



“The Society of Publishers in Asia 2016 Awards for Editorial Excellence”

亞洲出版業協會

「2016 年度卓越新聞獎」

SOPA 2016 AWARDS RULES & ENTRY FEES

I. INTRODUCTION

The Society of Publishers in Asia is seeking nominations of quality English and Chinese language journalism from across Asia-Pacific for its 18th annual SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence. The Awards are a tribute to editorial excellence in newspapers, magazines, wire services and websites read widely in Asia-Pacific. Entries can be in either English or Chinese, and must have been published in the calendar year 2015.

II. NOTE TO ENTRANTS

Please read the following rules and requirements very carefully. Entries that do not follow the guidelines may be disqualified. In particular, note that, with the exception of Journalist of the Year, entries that contain multiple articles or photographs must show a unifying theme of coverage, which must be described in the accompanying nomination form. The nomination form is a critical part of each entry; it is an opportunity for you to explain to judges why the entry should win. You can use it to describe the circumstances behind the reporting for the entry, the topic's importance, the impact of the article(s), and so on. The form should also explain how the entry helps fulfil the publication's editorial objectives.

Please refer to the FAQs at www.sopawards.com for further clarification.

III. ENTRY DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016. All entries must be submitted by this date. The online submission system will be closed after 4:00 pm on that date (Hong Kong time).

IV. ELIGIBILITY

1. Only English-language and Chinese-language print and online publications and wire services read widely in Asia-Pacific may enter. Magazines must be issued at least four times a year. Newspapers must be published at least once a week. Online publications must be updated at least once a week. An online publication may be an independent website or part of a print or broadcast operation.
2. Except for the category “Journalist of the Year,” awards are divided into three groups: A, B and C.
 - A. English-language newspapers that circulate widely in three or more countries, English-language magazines with circulation greater than 50,000, English-language wire services and English-language websites with more than 5 million monthly uniques should enter in Group A;
 - B. English-language newspapers that circulate primarily in one or two countries, English-language magazines with circulation under 50,000 and English-language websites with 5 million monthly uniques or below should enter in Group B;

- C. Chinese-language publications, including Chinese-language websites and wire services, should enter in Group C;

Note: Online publications that are affiliated with, or part of, a print publication, should enter in the same category as their affiliated print publications. Independent online publications should enter in Group B or Group C.

For the 2016 SOPA Editorial Awards, there will only be one Journalist of the Year award given out across category A, B and C. (For record-keeping purposes, the system will still ask for the appropriate group.)

3. Online publications, wire services and trade publications may enter in all reporting, writing and photography Award categories.
4. Entries must have been published during the calendar year 2015.
5. Entries must have been published exclusively by the publication and not appear in other publications.
6. Entries must have a substantial emphasis on Asia-Pacific and reflect substantial journalistic efforts conducted in Asia-Pacific. For the purposes of the Awards, Asia-Pacific is defined to include the region of Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics, in addition to the Indian subcontinent, North Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands. Iraq, Iran and the Middle East are not included in this definition.
7. Entries may be the work of one journalist or multiple journalists. Each entry may be nominated in at most two categories. (This does not apply to the Journalist of the Year and Excellence in Magazine Design categories.) Entries must be entered in the language in which they were originally published.
8. Entries that comprise more than a single article or photograph must demonstrate a clear theme of coverage, and that theme should be clearly articulated in the nomination form. (This does not apply to the Journalist of the Year category.)
9. Photographic entries must not have been manipulated or altered, apart from standard cropping and editing.
10. Any challenge to the fairness or accuracy of an entry as well as the publication's response to the challenge, including published corrections and clarifications, must be included in the nomination form.

V. AWARD CATEGORIES

Categories open to all publications, including websites and wire services:

1. Excellence in Reporting on Women's Issues (女性议题新闻奖)

Honoring original coverage of women in Asia (for example, women in politics, women's rights, violence against women, the economic rise of women, women in the workplace, women in war, women and religion, profiles, studies of leadership and others). The common thread should be an exploration of the lives of women and the challenges they face.

2. Excellence in Digital News (卓越网络新闻奖)

Honoring original work that best uses different forms of media (for example, text stories, photographs & slideshows, video, interactive graphics, social media, etc) to describe an idea, event, trend or personality, or explain a topic of significance. This category accepts URL of work(s) only.

3. Excellence in Human Rights Reporting (卓越人权报导奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting on a human rights topic of significance.

4. Excellence in Feature Writing (卓越专题特写奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting and writing to describe an idea, event, trend or personality, or explain a topic of significance. Entries are limited to one article only.

5. Excellence in Magazine Design (卓越杂志设计奖)

Honoring the magazine that demonstrates high standards in visual presentation. Categories open only to magazines

6. Excellence in Lifestyle Coverage (卓越生活时尚报导奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting and writing on a lifestyle topic.

7. Excellence in Explanatory Reporting (卓越解释性新闻奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting, writing and in-depth analysis to explain a topic of significance.

8. Excellence in News Photography (卓越新闻摄影奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of news photography. (Note: entries must have been taken by or exclusively for the publication concerned)

9. Excellence in Business Reporting (卓越经济报导奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting on a business topic of significance.

10. Excellence in Information Graphics (卓越数据图像奖)

Honoring entries that demonstrate high standards in presenting information in graphical form. This category accepts PDF files and URL of work(s).

11. Excellence in Reporting Breaking News (卓越突发性新闻奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting a breaking news event under deadline pressure.

12. Excellence in Opinion Writing (卓越评论奖)

Honoring the opinion piece(s) or editorial(s) that best serve(s) to advance discussion and debate on a topic of significance.

