



“The Society of Publishers in Asia 2018 Awards for Editorial Excellence”

亞洲出版業協會
「2018 年度卓越新聞獎」

SOPA 2018 AWARDS RULES & ENTRY FEES

I. INTRODUCTION

The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) is seeking nominations of quality English- and Chinese-language journalism from across the Asia-Pacific region for its 20th 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 2017.

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 the SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism, 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 fulfill the publication's editorial objectives.

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

III. ENTRY DEADLINE

January 31st, 2018. All entries must be submitted by this date. The online submission system will be closed after 3:00 pm on that date (Hong Kong time).

IV. ELIGIBILITY

1. Only English-language and Chinese-language print and online publications and wire services in the Asia-Pacific region 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 on average 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 “SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism”, other awards are divided into three groups: A, B and C.
 - A. English-language newspapers, magazines and online publications, including wire services and websites, that circulate widely in three or more countries in the Asia-Pacific region, considered to be international media.
 - B. English-language newspapers, magazines and online publications, including wire services and websites, that circulate primarily in one or two countries in the Asia-Pacific region, considered to be regional or local media or industry publications in areas like travel or finance.
 - 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 2018 SOPA Editorial Awards, there will only be one SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism 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 2017.
5. Entries must have been published originally by the publication.
6. Entries must have a substantial emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region and reflect substantial journalistic efforts conducted in the Asia-Pacific region. For the purposes of the Awards, the Asia-Pacific region 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. 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.
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 (卓越女性議題報道獎)

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. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

2. Excellence in Journalistic Innovation (卓越新聞報道創新獎)

Honoring the work that uses new or emerging digital tools to deliver news content in an innovative manner and/or encourages audience engagement with the news. This category accepts URLs of work(s) only. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

3. Excellence in Video Reporting (卓越視頻報道獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates excellence in short-form video news reports. Entries should not exceed five minutes in length. Virtual reality and 360-degree video are eligible to enter. **Maximum of 1 submission per entry.**

4. Excellence in Human Rights Reporting (卓越人權報道獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting on a human rights topic of significance. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

5. Excellence in Feature Writing (卓越專題特寫獎)

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. **Maximum of 1 article per entry.**

6. Excellence in Magazine Design (卓越雜誌設計獎)

Honoring the magazine that demonstrates high standards in visual presentation. Category is open only to magazines. Publications may nominate only ONE entry in this category. **Maximum of 1 magazine per entry.**

7. Excellence in Arts and Culture Reporting (卓越藝術及文化報道獎) *NEW

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting and writing in fine arts and cultural topics, including food and travel. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

8. Excellence in Explanatory Reporting (卓越解釋性報道獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting, writing and in-depth analysis to explain a topic of significance. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

9. Excellence in Business Reporting (卓越經濟報道獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting on a business topic of significance. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

10. Excellence in Information Graphics (卓越數據圖像獎)

Honoring entries that demonstrate high standards in presenting information in graphical form. This category accepts PDF files and URL of work(s). **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

11. Excellence in Reporting Breaking News (卓越突發新聞獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting a breaking news event under deadline pressure. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

12. Excellence in Opinion Writing (卓越評論獎)

Honoring the opinion piece(s) or editorial(s) that best serve(s) to advance discussion and debate on a topic of significance. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

13. Excellence in Reporting on the Environment (卓越環境報道獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of reporting on an environmental topic of significance. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

14. Excellence in Photography (卓越攝影獎)

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards of feature photography. (Note: entries must have been taken by or exclusively for the publication concerned) **Maximum of 5 photos per entry.**

15. The Scoop Award (獨家新聞獎)

Honoring the exclusive story that has a significant impact and is widely followed by competing news media. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

16. Excellence in Investigative Reporting (卓越調查報道獎)

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. **Maximum of 3 articles per entry.**

17. SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism (亞洲出版業協會公共服務新聞大獎)

***NEW**

The SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism recognizes outstanding journalistic work in print, photography, video, or online media that represents an exemplary contribution to public service in the Asia-Pacific region.

Entries can consist of a single piece or up to a maximum of 5 works of journalism. Examples can comprise a single package of written work/photos/video or a series of written works/photos/videos published.

There will only be one SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism award given out across category A, B and C. Publications may nominate only ONE entry in 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: SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism and Excellence in Magazine Design. In those categories, each publication may submit ONE entry.
2. Each entry may include a maximum of THREE pieces of work except in Excellence in Feature Writing, which is limited to ONE article per entry, Excellence in Photography which is limited to FIVE photographs, Excellence in Video Reporting, which is limited to ONE video 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 Photography, Excellence in Information Graphics, Excellence in Video Reporting and Excellence in Journalistic Innovation

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 2018 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 toward 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 fulfill 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 fulfill the objectives described in the nomination form.

Entries submitted as URLs should be active during February-May 2018. Each URL is counted as one piece of work. The work should have been first published in 2017. Entries may be a single item or a continuing project, and may consist of up to three (3) URLs, or five (5) photographs 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. You will not be informed if URLs cannot be accessed.

8. 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.
9. SOPA reserves the right to publish the entries.
10. NO REFUNDS will be made once entries have been submitted. Please read the Rules and FAQ before submitting payment.

VII. INTERPRETATION

Any questions as to the interpretation of these and all other rules will be decided by the SOPA Editorial 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 website's monthly unique visits.

Group A	English-language newspapers, magazines and online publications, including wire services and websites, that circulate widely in three or more countries in the Asia-Pacific region considered to be international media.
Group B	English-language newspapers, magazines and online publications, including wire services and websites, that circulate primarily in one or two countries in the Asia-Pacific region considered to be regional or local media or industry publications in areas like travel or finance.
Group C	Chinese-language newspapers, magazines and online publications, including wire services and websites, that circulate in the Asia-

Cost per entry	Group A	Group B	Group C
Non-members	HK\$1,600	HK\$1,000	HK\$1,000
SOPA members*	HK\$1,400	HK\$900	HK\$900

* SOPA members enjoy discount on all entry fees. For SOPA membership discount code, please request via email to mail@sopasia.com latest **by Friday Jan 26th, 2018**.

2. Payment methods:
Payment for entry submissions will only be accepted through PayPal.
All entries submissions payment will only be accepted online through PayPal. We accept payment by VISA, Master Card, through PayPal. You also have the option to make payment with your own PayPal account.

No refunds will be offered.

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: sopa@hku.hk