



ASIAN FACT CHECKERS NETWORK CONFERENCE REPORT

**30 September–
1 October 2025**

**Battle for Truth:
*Information Wars
and the Struggle
for Narrative
Control***

About the Conference



The 2nd Annual Asian Fact-checkers Network Conference (AFCNC) titled: **The Battle for Truth – Information Wars and the Struggle for Narrative Control** took place on 30 September and 1 October 2025.

In a year where conflicts, protests, and geo-political upheavals collided with the emergence of new and fast-evolving technologies in the information space, fact-checkers from across the region came together to share lessons and new strategies to tackle the threat of disinformation head-on. Presentations from fact-checkers and academics highlighted new research and dissected the recent landscape of disinformation.



The **ASIAN FACT-CHECKERS NETWORK** was formed in 2021 to build a community of practice among fact-checkers in the region. AFCN currently has a significant presence in the region, with members spanning India, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. AFCN seeks to grow the network and to ramp up efforts to exchange expertise, experience and best practices, ensuring that fact-checking survives, thrives and keeps pace with the evolving threats of misinformation and disinformation.



Message from our Organisers

AFCNC 2025 was organised by Black Dot Research in collaboration with the Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet (IN-Cube)



NICHOLAS FANG
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
BLACK DOT RESEARCH

We enter the final months of 2025 having already experienced a year of global shifts, conflicts, and geopolitical turmoil. Since the last AFCNC, new technologies and challenges have arisen in the fight against mis/disinformation, and fresh strategies are being developed in tandem by fact-checkers to meet those new hurdles.

It is our hope that AFCNC 2025 will be a gathering of different minds from across the region to share perspectives on the battle for truth amidst an information space filled with disinformation. The power of the collective and collaborative efforts to communicate and educate is one which we hope to see bear fruit over the course of this conference and beyond, with lasting and meaningful connections being made.

If there's one thing I have learned through the various studies we've conducted at the Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet (IN-cube) over the past decade, it is the critical importance of protecting information integrity. This has never been more urgent, with malevolent actors polluting the information space and technological advancements expanding their arsenal. In this challenging landscape, fact-checkers play a vital role.

Being at the forefront of this fight comes with risks: fact-checkers face threats on multiple fronts—legal, political, and even personal. One way to confront these challenges is through collaboration: by exchanging best practices, learning from one another, and fostering ongoing dialogue. This conversation must extend beyond fact-checkers to include researchers, policymakers, journalists, social scientists, and audiences.



DR. EDSON C. TANDOC JR.
DIRECTOR, *IN-CUBE*

Introduction



The 2nd Annual Asian Fact-Checkers Network Conference (AFCNC) marked another significant milestone in our collective fight against disinformation and the strengthening of information integrity across Asia. More than a year after our inaugural conference, the information landscape has continued to evolve at an unprecedented pace. The geopolitical climate remains fragmented and complex, technologies have grown more sophisticated and accessible, and the very notions of “fact-checking” and “disinformation” have shifted in public perception.

In Southeast Asia, the impact of disinformation has been acutely felt. The past year has brought unrest, conflict, and major elections across several countries in the region, each accompanied by information attacks designed to disrupt and manipulate public narratives. Against this backdrop, the 2025 conference theme — “Battle for Truth: Information Wars and the Struggle for Narrative Control” — underscored the urgent need for adaptive strategies to counter evolving threats in an environment where truth itself is often contested.

As one of Singapore’s few third-party, independent fact-checking organisations, Black Dot Research has remained committed since 2019 to countering misinformation and building a culture of critical inquiry through our free-to-use fact-checking platform. In 2021, we extended this commitment regionally by founding the Asian Fact-Checkers Network (AFCN) — a community of practice uniting fact-checkers, academics, and media professionals. The AFCN continues to expand, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices to ensure fact-checking remains resilient and responsive to the ever-changing information ecosystem.

The 2nd AFCNC was conceptualised as a space for meaningful dialogue — a platform for fact-checkers, journalists, public officials, and information consumers to engage deeply with the challenges of combating misinformation. This year’s conference brought together partners and friends from across the region to exchange insights and strategies, reinforcing our shared commitment to cross-border collaboration as a crucial defence against coordinated disinformation campaigns.



