



SOPA Announces 2025 Journalism Awards Finalists

Noted global broadcast journalist, Mishal Husain, to be featured speaker

HONG KONG (May 8, 2025) — The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA), a Hong Kong-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to pursuing excellence in journalism, today announced the finalists of the SOPA 2025 Awards for Editorial Excellence ([Full List here](https://sopawards.com/the-sopa-awards/awards-finalists/) - or go to <https://sopawards.com/the-sopa-awards/awards-finalists/>). Entries continued apace with Global, Regional/Local and Chinese media outlets submitting more than 700 entries in English and Chinese and a separate category of Bahasa Indonesia.

This year marks the 27th consecutive annual awards, which were first held in 1999. Winners will be announced Thursday, June 26 at a celebratory dinner in Hong Kong.

Mishal Husain, Editor at Large at Bloomberg Weekend and former BBC anchor, will deliver the keynote address. Ms. Husain, who is a 25-year veteran of international news, will talk about image, voice and trust in the age of AI, exploring challenges to individual reputations as well as the wider implications of the technology for newsrooms.

Hong Kong journalist and media trainer, Karen Koh, will once again be our master of ceremonies.

Awards will be given out across 21 categories ranging from Women's Issues to Investigative Reporting to Photography and Business Reporting, to name a few. The task of picking the top contenders this year fell to about 120 volunteer judges — comprised of former and current journalists and journalism academics from around the world.

The number of submissions from Regional and Local publications rose substantially from a year earlier and a total of 22 small media outlets and first-time entrants from a dozen countries received SOPA subsidies to enter. Among those making the finalists cut are the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism in the regional Explanatory Reporting category; Kontinentalist in regional Human Rights Reporting; and Mekong Eye in regional Investigative Reporting.

China and its economy continued to be a big story, but South Asia and Southeast Asia as well as Japan got plenty of coverage. So did South Korea with the sudden declaration of martial law and its dramatic aftermath.

The surprise outcome of elections in India made headlines, as did the ousting of Bangladesh's long-serving prime minister in the wake of student protests.

Asia's role in global industries from the controversial business of human surrogacy to the competitive supply of semiconductors was a hot topic. Also of note was coverage of how Asian economies are racing to benefit from the use of artificial intelligence at home.

The Journalism and Media Studies Centre at the University of Hong Kong, known as JMSC, has administered the SOPA Awards since 2011.

“The SOPA 2025 Awards truly embodies its pan-Asian essence and provides a primary platform to showcase the best and most diverse work from across the region,” said Ting Shi, Senior Lecturer at HKU who acts as Head of Judges for the awards.

Rita Widiadana, a veteran Indonesia-based journalist and executive board member of the Asia Pacific Media Alliance (APCAT) for Health and Development, is head judge for the Bahasa Indonesia category, which honors stories that set the domestic agenda in politics, business or social/cultural affairs.

“We are delighted that so many publications from around the Asia Pacific region entered the SOPA 2025 Awards, which are widely regarded as the Pulitzer Prizes of the region. The large number of entrants shows that media is thriving in various forms, despite an increasingly challenging environment for journalists. We wish contenders the best of luck,” said Bill Ridgers, Asia Digital Editor at The Economist and co-chair of SOPA’s Editorial Committee.

2025 Awards Categories

- Excellence in Reporting on Women’s Issues
- Excellence in Journalistic Innovation
- Excellence in Audio Reporting
- Excellence in Video Reporting
- Excellence in Human Rights Reporting
- Excellence in Feature Writing
- Excellence in Technology Reporting
- Excellence in Magazine Design
- Excellence in Arts and Culture Reporting
- Excellence in Bahasa Indonesia News Reporting
- Excellence in Explanatory Reporting
- Excellence in Business Reporting
- Excellence in Infographics
- Excellence in Reporting Breaking News
- Excellence in Opinion Writing
- Excellence in Reporting on the Environment
- Excellence in Photography
- The Scoop Award
- Carlos Tejada Award for Excellence in Investigative Reporting
- SOPA Award for Young Journalist
- SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism

Factiva is an Associate Sponsor of the SOPA 2025 Awards and Telum Media is a supporting partner.

About SOPA

The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) is a Hong Kong-based not-for-profit organization 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 and have been given out every year since 1999.

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