big role in Asia, he said the region has not done enough.





Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, chief executive officer of Capital A Bhd during a special address at the Asia News Network Summit 2024: Future of Asia on Sept 6. PHOTO: THE STAR

PETALING JAYA: Asia has the potential to be a dominant force in the next 50 years, according to Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, chief executive officer of Capital A Bhd.

"The potential for Asia to be the dominant economic force in the next 50 years is there – but I think it will not come single-handedly. I think collaboration is the way forward. I hope there will be more collaboration in this 'new Asia'," he said during a special address at the Asia News Network Summit 2024: Future of Asia, yesterday where he shared his confidence in the capabilities of the region, especially Asean.

"New Asia" has been used to refer to various concepts, from a geopolitical vision to a marketing slogan, and does not describe any officially recognised sovereign state or political union in Asia.

While Fernandes stated that he is a big believer in Asean's potential to play a big role in Asia, he said the region has not done enough.



"It has been great at keeping peace, but economically, I believe it can do much more," he added.

Talent was one major aspect that Fernandes highlighted in his speech.

"We have the talent to really change the world and I think talent is the future of new Asia. How we develop, encourage and nurture talent going forward, that's the difference between great economies and ordinary economies," he said.

Innovation and branding are equally as important to move towards a new Asia. He said innovation is not solely in terms of technology, it's also about how one manages people and brings to the market new products.

He went on to say that most people would agree that Asean lacks a strong brand, but it should have one, and Asean companies should benefit from investing in the region.

"I think most people would agree that Asean doesn't have a brand. What I am trying to say here is that Asean companies should benefit from investing in Asean. So, we are trying to create something called the Asean Business Enterprise," he said.

He did not give further details on it but said the initiative aims to ensure Asean-based companies benefit from investing within the region.

He expressed hope that the effort would continue to benefit and extend throughout Asia.

"I hope in the future we have less hierarchy."

On another note, Fernandes said the media also plays an important role in developing an economy and there should be more freedom of the press.

"The media industry has a massive job to tell the story of what the new Asia can be – and I am 100% confident and have never shied away from saying the press from any region had played an enormous part in telling the truth, the story and getting it going.

"I hope for more press freedom because I think it is critical for the development of Asia," he added.



Malaysia calls for strengthening Asean chairmanship beyond one-year role

Teh Athira Yusof, The Star

Mr Liew Chin Tong, Malaysia's Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister, said it is important to get Asean members to agree to adopt Malaysia's concept of the Asean Community Vision 2045 proposal as a development guide for the next 20 years.



Mr Liew addressing attendees during the 'Asean in a Multipolar World' dialogue in Petaling Jaya. PHOTO: THE STAR

PETALING JAYA – Malaysia's clear mission is to strengthen the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) chairmanship through cooperation between its members beyond its one-year role, says Liew Chin Tong.

The Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister said it is important to get Asean members to agree to adopt Malaysia's concept of the Asean Community Vision 2045 proposal as a development guide for the next 20 years.



"If we have the political will and our colleagues in other countries have the political will, we should strengthen the secretariat. We need to have a clear mission and strengthen the Asean chair. Personally, I would suggest that the Philippines, the next chair country, be involved in some of our activities.

"I hope my government will practice it across the board. So we can gradually form a cooperation where the current chair, next chair, the following chair, can work together," he said.

Liew said this at a dialogue session, Asean in a Multipolar World, under the MITI session, held at the 25th Asia News Network Anniversary programme here on Thursday (Sept 5).

Malaysia is set to assume the Asean chairmanship from Laos at the Asean summit in October, 2024.

Regarding media participation, Liew said the country plans to foster cooperation between Asean countries by bringing together economic and business editors in Kuala Lumpur next year.

"We can discuss the future economic narrative and ideas about how we should move forward as an organisation in Asean and beyond.

"We should have explained the economic relations and interconnectedness to the wider public," he said, citing the example of onion supply from India to Malaysia.

Liew further elaborated that Asean state members should cooperate to find new ways to deal with economic and upcoming challenges.

He said Asean countries should instead create better cooperation with each other so they can race to the top and build better societies.

"There was pressure by the multinational companies that we should be competing against each other by offering tax cuts, suppressing wages, destroying our environment to compete for them to invest in our respective countries.

"These went on for years, and we are told to do this to achieve economic growth."



"Moving forward, I think it is time for us to think about this. We must set a floor. We must talk to each other," he added.