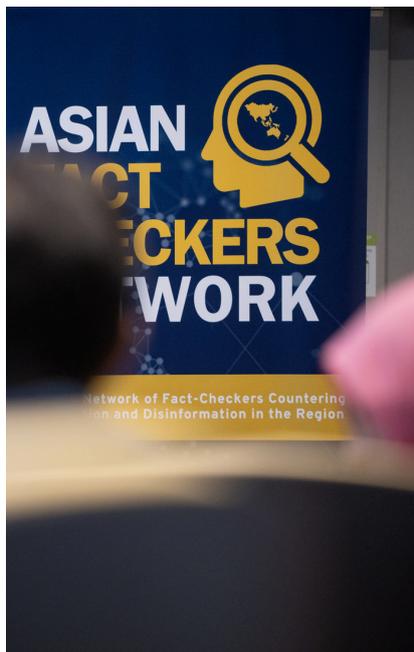
Introduction



We were honoured to be hosted by INCube, the Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University. Their partnership and research expertise enriched the discussions, and the participation of students added fresh perspectives to the ongoing discourse about information integrity. Together, we sought not only to navigate the complex realities of the information space but also to demystify the disinformation struggle and inspire the next generation of truth-seekers.

With education, collaboration, and innovation as our guiding pillars, this year's conference has paved the way for new partnerships, fresh ideas, and renewed determination. The AFCNC remains an evolving forum — one that enables fact-checkers to convene, reflect, and reaffirm our shared mission to uphold the truth.

As the “Battle for Truth” continues, our collective toolkit is expanding and sharpening. This post-conference report captures the highlights, insights, and outcomes of the 2nd Annual AFCNC — a testament to our ongoing regional efforts to ensure that truth endures, even in the most contested of spaces.



Speaker Profiles



NICHOLAS FANG
MANAGING DIRECTOR
BLACK DOT RESEARCH

Nicholas Fang, has over 20 years of experience in the media industry. He was a senior correspondent at the Straits Times for nine years, and later moved to Channel NewsAsia at Mediacorp as Business Desk Editor and presenter. He was also Deputy Chief Editor of Singapore news at Mediacorp.

Nicholas is currently the Managing Director of **Black Dot Research**, the leading independent fact-checker in Singapore, and Director for Security and Global Affairs in the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, a non-profit and independent think tank.



DR. EDSON C. TANDOC JR.
DIRECTOR
IN-CUBE NTU

Professor Edson C. Tandoc Jr. is President's Chair Professor of Communication Studies at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore and the founding Director of the **Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet (IN-cube) at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information**.

His research focuses on the impact of emerging media technologies on news production, distribution, and consumption across diverse media contexts, with a particular focus on news credibility, information integrity, and fact-checking.

Speaker Profiles



DR. OMER ALI SAIFUDEEN
ASSISTANT DEAN
RABAN ACADEMY

Dr. Omer Ali Saifudeen is currently Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies Affairs, **Rabdan Academy**, United Arab Emirates.

He was previously the Head of Military Studies Minor & Senior Lecturer in the Public Safety & Security Programme, School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences, Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). In this programme, he both developed and taught in the course on Countering Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, Transnational Crime and Globalisation. In addition to this, he managed and lectured on many other topics in the social and behavioural sciences such as Criminology, Behavioural Economics and Critical Thinking. Omer also researched considerably on the neurobiology of disinformation.

Dr. Omer was also attached as a Research Fellow to the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), prior to joining SUSS.



MAHOSHADI PEIRIS
TEAM LEADER
VERITÉ RESEARCH

Mahoshadi Peiris is the Team Leader of **Verité Media and Politics of Verité Research**, a leading interdisciplinary think tank based in Sri Lanka.

Over the past seven years, she has focused on strengthening information integrity by improving the supply of quality information from decision-makers and the media, and by boosting demand for integrity through empowering Sri Lankans to critically consume information for better civic decisions.

In this context, she has led the management team and has served as an editor for Verité Research's FactCheck.lk since 2020. FactCheck.lk is the first and only Sri Lankan signatory to the International Fact-Checking Network, holding political and public officials accountable for their public statements.

