

In conclusion, it is a privilege to lead the WBU-IMCG during this exciting time of rapid change for broadcasters, along with my Vice-Chairs John Ball (Turner/NABA) and Kazimir Bacic (HRT/EBU). I would like to say thank you to CBS and our sponsors for making a return to New York a reality and hosting a very successful event, as well as to NABA. In fact, I'd also add that NABA's strong relationships with broadcasters in Canada and the US, as well as their superior organization and talented staff, like Anh Ngo, really made this Forum in New York possible.

Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) is committed to dedicating time and re-

sources to support WBU-IMCG, and in my role, together with the other leaders of the group, we will continue to be focused on our new "big tent" mandate, and improving the platform for sharing quickly-changing information and resolving common operational problems. Any feedback is welcome on what may be practical for supporting our expanded goals. I am also pleased to announce that BBC, a long time WBU-IMCG supporter, has extended an invitation to host the next Forum on December 1st and 2nd, 2015. I thereby look forward to seeing everyone towards the end of the year in London. ■



IMCG Chair Akira Ogawa, EBU's Vlastimil Benovsky and the Secretariat's Anh Ngo in CBS' storied Studio 41

Director-General's Report

Michael McEwen, NABA



It has been a busy time for both NABA and the WBU these last few months.

All of NABA's standing committees and our

Board of Directors met during this period with the bulk of the meetings in New York the first week of June. It's interesting for me as I review each committee's agenda how they have grown and broadened their subject matter over the past few years.

This is a good thing and reflects the members' interest to have real deliverables coming from their commitment of time and resources to NABA. The Secretariat can provide a platform and encourage participation, but at the end of the day, it is the members who must drive the agenda. So my thanks to all of you who are working hard on these deliverables and ensuring NABA's continued relevance.

Our Technical Committee, in addition to ongoing work in Spectrum for the World Radiocommunication Conference later this year (WRC-15) and transition planning for ATSC 3.0, has added a lot to its

ing brief on IP production and delivery, and a Joint NABA-DPP (the UK's Digital Production Partnership) technical subcommittee to map out technical specifications for metadata on file formats.

As you may know, NABA and the DPP formed a strategic partnership in April to find a common North American solution to multiple file formats based on the DPP's success in the UK. Much of the technical and education work falls to the TC. It's a big project with an aggressive timetable, led by the NABA-DPP Technical Specification Group and chaired by Clyde Smith. This group will spend the next three months to achieve this goal.

Similarly the Radio Committee has identified a couple of major projects they'd like to achieve over the next year, including the creation of two working groups, one for each of the committee's top priorities – The FM Chip in Smartphones, and the Expansion of Digital Radio. The RC will also explore holding a half-day *Future of Radio & Audio Symposium* in Mexico City (alongside the NABA AGM) early in March, 2016. It is honestly hoped that this will engage Mexican membership in the RC, which has not been easy thus far. When you think about what the radio folks have accomplished in a little over a year it is quite remark-

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The Risk Awareness & Continuity Committee (RACC) is in the process of reorganizing some of its work to recognize other forums whose work we can tap into and not reinvent the wheel. A sensible approach. The RACC also made a very thorough and strong presentation on Cyber Security to our Board recently. It is frightening to fully comprehend how vulnerable we may all be to hacking at the very least and to major attacks on our production and broadcast systems on the extreme end. Protocols, preparation and good planning provide some defense. A small team of experts will join the security people to look at how we can increase the security of our production and distribution equipment. Important work!

The Legal Committee is about to enter another round of discussions at WIPO about a Broadcaster Treaty Diplomatic Conference. There has been a significant push by NABA and our sister Unions in the WBU to make this decision happen this year. We have been at this work a long time, so it's either progress towards our goal with treaty language which reflects broadcaster needs, or it will be re-

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rethink time. This is vital for our NABA legal people and the WBU's Broadcaster Treaty Working Group (BTWG). We should get a sense of how this will pan out by the fall.

Each of our committees share their work with our Board of Directors and seek their approval and direction. Again I find it interesting to reflect that with broad and diverse agendas from the committees, the Board is getting the full gamut of issues in broadcast operations and distribution. And with that knowledge, a better sense of the business case associated with each of these issues and the impact on the members' company. It is a time of real change in our industry, and yet at the same time revenues are relatively stagnant, and in some areas shrinking. So the pressure to do the same or more with less is certainly a major factor in how we move forward.