Preserving cultural heritage essential for shared future

Yang Han and William Xu, China Daily

We should help establish a new Asian model for the development of cultural heritage and for international cooperation," said Qu Yingpu, publisher and editor-in-chief of China Daily, at the Asia News Network (ANN) Forum on Cultural Heritage Conservation in Selangor, Malaysia.



Photo Caption: Senior editors and journalists from the Asia News Network and speakers pose for group photos at the Forum on Cultural Heritage Conservation in Selangor, Malaysia, on Sept 5, 2024. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

Asian countries should make full use of the power of culture and civilization to support regional unity, openness and progress for a shared future, a forum in Malaysia heard on Thursday.



"We should help establish a new Asian model for the development of cultural heritage and for international cooperation," said Qu Yingpu, publisher and editor-in-chief of China Daily, at the Forum on Cultural Heritage Conservation in Selangor, Malaysia.

"In this way, regional countries can jointly contribute to fostering a community with a shared future for both Asia and all humanity," Qu said.

Themed "Shared Heritage, Shared Future", the forum was jointly organized by China Daily, newspaper alliance Asia News Network and the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, a think tank.

"We have to work together to promote the exchange and mutual learning of Asian cultural heritage," said Christina Yeo Ken Yin, undersecretary of the International Relations Division in Culture at Malaysia's Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

In addition to cooperation programs in cultural heritage with countries such as China, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia, Yeo said Malaysia is preparing to join the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia — an intergovernmental platform initiated by China to promote regional cooperation in preserving regional cultural heritage.

"Civilization exchanges and mutual learning form an important drive for human progress and global peace and development," said Chang Shan, counselor of the cultural affairs department of the Chinese embassy in Malaysia.

With Asia being an important cradle of human civilization, China and countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are linked by mountains and rivers and share historical bonds, which have led to close people-to-people exchanges, said Chang.

Noting that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia, Chang said the two countries' cooperation in cultural heritage protection will continue to play an important role in bilateral exchanges.

Mahfuz Anam, chairman of Asia News Network and editor and publisher of Bangladesh's The Daily Star, said cultures speak louder than languages and act as effective communicators among different people.



He urged people, particularly journalists, to devote more energy to learning and comprehending different cultural heritages to reduce misunderstandings in a world with more conflicts and uncertainties.

Ronald Gan, president of Persatuan Peranakan Baba Nyonya Malaysia, said the Baba and Nyonya community is a typical example of cultural exchanges between China and Malaysia, with blended elements in cuisine, attire and architecture.

"We are, after all, the descendants of the wise Chinese who migrated to Nanyang with the values of inclusiveness and mutual benefit," said Gan, who has been organizing a Wangchuan ceremony in Melaka.

The ceremony, jointly nominated by China and Malaysia, was added to the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list in 2020.

As climate change can affect cultural heritage sites, Michael Yeoh, president of KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, said countries in the region should enhance public, private and people partnerships to protect the environment.

Upholding the 5Ps — planet, people, prosperity, partnership and peace — will ensure a more sustainable future, said Yeoh.

A panel discussion on "Transnational Cooperation for the Conservation of Shared Cultural Landscapes in Asia" was also held during the forum, with experts from across the region exchanging views on future strategies for preserving cultural heritage and landscapes.

Mainstream media should work together, says China Daily chief Sin Chew Daily

In the face of rapid changes in the global environment and proliferation of fake news, mainstream media should work together for rationality to prevail, says Qu Yingpu, president and chief editor of China Daily during a visit to the Sin Chew Daily office in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.





Kuik Cheng Kang (left) presents a coffee table book, "The Blossoming and Fruiting: 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and China," jointly published by Sin Chew Daily and The Star to Qu Yingpu, president and chief editor of China Daily, who leads a delegation of six to visit Sin Chew Daily. PHOTO: SIN CHEW DAILY

PETALING JAYA: In the face of rapid changes in the global environment and the widespread of fake news, mainstream media should work together for rationality to prevail, says Qu Yingpu, president and chief editor of China Daily.

The development in artificial intelligence has brought various challenges to the mainstream media, including the spread of fake news and the algorithm, making it hard for readers to identify the authenticity of news when fed with loads of information.

"This highlights the importance of mainstream media," said Qu, who led a delegation of six to visit Sin Chew Daily headquarters here Wednesday.