Speaker Profiles



MINHAJ AMAN
LEAD INVESTIGATOR
THE DISSENT

Minhaj Aman is a lead investigator and trainer at **The Dissent**, an open-source investigative platform launching in September 2025. He began his career in 2017 as one of Bangladesh's earliest fact-checkers at BDFactCheck, later serving as a staff fact-checker and being named among the UNDP DKC Champion in 2020. From 2020 to March 2022, he worked with BOOM (Bangladesh), Meta's fact-checking partner, before joining Dismislab in May 2022, Bangladesh's first disinformation research platform where he led work on disinformation actors and platform accountability through August 2025.

He trains journalists and journalism students in open-source investigations in collaboration with civil-society organizations, and has delivered trainings for DW, The Asia Foundation, the EU, and Article 19. His research interests include FIMI (Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference), influence operations, cross-border digital scams, and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Minhaj is a Digital Sherlocks (2022) alum and a GIJN Cyber Threat Fellow (2024).



ARIBOWO SASMITO
CO-FOUNDER
MAFINDO INDONESIA

Aribowo Sasmito is the Co-Founder and a Fact-Check Specialist of **MAFINDO Indonesia**, a non-profit organisation focusing on combating disinformation, literacy education, and social movements by training and convening with journalists and media, educating consumers of online media, and by building communities of online fact-checkers.

Speaker Profiles



SUPINYA KLANGNARONG
CO-FOUNDER
COFACT THAILAND

Supinya Klangnarong is Co-founder of **COFACT Thailand** and Editor-in-Chief of Cofact.org. She is Co-founder of Digital Thinkers Forum, a Bangkok-based ThinkTank on Digital Rights & Literacy. Supinya is an Honorary Member of the Ethics Committee of The National Press Council of Thailand and a Policy Board Member of the Thailand Consumers Council (TCC), as well as Former Commissioner of National Broadcast and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) in Thailand between 2011 to 2017.

She is Ashoka Fellow since 2004 and Eisenhower Fellow in 2007 as a long-time advocate for media rights and quality journalism, digital rights and citizenship, Supinya started off her media advocacy work as Co-Ordinator, then Secretary-General of now-defunct Campaign for Popular Media Reform, when Thailand's major reform kicked start after the May 1993 popular democracy uprising, then a Co-founder of Thai Netizen Network, Internet freedom advocacy group emerged after military coup in 2006. In 2011, She decided to run in a candidacy for NBTC, which she was selected by the Senate to be the youngest and only female commissioner (civil society representation) in Thailand's broadcast and telecom regulator, NBTC, to influence the democratization of policy and regulation of the country's state-controlled broadcasting sector.

Speaker Profiles



PRADIPA P. RASIDI
*DIGITAL
ANTHROPOLOGIST*

Pradipa P. Rasidi is a digital anthropologist/software developer with eight years of experience in Indonesia's civic space.

He previously worked at Transparency International Indonesia and EngageMedia, coordinating programs on digital security, gamification, and youth political participation.

Since 2016, his research has focused on influence operations (the buzzer industry), cyborg-algorithmic relations, and postcolonial technoscience.

His work has been published in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory, Communication, Culture & Critique, ISEAS Perspectives, and Tactical Tech, with two book chapters on buzzers and Indonesian gaming practices forthcoming from ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.



KALIM AHMED
OSINT RESEARCHER

Kalim Ahmed is an open-source researcher and writer with a focus on disinformation, hate speech, tech accountability and AI policy. He was previously a researcher at Alt News and an OSINT investigator at the Centre for Information Resilience.

Speaker Profiles



SAKINA MOHAMED
EDITOR
MYCHECK MALAYSIA

Sakina Mohamed is the editor of **MyCheck Malaysia**, a fact-checking initiative by Malaysia's national news agency, BERNAMA, and the editor of its data journalism unit. She brings 22 years of journalistic experience, specialising in science, health, environment, and misinformation. She has contributed to strengthening fact-checking standards in Malaysia, ensuring MyCheck's independence while aligning with the International Fact-Checking Network's Code of Principles.

