

The 6th Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during August 2001. ABA Manager Policy and Research, Phyllis Fong, reports on the meeting.

Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable held in Kuala Lumpur

The 6th Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 28 to 30 August 2001. The meeting was attended by representatives from Malaysia, Hong Kong SAR China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia.

The delegates shared information about latest developments in broadcasting in their country reports. They particularly discussed matters relating to transborder

agreed the countries need legislative provisions to ensure the preservation of national identity and so that cultural diversity is reflected adequately.

There was renewed interest at the meeting in regional conventions concerning the regulation of transborder broadcasts. ABA representatives advised the meeting of developments in Australia, in particular, the promulgation of international broadcasting guidelines. These are based on the principles for transborder satellite television broadcasting that were in fact endorsed by the 1998 Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable.

ABA Manager Policy and Research, Phyllis Fong, took advantage of the opportunity while in Kuala Lumpur to brief the Acting Australian

High Commissioner to Malaysia, Nicolas Brown, of the

international broadcasting licensing scheme and explained to him how it works.

The 6th Roundtable was hosted by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).



Above: (L to R) Phyllis Fong, ABA, Vega Wong, Hong Kong Broadcasting Authority and Lida Lam, Hong Kong Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority.

satellite broadcasting, safeguarding children from harmful content on television and the Internet, community consultative fora and evaluating the performance of the media.

The meeting acknowledged that countries are undergoing a time of changing regulatory frameworks to accommodate convergence. The development of local content was recognised as an important requirement in the region. Given the rapid growth of digital technologies, it was generally



Above: (L to R) Tan Sri Nuraizah Abdul Hamid, Chairman, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

An official dinner was hosted by the Minister for Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, and the MCMC Chairman, Tan Sri Nuraizah Abdul Hamid, hosted a welcome dinner.

Australia was nominated as the venue for the 7th Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable and the ABA Chairman, Professor David Flint, agreed to take this proposal back to the Authority for consideration.



Above: Delegates at the 6th Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable meeting.