"Mainstream media filters and this is irreplaceable. It is important to deliver truth.

"After reading from the mainstream media for some time, readers will be able to identify the facts thanks to filters carried out by mainstream media," he continued

The China Daily delegation was received by Media Chinese International Limited and Sin Chew Daily editor-in-chief



Quik Cheng Kang, executive editor-in-chief Chan Aun Kuang, deputy executive editor-in-chief Hwn Yaul Len, and Sin Chew Media Corporation Bhd communications and promotion general manager Tan Kim Chuan.

Both China Daily and Sin Chew Daily are members of the Asia News Network (ANN) set up in 1999. Sin Chew Daily is one of the founding members.

ANN editors are in Kuala Lumpur for a two-day meeting.

The alliance, made up of newspapers from Southeast Asian and some East and South Asian countries, aims to promote coverage of regional affairs through sharing of news content among the participating media.

Apart from Malaysia, other member publications are from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

The visit to Sin Chew Daily is to explore the possibility of more collaborations between China Daily and Sin Chew Daily in future in light of the new challenges due to change of time.

"The society requires media to play its role in light of uncertainties. The media's value is currently worth more than the role it used to be," Kuik said.

Both concurred that media practitioners should continue to upgrade their capabilities and spread good content using new technologies.

"Though the sharing of news, more readers will get to understand the Malaysian Chinese community to promote interactions, common values and eradicate misunderstanding.

Direct communications among Asian nations vital for progress, says Minister Fahmi

Gerard Gimino and Junaid Ibrahim, The Star

"By discovering and appreciating each other's cultures, values and history, we can hope to prosper together," Minister Fahmi said in his speech at the Asia News Network (ANN) 25th anniversary celebrations here on Friday (Sept 6).



Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil speaking at the Asia News Network Summit 2024 at PJ Hilton. Seen with him on stage are (sitting from left) Bernama chairman and Star Media Group advisor Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai, SMG chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng and ANN chairman Mahfuz Anam. PHOTO: THE STAR

KUALA LUMPUR: Asian countries must learn and hear from each other directly for the region to prosper, says Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

Fahmi said Asia's voice cannot be left unheard or suppressed given its large population.



"We must hear from each other directly, ideally without intermediaries.

"By discovering and appreciating each other's cultures, values and history, we can hope to prosper together," he said in his speech at the Asia News Network (ANN) 25th anniversary celebrations here on Friday (Sept 6).

Fahmi also hoped for ANN to be a bridge in bringing forward conversations that Asian governments need to have.

At a press conference later, Fahmi congratulated ANN on its 25th anniversary, highlighting how it fostered close relationships between media organisations in the region.

"We hope this gives more room for stories on developments throughout Asia to be better heard, understood and enjoyed, as it's not written by foreign media but Asian organisations themselves.

"This way, we can hear more authentic voices from Asia itself," he said.

In her welcoming remarks, ANN director and board member Datin Paduka Esther Ng said today's media landscape is very different from when the network was set up.

"It has become increasingly challenging to uphold news credibility, particularly with the emergence of digitalisation and AI, which are both good and bad, but surely complicates the fact for mainstream media in maintaining their role as the 'reliable and trusted source' of news providers.

"To my fellow delegates, amidst these, I think we have done a great job in combating this effectively whilst upholding journalistic integrity," she said.

Ng, who is Star Media Group's chief content officer, said there is no exception for the media industry at a time when digitalisation and AI took centre stage in most industries.

"I say, we embrace it.

"We ride the wave but we keep our eyes fixed on the horizon and our feet firmly on the surfboard we are perched on," she said.



ANN is the leading regional alliance of news organisations striving to bring the region closer through an active sharing of editorial content on happenings in the region.

Formed in 1999, the network's members hail from the 10 South-East Asian economies as well as several other locations in East and South Asia.

Apart from Malaysia, other media outlets are from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Dynamic approach to storytelling: A new leadership dawns for the Asia News Network The Star

Datin Paduka Esther Ng's appointment marks the third time a woman has been made ANN chairperson since its inception in 1999.



Datin Paduka Esther Ng (right) will assume the chairmanship of the Asia News Network from predecessor Mahfuz Anam and serve her two-year term beginning Jan 1 next year. PHOTO: THE STAR



KUALA LUMPUR – The way forward for the media is to tell stories differently in keeping up with the times, says incoming chairman of the Asia News Network (ANN) Datin Paduka Esther Ng.