Beyond her newsroom work, Sakina has trained media practitioners and university students in fact-checking and using digital verification tools, as well as represented MyCheck Malaysia at the past annual meetings of the ASEAN Task Force on Fake News.



SHOEB ABDULLAH
CO-FOUNDER
ACTIVATE RIGHTS

Shoeb Abdullah is a digital rights activist based in Bangladesh, with a focus on digital freedoms, information integrity, and the visual archiving of human rights violations.

He is the co-founder of **Activate Rights**, a digital rights collective working at the intersection of technology, protest, and accountability.

Shoeb has previously collaborated with organizations such as Internews, UNDP, and other national and international bodies. His work extends into open-source investigations, and he has served in Meta's 3rd-Party Fact-Checking program. He is also actively involved in the media development space, contributing from both practitioner and donor perspectives.

Currently, Shoeb works with multiple investigative outlets and supports efforts toward transitional justice in Bangladesh through documentation, research, and capacity-building.

Fireside Chat



BG Ng framed today's unconventional threats as borderless and supercharged by technology. New waves of generative AI magnify the scale, speed, targeting, and realism of disinformation, making it easier to undermine public confidence across societies. He argued that the most acute risk is an erosion of trust—in government, institutions, and the information ecosystem itself. In this environment, fact-checking isn't a sideshow; it's central to political legitimacy.

Because technology outpaces regulation, he pressed for communities — especially fact-checkers and civil society—to establish norms and practical governance frameworks rather than chasing an endless “arms race.” Operationally, security agencies need to factor in the cyber-information nexus and invest in information-sharing and capability-building across borders.

Legislation has a role in curbing falsehoods, but it cannot substitute for sustained media and digital literacy across all ages. Regionally, confidence-building and multilateral cooperation are essential because threats propagate quickly between states. His cautionary note was stark: if citizens come to believe nothing is credible, democratic resilience falters. Building literacy, governance capacity, and institutional trust is the best insurance against that tipping point.



Speaker:

Brigadier General Ng Pak Shun
Group Chief of Policy & Strategy,
MINDEF

Moderator:

Nicholas Fang
Managing Director,
Black Dot Research

Presentation:



Fighting Fake News in Asia: Lessons Learned, Problems Persisting, Evolving Threats

Professor Edson kickstarted the day with a presentation focused on recent research on fake news conducted by IN-Cube. With data collected from across Asia, Prof Edson discussed the reasons and forces behind why people fall for fake news – as well as why they might interact with fake news in different ways. For instance, the digital environment filled with social division, information overload, or aversion to news is a breeding ground for different points of vulnerability to misinformation

Differences across countries point to fascinating country and culture specific factors which can influence a society's response to fake news. For instance, education systems which emphasize obedience over critical thinking might reduce resistance to misinformation, or a collectivist culture might discourage non-conformity, leading to falsehoods being widely accepted.

New and evolving threats can mean different approaches to creating and spreading fake news or can also take the form of massive increases in the volume of fake news. In this context, it is vital to maintain fact-checking both as a tool and as an organised collective. In tandem, the continued research into the “why?” behind fake news and its spread is an important part of staying alert to changes and developments that will keep fact-checking strategies on the right track.



Speaker:
Dr. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Director
IN-Cube, NTU

Presentation:



From Historical Patterns to Modern Information Warfare, Fact checking vs Selection Bias – Truth is in the eye of the beholder?

Dr Omer explored how “truths” are often shaped by the narratives people prefer, and how even well-intentioned critical thinking can be led astray by the way questions are framed. He encouraged “critical prompting”—probing the agenda behind a message rather than only hunting for abstract truth. Adversaries, he noted, are methodical: they study emotional triggers, move early to define events, and exploit first-mover advantage to set the frame that others struggle to dislodge.

He traced the appeal of conspiratorial narratives to deeper conditions: a history of foreign interventions and authoritarian opacity that leaves informational vacuums easily filled by alternative channels. When mainstream media are seen as insufficient or biased, audiences gravitate to influencers, encrypted groups, citizen journalists, and diaspora outlets that feel more credible to them. In recent conflicts, many even turned to AI—sometimes for clarity, sometimes amplifying manipulation depending on prompts and sources. For him, the battlefield is ultimately trust. The priority is to build and sustain credibility while staying closely attuned to the public pulse—what people are saying and what they are ready to believe—so that interventions are timely, targeted, and effective.



