

The SOPA 2026 Awards for Editorial Excellence - Awards Winners List

Excellence in Reporting on Women's Issues

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The New York Times	CNN International
Title of Entry:	The Secret Campaign in China to Save a Woman Chained by the Neck	Economic plight of women in Asia
Award Recipients:	Vivian Wang, Siyi Zhao, Pablo Robles	Jessie Yeung, Hanako Montgomery, Junko Ogura, Daniel Campisi, Yasmin Coles, Teele Rebane, Dan Hodge, Exxon Ruebe, Ladan Anoushfah, Sheena McKenzie, Hilary Whiteman
Judges' Comments:	The scope and detail of the reporting on the Communist Party's efforts to suppress the case is impressive and valuable in itself, but the presentation really elevates it. The final section documenting the activists' continued underground campaign was a nice counterpoint, showing that hope exists even amid such an oppressive political atmosphere. Gut-wrenching story of how the Chinese state and sections of society continue to turn a blind eye to the trafficking of women and to intimidate those who attempt to hold the state accountable, including the NYT journalists telling this story.	An impressive package of stories that offers poignant and often surprising insights into the lives of women who are rarely covered in the media. The piece on the scam farms is an important story -- very few pieces on this subject have covered the trade from a gender angle. Kudos to everyone involved. Deeply reported stories of the plight of women in Asia, from Filipina scam victims to elderly Japanese women preferring incarceration to the lonely world outside.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Himal Southasian	Frontier Myanmar
Title of Entry:	The woman in the bathroom	Hidden burdens of Myanmar women: Health, livelihoods, and early marriage
Award Recipients:	Romita Saluja	Esther J, Khin Hnin Phyu Soe and Reddy Simon
Judges' Comments:	Such a compelling and tragic story. The gum-boots reporting and perseverance shone through with such vivid details through a sustained and exceptional reporting effort. With clarity, empathy, and rigor, the story traces how a rural woman from Haryana was brutalized, confined in a tiny bathroom by her husband, and pushed to the brink of collapse. What makes the piece especially powerful is that it goes beyond individual cruelty to expose the systemic failures around policing, social stigma, legal protection, and mental-health misdiagnosis that leave countless women vulnerable to similar abuse, not only in India but across the world, who are stuck in similar situations.	Powerful and compelling reporting from the front lines of a country where access to sources is so difficult. The focus on the difficulties women face went behind the scenes and spotlighted the grave challenges they deal with on a daily basis. Through vivid, field-based reporting, the work exposes the links between conflict, poverty, reproductive health risks, forced conscription and child marriage while constantly foregrounding women's lived experiences with journalistic rigor and empathy. It is a timely body of reportage that sheds light on the gendered consequences of war and political collapse.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	端傳媒 Initium Media	Mirror Media (鏡傳媒)
Title of Entry:	全球代孕產業/The Untold Stories of Transnational Surrogacy Industry	晶片戰爭沒有女人的臉：台灣「矽盾」背後的母親群像 系列報導/The Hidden Cost of Taiwan's Silicon Shield: A Generation of Mothers
Award Recipients:	吳家希 Ng Ka Hei 、龔珏 Gong Jue 、 裘紫 Qiu Zi 、陳婉容 Sherry Chen 、 符雨欣 Fu Yuxin	陳虹瑾 Hung-Chin Chen
Judges' Comments:	In-depth and comprehensive, laying bare the dark side of the surrogacy industry. The reports of interviewees in different places shed light on the different faces of societies. While this topic is not new, the focus on the role of intermediaries and who are the parties in this supply chain of global surrogacy is an important one. Some very strong interviews in this story thanks to the journalists' investigative reporting. Well done.	A novel topic; it vividly shows the pressure and woes of full-time housewives facing children's education behind the shining lights of Taiwan's chip industry. We need more stories on the economic contribution -- as well as sacrifices -- of women behind a successful economy, or industry or business. In this case, what is even more interesting is how geopolitics has made the industry more pertinent, and how the industry created a whole neighborhood/ecosystem, and how this industry being quite male heavy to start off with has made the dilemma for women even more acute.

