

CHAMIL WARIYA

Chief Executive Officer

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Chamil Wariya is the chief executive officer of Malaysian Press Institute (MPI), a training centre for journalists, which he joined in January 2008. Prior to that for almost ten years (1998-2007) he was with TV3 Malaysia as its Senior General Manager/Chief Editor, News and Current Affairs Division.

Chamil started his career in journalism in Jun 1971 with Utusan Malaysia, a Malay newspaper of the Utusan Group. In April 1975 together with a group of Utusan journalists, he started the now defunct independent weekly Suara Rakyat as its annual publication's permit for 1976 was not renewed after the paper was suspended by the government at the end of 1975.

Briefly Chamil served as editor of SARINA, a monthly current affairs magazine and as a senior editor of weekly Suara Merdeka, published by Amir Enterprise. He then went on to work with the Malay Section of the BBC World Service in London in November 1976 until 1982.

Chamil rejoined Utusan Malaysia as a leader writer in early 1984 after he has completed his postgraduate study in England. In 1990 he was promoted as the paper Features Editor. Three years later (1993) he was appointed Utusan Group's head of magazines. He migrated to TV3 in August 1998 and in February 1999 until he left the station in December 2007, he headed TV3 news and current affairs divisions.

While working at BBC, Chamil also pursued his education in journalism and social science. He has a diploma from the London School of Journalism (1978); a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science (Honours, 2nd Class Upper) from the Council for Academic Awards/The Polytechnic of Central London (now the University of Westminster), United Kingdom (1982). After he left BBC, he did his MA in Mass Communication at Leicester University (1984). In 1989, he was a Chevening Scholar studying International Relations at the University of East Anglia, UK, where he earned another MA degree.

Chamil is also author of several books on Malaysian politics and journalism. His latest books include: *Najib Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia*, published in 2009 and *Memapar Realiti - prinsip-prinsip utama dan asas kewartawanan siaran* (2010).

In recognition of his service to journalism, he was conferred the title of Datuk by the Sultan of Selangor and the Yang Dipertua Negeri Pulau Pinang. Selangor awarded him Datuk Paduka Mahkota Selangor (DPMS) while from Penang he received the Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (DSPN). He was also a recipient of Kesatria Mangku Negara (KMN) from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Darjah Kebesaran Setia Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (SSA) from the late Sultan of Selangor, Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Academically, Chamil was a recipient of the British High Commissioner Award (now renamed the Chevening Award) given by the British Government to do a postgraduate study in 1989-1990. For a year he was also a Kouk Foundation Scholar in 1990. He taught journalism at University of Malaya's Department of Media Studies in 1988-1989 and 2006-2007 academic sessions.

When Chamil headed TV3 news, he visited several international TV stations. He attended CNN news workshop in Atlanta, the United States; visited NY1, a news channel for New Yorkers and CBS in New York. He was also a guest of the British Foreign Office to visit BBC World News at Shephard Bush, Independent Television News (ITN), News 24, APTV in London and Thomson Foundation in Cardiff.

Regionally, he used to work closely with Channel News Asia of Singapore; TVRI and RCTI of Indonesia; iTV of Thailand and ABS-CBN of the Philippines. Indeed in collaboration with RCTI, iTV and ABS-CBN, Chamil initiated a talk show program called *In Conversation*. The one hour program was put on air in the four ASEAN countries.

TV3 Malaysia became the coordinator of the program in

interviewing ASEAN leaders. Among top ASEAN leaders that appeared in the program were: Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Ministers of Malaysia; Thaksin Sinawatra, ex-Prime Minister of Thailand; Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, then President of the Philippines; Xanana Gusmao, President of Timor Leste, Dr. Amin Rais, speaker of Parliament, Indonesia. The four stations also collaborated on news and footage exchanges during Chamil's years at TV3.

As a journalist, Chamil has covered major international conferences. These include: The United Nations annual General Assembly in New York, World International Conference on Environment and Climate Change in Johannesburg, South Africa.

He was a speaker at World Media Summit in Madrid, Spain and Asia Media Summit in Singapore. He presented a paper on Leadership Change and Security in Malaysia in Bangkok.

He performed the Haj at the end of 2007.