Speaker:

Dr Omer Saifudeen

Assistant Dean

Rabdan Academy

Presentation:



The Sri Lankan Fight for Information Integrity

Using Wrangham & Peterson’s “lethal coalitionary aggression” as a lens, Mahoshadi recast Sri Lanka’s information space as an “information war” where narratives are weaponised against social groups. In a post-war, multilingual polity strained by elections, economic crisis, and COVID-19, harmful frames such as scapegoating, conspiracy cascades, revisionist histories, moral panics, and delegitimisation of institutions spread fast and can translate into offline harm.

Weaponisation hinges on emotionally charged first-mover framing, decontextualised visuals, and multilingual relays via partisan outlets, influencers, and encrypted groups; media and political actors often produce, not just transmit, disinformation.

Verité Research’s response spans three platforms: FactCheck.lk (internationally accredited, transparent verifications and corrections), Ethics Eye (systematic monitoring of unethical newsroom practices), and The Divide (tracking story mutations across Sinhala/Tamil/English to bridge polarisation). Their resilience playbook relies on building credibility through transparency and multilingual outputs, strengthening newsroom standards and corrections workflows, and expanding community literacy via trusted civic/religious anchors.



Speaker:
Mahoshadi Peiris
Team Leader
Verité Research

However, the constraints include safety/legal exposure, platform volatility, and language asymmetry. The takeaway is regional: shift from swatting individual falsehoods to reducing narrative harm and restoring procedural integrity—templates that travel across South Asia and ASEAN.

Presentation:



From Propaganda to Influence Operations: Lessons from Bangladesh Post-5th August

Minhaj framed Bangladesh's post-5th August information environment as a live case of information war where disinformation evolved into coordinated foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), with tech-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) used to intimidate and silence. Recent investigations by his organization, Activate Rights mapped cross-platform, multilingual campaigns that seeded wedge narratives (legitimacy of institutions, security threats, economic panic), amplified by inauthentic networks and partisan outlets.

Adversaries exploited well-known vulnerabilities like polarised party politics, linguistic fault lines, diaspora echo chambers, and low trust in institutions to launder narratives through "credible messengers" (influencers, pseudo-experts, expatriate pages). In the case of TFGBV, gendered attacks such as doxxing, sexualised deepfakes, and swarm harassment were utilized to target women journalists and activists.

Minhaj concluded that adversaries are evolving, where disinformation has gone beyond simple deepfakes to cross-platform activities using generative AI, ghost by-lines (by-lines cited to researchers who do not exist), and media-laundering. Building a cross-border coalition to track, pre-bunk, and respond to narrative influence was suggested to counter FIMI, where members of the fact-checking ecosystem could share tactics and best practices with each other to prevent the spread of disinformation.



Speaker:

Minhaj Aman

Research Lead

Dismislab Bangladesh

Presentation:



