Reuters Future of News 2026

Internal Event Report

Date: 13 October 2026

Location: JW Marriott Dongdaemun Square Seoul, South Korea

Attendee: Andrew Ryan, Deputy News Director, TaiwanPlus



Photo 1: Conference speakers and participants



Photo 2: Reuters interview following panel discussion

Photo 3: Sharing Taiwan's perspective in the closing panel



Photo 4: "The Road to 2027" panel featuring TaiwanPlus, regional news leaders from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Reuters.

Executive Summary

Reuters Future of News 2026 brought together newsroom leaders, editors, technologists and audience-development specialists from across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the future of journalism, audience trust and artificial intelligence. TaiwanPlus participated as a panelist in the conference's closing discussion on geopolitics and the future regional news agenda.

Three themes consistently emerged throughout the event:

1. **Audience habits continue shifting toward social, video and AI-assisted news consumption.**
2. **Trust remains journalism's most important competitive advantage as AI-generated content and misinformation proliferate.**
3. **AI is moving from experimentation to newsroom integration, with its greatest value coming from workflow augmentation rather than content automation.**

Despite declining trust in news overall, research presented by the Reuters Institute suggested that audiences continue to place relatively high levels of

trust in established news organizations, public-service media and brands that emphasize impartiality. At the same time, younger audiences increasingly consume news through social platforms, creators and short-form video, requiring news organizations to rethink how content is produced, packaged and distributed.

Across multiple sessions, speakers emphasized that AI is unlikely to replace journalism itself. Rather, its most immediate impact is reducing repetitive work and allowing journalists to devote more time to reporting, verification, analysis and audience engagement.

Key Themes and Insights

1. Trust Remains a Critical Differentiator

One of the strongest themes throughout the conference was the growing importance of trust in an increasingly fragmented information environment.

Research presented by the Reuters Institute showed that trust in news declined in many markets during 2026, while use of AI chatbots and social platforms for news continued to increase. However, established news organizations generally maintained higher trust levels than newer digital-native brands.

Several speakers argued that trust is becoming journalism's most important competitive advantage because:

- Audiences face increasing volumes of AI-generated content.
- Misinformation spreads faster than verification can occur.
- People are frequently exposed to news indirectly through social media rather than through original reporting organizations.

Reuters, ABC Australia and Thai PBS all emphasized that transparency about reporting and verification methods is becoming increasingly important. Speakers repeatedly stressed the need to show audiences not only what journalists know, but how they know it.

Relevance to TaiwanPlus

As an international public-service media organization, TaiwanPlus may benefit from trends identified in the Reuters Institute research. The findings suggested that audiences continue to place relatively high trust in public-service media, television brands and organizations that explicitly emphasize impartiality.

2. News Consumption Continues Moving Toward Social, Video and Creators

The Reuters Institute reported that social media and video platforms have become the most widely used sources of news globally, driven both by their growth and by continued declines in television and traditional news websites.

Key findings included:

- 39% of people aged 18-24 now identify social media as their primary source of news.
- Use of AI chatbots for news continues to grow.
- YouTube remains one of the most important platforms for news consumption.
- News-focused creators are becoming increasingly influential.

However, the conference challenged the assumption that audiences only want short-form content.

Representatives from LINE Taiwan noted that long-form, text-based journalism continues to perform well when audiences perceive it as trustworthy, useful and relevant. Their experience suggests that content quality and audience targeting remain more important than format alone.

Speakers from Mothership, LINE and independent creator networks generally agreed that younger audiences expect:

- Mobile-first presentation.
- Strong visual storytelling.
- Faster delivery.

- More relatable language.
- Clear relevance to their lives.

At the same time, there was recognition that audiences still value editorial judgement. LINE Taiwan noted that many users remain concerned about algorithmic filter bubbles and continue to expect editors to identify the most important stories each day.

Relevance to TaiwanPlus

Several observations aligned with TaiwanPlus' existing strategy:

- *Continuing opportunities in vertical video and mobile-first storytelling.*
- *Ongoing demand for international and explanatory journalism.*
- *Increasing importance of platform-specific formats.*
- *The need to balance algorithmic distribution with editorial authority.*

Notably, several speakers challenged the assumption that younger audiences are uninterested in serious topics, arguing instead that presentation and accessibility often matter more than subject matter.

3. Verification Is Becoming More Visible and More Important

A significant portion of the conference focused on verification and fact-checking in the age of AI-generated content.

Reuters presented examples of visual verification work related to major breaking news events, demonstrating how journalists combine geolocation techniques, satellite imagery, metadata analysis, archival materials and eyewitness reporting to authenticate content.

