Communicating for a better world
The Asia Pacific Journalism Centre exists to fill public communication needs in the Asia Pacific region.

Our focus is on partnership, a shared professionalism and a belief that journalism is best done by listening, talking, seeing, sharing and understanding in person-to-person exchanges. We believe that greater media professionalism and deeper mutual understanding produce more informed news coverage and help provide communities with better public communication.

In certain respects, communications technology as well as economic development, improved education and greater travel are increasing the potential for this kind of media work. On the other hand, the changed economics of mass media and the decreased revenue of “old media” has the potential to reduce the scope of coverage or to radically change its form.

Our aim is to help media professionals and those who are pioneering new media paths face the challenges and make the most of their circumstances.

Participants in APJC programs have visited newsrooms and studios in many countries, in professional development programs intended to improve skills in reporting economics, politics, business, arts, culture, religion, women’s affairs, the environment, climate change and the coverage of natural disasters.

APJC fellows have travelled to meet and work with professionals in other societies. They have enjoyed opportunities to share experiences and discuss common problems, local solutions and ways of breaking down mistrust.

Very positive feedback from participants and their employers has reinforced our sense that we are providing a vital, unique and special service, as much needed now as ever.

In carrying out this public good, APJC is grateful to all those who support our work and is in constant search for new partners, patrons, and champions.

Since it was established in 2003, the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre has worked with news media and communities across the region to strengthen news media institutions, share professional media skills and promote media dialogue.

Underpinning the Centre’s mission is the belief that programs to advance the ideals of quality journalism bring benefits to all communities through gains in international development and international understanding.

More than 1000 people from established and community media have taken part in APJC programs to empower them for more effective roles in the public communication sphere.

A key theme of the Centre’s development work has been economic literacy and the role of women in the economy, with related workshops focusing on leadership and professional skills for women in news media.

APJC exchange programs have been mostly with Indonesia and China.

APJC is an accredited member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

The Centre’s audited financial reports are submitted annually to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The APJC board is chaired by Canberra Times former editor-in-chief and now columnist Jack Waterford. CEO is John Wallace, formerly associate professor of journalism at the University of Queensland’s Centre for International Journalism.

The Centre’s board of advisors is made up of representatives from the media and communications industries, the development sector, and former fellows of APJC programs.

APJC is assisted in delivering its programs by an extensive network of alumni and media partners across the Asia Pacific region.
Media development

APJC media development programs aim to strengthen news media and promote greater access to more inclusive public communication in developing societies in the region.

Programs focus on building skills for effective and responsible roles in established and emerging media, empowering community media, and supporting initiatives to strengthen news journalism and media institutions.

Programs are tailored to suit the needs of participants and have catered for groups as diverse as mainstream media across Indonesia and southwest Pacific nations, Dalit NGO media in Nepal, community broadcasters in Timor-Leste and Mongolia, and NGO media in East Nusa Tenggara and West Papua.

Professional skills work in these media development programs have covered:

- introductory reporting
- post-conflict reporting
- reporting elections
- investigatory reporting
- socially inclusive reporting
- reporting business and women in the economy
- skills for new media
- reporting climate change

APJC media development programs usually also include a personal leadership component.

Reporting mining for development

Mining plays a key role in economic development but also inflicts environmental damage and can create discord among affected communities.

The APJC ran programs in 2012 and 2013 to encourage skilled reporting on mining sector activity in the region.

Participating journalists came from Mongolia, Indonesia and Pacific Forum countries.

Community radio for development in Timor-Leste

In 2012, APJC ran an AusAID-supported program focused on radio production and management, with an emphasis on building links with communities.

Ten Timor-Leste journalists worked with staff of radio stations in Victoria to produce a range of programs featuring members of the Timor-Leste diaspora community in Australia.

Journalists produce manuals on reporting business and economics

As part of a ‘Leadership in Reporting Economic Development’ program held in 2012, eight journalists from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands undertook professional attachments with Australian media organisations and produced manuals for reporting business and economics in their home countries.

Reporting skills for economic literacy and women’s empowerment

In 2015, seventeen journalists from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu attended a five-week DFAT-supported program on building journalism skills to report the economic life of communities, focusing on the role of women.
A selection of our work

2003
- PNG journalist workshop on investigative reporting and personal skills development

2004
- Centre for Democratic Institutions-led workshops with Pacific journalists
- Regional workshop on reporting contemporary Europe
- First Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowship: Journey into Islam in Indonesia

2005
- Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowship: Islam after the Tsunami
- Post-tsunami video conferences for over 70 senior editorial staff from around the Asia Pacific

2006
- Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowship: Challenges facing Indonesia and Malaysia

2007
- Australian Leadership Awards program: Asia Pacific journalists explore reporting economic affairs

2008
- Media leaders from Timor-Leste study editorial leadership and security in post-conflict Timor-Leste
- Australian Leadership Awards program: Asia Pacific journalists study economic issues and reporting
- Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowships: study tour to Indonesia and Timor-Leste

2009
- Five week program for Asia Pacific journalists on reporting business, finance and economic news
- Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowship: study tour to Indonesia and Timor-Leste

