



SOPA Announces 2020 Journalism Awards Finalists

*Winners to be announced at a virtual SOPA Awards Ceremony on August 26
Gerry Shih, China correspondent for The Washington Post, and Michael Vidler, senior
solicitor, to share insights*

Hong Kong, 29 June, 2020 – The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA), a Hong Kong-based not-for-profit organization, today announced the finalists ([full list](#) here) for the SOPA 2020 Awards for Editorial Excellence after receiving more than 750 English and Chinese-language entries submitted by international, regional and local media across the region.

The awards were launched in 1999, and since then have been widely considered the most prestigious in the Asia Pacific publishing industry and a world-class benchmark to recognize best practices in journalism.

Participating media competed in [17 categories](#), including the SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism, Excellence in Explanatory Reporting and the Scoop Award. In the Excellence in Explanatory Reporting category, Nikkei Asian Review, Hong Kong Free Press and GMA News Online have been named as finalists for their high standards of reporting, writing and in-depth analysis on topics of the U.S.-China relationship, protests in Hong Kong and the fast fashion industry respectively.

The entries were judged by a panel comprising industry professionals from the region's most influential media organisations, leading journalism schools, and past award winners.

The winners will be named at the SOPA Awards virtual ceremony to be held at 7p.m. on August 26, 2020. Due to health concerns and travel restrictions, for the first time the Award event will be held virtually and streamed live. For regular updates and registration details, please register at www.sopawards.com.

The Awards ceremony MCs/Moderators will be Angie Lau, Editor-in-Chief, CEO, and Founder of Forkast.News, and John Dawson, former Bloomberg TV Prime Time Anchor, founder of Acara Strategy. The streaming event will feature keynote speakers Gerry Shih, a China correspondent for The Washington Post, and Michael Vidler, a senior Hong Kong solicitor who is currently representing the Hong Kong Journalists Association in an ongoing judicial review in which the Association argues the Hong Kong police failed to facilitate lawful journalistic activities during public demonstrations.

“The SOPA Awards reward the best publishing practices in the region. They speak to the importance of high-quality journalism that brings critical issues to public notice at a time when press freedom is becoming ever more precious,” said Cliff Buddle, Special Projects Editor at the South China Morning Post and Chair of the SOPA Editorial Committee.



“This year's shortlisted entries provide ample evidence for what a dramatic - and often dangerous - year it was for journalism,” said Dr. Jeffrey Timmermans, 2020 SOPA Awards Head of Judges and Associate Professor of Practice at The University of Hong Kong's Journalism & Media Studies Centre. "The Hong Kong protests, as expected, were heavily represented, but the presence of outstanding work throughout the region, from Malaysia to Japan, and China to the Philippines, is a bracing reminder of the dynamism and strength of the region's media organisations. It's also tremendously encouraging to see new publications represented for the first time in a SOPA shortlist, such as The Environmental Reporting Collective, Hong Kong Free Press, Myanmar Now, and Central News Agency - all of which were able to take advantage of an entry-fee subsidy provided by the Google News Initiative.”

“We are honored to once again celebrate the vital and courageous journalism that has borne witness to the extraordinary events of the past year. We are thrilled to see first-time applicants among the finalists and congratulate all of the journalists recognized by SOPA from across the region. We look forward to toasting all of the winners virtually in August”, said Irene Jay Liu, Google News Lab Lead, APAC, part of the Google News Initiative, the Platinum Sponsor of the awards, providing subsidies to first-time/new award entrants on a first-come-first-served basis.

Other partners include BlueCurrent (social media) and FleishmanHillard (public relations).

About SOPA

The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) was founded in 1982 to champion freedom of the press, promote excellence in journalism and endorse best practices for all local and regional publishing platforms in the Asia-Pacific region. SOPA is a not-for-profit organisation based in Hong Kong and representing international, regional and local media companies across Asia. The Society of Publishers in Asia is also host to the prestigious annual SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence, which serve as the world-class benchmark for quality journalism in the region. www.sopasia.com; www.sopawards.com; [SOPA LinkedIn](#).

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