



ABU Prizes 2026 Contest Rules

The amendments to the Contest Rules of ABU Prizes were approved in April 2004, February 2005, February 2006, February 2007, September 2010, January 2011, March 2013, February 2014, February 2016, January 2018, February 2019, January 2020, January 2021, February 2022, March 2024, March 2025, January 2026



ABU Prizes 2026 Contest Rules

Article 1 Preface

In 1964, the 1st General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), then known as Asian Broadcasting Union, approved the establishment of an international competition for Radio/Audio and TV programs titled the 'ABU Prizes'. During the 48th General Assembly (2011), the ABU adopted a resolution empowering a working party to approve changes in the rules of the ABU Prizes in line with the ABU's objective of promoting excellence in broadcasting.

The ABU Prizes was decided to be held as an annual event and shall be governed in accordance with the terms stated as below under the Contest Rules.

Article 2 Objective

The ABU Prizes aims to promote excellence in content production in order to raise educational and cultural standards and to strengthen international understanding among the people of the ABU member countries and regions.

Article 3 Categories

The categories for awarding separate prizes are as follows:

- i. Each of the seven (7) categories for Audio programs
- ii. Each of the seven (7) categories for Screen programs
- iii. Digital Media category for digital content

AUDIO CATEGORIES:

#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
1	Drama	A single episode drama or one episode of a series.
2	Podcast	A programme created, published and distributed specifically for digital audiences first. Entries should be story-driven or conversational (i.e. not a news report or single interview), have engaging hosts, and an informal, intimate and authentic style.
3	Documentary	A single documentary or a feature or one episode of a series.
4	News Reporting	Topical coverage of a single news event.
5	Public Service Announcement (PSA)	Campaigns or announcements on a single issue that is of public interest, and which is not more than 90 seconds duration. The PSA should aim at creating public awareness within its cultural context.
6	Audio Personality	The work of a single audio personality, either a single performance or a compilation. This could include DJ, radio/podcast host/presenter, anchor, news reader, traffic reporter, news reporter and/or correspondent.



7	ABU Perspective Award	A programme that best delivers the message of ABU perspective on the theme of global issues chosen by ABU members and illustrated through their local issue in any form. Theme for 2026: “Healing” Programmes about well-being, and inner strength amid life’s challenges. It explores emotional, mental, and physical recovery through personal stories, cultural practices, nature, community, and self-reflection.
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SCREEN CATEGORIES:

#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
1	Drama	A single episode drama or one episode of a series/serials.
2	Documentary	A single documentary or a feature or one episode of a series.
3	Entertainment	Any non-drama, non-documentary, non-news program entertaining to all.
4	Children	Any program, including educational program, targeted at viewers below 11 years of age (elementary level).
5	News Reporting	Topical coverage of a single news event.
6	Sports	A single program about sports which includes event coverage, commentary, talk shows or documentary.
7	ABU Perspective Award	A programme that best delivers the message of ABU perspective on the theme of global issues chosen by ABU members and illustrated through their local issue in any form. Theme for 2026: “Healing” Programmes about well-being, and inner strength amid life’s challenges. It explores emotional, mental, and physical recovery through personal stories, cultural practices, nature, community, and self-reflection.

DIGITAL MEDIA CATEGORY:

#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
1	Digital Storytelling	Excellence & Innovation in Digital Production that connects audiences with stories in new ways. This might include visual storytelling, data visualisations or multimedia presentations.
2	Digital Interactivity & Engagement	Excellence and innovation in digitally-driven audience engagement and community building. This might include the use of: social media platforms, user-generated content, stand-alone websites, apps, games, augmented reality or virtual reality.

Article 4 Special Jury Prize

Special Jury Prize recognizes programmes which have made a special impact on the jury, due to their subject matter, treatment or production value.

Article 5 Eligibility

5.1 All ABU members are eligible to enter the competition.

5.2 – All entries submitted by the ABU members (**except TV Sports**) must be broadcast for the first time between **15 May 2025 – 30 June 2026**.

– **TV Sports** category must be first broadcast between **15 May 2024 – 30 June 2026**



5.3 Programs which have won a prize in any other international competition are qualified to be submitted.



5.4 Entries must be free from political propaganda and/or commercial advertising or promotion.

Article 6 Entries

6.1 Multiple entries from media associations/organisations are accepted, but only one (1) entry from each category will qualify as a finalist.

6.2 Audio entries must include with English script with a time code/English subtitles.

6.3 Screen entries must include with English subtitles/ English voiceover.

6.4 Duration for Audio and Screen categories are as follows:

DURATION FOR AUDIO ENTRIES BY CATEGORY:

#	CATEGORY	DURATION
1	Drama	5 – 60 minutes
2	Podcast	10 – 60 minutes
3	Documentary	Up to 60 minutes
4	News Reporting	Up to 5 minutes
5	Public Service Announcement (PSA)	Up to 90 seconds
6	Audio Personality	Please select your best 30 minutes, edited or unedited sequence.
7	ABU Perspective Award	Up to 60 minutes

DURATION FOR SCREEN ENTRIES BY CATEGORY:

#	CATEGORY	DURATION
1	Drama	Up to 90 minutes
2	Documentary	Up to 60 minutes
3	Entertainment	Up to 60 minutes
4	Children	10 – 60 minutes
5	News Reporting	Up to 5 minutes
6	Sports	Up to 60 minutes
7	ABU Perspective Award	Up to 60 minutes



SUPPORTING MATERIALS FOR DIGITAL MEDIA ENTRIES BY CATEGORY:

#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
1	Digital Storytelling	Content and relevant new media links & supporting materials up to 60 minutes
2	Digital Interactivity & Engagement	Content and relevant new media links & supporting materials up to 60 minutes

6.5 All entries, along with the completed ABU Prizes entry form and additional requirements as requested in accordance with Article 6.3, must reach the ABU Secretariat on or before the **entry deadline, 30th June 2026.**

Article 7 Pre-selection

7.1 For all categories and the Special Jury Prize the ABU Secretariat shall appoint at its discretion jury members who shall pre-select and shortlist all entries received.

7.2 During pre-selection the jury may transfer/change the entry category at their discretion and resubmit it in appropriate categories.

Article 8 Final Judging

8.1 The jury for all categories shall comprise of minimum five experts from ABU membership. The jury members shall be appointed by the ABU Secretariat at its discretion, taking into account balanced representation, expertise and other relevant considerations.

Article 9 Responsibilities of Pre-selection and Final Judging Jury

9.1 In both pre-selection and final judging processes each jury shall follow the ABU judging guidelines in assessing/evaluating the entries.

9.2 In pre-selection and final judging, a chairperson may be nominated among the jury members. The chairperson shall prepare a written report approved by all jury members to be submitted to the ABU Secretariat.

9.3 In the event of any entry being disqualified by the jury during the final judging, the chairperson shall report the reason for disqualification to the ABU Secretary-General, who shall then convey it to the member which submitted the entry.

9.4 The decision of the jury shall be final in both pre-selection and final judging.

Article 10 Prizes

10.1 In case the jury considers that none of the entries is worthy of a prize, they may decide not to award that prize in the year concerned.

10.2 In addition to finalizing the winner(s), each jury may recognize one (1) entry from the finalists for each category with a special commendation award.

Article 11 Others

Any amendments shall be subject to further approval of the ABU Programme Bureau meeting.