Excellence in Journalistic Innovation

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Bloomberg	Bloomberg
Title of Entry:	India's Digital Nightmare	China's Falling Prices
Award Recipients:	Natalie Obiko Pearson, Anand RK, Suparna Sharma, Ruhani Kaur, Jui Chakravorty, Ken Armstrong, Flynn McRoberts	By Bloomberg News
Judges' Comments:	The graphic novel format is the right call here, not a gimmick. A scam that operates entirely through screens and psychological coercion is genuinely hard to convey in conventional prose, and the vertical scroll experience on a phone mirrors the medium through which the crime was committed. The reporting underneath is serious: six interviews with the subject, 800 pages of charge sheets for a single scene, the artist traveling to Lucknow to verify settings. The companion investigation gives the individual story systemic context. A well-conceived package where the form serves the journalism.	Ambitious in scope and well-executed. Building a parallel dataset from 6,000 company filings while simultaneously tracking consumer prices across 36 cities is a serious undertaking, and the combination of corporate balance-sheet analysis with ground-level price data is methodologically stronger than either approach alone. The "zombie firm" finding gives readers a concrete indicator to hold onto. The personal narratives are necessary here, not decorative: deflation is genuinely hard to convey without showing what it looks like in individual lives. A strong entry in a category where the bar should be whether the innovation served the journalism, and in this case it did.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	CNA	The Straits Times
Title of Entry:	Singapore Budget 2025: What's in it for you?	Lost games
Award Recipients:	Kevin Kwang, Lim Ling Li, Lee Long Hui, Alvin Chong	Charlotte Tan, Ernest Ong, Kimberly Wee, Nurulshazanani Idris, Yamani Chinnuswamy, Youjin Shin
Judges' Comments:	This simple calculator gets top marks for frictionless usability. It's clearly of benefit for anyone affected by the budget. It's impressive that it was refined and made available on the day of the election. It's intuitive input/output is a pleasure to use and it looks great. Smart, also, to include a link with those results to the package of coverage on the budget. Doing so eases the reader from their specific family interests in the budget (personal income tax rebate, child credits, etc) to broader discussion of Singapore's pattern of projected deficits turning into surpluses, and video links to parliamentary discussion.	A fun and sophisticated look at a series of traditional Singaporean schoolyard games. The package did an excellent job blending history and context, making a convincing point that these five games represent an anchor to Singapore's past, with an interactive feature that allowed the user to play them for a bit in the present. Tucked inside this colorful, enjoyable presentation was the observation that this sort of play supports developmental skills such as spatial reasoning, attention and impulse control – making this point elegantly, versus a more heavy-handed approach, which helped the reader ponder what has been lost. Superb.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	端傳媒 Initium Media	報導者 The Reporter
Title of Entry:	消失的樂園新生的人 - 台灣八仙粉塵燃燒事件 十週年/Ten Years After the Formosa Fun Coast Explosion	動態模擬「宏泰輪」詭跡：台、歐斷纜危機的 中國陰影/Taiwan's Undersea Crisis: Tracing Chinese-Owned Ships Suspected of Cable Damage
Award Recipients:	許伯崧 Hsu, Bo-Song 、 陳焯輝 Chan Cheuk Fai 、 唐佐欣 Tang Tso Hsin 、楊仁 Yang Ren 、 章凱閔 Chang, Kai-Hung 、 黃郁淳 Huang, Yu-Chun Rosa Lee 、 郭瑾燁 Athena Kuo 、梁庭瑋 Elk Leung 、 林佳玟 Lin, Jia-Wen	汪彥成 Yen-Chen Wang 、 江世民 Ethan Kong 、 黃靖緯 Ching-Wei Huang 、林奕甫 Yi-Fu Lin 、 黃浩珉 Hao-Min Huang 、林育立 Yu-Li Lin 、 楊子磊 Tzu-Lei Yang 、 李雪莉 Sherry Hsueh-li Lee
Judges' Comments:	An innovative, refreshing approach to tell the story of the 10th anniversary of an explosion tragedy through the reflection of five victims and an item they deemed most important to them, including the diary of a mother of the victim. The idea and presentation are outstanding. The stories are moving and touching in an appropriate tone with no sensationalism.	Well-done research and data visualization. Skillful use of graphics and data for readers to sail through the waters to understand the problem of damage to undersea cables.