On the WBU front, it too has been a busy time. Aside from the aforementioned BTWG preparing for WIPO, their Tech-

nical Committee met last week in Krakow, Poland. This was our own Bob Plummer's first meeting as WBU-TC Chair (Bob is Vice-Chair of the NABA-TC and the FOX rep. to that Committee also). He has been working hard to coordinate a WBU approach to WRC-15 and while you would think that protecting broadcast spectrum for broadcasters would be a no brainer for all of us, when you look at regional positions in a global context, it's not so easy. The objective has been realized though and we go to WRC-15 united in our efforts. Enabling FM and digital radio chips in smart phones was on the agenda too and we'll talk more about our strategies to have these chips enabled by the mobile industry in future *NABAcaster* editions. It was a good debut for Bob in the Chair's seat.

You'll note a cover report from Akira Ogawa, the Chair of the WBU International Media Connectivity Group (IMCG), in this edition about their successful meeting last month in NYC hosted by CBS in their "storied" *Studio*

41. The meeting saw a renewed mandate and work plan, which is reflected in the new IMCG name. The old ISOG brand (International Satellite Operations Group) has served us well for 30 years, but it was time to recognize that being a broadcaster in an IP world is all about "connectivity" and everything that word implies. The renewal process has been in the works for about a year and Akira and his two Vice-Chairs, John Ball (Turner/NABA) and Kazimir Bacic (HRT/EBU), have done a terrific job. This meeting had more than 120 people registered and was one of the most attended Forums in its history.

Finally, next week I meet with my counterparts the Secretaries and Directors General of the broadcast Unions that make up the WBU. This meeting, much like a NABA Board meeting, is driven by the Committees' agendas. I'll have more about this meeting in our next edition of *NABAcaster*.

In the meantime, happy summer to you all! ■

Dialed-In to NABA's Radio Committee

Jason Paris, NABA

Perhaps I was a bit of an oddball kid as I did not care much for sports or the latest Atari system. What I would actually find fun is slowly turning my portable radio's AM dial in the wee hours of the morning and discovering those magical 'skywave' signals from across the continent. I quickly became an expert on late-night traffic on New York City's George Washington Bridge (thanks WCBS!) and took a liking to Tom Snyder's folksy chats (thanks WLS Chicago!). This did not win me many friends at school, but that's another story. My love of radio was basically awakened and cemented here. It felt the most personal to me of any medium and probably influenced my thinking about music (thanks CFNY Toronto!) and my city (thanks CBC Radio 1 Toronto!) more than anything I ever read or watched. This continues today as I listen to loads of programming from traditional broadcasters (both public and private) and non-traditional sources (like the fantastic *BBC Radio 6* on my Apple TV and grabbing some great podcasts off iPhone's *Monocle* app while commuting home on a Toronto

streetcar). So a year and a half ago when I found out that I would be NABA's coordinator of their newly formed Radio Committee (RC), I felt those sleepless nights as a child were finally worth it!



To be honest, I was worried about radio's future as disruptive technologies were creating some stark headlines in the press about the medium's future. Nonetheless, I always felt it was important, for so many reasons, that despite whatever the future

held that a robust terrestrial service was still fundamental. With Julie McCambley (CBC/Radio-Canada) as our Chair and very solid Vice-Chair support from Paul Brenner (Emmis Communications), I'm happy to report that this little committee that could is really starting to make a difference. While this long-time and dedicated radio fan is still a bit cautious, you can now make that 'cautiously optimistic' about the medium's future.

Much of its first year had the RC busy organizing the inaugural *Future of Radio & Audio Symposium* here in Toronto on February 19th, however the RC is now evolving into something broader. While the Symposium was a tremendous accomplishment, both in terms of attendance numbers and engaging content, it really succeeded by doing what the committee had creatively hoped it would – identify the big issues affecting North American radio broadcasters and elevating them right into the RC's agenda.

As Paul Brenner reviewed the Symposium in the April-May *NABAcaster* he asked "how can we be the change agents to en-
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