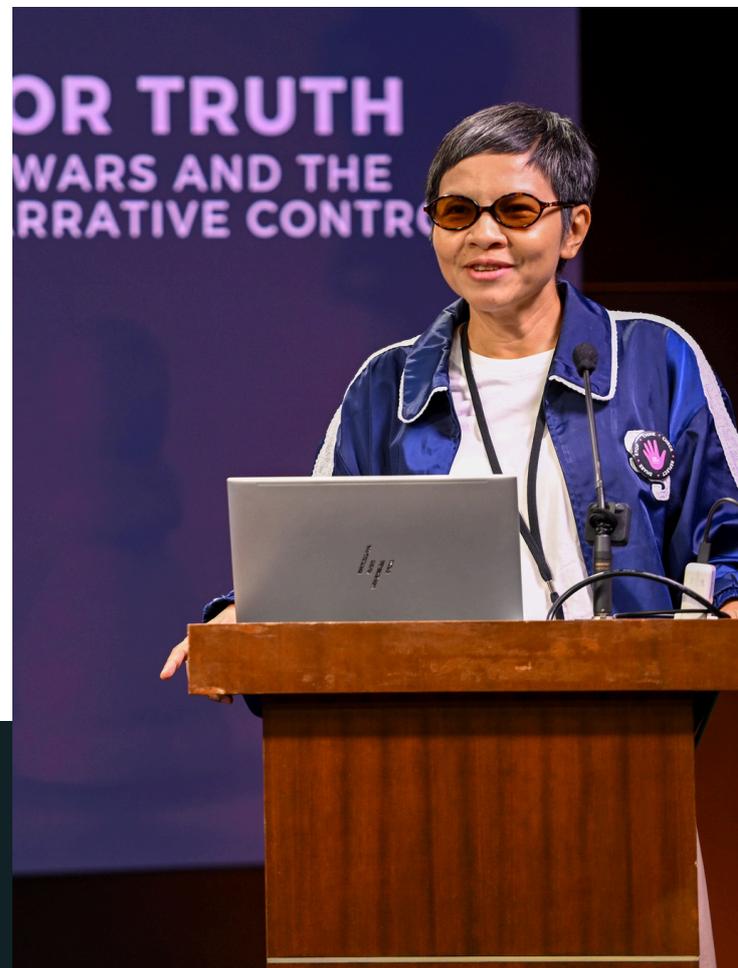
Information Warfare in the Thailand-Cambodia conflict

With the recent Thailand-Cambodia conflict as a backdrop, Supinya's presentation examined several case studies of how the disinformation battleground in Thailand has evolved. Heightened tensions across the border has led to a rise in both organic groups of "digital warriors" and coordinated information operations – packing the digital landscape with a jumble of true and false information that is then subject to manipulation. Information overload was also pointed out as a key issue impacting how audiences receive and react to news and content.

For instance, AI-generated content was observed by fact-checkers during the recent Thai-Cambodia conflict, with AI-generated content creating mutual distrust, evolving into mass disinformation on both sides. Aside from AI-generated content, fabricated quotes, misused images and fake posts were sources of recent misinformation as well. This glut of content poses a challenge for fact-checkers who prioritise accuracy over speed.

In a rapidly developing situation, this can lead to challenges when it comes to fact-checks keeping pace and reaching a wide audience.

Supinya emphasized the need for increased media literacy and to build robust fact-checking eco-systems that meet the needs of the local context, but which also draw on wider regional and global collaborations.



Speaker:
Supinya Klangnarong
Co-Founder
CoFact Thailand

Panel Discussion:

Shaping the Battle for Narratives in Asia



Three panelists with diverse experiences in fact-checking, research, and disinformation spheres sat down to discuss the complex topic of narratives, truth, and how the struggle to shape narratives relates to both fact-checking and the spread of misinformation.

Discussing dominant and influential country-specific narratives, Aribowo spoke about the interplay between race/region and politics – with familiar narratives coloring how recent riots in Indonesia left religion-charged misinformation spreading in its wake. Mahoshadi also spoke about the cultural-religious lines that both divide and impact Sri Lankan's political and everyday narratives. Gender-related narratives also factor into how certain news topics and content is received and spread.

Panelists spoke about the fine line between purely fact-checking black and white truths and navigating the grey area of malicious narratives and manipulated facts. The motivations behind these grey area narratives can also vary – from profit-driven “professional disinformation spreaders” to-

-certain governments or organisations benefiting from increased polarization. Dr Omer Ali Saifudeen spoke about the ways in which narratives are both appealing and emotive triggers, which can have heavy impacts on how a society perceives itself and events that impact them. Narratives have the power to imbue legitimacy and emotional weight, which make them a key arena in the information space. Also highlighted is the connection between the online and offline – with narratives still being tangibly shared and strengthened offline through person-to-person interaction

Panelists also discussed how harmful and false narratives can be tackled – and who exactly should be tackling them. One suggestion was for more accurate data and information to be released from official sources – leaving less blanks for narratives to be manipulated or filled in. A Q&A session with conference attendees also sparked lively discourse about a range of topics, from region-specific narratives (such as myths or superstitions) to the challenges facing different organisations (such as journalists or civil servants).