Excellence in Audio Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Economist	Bloomberg
Title of Entry:	Scam Inc	Tariffed: Toymaker vs Trump
Award Recipients:	Sue-Lin Wong, Sam Colbert, Alizée Jean-Baptiste, Weidong Lin, Claire Read, Rosie Blau, John Shields	K. Oanh Ha, Yang Yang, Naomi Ng, Julia Weaver, Paddy Hirsch, Emma O'Brien, Taka Yasuzawa, Alex Sugiura, Rachael Lewis-Krisky and Greg Stohr
Judges' Comments:	An eye-opening, thoroughly comprehensive piece of reporting that sheds light on the inner workings of the scam industry, its history, and the vivid stories of both the people it ensnared and those who fuel it. A must-listen series that deserves the top spot in its category. Although this is a story that has been told many times before, Wong's podcast is superbly produced and makes for compelling listening. It stands out even in the face of strong competition. Excels on every level.	Featuring voices ranging from an India factory owner to an American toymaker whose life and business were upended by Trump's tariff war, this ambitious series is a prime example of how to put a human face to the numbers and bring the statistics to life. A must-listen for anyone hoping to understand the global repercussions of the tariff war and, above all, the human stories behind this economic crisis. First broadcast on the eve of the U.S. Supreme Court's judgment that blocked Trump's tariff's this three-part series couldn't have been more timely.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Economic Times	天下雜誌 Commonwealth Magazine
Title of Entry:	A Spoonful of Death	Taiwanology : Seeking Peace in Taiwan: An Israeli and a Palestinian in Dialogue
Award Recipients:	Anirban Chowdhury, Dia Rekhi, Vikas Dandekar	Kwangyin Liu, Ya-Yuan Chang, Wei-Ru Wang
Judges' Comments:	This compelling investigative report calls needed attention to a shocking pharmaceutical scandal -- Indian-made cough syrup that killed children in India, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, the Gambia and Cameroon, due to the manufacturer substituting a toxic chemical normally used in brake fluid for a safe but more expensive ingredient. The episode uses audio effectively to tell this story, from the voices of grief-stricken family members and of the specialists interviewed, to sounds that bring a listener into the scene. The sound of the narrator's voice reading the names of the dead was haunting and powerful, as was the program as a whole.	This engaging discussion between a Taiwanese host and Israeli and Palestinian guests provides a creative and thought-provoking food for thought about how to deal with a more powerful and at times aggressive neighbor, and how to think about working toward peace without sacrificing the rights and dignity of anyone involved. The host does a good job of exploring her guests' backgrounds and letting them tell their stories before turning to the conversation to the Taiwanese experience, specifically through the lens of Kinmen.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	報導者 The Reporter	西郊密林 Western Forest
Title of Entry:	未成年的他們為跨越「性別」付出了什麼？ /The Cost of Crossing Gender for Transgender Youth	铜锣湾二楼的阿海/Ah Hai's CWB 2nd Floor
Award Recipients:	詹婉如 Wan-Ru Jan、林雨佑 U-lu Lim、 洪琴宣 Chin-Hsuan Hung、 陳思樺 Szu-Hua Chen、 梁玉芳 Yu-Fang Liang	五羊 Wu Yang
Judges' Comments:	An innovative story of a largely-ignored issue. These two podcast episodes shine a light on a relatively niche yet socially significant subject — the struggles faced by transgender minors — with genuine humanity and compassion. Notably, this series spans both audio and written formats, yet the audio content is far more than a mere echo of the written reporting. Instead, the production team makes rich use of on-the-ground recordings, allowing listeners to hear directly from transgender individuals and their families in their own voices — lending the reporting both emotional warmth and journalistic substance.	Solid and detailed information. This podcast series takes Gui Minhai, the central figure in the Causeway Bay Books disappearance case, as its narrative entry point, offering a systematic and in-depth account of the rise and fall of Hong Kong's banned-books publishing industry and the gradual erosion of the city's space for free expression.

