

= ABU Radio Song Festival 2012 =

The ABU Radio Song Festival 2012 was the first edition of the biennial ABU Radio Song Festivals , organised by the Asia @-@ Pacific Broadcasting Union ( ABU ) . The festival took place in the KBS Hall , which is located in the South Korean capital of Seoul and coincided with the 49th general assembly of the ABU . The ABU Radio Song Festival attracted twenty @-@ six original entries representing eighteen radio broadcasters from fifteen countries , which competed in a preliminary jury round . The juries selected thirteen entries from twelve radio broadcasters in ten countries to qualify for the final show which was held on 11 October 2012 . Fifteen entries were originally selected to participate in the grand final . However , Fiji and Sri Lanka withdrew from the radio competition prior to the final show , and thus only thirteen entries participated in the competition on 11 October 2012 .

South Korea won the Grand Prix award with the song " For a Rest " performed by boy band Billy Acoustie . Danielle Blakey representing Australia won the gold award with the song " Fearless " , Brunei received the silver award with the song " Yang Terindah ( So Beautiful ) " performed by Maria Aires , with Sammy Ray Jones also representing Australia receiving the bronze award with his song " Rinet " . K @-@ Town Clan representing Malaysia received the special jury award with their song " Party Animal " . The next edition will be held in Colombo , Sri Lanka .

= = History = =

The Asia @-@ Pacific Broadcasting Union ( ABU ) had already run an international song contest for its members inspired by the Eurovision Song Contest in 1985 ? 1987 , called the ABU Popular Song Contest , with 14 countries from the Asia @-@ Pacific region competing . The show had a similar concept to the current festivals with the winners being chosen by a professional jury . South Korea , New Zealand and Australia celebrated victories in that competition . In 1989 ? 1991 the ABU co @-@ produced the ABU Golden Kite World Song Festival in Malaysia with participation of Asia @-@ Pacific countries , as well as Yugoslavia and Finland .

In 2008 , the European Broadcasting Union ( EBU ) proposed a partnership with the ABU on the establishment of an Asiavision Song Contest ; however these talks didn 't produce any results , and in September 2008 it was announced that the Eurovision Song Contest format for Asian production had been sold to a private company from Singapore , Asiavision Pte . Ltd . The original name intended for that event was Asiavision Song Contest , but it was later changed to Our Sound - The Asia @-@ Pacific Song Contest following a request from the ABU , who uses the Asiavision name for their news exchange service . Initially , the contest ( which was supposed to be a two program live broadcast TV show with public voting ) was set to premiere in 2009 , but it was later rescheduled for March 2010 in Macao and then for November 2010 in Mumbai , at the end being postponed indefinitely " due to the ongoing issues between the organizers and EBU " .

Shortly before launching the ABU Song Festival , the ABU had been considering the possibility of organizing the ABU ASEAN TV Song Festival in Thailand . Historically , ASEAN song contests had been organized in periods between 1981 and 1997 , however since 2011 the ASEAN Festival had been organized between local Radio stations such as Bintang Radio ASEAN .

In November 2011 , the ABU announced that they would organize their own TV and Radio Song Festivals to take place in Seoul , the South Korean capital , to coincide with the 49th General Assembly in October 2012 . The name Asiavision Song Contest was initially mentioned as a possibility , but they were later officially titled ABU Radio Song Festival and ABU TV Song Festival . According to the ABU , the deadline for participation applications for the ABU TV Song Festival was 18 May 2012 .

= = Location = =

Seoul , officially the Seoul Special City , is the capital and largest metropolis of South Korea . A megacity with a population of over 10 million , it is the largest city proper in the OECD developed

world . The Seoul National Capital Area is the world 's second largest metropolitan area with over 25 million inhabitants , which includes the surrounding Incheon metropolis and Gyeonggi province . Almost a quarter of South Koreans live in Seoul , half of South Koreans live in the metropolitan area , along with over 275 @, @ 000 international residents .

Located on the Han River , Seoul has been a major settlement for over 2 @, @ 000 years , with its foundation dating back to 18 B.C. when Baekje , one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea , established its capital in what is now south @-@ east Seoul . It continued as the capital of Korea during the Joseon Dynasty and the Korean Empire . The Seoul National Capital Area is home to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites : Changdeokgung , Hwaseong Fortress , Jongmyo Shrine and the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty .

= = = National host broadcaster = = =

Korean Broadcasting System ( KBS ) was the host broadcaster for the first edition of the inaugural Radio Song Festivals , which was staged in the KBS Hall . The host broadcaster had offered to cover costs for staging the show as well as the accommodation for the participants of ABU TV Song Festival .

= = Format = =

Unlike the format used in the Eurovision Song Contest there were two versions of the ABU Song Contest . The ABU Radio Song Contest and the ABU TV Song Festival which took place between 11 ? 17 October 2012 during the 49th ABU General Assembly . The theme for the festivals was : ' Beyond the Wave ' . This had been inspired by the digital evolution changes in the global media .

At the preliminary round of the Radio Festival , twenty @-@ six participants from fifteen countries across Asia , Australia and the Pacific performed their entries in front of a jury panel . Thirteen entries representing ten countries qualified for the final show which took place at the KBS Hall on 11 October 2012 . An international selection committee voted for their favourites and the top five performers were awarded prizes by a panel of judges .

The international jury members were producer and songwriter Il Sang Yun , singer / songwriter Gwang Jin Kim , Suk Lee on behalf of KBS Radio 2 , Singaporean songwriter Billy Koh , and Vijay Sadhu from the ABU .

= = Participating countries = =

Twenty @-@ six entries participated in a pre @-@ qualification round , fifteen were selected to proceed to the final of the ABU Radio Song Festival ( as shown in the following table ) . However , Sevanaia Yacalevu the Fijian participant withdrew from the competition on 14 September 2012 . Yacalevu would have performed last in the running order with the song " Time for a change " . Surendra Perera the Sri Lankan participant also announced a withdrawal , although the reason for this is unknown . So the number of finalists was reduced to thirteen .

An international jury awards prizes to their top five favourites after all participating finalists had performed their entries at the ABU Radio Song Festival . The Grand Prix award was issued to the winner , the Gold Award to second place , the Silver Award to third , the Bronze Award to fourth , and a Special Jury award to fifth place .

= = = Results = = =

1 . ^ Listed as Vanuatu , although the official website lists the nation as Australia / Vanuatu due to the participating broadcaster ABC Television being of Australian origin .

= = = Did not qualify = = =

Of the twenty @-@ six preliminary entries , fifteen were selected to proceed to the final of the ABU Radio Song Festival . The remaining eleven did not qualify ( as shown in the following table ) .

= = = Withdrawn = = =

= = National jury members = =

The members of the international jury who awarded prizes to their top five favourites are as follows :

= = International broadcasts = =

Each participating country was invited to broadcast both events across their respective networks and provide commentary in the native languages to add insight and description to the shows . The festival was not broadcast live , although each broadcaster had stated that they would broadcast the festival between October - November 2012 with an estimated audience of 2 billion people , twenty times the audience that is reached by the Eurovision Song Contest which reaches an audience of approximately 100 million people .