2010
- Asia Pacific Dialogue Fellowship: Challenges to stability in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore
- Australian Leadership Awards program: Strengthening Dalit Media in Nepal
- Understanding Near Neighbours fellowship: Exploring Islam, climate change and reconstruction
- Australian Leadership Awards program: Engaging Timor-Leste communities in a post-conflict environment

2011
- Program for Asia Pacific journalists on reporting climate change and the environment
- Asia Pacific journalists use MOJO to report the economic life of communities

2012
- Journalists produce manuals on reporting business and economics
- Timor-Leste broadcasters focus on community development
- Mongolian journalists undertake program on mining transparency
- Asia Pacific Dialogue Fellowships: Managing the challenges of climate change and development in China and Indonesia

2013
- Journalists from Australia and China participate in study exchange
- Indonesian and Pacific journalists explore mining impacts in five week program
- Pacific journalists gain insights into covering elections
- eTour looks at Iraq development challenge after 10 years of conflict

2014
- APJC fellows return to Aceh 10 years after the tsunami
- Second China Australia Journalist Exchange explores economic ties
- Indonesian journalists put the environment in economic reporting
- Visiting Pacific journalists connect with Australia’s women leaders

2015
- Fellowship builds reporting skills for economic literacy and women’s empowerment
- China Australia Journalist Exchange explores agriculture links
- APJC helps Myanmar media prepare for reporting general elections
- Development fellowship sharpens skills for reporting on aid and development
Exchange programs

APJC Professional exchange programs seek to broaden the horizons of news media professionals from Australia and in the region. The programs provide journalists with an opportunity to learn first-hand about other cultures and societies and the issues that concern them.

Through improving the capacity of news organisations to provide accurate and informed news coverage and analysis, the programs play an important role in informing communities, supporting civil society and advancing public communication.

Most of APJC’s exchange programs have been with Indonesia and China. The Centre has also run exchanges with participants drawn from countries across the Asia Pacific region.

Building international awareness

China Australia Journalist Exchange
The CAJE program is a unique program offering mid-career Australian and Chinese journalists the opportunity to deepen their understanding of each country through a thematic tour.
It has been run annually since 2013, in collaboration with the All China Journalist Association.
In 2015, the program focused on agricultural trade and partnerships between Australia and China.

Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowship
The APJC Understanding Near Neighbours Fellowship scheme ran for several years with Myer Foundation support.
Programs were created for mid-career Australian and Malay journalists that provided an insight into the diversity of Islam in modern Indonesia and Malaysia.
In later years, the Understanding Near Neighbours fellowship expanded to include other countries in the region, including Timor-Leste.

International Development Journalism Fellowship
The IDJF is an ACFID-endorsed program that enhances journalistic understanding of economic and social development challenges in the Asia Pacific region through the lens of Australia’s aid program.
The inaugural IDJF in 2015 was a collaboration with World Vision Australia, offering six journalists a three day masterclass and an intensive 10-day study tour to Cambodia.

Seminars and special initiatives

From time to time, APJC mounts special initiatives. These have included:

- post-disaster video conferences for editors in the Asia Pacific region
- post-conflict consultancy in Timor-Leste
- international issues briefings
- international development initiatives

eTour looks at Iraq development challenge after 10 years of conflict
In 2013, eleven early-career journalists took part in a virtual tour to Iraq to investigate the massive health and other development challenges facing the country 10 years after the start of the US-led invasion.
Journalist Donna Mulhearn facilitated discussions with development experts, journalists and members of the Iraqi community via a live feed.
Board of Directors

Jack Waterford, AM
Chair
Jack Waterford is a distinguished Australian journalist and commentator and former Editor-at-large for The Canberra Times. He is known for his investigative journalism and advocacy on indigenous health issues.

John Henningham
John Henningham is an Australian journalist and journalism educator. He is founder and director of the journalism college Jschool: Journalism Education & Training.

John Wallace
Secretary
John Wallace is an Australian journalist and journalism educator with a long interest in international media development. He has managed and delivered programs for journalists in the Asia Pacific region over the past 25 years.

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Sue Coffey
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Journalist, New Matilda/Australian Indigenous Communications Association, former APJC fellow

Mary Louise O’Callaghan
Head of CEO media and public affairs, World Vision

John Ridley
Principal, Clifton Group Communication Strategists, chair Melbourne Forum

Helen Woods
Fundraising strategist and campaign manager, The Strategy Team

Christopher Zinn
Director campaigns and communications Adviser Ratings, former APJC fellow

Our partners

• All China Journalists Association
• Scope Global (formerly Austraining International)
• Institute for Studies on Free Flow of Information [ISAI] (Indonesia)
• International Centre for Journalists (USA)
• International Media Support (Denmark)
• Jagaran Media Centre (Nepal)
• Journalists Association of Samoa
• The Newspaper Works (formerly Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association)

• Pacific Island News Association
• Pantau Foundation (Indonesia)
• Media Association of Solomon Islands
• Media Association of Vanuatu
• Timor-Leste Media Development Centre
• Timor-Leste Community Radio Association (ARKTL)
• Timor-Leste Journalists Association
• Zoos Victoria

Our organisation

• APJC is a independent, not-for-profit news media development organisation based in Melbourne, Australia.

• APJC annual reports and financial statements are submitted to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

• APJC is an accredited member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.