Excellence in Video Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	BBC Eye and BBC Global China Unit	Financial Times
Title of Entry:	The Schools That Break Children	Japan's demographic time bomb
Award Recipients:	Alex Mattholie, Shanshan Chen	Leo Lewis, Tom Griggs, Russell Birkett, John Burn-Murdoch, Alex Langworthy, Thomas Beswick, Karin Sugiura
Judges' Comments:	Strong and gripping story that touches so many points of our lives: parenting, school, youth. Unusual topic, a difficult terrain, and dangerous subjects make this an extremely challenging project. Smartly done with enterprise as well as empathy. Excellent reporting that must have been quite difficult. These schools are frightening and it is obvious that the people behind them have found a way to profit from the pain of parents.	Not easy to tell an old story in a way that still hooks you from the get-go. Terrific use of numbers, especially in their display. Incisive sweep of angles related to the aging problem, all packed in with a sharp script. An excellent retelling of a story many think they know: Japan has an aging crisis. Extremely well done.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	TaiwanPlus	The Quint
Title of Entry:	What Matters More: Indigenous Culture or Animal Rights?	Why Indian Cities aren't Walkable
Award Recipients:	Alex Rednaxela	Naman Shah
Judges' Comments:	A beautifully filmed video. The Talum interview itself is a masterclass in lighting, composition, and sound bite selection. The producers' lack of traditional narration was effective, with a solid cast of characters representing the various voices in this debate. While this case centers on Taiwan's laws, it has some global resonance as states weigh their own tensions between environmental and indigenous considerations.	Engaging and interesting approach to an issue that included a bigger, serious message around urban planning, safety and sustainable mobility.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	商業周刊 Business Weekly	今周刊 Business Today
Title of Entry:	掏空台灣還是稱霸世界？》直擊！為了台積電美國 5 兆投資，到沙漠蓋竹科/Hollowing Out or Dominating the World? Inside TSMC's NT\$5 Trillion Bet, Replicating Hsinchu Science Park in US Desert	海草消失，魚蝦也不見- -台灣海洋的重大危機/Vanishing Seagrass, Disappearing Fish: Taiwan's Ocean Crisis
Award Recipients:	吳中傑 Matt Wu、邱品蓉 Hedy Chiu、 侯良儒 Louis Hou、許俊傑 Lune Hsu、 陳沛妤 Patty Chen、吳明政 Ming Wu、 黃盛璋 Eric Huang、鄭亨泰 Tai Cheng	蔡銘洋 CHARLIE TSAI、呂佩芬 ANNA LU、 蔡侑儒 YORU TSAI、陳睿豐 JUI FENG CHEN
Judges' Comments:	This work documents the ongoing shift in the world's technological center of gravity. Through rigorous, on-the-ground reporting, it guides the audience through the friction of clashing cultures and competing aspirations to witness a future being built from the sand. The entry picked up on a timely topic: semiconductor companies from Taiwan investing in the U.S. The video demonstrated mature storytelling skills: for each segment, it started with a personal story, then delved into the broader picture behind it. The visuals were appealing and enjoyable to watch. All of these have made a business story more interesting to digest.	By layering deep-dive field observations with the voices of local islanders, the footage demonstrates how fragile ecosystems can be salvaged when community will and scientific rigor converge to protect what lies beneath the tide. The entry featured high-quality visuals and interviews on an interesting topic.

Excellence in Human Rights Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (US), Stuff (New Zealand)	The Wall Street Journal
Title of Entry:	China Targets	Tibet's Forgotten Resistance
Award Recipients:	Scilla Alecci and ICIJ, Nicole Sadek, Carmen Molina Acosts, Sam Ellefson, Tamsin Lee-Smith, Jelena Cosic	Niharika Mandhana, Josh Chin, Tripti Lahiri, Krishna Pokharel and Austin Ramzy
Judges' Comments:	Deeply researched, with a breadth and range that's difficult to match, and that lends special value and memorability to a topic that, while not new, nonetheless has global implications and resonance. This shows great collaboration between countries, delivering gripping stories. While reading the story, I can feel the pressure and the importance of this story.	This series skillfully combines "dry" data with human storytelling and contextualization that stays with the reader well after the reading is done. Super strong personal story.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Frontier Myanmar	Frontier Myanmar
Title of Entry:	Rakhine in crisis: Begging to survive amid starvation	Myanmar's election under fear: the ending is already known
Award Recipients:	Htet Aung and Khaing Lynn	Ya Nwe
Judges' Comments:	A devastating, ground-level account that documents how war and military blockades are driving civilians into starvation, using vivid testimony to expose rights abuses hidden from view. With strong quotes and brutal anecdotes, the reporting created a connection for the reader with the victims of the war and an understanding of its dire economic consequences. The journalists do a very good job of illuminating the grave daily challenges faced by people in Rakhine State--both the crushing poverty and the dearth of hope. The stories are also well contextualised with a dollop of expert analysis and clear historical detail.	These two in-depth articles, using vivid on-the-ground reporting and interviews, show – rather than tell – that the recent Myanmar junta's election was fraudulent. Good reporting that helps to illuminate how the Myanmar junta ran a fraudulent election, from illegal early campaigning to targeting anyone who dared to sympathize with critics.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	報導者 The Reporter	端傳媒 Initium Media
Title of Entry:	不向時間低頭—童年性侵倖存者揭開黑幕，挑戰追訴期高牆的漫漫長路/Against Time and Silence: Childhood Sexual Abuse Survivors' Long Fight to Challenge the Statute of Limitations	香港勞工的危脆生命 /Hong Kong Workers: Precarious Work, Precarious Lives
Award Recipients:	張子午 Tze-Wu Chang 、 梁玉芳 Yu-Fang Liang 、 黃世澤 Seitei Huang 、 林彥廷 Yen-Ting Lin 、 鄭宇辰 Yu-Chen Cheng 、 蔡昕翰 Hsin-Han Tsai 、 江世民 Ethan Kong 、 張詩芸 Shih-Yun Chang 、 黃鈺婷 Yu-Ting Huang	謝欣然 Tse Yan Yin 、余樂斯 Theodora Yu 、 吳世寧 Ng Sai Ning 、李慧筠 Lee Wai Kwan
Judges' Comments:	Objectively and deeply researched with excellent citations and explanatory notes to give this very important subject the time and attention it deserves. The interviews and personal stories used to tell the story are done with care and given weight without excessive sentimentality and sensationalism as sometimes can be the case with sexual abuse coverage. The pop-up notes, references and legal information are especially useful as it allows the article to flow without being bogged down by details that would turn it into a research paper.	High-quality reporting of the plight of workers in Hong Kong. Well-written. Comprehensive, with highlights of the issue of basic human rights protection.