Panellists:

Aribowo Sasmito (Co-Founder, Mafindo Indonesia)

Mahoshadi Peiris (Team Leader, Verite Research)

Dr. Omer Ali Saifudeen (Assistant Dean, Rabdan Academy)

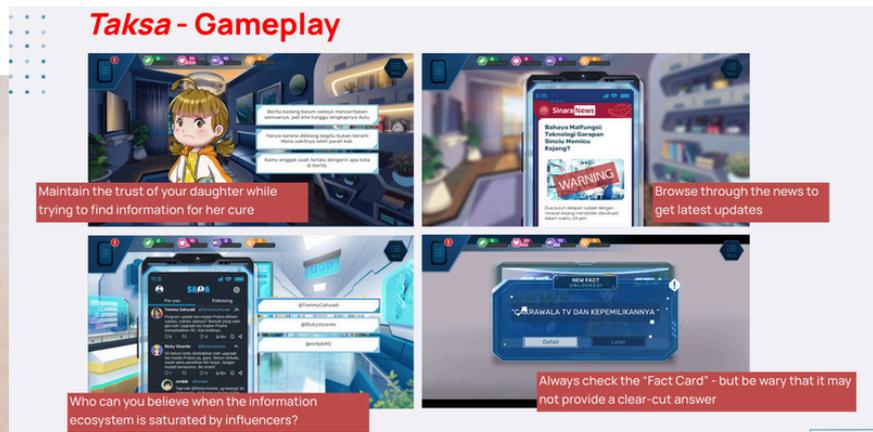
Moderator:

Nicholas Fang

(Managing Director, Black Dot Research)

Presentation:

Beyond the Facts: Rethinking Disinformation Countermeasures Through Video Game Intervention.



Pradipa began his presentation with background on the development of Taksa, a narrative video game on disinformation which draws on issues facing local Indonesian contexts and information challenges.

For instance, the need for a dynamic approach to digital literacy includes awareness of emotional responses, cultural impulses, and interpersonal dynamics impact the information space.

Drawing on the existing strong video game culture in Asia alongside the widespread use of smartphones, Taksa is currently available to try as a demo version at <https://taksagame.id/>

Participants were able to experience sections of the gameplay, which involves interacting with content on various media platforms, and earning trust and popularity points. Users play as a single father navigating the information landscape during a pandemic to find a cure for his daughter and making key decisions amidst the wider context of distrust and other structural factors.

Speaker:

Pradipa P. Rasidi

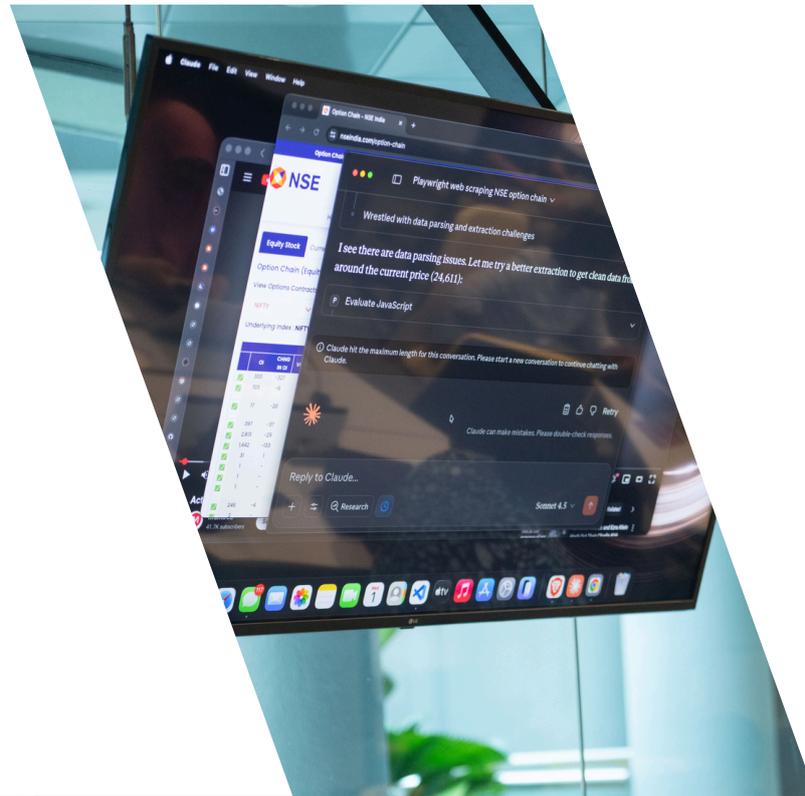
Digital Anthropologist

Presentation:

