

Media councils in the world

There are at least 90 press or media councils listed globally, although a few have neither been recognised nor formed by their respective governments to carry out such functions. Some have mobilised themselves as formally-registered non-governmental organisations. The Swedish Press Council has been recorded to be the oldest formal media watchdog, having been founded in 1916. In Asia, some of the notable ones are:

Press Council of Bangladesh

It was formed by the Parliament in 1974 to preserve press freedom. In 1979, the council was constituted with a chairman and 14 members representing the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Council of Editors and association of newspaper owners.

Press Council of India

It was set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission with the objectives to preserve press freedom and improve industry standards.

Philippine Press Institute Press Council

It was founded in 1965 under the country's Republic Act Number 4363, before it was replaced by the Philippine Council for Print Media in 1974 during president Ferdinand Marcos's reign. Nevertheless, the Philippine Press Institute Press Council was reactivated following Marcos's ouster in 1987.

Indonesian Press Council

It was first established in 1968 based on the Press Principal Provisions signed by President Sukarno in 1966. The council then served as an advisory body to the government and was led by the country's information minister. It only became self-regulatory in 1999 after President Bacharudin Jusuf Habibie signed an act to develop press freedom.

Nihon Shinbun Kyokai or Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association

Established in 1946, it is an autonomous organisation funded and operated by the Japanese mass media of Japan. It is formed to elevate ethical standards in reporting and promote the media's common interests. The association is also active in promoting newspaper-in-education programmes.

Source: accountablejournalism.org, unesco.org