Future News Worldwide 2019

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One Sunday morning, I was scrolling my Facebook feed to find opportunities for summer 2019. I bumped into a post, announcing the international conference organised by the British Council that gathers 100 young journalists from all over the world at Reuters Headquarters in London.

After working in the field of marketing, I felt like giving up on journalism. I thought that marketing would give me more money and I would not end up targeted, harassed, or even killed. Following the latest political wars in my home-country, being a journalist in Kyrgyzstan has become dangerous, even though it is the only democratic country in the region.

But I changed my mind after the FNW conference. All speakers and delegates discussed the challenges the world is facing. We brought up issues such as information wars, populistic governments, unlawful imprisonments, and assassinations of journalists. It may be not the best time to be a media maker but all of us went to journalism to make a difference in the world using this craft.

On July 14, I flew to London to represent the Czech Republic at the conference. At that time, I just finished my second year at Anglo-American University in Prague. As a young journalist, I was super excited to take part in the media training program, meet like-minded people from different backgrounds and with stories to tell.

We got to know how one of the most reputable media organisations, Thomson Reuters, works from the inside. Managing Editor News for EMEA, Nick Tattersall spoke about challenges and opportunities technology brought and emphasises the importance of reporting both fast and accurate.

Managing Editor for the New Delhi Television, Sreenivasan Jain told us about frontier justice in Northern India. The way NDTV exposes attacks on Muslims in India defines when it is ethical to use hidden cameras.

The session I liked the most was a workshop from Facebook and Instagram. The guest speakers taught us how to use these platforms to deliver information efficiently and reach a wider audience.

The second day of the conference started with Taylor Nelson from Solutions Journalism Network. She explained to us the three key steps of solutions journalism. First, you should identify an issue and be as precise as possible. Then, ask the public about what’s missing. Finally, identify other candidates for stories — who is doing better?

In my opinion, the most interesting and mind-blowing session was given by Aliaume Leroy and Benjamin Stick from BBC Africa Eye. They stated that an investigative journalist only needs a laptop and access to the Internet. I am pretty sure that every attendee was impressed by how they found the exact location and time of the video of the execution, using only Google Earth.

Spending only four days in London, we explored the city till late in the night. This opportunity meant a lot for me both professionally and socially. I built so many long-term connections for a short time. These four days motivated me to pursue my dreams in the chosen career. I reassured that I am on the right track and my job matters.