



Day 1 Tuesday 7 July 2026 Next-gen content and culture

Time	Programme
9:30	Welcome Remarks by Director of ABU Programming, Aoki Kazunori
9:40	<p>Public media at a crossroads</p> <p>Senior leaders from public and regional media organisations discuss strategic priorities, content leadership, and industry transformation. This panel will explore how public media is adapting to shifting audiences, platforms, and expectations in a rapidly changing global landscape.</p> <p>Moderator: Andrew Davies, ABU Head of Radio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jean Phillip De Tender – Deputy Director General, EBU, Switzerland• Tshilidzi Davhana – General Manager Factual Content SABC, South Africa• Claire Gorman – Head of ABC International Services, Australia• Agnes Rozario – CCO Astro, Malaysia• Ashwad Ismail – Director General RTM, Malaysia
11:00	Coffee Break
11:30	Special Presentation
12:30	Lunch break
14:00 - 16:00	<p>Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Nuzum, Co-founder of Magnificent Noise/ Creator of Iconic Podcasts, USA
16:00	Refreshment and End of 1 st Day



DAY 2 Wednesday, 8 July 2026

Time	Programme
09:30	Welcome & Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABU Secretary General, Ahmed Nadeem Ministry Official
09:45	Stage Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Introduction of CON-FEST's Host
10:00	Keynote talk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Nuzum, Co-founder of Magnificent Noise/ Creator of Iconic Podcasts, USA
11:00	Refreshment Break
11:30	Engaging the Next Generation How media organisations in Europe, the Asia-Pacific and Africa are shifting their approach to the creation and distribution of content to reach younger audiences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Phillip De Tender – Deputy Director General, EBU, Switzerland Claire Gorman – Head of ABC International Services, Australia Tshilidzi Davhana – General Manager Factual Content SABC, South Africa Debarati Guha – Director of Asian Programmes, DW, Germany
12:15	From experiment to impact A rapid-fire showcase of innovative content projects that provide fresh and engaging experiences for audiences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tsutsumida Kenichiro – Silkroad (Archive × AI × VR), NHK Enterprise Shiva Ruppeni – KJ educational app
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	Performance
14:10	Building Digital Communities How do you create a digital community around a brand, product, podcast or TV show? Hear from five leading creatives as they share their strategies, experiences, and lessons learned from building engaged, loyal communities. Zaidel Baharuddin – Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nori Abdullah – Kita Family Podcast, Malaysia Rhys William – Food Vlogger for Mat Salleh Cari Makan, Malaysia VERBAL – Entertainment Entrepreneur, Japan Idris Jala & Leon – The Game of Impossible Podcast, Malaysia Danielle Chong – Founder, TPartyDigital / Creator of her own motherhood community, Malaysia
15:10	Refreshment Break

15:20	<p>A FAST future</p> <p>Free Ad-Supported Streaming TV (FAST Channel): FAST channels offer new opportunities—and new challenges. This session will explore how it differs from traditional TV, commercial models, and the battle for discoverability in the FAST landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omdia analyst • Sooka TV – Chu Young Lee • Jasmine Low – EQN Activation Malaysia-Australia • CMG-CGTN, China
15:45	<p>Fireside-Chat: Life on the content creator frontline</p> <p>Summary: Five content creators share honest insights—what worked, what didn’t, and what they’ve learned along the way. A candid look at the realities of building, sustaining, and monetising creator-led content.</p> <p>Moderator: Shiva Ruppeni – Media Strategist, Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ling Yah – Content Creator, Malaysia • Bernard Hiew – Content Creator, Malaysia • Caprice – Content Creator, Malaysia • Ili Ruzanna – Content Creator, Malaysia • VERBAL – Entertainment Entrepreneur, Japan
16:30	<p>Closing</p>



DAY 3 Thursday, 9 July 2026

Time	Programme
09:30	<p>Short, Sharp, and Scalable: The Rise of Micro dramas</p> <p>Micro-dramas are reshaping serialized storytelling through short-form and mobile-first formats. This session explores why they're scaling fast, how they're produced, and what the growth means for creators and commissioners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ikhsan Sukiman – RTM, Malaysia• Dipashree Das – Amazon• James Reeve – Fresh Slate
10:10	<p>Animating Growth</p> <p>Animation is redefining how stories connect with audiences. Hear from multiple experts on the creative, technical, and cultural forces driving the next wave of animated content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sony Music• Faculty of Animation, UiTM Malaysia
10:50	<p>Refreshment Break</p>
11:00	<p>Rights & Legal Toolkit</p> <p>Covering the legal and rights fundamentals every content-maker needs to know, this session explores rights ownership and evolving regulatory frameworks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haruyuki Ichinohashi – Chair of ABU IPLC, Japan• Irene Jay Liu – Director, International Fund for Public Media Interest, UK
11:30	<p>New Voices, New Futures: Funding and Support for Young Filmmakers</p> <p>How funding, mentorship, and industry support can help emerging filmmakers develop sustainable creative careers. This session will also feature screenings from three young filmmakers, each presenting a short film that showcases distinct voices and perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shikin Zaharuddin, Walkabout Asia, Malaysia
12:30	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:00	<p>Trusted Media in Times of Crisis</p> <p>This session will look at the role media plays during crises, natural disasters and emergencies. Themes include: coordination, editorial credibility, media information literacy and technological preparedness.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miki Mori (JAMCO, Japan) • Indra Singh, ABU Director of News, Malaysia
14:45	<p>Crossing Borders, Keeping Roots: Culture in Motion</p> <p>As culture moves through media and technology, creators turn tradition into motion —reshaping content, storytelling, music, and identity. This session discusses how culture is continually evolving through the media and how our roots help fuel what’s next.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO • Robert Schwartz – President Director General, Radio Romania • James Reeval – Fresh Slate
15:30	Refreshment Break
16:00	<p>Next-gen voices</p> <p>New and emerging media professionals share feedback on their expectations of the industry, the barriers they encounter and what they hope to change.</p>
16:45	<p>Pitching Session: Building Media Futures Together</p> <p>Selected participants present project ideas to decision-makers, encouraging collaboration and potential co-production pathways.</p>
17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to Upcoming Events • Closing