13. Excellence in Editorial Cartooning (卓越漫画奖)

Honoring the editorial cartoon or cartoons that demonstrate(s) high standards in commentary on a topic of significance. (Note: entries should include an explanatory comment on the person or situation depicted)

14. Excellence in Reporting on the Environment (卓越环境报导奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting on an environmental topic of significance.

15. Excellence in Feature Photography (卓越特写摄影奖)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of feature photography. (Note: entries must have been taken by or exclusively for the publication concerned)

16. The Scoop Award (独家新闻奖)

Honoring the exclusive story that has a significant impact and is widely followed by competing news media.

17. Excellence in Investigative Reporting (卓越调查报导新闻奖)

Honoring the publication that through the use of its journalistic resources, which as well as reporting may include editorials, photographs and graphics, serves to advance the public interest on a topic of significance, for example by exposing wrongdoing or corruption, uncovering malfeasance or in some other way holding the powerful to account.

18. Journalist of the Year (年度记者奖)

Honoring the journalist who has best demonstrated excellence in editorial achievement. This category welcomes entries from photojournalists and video journalists. For written work, entries should consist of 3-5 articles. For photojournalists and video journalists, entries should consist of 3-5 examples of work. Examples can comprise individual photos/videos or a series of photos/videos published.

Publications may nominate only ONE journalist in this category. (Note: the requirements for a unifying theme and for each entry to be nominated in at most two categories do not apply to this category.) This category accepts PDF files and URLs of work(s).

VI. RULES FOR SUBMISSION

1. Each publication may submit a maximum of TWO entries per category except in the following categories: Journalist of the Year and Excellence in Magazine Design. In those categories, each publication may submit ONE entry.
2. Each entry may include a maximum of FIVE pieces of work except in Excellence in Feature Writing, which is limited to ONE article per entry, and Excellence in Magazine Design, which is limited to ONE edition of a magazine only.
3. More than half of each entry must consist of written articles except in:

Excellence in Feature Photography, Excellence in News Photography, Excellence in Information Graphics, Excellence in Editorial Cartooning, and Excellence in Digital News

4. Each entry must include the following:
 - (a) The nominated work(s), (each piece of work submitted in one PDF file or up to five URLs)
 - (b) Completed online entry form
 - (c) Completed online nomination form

NOTE: SOPA will only accept electronic submissions for convenience, security and cost reasons. All entries must be submitted through the SOPA 2016 Awards website (www.sopawards.com). Entries by email will not be accepted.

5. All categories require a minimum number of five entries. Failure to meet the minimum will result in automatic cancellation of that category. In cases where categories have been cancelled, SOPA will offer entrants a credit towards submissions in the following year's awards, but not a refund.
6. For Group C, entry forms must be in Chinese and English, and nomination forms must be in Chinese.
7. The nomination form must explain why the entry deserves consideration for the category of award entered, the publication's editorial objectives and how the entry helped fulfil those objectives. It may also provide additional information about the entry to assist the judges in placing the entry in context. In the case of entries with multiple articles or photographs, it must explain the unifying theme of coverage the articles or photographs collectively address. Entries will be judged against how well they fulfil the objectives described in the nomination form. The requirement for a unifying theme does not apply to the Journalist of the Year Category.
8. Entries submitted as URLs should be active during February-May 2016. Each URL is counted as one piece of work. The work should have been first published in 2014. Entries may be a single item or a continuing project, and may consist of up to five (5) URLs, depending on the category of award. The URLs may be listed in the nomination portion of the entry form. Websites requiring passwords must provide a single username and password to be used by the judges. These may be entered in the entry form. It is up to the entrant to ensure that judges are able to access URLs. Inaccessible

URLs will affect the judges' assessments of your entry. You will not be informed if URLs cannot be accessed.

9. Entries in the photography and design categories should be submitted in published form rather than original photos. The issues entered should have the relevant pages clearly marked. Photo essays will need to clearly indicate which photographs are being entered. Entries which are not clearly marked may be disqualified.
10. SOPA reserves the right to publish the entries.

VII. INTERPRETATION

Any questions as to the interpretation of these and all other rules will be decided by the SOPA Editorial Awards Committee. In case of discrepancies between the English and Chinese versions of the rules, the English version will prevail. No award shall be made in a category if there are insufficient entries of merit. Decisions are final.

VIII. ENTRY FEES & PAYMENT METHODS

1. The entry fee is based on a publication's circulation and monthly uniques.

Group A	English-language newspapers that circulate widely in three or more countries, English-language magazines with circulation greater than 50,000, English-language wire services and English-language websites with more than 5 million monthly uniques.
Group B	English-language newspapers that circulate primarily in one or two countries, English-language magazines with circulation under 50,000 and English-language websites with 5 million monthly uniques or below. Independent online publications in English.
Group C	Chinese-language publications, including Chinese-language websites and wire services. Independent online publications in Chinese.

Cost per entry	Group A	Group B	Group C
Non-members	HK\$1,500	HK\$900	HK\$900
SOPA members*	HK\$1,300	HK\$800	HK\$800

* SOPA members enjoy a 15% discount on all entry fees.

2. Payment methods:
All entries submissions payment will only be accepted online through PayPal. We accept payment with VISA, Master Card, through PayPal. You also have the option to make payment with your own PayPal account.
3. Enquiries related to the Editorial Awards submissions may be sent to:

SOPA Awards Administrator
Journalism and Media Studies Centre
The University of Hong Kong

Email: sopawardshelp@gmail.com