Web Scraping Demonstration

In his presentation, Kalim discussed the different methods used in web scraping, which can be a useful step in the fact-checker's toolkit. Specifically, he took participants through an introduction to, and demonstration of, Model Context Protocol (MCP) web scraping. Using several websites as an example, participants were given a guide on how to craft prompts as part of an AI-driven approach to web scraping that is repeatable and teachable.

During the demonstration, participants were able to ask questions and discuss different tools and approaches to gathering online data.



Speaker:
Kalim Ahmed
OSINT Analyst

Panel Discussion:



The Future of Fact-Checking

In the final panel to conclude the conference, four panelists from different fact-checking organisations sat down to discuss the current and future state of fact-checking. On the topic of challenges, panelists brought up both practical concerns over funding, the unstable geopolitical landscape, and increased challenges due to new technologies such as AI. With fact-checking often being a loss-making endeavor, fact-checking outlets across the world are seeing cuts, manpower challenges and difficulty reaching large audiences on the same scale as mis/disinformation does.

Panelists also discussed broader, intangible challenges such as changing attitudes towards “fact-checking” and the shifting new skills, literacies, and mindsets needed to approach the current and future digital environment.

Ideas and strategies that can involve not only individual organisations, but a wide network of fact-checkers were brought up as well. For instance, consistent events, conferences, and dialogues can keep momentum going within the community (sharing tactics and updates) through volume and presence. Cross-border sharing was also brought up, with Taiwan and Thailand as an example of how toolkits and models can be translated and adapted across countries.

The importance of education future generations was also discussed, with both educational institutions and independent events aimed at Gen Z and Gen Alpha identified as possible ways of building long-term strategies and structures in the fight against misinformation. Possible activities such as hackathons and competitions were also mentioned as part of building an engaging ecosystem of active fact-checking.

With the discussion remaining rich and dynamic throughout, the panel brought a flurry of new and exciting ideas that sparked new conversations and ideas.



Moderator:
Nicholas Fang
(Managing Director,
Black Dot Research)

Panellists:
Aribowo Sasmito (Co-Founder, Mafindo Indonesia)
Shoeb Abdullah (Co-Founder, Activate Rights)
Sakina Mohamed (Editor, MyCheck Malaysia)
Supinya Klangnarong (Co-Founder, CoFact Thailand)

Closing Remarks

The inaugural in-person Asian Fact-Checkers Network Conference in 2024 set out to engage, connect, and surface the issues shaping today's information space. In that spirit, the 2025 edition, "Battle for Truths: Information War and the Struggle for Narrative Control" has deepened those aims, bringing together practitioners who might not otherwise have met, and forging ties that might not otherwise have formed. Over two days, voices from around the region convened in Singapore to examine the mechanics of narrative warfare, the pressures of real-time verification, and the responsibilities that come with shaping public understanding.

Colleagues from across Southeast and South Asia—joining from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and beyond—shared field experience and practical tools, from cross-border investigations to AI-assisted verification and multilingual debunking.

We extend our sincere thanks to our speakers, panelists, moderators, and every attendee for the time and thought invested in these sessions, and for the candour with which challenges and lessons were exchanged. Your participation has been central to the conference's purpose and success.



Looking ahead, AFCN and Black Dot Research are committed to sustaining this momentum. The stakes of information integrity are rising: elections, crises, and platform shifts demand faster coordination, higher standards, and resilient partnerships. With the support of partners, stakeholders, and allied organizations, we will continue to grow this network, scale shared infrastructures and training, and stand together against the manipulation of narratives. The collaboration renewed here will serve us well as we take on the work ahead.

What's Next?

Stay tuned for updates on the Asian Fact-Checkers Network Conference 2026.



Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery





Interested in AFCN?

Scan the QR code to register
your interest in future AFCN
events or to join the network.



Email Address

feedback@blackdotresearch.sg



Website

www.blackdotresearch.sg/