One recurring message was that "seeing is no longer believing." Multiple speakers argued that audiences increasingly understand that images and video can be manipulated, making verification more important than ever.

Participants also discussed a growing challenge: even thoroughly verified reporting may be dismissed by segments of the public who distrust media institutions.

Additional concerns included:

- Misuse of the term "fake news."
- Politicization of fact-checking.
- Declining support for independent verification organizations.
- Limited availability of trained verification specialists.

Relevance to TaiwanPlus

The discussion reinforced the importance of:

- *Maintaining strong visual verification capabilities.*
- *Explaining journalistic processes to audiences.*
- *Publishing verification content in platform-appropriate formats.*
- *Expanding verification literacy across the broader newsroom.*

4. AI Adoption Is Shifting from Experimentation to Transformation

Virtually every organization represented at the conference is now integrating AI tools into its daily operations.

However, several speakers noted that early expectations around newsroom efficiency have evolved. Rather than focusing exclusively on productivity gains, many organizations are increasingly investing in audience-facing experiences and broader workflow redesign.

Examples discussed included:

- Automated transcription.
- Translation assistance.
- News research and summarization.
- Search and discovery tools.
- Data analysis.
- Content recommendation systems.

- Infographic generation.

Several speakers argued that the future newsroom will require broader skill sets from journalists, with AI enabling individuals to perform tasks that previously required multiple specialized roles.

At the same time, organizations repeatedly emphasized that:

- Human accountability remains essential.
- AI-generated material requires oversight.
- Editorial standards should not be relaxed because AI is involved.
- Trust must remain the primary consideration when deploying new technologies.

Reuters, News Corp Australia, TVBS and Yonhap all shared examples of projects that required significant adjustments after encountering issues related to accuracy, bias or newsroom adoption.

One of the clearest lessons was that successful AI adoption depends as much on newsroom culture, training and governance as it does on technology itself.

Relevance to TaiwanPlus

Key lessons include:

- *Integrating AI into existing newsroom workflows rather than creating separate systems.*
- *Using AI to solve specific newsroom bottlenecks.*
- *Providing organization-wide training and experimentation opportunities.*
- *Establishing clear governance and accountability structures.*
- *Prioritizing augmentation over automation.*

TaiwanPlus Participation and Regional Perspective

TaiwanPlus participated in the closing panel discussion, **"The Road to 2027: Geopolitics, Elections and the Future News Agenda in Asia Pacific,"** alongside representatives from Reuters, Kyodo News, YTN and Cignal.

The discussion explored how geopolitical tensions, elections, economic uncertainty, information integrity and emerging technologies are expected to shape regional news coverage over the next 12 to 18 months.

As TaiwanPlus representative, I provided a Taiwan-focused perspective on regional security developments, cross-strait relations and how Taiwanese audiences view growing geopolitical uncertainty. Discussion topics included reactions in Taiwan to recent U.S.-China engagement, questions surrounding U.S. support for Taiwan, and the importance of assessing policy through concrete actions such as arms transfers, official engagement and security cooperation rather than rhetoric alone.

The discussion also examined long-term questions about deterrence, public resilience and Taiwan's efforts to strengthen its own defense capabilities. I highlighted polling and reporting that suggest Taiwanese citizens continue to closely follow cross-strait developments while placing significant importance on Taiwan's ability to strengthen its own security and resilience.

The panel provided an opportunity to contribute Taiwan's perspective to a regional conversation involving senior editors, newsroom leaders and journalists from across Asia-Pacific. It also highlighted the value of TaiwanPlus' reporting and expertise on issues that continue to shape the region's news agenda.

Overall Takeaways for TaiwanPlus

The conference reinforced several strategic priorities that are already relevant to TaiwanPlus:

1. **Trust is becoming increasingly valuable and should remain a core differentiator.**
2. **Platform-specific storytelling is essential for reaching younger audiences.**
3. **Strong verification capabilities are increasingly important in an AI-driven information environment.**
4. **AI adoption should support journalism rather than replace it.**
5. **Editorial judgement remains critical even as algorithms, creators and AI tools become more influential in news distribution.**
6. **Audiences continue to seek authoritative reporting and meaningful context amid growing information overload.**

Overall, Reuters Future of News 2026 suggested that while technologies and audience behaviors continue to evolve rapidly, the fundamental value of journalism remains unchanged: trusted reporting, rigorous verification, strong editorial judgement and meaningful human connection with audiences. For TaiwanPlus, many of the challenges and opportunities discussed at the conference align closely with our existing strategic priorities and underscore the continued importance of providing credible, contextualized reporting about Taiwan and the wider region to international audiences.