

= ABU TV Song Festival 2012 =

The ABU TV Song Festival 2012 was the first annual edition of the ABU TV Song Festivals . The festival , which was non @-@ competitive , took place in the KBS Concert Hall , located in the South Korean capital of Seoul and coincided with the 49th general assembly of the Asia @-@ Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) . Eleven countries confirmed their participation in the first edition of the competition .

The Asia @-@ Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) had previously run international contests , inspired by the Eurovision Song Contest , for their members during 1985 ? 1987 . The European Broadcasting Union had proposed a partnership with the ABU in 2008 to establish the Asiavision Song Contest , however these talks never produced any results . The ABU announced in 2011 that they would organise their own ABU Radio and TV Song Festivals .

The format used was different from that of the Eurovision Song Contest , as there were two festivals that took place . The ABU TV Song Festival was a non @-@ competitive musical gala orientated , while the Radio Song Festival was the competitive . The festival was not aired live by any of the competing broadcasters , but is scheduled to be broadcast between October and November 2012 .

= = 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 of the Asia @-@ Pacific region competing . The show had a similar concept to the current festivals with winners being chosen by a professional jury . South Korea , New Zealand and Australia celebrated victories in this competition . In 1989 ? 1991 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 ABU on the establishment of an Asiavision Song Contest , however these talks didn 't produce any result , 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 to organize 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 as Bintang Radio ASEAN .

In November 2011 , the ABU announced that they would organize its own TV and Radio Song Festivals to take place in Seoul , the South Korean capital , in time with 49th General Assembly in October 2012 . The name Asiavision Song Contest was initially mentioned as a possibility , but they were later officially titled ABU TV Song Festival and ABU Radio Song Festival . According to the ABU , the deadline for participation applications for 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 annual TV Song Festival , which was staged in the KBS Concert Hall . The host broadcaster 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 are two versions of the ABU Song Festival . The ABU Radio Song Festival 2012 and the ABU TV Song Festival 2012 , which were both scheduled to take place between 11 and 17 October 2012 during the 49th ABU General Assembly . During the TV Festival , participants from eleven countries performed a song from their repertoire in a musical gala presentation . The theme for the festivals was ' Beyond the Wave ' , which has been inspired by the digital evolution changes in the global media .

= = Participating countries = =

Eleven entries participated in the final of the ABU TV Song Festival (as shown in the table below) . Mongolia had initially selected Naran with the song " Nudnii shil (Shades) " , but subsequently withdrew their participation on 14 September 2012 .

Notes

1 . ^ Specifically Hazaragi , a Persian dialect spoken in Hazarajat , in central Afghanistan .

= = International broadcasts = =

Each participating country were 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 has stated that they will broadcast the festival between October and 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 .