

Channel NewsAsia opens Myanmar bureau

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Channel NewsAsia's Managing Director, Debra Soon

SINGAPORE: Regional broadcaster, Channel NewsAsia, has opened a news bureau in Myanmar.

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Channel NewsAsia says the Yangon-based bureau will add to the depth of the channel's coverage of the region.

The broadcaster has a network of offices in 14 key cities in Asia.

Channel NewsAsia's correspondent May Wong - a broadcast journalist with 17 years of experience - will continue to unravel the stories and provide the perspectives from a country where political and economic reforms are being rolled out.

May Wong said: "There are many untold stories on the ground right now and I think I'm very well placed to be in that position to try and cover a variety of stories - so I'm talking about community stories, social impact, politics as well as economics.



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"And you're never dry in terms of coming up with interviews. You're never dry in terms of coming up with exciting images that you want to bring to viewers in Asia."

Channel NewsAsia said it is behind May Wong to create a better understanding of what's happening in Myanmar.

Channel NewsAsia's Managing Director Debra Soon said: "I believe that Channel NewsAsia, headquartered in Asia, is well placed to understand Asian values and what makes societies tick in Asia, what will inform transformation and change, what will inform business practices, what will we need to know about these countries as we move in and to understand their culture.

"So having this bureau in Myanmar is really breakthrough for us. I believe it will enable us to tell the stories of Myanmar with conviction, to be able to represent what is truly happening on the ground and to represent all parties as best as possible."

The bureau is also expected to strengthen collaborations between both countries.

Associate Professor Annie Koh, Singapore Management University's vice-president for business relations and external relations, said: "We will be seeing a lot of exchange between government agencies and the agencies there. Myanmar, of course, looks towards Singapore companies to have an interest there and I could see almost 20 different Singapore-owned companies having tremendous linkages with Myanmar. I'm also seeing Chinese chambers, Indian chambers and the different SME representatives all flocking there and having an interest."

There are also plans to bring the channel's Business Insights seminar series to Yangon early next year.

The series engages think tanks, government and business leaders who bring the latest and very dynamic conversations to the table. These will offer opportunities not only to businesses, but to the people of Myanmar, as Channel NewsAsia creates more understanding of the issues, concerns and opportunities in the country.

- CNA/ir