



RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE ASIA

September 28, 2016

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia launched its inaugural broadcast on September 29, 1996 and will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary;

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia provides reliable domestic journalism and uncensored content and commentary to more than a billion people living in mainland China and Hong Kong, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam, who otherwise have little or no access to accurate, timely news and information beyond their borders;

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia serves as a model for free press and free expression in places that restrict free speech by reporting developments and events ignored or censored by state-controlled media and by enabling audiences to engage in an unfettered exchange of ideas and opinions via traditional and new media; and

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia has achieved, among other great accomplishments, the following:

- Launched and grown the impact of nine language services in some of the world's most restricted and closed media environments;
- Expanded its audience reach and engagement beyond broadcasting via short- and medium-wave by utilizing satellite, television, 10 unique content websites, social media platforms, and mobile applications;
- Created and maintained eight Asian offices and a network of more than 200 dedicated stringers through Northeast and Southeast Asia;
- Trained journalists, call-in hosts, feature writers, videographers, and overseas stringers, technical staff and content makers to produce award-winning, fact-based multimedia reports and products that often drive the news cycle and conversation in oppressive places often under authoritarian rule;
- Cultivated and utilized vast networks of inside sources and citizen journalists to aid in the coverage of developments happening within closed countries and remote regions;
- Built strong credibility by breaking major news such as religious persecution and crackdown on Christian "house" churches in Eastern China; the Tibetan people's protests against Beijing's rule; North Korea's overseas labor; the seizure of farm land in Vietnam; the damming of the Mekong River; government corruption in Laos and Cambodia; ethnic unrest in China's Uyghur region; and the jailing of bloggers, petitioners, and rights lawyers in China, among other hard-to-get stories.
- Earned status as a trusted, credible source for breaking news cited frequently by the BBC, Reuters, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, *The Wall Street Journal*, NHK Japan, KBS News, Chosun News, *The South China Morning Post* and numerous other major U.S. and international media outlets;

- Won numerous awards for such stories from press organizations and international human rights groups as well as for investigative journalism on environmental and health risks, human trafficking, human rights and the rule of law, and corruption, among other topics important to its audiences in Asia;
- Gave a voice to the voiceless—from dissident intellectuals to ordinary workers and farmers—in Asian countries lacking a free press;
- Served as a virtual news agency, filling major gaps in the coverage of important stories, with the decline in numbers of foreign correspondents covering Asia; and
- Made major strides in providing Internet freedom to journalists, human rights defenders, political dissidents and netizens in closed societies around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of Radio Free Asia and applaud the persons who have made this possible.