"FAR EASTERN AGENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNET SECURITY", NGO
MEDIA PARTNER & OPERATOR:
PAN PACIFIC AGENCY

# Asia Pacific Safer Internet Media Forum
## APSIM Forum

**Reporting is a sword or a shield?**

RUSSIA, 2020

# INFORMATION VS DISINFORMATION

Media landscape is being saturated with disinformation and "fake news" since 2000s, often thanks to the fact that wild speculation is much more exciting than reality. Now every person can produce, share and get access to content, to news as well as to disinformation.

On the one side, the "fake news" threatens democracies, which raises the question of social media companies' regulation. At the same time, politicians and governments around the world often use "fake news" to delegitimize critical reporting and to justify restrictions of media freedoms.

There is only one barrier between "fake news" and news consumers: fact-checking.

Every journalist may combat "fake news" doing his or her job well. It means to produce only fact-based news. But what about the rest of the world?

# INFORMATION VS DISINFORMATION

Disinformation has become a very convenient and effective tool of political struggle. It will not disappear anywhere. It is our reality.

Various powers would continue using "fake news" to win domestic elections or to get more arguments in a foreign policy dispute. Neither anti-fake news laws nor strong Internet control will change this reality.

However, news consumers could change their behavior.

It's enough to wonder: "Is it a fake or not" looking through any news. There are many simple tools to debunk some "fake news" in a dozen seconds. For others, more time for studying may be required. Anyone who knows how to make good news knows how to make bad news too. It seems to be a very simple - for us, for journalists, but not for everyone.

# ASIA PACIFIC SAFER INTERNET MEDIA FORUM

Asia Pacific Safer Internet Media Forum is established to discuss:

- media cases of how public opinion is manipulated through the disinformation, facts' distortion and "fake news" in the APAC;
- how national legislatures penalize disinformation on the Internet and media;
- simple ways for checking "fake news" and developing anti-fake recipes available to every news consumer;
- joining efforts of professional media organizations in the combatting against "fake news" and disinformation;
- recommendations for national gov'ts and public organizations to educate the news consumers who don't believe "fake news" and always check them.

The final result should be easy-to-follow recommendations on everyday debunking disinformation, ready for sharing in mass media, social platforms and messengers.

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