

To the Nomination Committee

Dear Nomination Committee and colleagues science journalists,

This is the second time I am applying for the candidate of international board member. Allow me to share my views why I am applying again.

1. I've been working as science journalist since 1990 in Indonesia. I found two journalist organizations in Indonesia: the Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists and the Society of Indonesian Science Journalists. Now, I am the chair of the Society of Indonesian Science Journalists.

2. In the last 15 years, beside writing for national and international media (mostly) on environmental issues, I developed training module on environmental journalism and conducted dozens of training workshops. I did the training workshops not only in Indonesia but also in the region. My last training workshop was in Cambodia. Last year, I did not produce many science stories. While giving training and mentoring young journalists, I did literature research for my next book on environmental journalism which I planned to write it this year.

3. I've seen enough how Indonesian and other developing countries in Asia journalists covering science stories. Mostly, they only translated stories published in foreign media from developed countries or wire services. There were very limited original science stories in Asia developing countries such as Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar.

4. There are 50 independent countries in Asia (most of them are developing countries). The three largest countries are in Asia: China, India, and Indonesia. But, there are only eight science journalist organizations in Asia. Asia is the center stage of media world as reported by FAO.

5. Asia needs science journalists to increase science literacy of the half world population. The role of science journalists in Asia is to help the governments – especially developing country governments – considering research-based policies.

6. I am motivated to help Asian science journalists to play bigger role and bring back science journalism to Asia (after the 1st World Conference of Science Journalists in Japan). I want to help science journalists in Asian developing countries to establish their science journalism associations in their countries. In the next two years, science journalist associations in Asia – with the help of WFSJ – will organize a Forum of Science Journalists in Asia.

Thank you for reading my letter of motivation. I hope, I will meet the criteria as candidate for the international board member of WFSJ. Thank you.



Harry Surjadi