



News Update

Memorandum of understanding

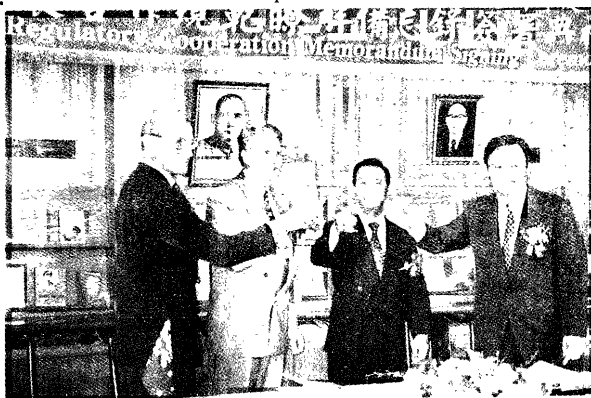
TAIPEI: The ABA has cemented its relations with the Government Information Office (GIO) in Taipei with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Australia (TECO) and the Australian Commerce and Industry Office (ACIO).

Mr Tim O'Keefe, Member of the ABA, was present in Taipei as an observer at the signing ceremony. He said that the MOU would contribute to the exchange of information on broadcasting issues in a rapidly changing international communications environment.

'The MOU facilitates the further development of the friendly relations which the ABA has developed with the GIO in Taipei and we hope to continue working together on issues of common concern, such as research projects which may be of mutual benefit as a result of joint co-operation,' Mr O'Keefe said.

In addition to the GIO, the ABA has close working relations with broadcasting regulators elsewhere in Asia and the Pacific, North America and Europe.

From the left: ABA member, Mr Tim O'Keefe, Australian Commerce and Industry Office (ACIO) representative, Mr Colin Heseltine, Republic of China representative to Australia, Mr Hung Chienhsiung and Government Information Office (GIO) Director-General, Dr Su Chi.



Tim O'Keefe resigns from the ABA

SYDNEY: Mr Tim O'Keefe resigned from the ABA, effective 31 March 1997. Mr O'Keefe was appointed to the ABA in October 1992 for a five year term.

Mr O'Keefe is taking up the position of Head of Business Affairs at Australian Multimedia Enterprise Limited in April 1997.

The Minister for Communications and Arts, Senator the Hon. Richard Alston, is considering the appointment of Mr O'Keefe as a part time member of the ABA until October 1997.

Mr O'Keefe has had 12 years experience in the broadcasting industry and before joining the broadcasting regulator was chief executive of Wesgo Radio Network.



ABA Member Mr Tim O'Keefe has resigned

ABA invites comment on York community radio applicant

YORK: The ABA is seeking public comment on an application for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the York area of Western Australia.

The ABA has received one application for the York licence, from York Community Radio Incorporated.

'We're interested in hearing from local people about the application,' said ABA Chairman Mr Peter Webb.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. Where there is only one applicant, the ABA only has to decide if that applicant merits a licence. The ABA will assess the application against criteria set out in the Broadcasting Services Act.

'Allocation of new community broadcasting licences has begun in York because the ABA's public planning process, which has been completed for broadcasting services in the area, identified demand for a new community service,' said Mr Webb.

Copies of the application are available for viewing at York Shire Library.

Written comments should be sent to the Manager, Allocations and Renewals, ABA, PO Box Q500, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230.

Canadian meeting

SYDNEY: In February, the ABA met with Mr Peter Senchuk, Commissioner of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) while he was in Australia.

Mr Senchuk told the ABA that the CRTC has a new Chairperson, Mme Francoise Bertrand. He expressed hope that both she and the ABA's Chairman, Mr Peter Webb, would meet soon.

The meetings between Mr Senchuk and staff of the ABA were productive, and a wide range of issues was discussed, including:

- Australia and Canada's approaches to the regulation of subscription television services;
- the comparative health of Canada and Australia's broadcasting industries;
- developments in industry self-regulation in Australia, including the ongoing operation of industry codes of practice;
- latest developments in content requirements for television broadcasting in Canada and Australia;