

To whom it may concern,

I am Ashraf Amin Head of the Science and Health Section in AlAhram Newspaper and responsible for AlAhram Science Café, Cairo, Egypt.

I have been working as a science reporter for 20 years for various media outlets. During the last 6 years I have been heavily concentrating on organizing training workshops giving lectures about science journalism in Egypt, Germany and the MENA region. I have also worked as a media consultant and trainer for various ministries, health and Science organizations in Egypt. I had the chance several times to attend the WCSJ conferences.

For the last 3 years, I have worked on small projects with the Goethe Institut and the DAAD on media exchange programs between mid-career science journalists in Egypt and Germany. I have also worked with companies on tailing communication workshops for young journalists, PR officers in governorates and school teachers.

I truly believe that the World Federation of Science Journalists played a major role in Africa and the least developed countries in Asia by boosting chances for young journalists to get the proper training, provide access to information and create a vivid platform for discussions and debates about the key challenges in Science journalism and the future of media in broad. I think that the federation should still keep working on its agenda for the coming years by using the social platforms to approach the new generation of journalists or the millennials. The Federation should also work showing examples of best practices in different parts of the world especially in war zones and vulnerable regions where absence of facts and data is a crucial issue.

With respect to all the global challenges the media is facing these days, I think there are endless opportunities in using new tech to train journalists and create models of good and sustainable journalism practices. That's why it's important from my understanding that the WFSJ find the proper stakeholders to collaborate with in short term or long term projects to provide opportunities for reporters in learning, creating their media outlet and publishing their stories.