



SOPA Announces Winners of 2022 Awards for Editorial Excellence

**Myanmar Now wins top regional Human Rights Reporting award;
The Wall Street Journal receives Award for Public Service Journalism**

Hong Kong, June 17, 2022 - The Society of Publishers in Asia ([SOPA](#)), a Hong Kong-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to pursuing excellence in journalism, today announced the [winners](#) of its annual Awards for Editorial Excellence in recognition of outstanding works of journalism over the past year in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ceremony took place [virtually](#) on Thursday evening, June 16 where 98 awards were presented for coverage of key issues around the region, including the coup in Myanmar, the fall of Afghanistan, the continued fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, and tightening freedom of expression in Hong Kong.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of SOPA and the 24th consecutive year of Awards for Editorial Excellence.

More than 750 English and Chinese-language entries competed this year in 20 [categories](#). They ranged from photography to business and investigative reporting to public service journalism and included two new categories of Excellence in Technology Reporting and Excellence in Audio Reporting.

The [keynote address](#) featured a wide-ranging fireside chat between Gina Chua, executive editor of media startup Semafor, and The Economist's Alice Su, last year's winner of the SOPA Young Journalists Award, on topics from increasing restrictions on press freedom, restoring trust in the media, and viable financial models in the news industry.

Two major political events shook the region in 2021. In February, the military launched a coup in Myanmar, putting local reporters in particular jeopardy. **Myanmar Now's** news team won an Award for Excellence in Human Rights Reporting for "Human responses to the junta's cruelty," while Frontier Myanmar won an Award for Excellence in photography for "The evolution of Myanmar's Spring Revolution."

Al Jazeera also won an Honorable Mention in the global Human Rights Reporting category for "This is Myanmar's State of Fear."

August marked the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The Wall Street Journal won the top global prize for its breaking news coverage "Saigon on Steroids" and the Los Angeles Times won an Award for Excellence in the global photography category for "The Fall of Afghanistan."



Women's Issues stayed in the news again this year with the global Award for Excellence going to 1843 Magazine, The Economist and The Fuller Project, for "She was trafficked into a giant brothel. Now she runs it" and Sixth Tone won the regional Award for Excellence for "A Woman's Quest for Motherhood. A Cross-Border Trade in Babies."

The new category of Audio Reporting drew strong contenders, including startup Project Brazen, whose podcast "Fat Leonard" won a global Award for Excellence. And in the new Technology Reporting category, Tencent News won the Chinese-language Award for Excellence for "Across the Ruins: The Bicycle Sharing Drama Has Not Ended."

The fallout from Beijing's imposition of a national security law in Hong Kong was also a focus as was increasing tension between Beijing and Taipei.

Ming Pao won the Award for Excellence in Chinese-language for Explanatory Reporting for "National Security Law: Year One." And Initium Media's report on the historic closure of a Hong Kong newspaper took Honorable Mention in the breaking news category for "Like a hand over your mouth': Journalists, readers and newspaper sellers say goodbye to Apple Daily."

CommonWealth Magazine won the Chinese-language Award for Excellence in the Infographics category for its depiction of "The Direst Straits: Why Has the Chinese Military Increased Activity Near Taiwan?"

In awarding the prestigious **SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism to The Wall Street Journal** for its coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic, "Of Unknown Origin," the judges said: "No other news story has been of greater public interest in this year."

Madeleine Lim, Senior Executive Editor Asia at Bloomberg News and Chair of the SOPA Editorial Committee, said: "Congratulations to the winners for your excellent work and thank you to everyone who submitted to the awards and to the judges who volunteered their time to make the difficult decisions selecting the best of the best."

"How uplifting to see such a strong field of entries across so many different categories," said **Byron Perry, Founder and CEO of Coconuts Media and Chair of the SOPA Board**. "Your terrific work exemplifies why we need good journalism now more than ever. I salute all of you for telling the true stories of our times in a compelling and impactful way."

The SOPA 2022 Awards Platinum sponsor is Google News Initiative; the Gold sponsor is the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas; and the Silver sponsor is WP Engine.



About SOPA

The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) is a Hong Kong-based not-for-profit organisation that 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.

Today, SOPA is the voice of Asia's media and publishing industry, and continues to work to uphold media standards and freedoms while celebrating and supporting professional journalism and publishing. The SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence are the annual flagship awards, serving as a regional benchmark for quality, professional journalism.

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