

ORGANISED BY



COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (WPFDD)



WPFDD FORUM 2023 SHAPING A FUTURE OF RIGHTS: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS A DRIVER FOR ALL OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS

THURSDAY, 8 JUNE 2023.

9.00AM – 5.00PM.

**HYBRID EVENT: KL & YOUTUBE LIVE.
IN PERSON ATTENDANCE BY INVITATION.
VIRTUAL EVENT WILL HAVE MALAYSIAN SIGN LANGUAGE.**





YOUTUBE LIVE : LINK

BACKGROUND

As Malaysia welcomes a new unity government, it provides a unique opportunity in discussing the role of the State in promoting fundamental freedom of expression, media freedom and human rights environment, as the forefront of issues tackled moving forward. It is also timely to move the discussion on the establishment of a Malaysian Media Council, as an independent self-regulatory body, into a reality. These changes are in line with the values espoused by the concept of Malaysia Madani, introduced by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on 19 January 2023. Malaysia Madani emphasises values such as fair, just and effective governance and centers on the importance of humanity.

WPFDFORUM 2023 OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

The overall goal of this one-day forum is to provide an inclusive platform to reaffirm the fundamental role of freedom of expression and its intersections with media freedom; and facilitate multi-stakeholder engagements. It shall also generate innovative ideas and commitments to a future where freedom of expression and media freedom is championed as a catalyst and fundamental principle that shapes the future of human rights.

Objectives of Forum

1. Identify critical challenges to freedom of expression within the evolving information ecosystem;
2. Create space for stakeholder discussions regarding factors that impact and create barriers for media in upholding its role as the 4th pillar of democracy; and
3. Identify solutions and partnerships in promoting the role of media and in facilitating a safe environment for freedom of expression.

The Forum will be divided into two parts.

PART 1

The first part will begin with a high-level panel session followed by the screening of a short documentary related to how freedom of expression is fundamental for the media when reporting on issues.

Panel 1

This will be followed by a panel discussion, consisting of representatives from the government, the media, and civil society. The panel of speakers will reflect on issues highlighted in the documentary and link it to current trends of issues surrounding the media environment in Malaysia.

Panel 2

This panel session will be a talkshow with the Protem Committee on Media Council. It will focus on the importance of the role of a Malaysian Media Council. A Q&A session will be held during the panel discussions to allow for an interactive dialogue between the speakers and the audience.

THEME

This year, the Ministry of Communications and Digital (KKD), the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands the United Nations in Malaysia, and the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) will partake in the national commemoration of WPFDF 2023, by adhering to the global theme of "Shaping A Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights".

The co-organizers plan to facilitate a forum that would contribute to the global discussion of recentering freedom of expression, and its intersection with media freedom, as a driving force of other human rights.

PART 2 (CLOSED SESSION)

Part 2 of the Forum will be parallel roundtables, where participants, consisting of panel speakers and audience, will be divided into four groups to discuss separate areas that affect media practicing their right to freedom of expression while reporting. The topics include:

- i) Tackling disinformation and combating hate speech in digital spaces
- ii) Addressing Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) as a threat to media freedom and freedom of expression
- iii) Intersections of media freedom and labour rights
- iv) Accountability of social media platforms

The discussion, facilitated by a moderator, will flash out the challenges faced by media within these issues and how they impact the future of media and basic human rights. Next, each group will deliberate solutions for the issue they have been assigned to - bringing a multi stakeholder view on the challenges and solutions to the issues.

The solutions will be presented by the group rapporteur at the end of the session to the large group. Finally, these solutions will be incorporated into an outcome document of the Forum.

PROGRAMME

8.30 - 9.00AM Registration

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

9.00AM - 10.00AM

Moderator: Ms. Melisa Idris

Senior Editor at Astro AWANI and Anchor of 'Consider This' & 'The Future is Female'

YB Tuan Ahmad Fahmi bin Mohamed Fadzil

Minister of Communications and Digital

Ms. Karima El Korri

UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam

Ms. Wathshlah Naidu

Executive Director, CIJ Malaysia

Ms. Eva Oskam

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia

FILM SCREENING

10.00AM - 10.30AM

Viral Sial

Short documentary related to how freedom of expression is fundamental for the media when reporting on issues

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: REFLECTING ON MEDIA ENVIRONMENT: CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT

10.30AM - 11.30AM

Panel will reflect on issues highlighted in the documentary and link it to current trends of issues surrounding the media environment in Malaysia.