"I'm very big on women's issues, climate issues and issues concerning young people," said Ng, who is Star Media Group chief content officer.

"I intend to tell stories differently as times have changed and there are modern ways of storytelling now.

"We have to showcase Asia at the forefront," Ng said on the sidelines of ANN's 25th anniversary summit here yesterday.

Ng will assume the chairmanship from predecessor Mahfuz Anam and serve her two-year term beginning Jan 1 next year.

Her appointment marks the third time a woman has been made ANN chairperson since its inception in 1999.

Ng expressed gratitude to Mahfuz, who is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star in Bangladesh, for helming ANN at a difficult tenure.

"He helmed it for three years due to the pandemic and was a calming factor for all of us.

"The pandemic itself was a crisis and out of the blue, we found ANN at a crossroads where we had to find our own funding at some point.

"We started something and my job is to continue it," said Ng.

Ng was unanimously elected as ANN chairman during the ANN board meeting yesterday.

Prior to Ng's appointment, the other two women who helmed the ANN chairmanship since its inception were the late Datuk Ng Poh Tip and Datuk Leanne Goh, both from The Star.

Poh Tip was The Star's group chief editor and Goh was The Star's editor-in-chief.



Mahfuz said Ng's election marked a transition from an elder to a younger leader.

Bernama chairman and SMG adviser Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai congratulated Ng on her appointment.

"This is most timely as Malaysia will assume the post of chairmanship of Asean next year.

"With Ng at the helm, we hope she will provide greater voices and enhance the roles of Asean.

"Asean media outlets make up the core members of ANN."

Wong said he was proud that a Malaysian journalist would be heading ANN.

On ANN, Mahfuz said they had decided to launch an Asia Dialogue programme featuring dialogues between Asian thought, business and political leaders.

"We will bring in voices from our own countries to share their thoughts with the rest of Asia. It will have political and intellectual leaders as well as musicians, writers and more extraordinary people to voice their views to the rest of Asia," he said.

Other projects in the pipeline include recognising young changemakers in Asia.

He also said ANN has the task of projecting Asia to the rest of the world.

"We are known for our magnificent achievements but mostly through the Western media.

"ANN is a platform that tells Asian stories through Asian newspapers to the rest of the world," he said, adding the media scene has evolved with the rise of social media and digital platforms.

He also expressed gratitude to Star Media Group and Sin Chew Daily for organising the event.

ANN is the leading regional alliance of news titles striving to bring the region closer through an active sharing of editorial content on happenings in the region.



Formed in 1999, the network's members hail from the 10 South-East Asian economies as well as several other locations in East and South Asia.

Apart from Malaysia, other media outlets are from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Malaysia can play key role in bringing Asean media houses together, says Minister Fahmi

Gerard Gimino and Junaid Ibrahim, The Star

"Ahead of Malaysia's chairmanship, I hope we can gather media organisations across the region to collaborate closely," Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil told a press conference after attending the Asia News Network (ANN) 25th Anniversary celebrations on Friday (Sept 6), in Petaling Jaya.



From left: Bernama chairman and Star Media Group advisor Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai, SMG chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, SMG group chief



executive officer Chan Seng Fatt and ANN chairman Mahfuz Anam at the Asia News Network Summit 2024 at PJ Hilton. PHOTO: THE STAR

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia can bring regional media houses together for closer collaboration ahead of the country assuming the Asean chairmanship next year, says Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

"If we can create a more comprehensive network among regional media houses, it will foster an even closer relationship among the countries.

"I believe some efforts are already there and this can always be strengthened.

"Ahead of Malaysia's chairmanship, I hope we can gather media organisations across the region to collaborate closely," he told a press conference after attending the Asia News Network (ANN) 25th Anniversary celebrations here on Friday (Sept 6).

He added that RTM also has plans to dedicate a specific channel on Asean developments.

Malaysia is set to take the Asean chair from Laos at the grouping's summit in October.

Separately, Fahmi said Russia president Vladimir Putin's personal invitation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to participate in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) intergovernmental organisation's upcoming summit was a positive development.

"Malaysia, as a non-aligned country, has the right to have diplomatic and economic relations with any country.

"The invite from President Putin to Malaysia is positive and we hope there will be returns," he said.

Putin had extended the invitation during a recent bilateral meeting between the two leaders at Vladivostok, Russia, for the 9th Eastern Economic Forum.

Ends