Excellence in Feature Writing

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	1843 The Economist	1843 The Economist
Title of Entry:	Would you pass the world's toughest exam?	How one man got off death row in a country with a 99% conviction rate
Award Recipients:	Harriet Shawcross and Dipanjan Sinha	Moeka Iida
Judges' Comments:	This piece is everything a feature should be. Much like the exam in question, the piece jumps between dozens of seemingly disparate points, from history to economics to railways to social mobility, but the narrative links between macro and micro ensure the reader is never lost. Engaging storytelling and in-depth reporting that follows one young engineer graduate's obsessive and grueling six-year journey to take an entrance exam for India's Ministry of Railways. The article illuminates the desperation, hopes and dreams of many of the more than half a million people, mostly from poor backgrounds, living in one town known for its study centers and connects them to a bigger systemic failure for millions looking for employment across India.	A beautifully written and fastidiously investigated story that combines a sensitive and heart-wrenching portrait of a man wrongly convicted of murder with a compelling critique of exactly how and why the Japanese judicial system failed him so badly. Feature writing at its finest.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Hong Kong Free Press
Title of Entry:	How a Thai worker was taken hostage in a foreign war	'Place of heartbreak': One month since fatal fire, Wang Fuk Court residents reel from trauma, pondering their future
Award Recipients:	Supattra Vimonsuknopparat and Erin Handley	Hans Tse & Kelly Ho
ExplantJudges' Comments:	Well-written piece, with subtle insights into the central character, close observations also captured in resonant pictures and video. A well-crafted and moving multimedia piece on a regionally significant topic. The authors succeed greatly in making the Gaza war an Asian tale by showing the region's human stakes in the distant conflict. It is evident that the authors put significant effort into building trust with the former hostage so that he would open up about his experience in being taken hostage. To their credit, they round out his tale with the perspective of his wife and contextual discussion about his community and the forces impelling Thais to migrate to Israel for work.	Only a month after the tragic housing complex fire in Hong Kong, the story paints a sobering picture of the aftermath for the residents. The story doesn't resort to overly dramatic writing, it lets the residents speak for themselves. Their recounting of what they experienced, and the difficult situations they now face as a result, brings home to readers to full scale of the disaster and its consequences.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	端傳媒 Initium Media	Mirror Media (鏡傳媒)
Title of Entry:	長篇現場：跨國代孕的代價，在她們身上 /Surrogate Mothers: the Bodies that Paid the Price	熱血是怎麼冷卻的-急診體制病危下的醫師出走潮/How the Passion Cooled: The Physician Exodus and the Crisis of an Ailing ER System
Award Recipients:	龔珏 Gong Jue	簡竹書 Chien Chu-Shu 、 李玟萱 Lee Win-Shine 、 杭大鵬 Hang Ta-Peng
Judges' Comments:	Drawing upon extensive fieldwork and interviews conducted in Georgia—engaging with a diverse array of stakeholders including surrogate mothers, intermediaries, lawyers, and commissioning parents—the author vividly and powerfully illuminates the complex interplay between transnational industry chains, the exploitation of female labor, legal vacuums, and China's demand for reproductive services.	The report sorts through and examines the deeper reasons behind emergency physicians leaving their jobs—the psychological strain, the sense of helplessness, and the persistence—and draws attention to how these issues might be addressed.