Moderator: Mr Sharaad Kuttan, BFM

Panel Speakers:

Ms. Anna Har

Co-founder, Freedom Film Network (FFN)

YBhg. Dato' Kamil Othman

Chairman, National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (FINAS)

Ms. Tan Lee Chin

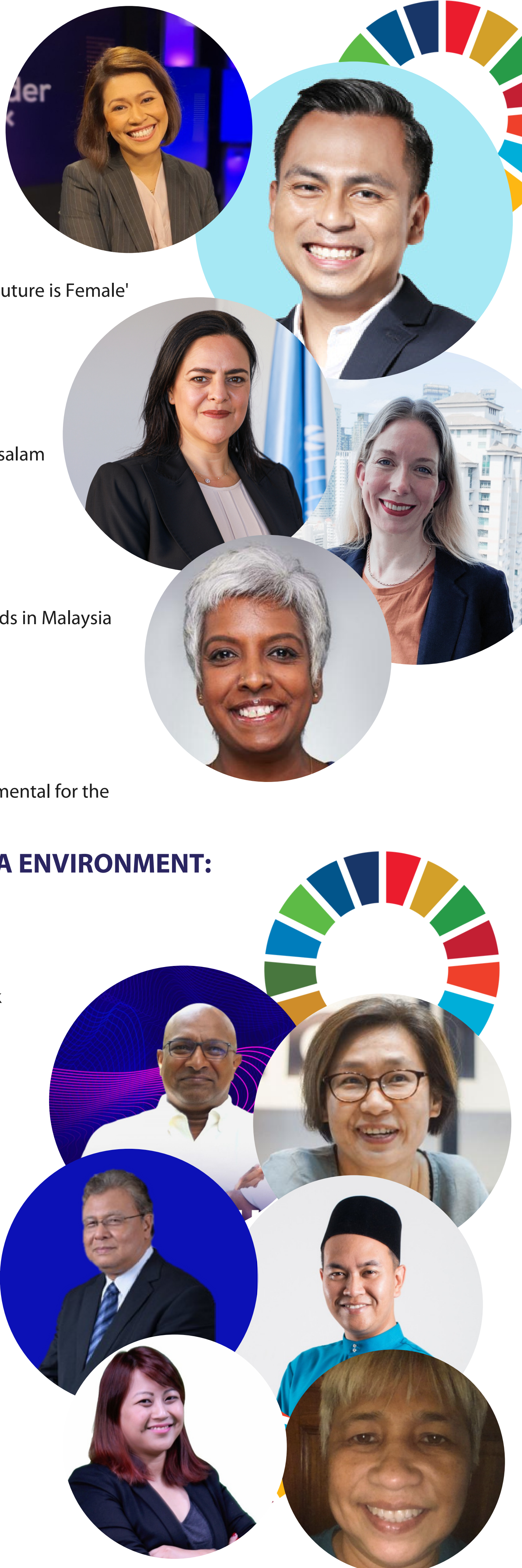
Group Chief Operating Officer (Group Strategy and Content)
Media Chinese International Limited Malaysia

Ms. Angela Kuga Thas

Partner Director, Kryss Network

YB Tuan Edry Faizal Bin Eddy Yusof

Member of Selangor State Legislative Assembly and
former Host of Kupas, BFM



PANEL DISCUSSION 2: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF A MALAYSIAN MEDIA COUNCIL

11.45AM - 1.00PM

Moderator: Zurairi A. R. News Editor, Malay Mail

Panel Speakers:

YB Teo Nie Ching

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and Digital

YBhg. Datuk Dr. Chamil Wariya

Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Press Institute

Ms. Wathshlah Naidu

Executive Director, CIJ Malaysia

Mr. S.S. Yoga

Representative in the Committee for Sabah and Sarawak

Prof. Zaharom Nain

Media and Communication Studies, University of Nottingham Malaysia

Ms. Aidila Razak

Journalist, MalaysiaKini



LUNCH BREAK

1.00PM - 2.00PM

PARALLEL ROUNDTABLES (CLOSED SESSION)

2.00PM - 3.15PM

1. Tackling disinformation and combating hate speech in digital spaces
2. Addressing Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) as a threat to media freedom and freedom of expression
3. Intersections of media freedom and labour rights
4. Accountability of social media platforms

PRESENTATION OF GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

3.30PM - 4.30PM

CLOSING SESSION

4.30PM - 5.00PM

Closing Remarks