Excellence in Technology Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Associated Press	Reuters
Title of Entry:	Made in America, Watched Worldwide	China quest for tech self-sufficiency
Award Recipients:	Dake Kang, Aniruddha Ghosal, Yael Grauer	Brenda Goh, Eduardo Baptista, Fanny Potkin and Qiaoyi Li
Judges' Comments:	Detailed and disturbing. Painstaking work to pull together U.S. companies involved in surveillance in China. An important piece of work- well-done. Crucial investigative reporting in building up a picture of the technology behind the high surveillance state in China. This three-year, three-part package shines an important spotlight onto how technology enables surveillance. Good pulldowns show how the technology is applied.	This impactful three-part series maps China's high-end strategic aspirations and AI investments toward "algorithmic sovereignty." It details robots training themselves on the factory floor, battlefield integration and a secretive "Manhattan Project" around chip-manufacturing advances.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Project Multatuli English	The Straits Times
Title of Entry:	#AutomationFever series	Punggol Digital District
Award Recipients:	Antonia Timmerman, Rio Tuasikal & Mawa Kresna	Charlene Chua, Claire Xu, Hannah Lee, Nikita Pereira, Osmond Chia
Judges' Comments:	The trio of pieces delve deeply into how AI is reshaping individual workflows and workloads, with wide-ranging interviews with workers in different industries. The accompanying essay places these changes in the longer history of technology and work and asks pertinent questions around the value of work. Together, the three pieces deepen the reader's understanding of the issues at stake, the consequences for workers, and what might be done to mitigate harmful outcomes. An extremely relevant series at a time when the AI-job losses debate rages on.	This accessible explainer deploys dynamic 3D graphics to bring the Punggol Digital District to life for general audiences, fulfilling an important role of the press given technology's increasing integration into our physical surroundings. While the graphics are the show stopper, the accompanying text carries equal weight, providing granular detail for readers seeking deeper understanding. Most notably, the piece addresses energy usage concerns head-on. It's nice to see a piece about technology use technology to make its point!

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	端傳媒 Initium Media	天下雜誌 CommonWealth Magazine
Title of Entry:	情色的未來/Desires Decoded	《天下雜誌》833 期〈星馬大賺中立財 新亞洲 AI 廊道〉/Singapore and Malaysia: A New Asian AI Corridor
Award Recipients:	吳用 Wu Yong 、吳政霆 Wu Cheng-Ting 、 石劍南 Shi Jiannan 、路青疊 Cing Lou	黃亦筠 Elaine Huang 、楊孟軒 MengHsuan Yang 、曹凱婷 Kai Ting Tsao
Judges' Comments:	A bold attempt to illustrate and explain the complexities, sensitivity and profound impacts of Artificial Intelligence and algorithm on the expression and dissemination of information about sexual desire. It's a thought-provoking, timely and high-quality series.	Amid heightened geopolitical tension, this series has shed light on enterprises that navigate the turbulent waters of politics to build a "new Asian AI corridor." It's informative, comprehensive and insightful.

Excellence in Magazine Design

Combined Global, Regional/Local and Chinese groups

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Tasting Kitchen	LEAP 艺术界
Title of Entry:	TK62 Cubanacán	下海游/Across the Sea
Award Recipients:	Alicia Beebe	Lyu Yuedi 吕玥迪
Judges' Comments:	The design is clean and makes the magazine a great platform for the culinary world. Presenting both English and Chinese text together is a huge challenge; it was handled comfortably and naturally. The page layout is great.	Masterful handling of white space, seemingly fluid grid and innovative typography creates a strong design identity. In a world where people now consume content via screens, beautiful and intelligent design like this stands out, and will be required to justify the continuation of printed specialist publications.

Excellence in Arts and Culture Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Financial Times	Bloomberg
Title of Entry:	The 'wild' writer who told the truth about work in China	Mumbai's Overhaul
Award Recipients:	Edward White, Xueqiao Wang	Nic Querolo, Saikat Das, Alex Gabriel Simon, Malavika Kaur Makol
Judges' Comments:	I loved how the writer puts you right into the opening scene as you follow the protagonist through the market. Wonderful portrayal of this unusual, self-effacing talent. A perfect example of show, don't tell journalism. Bravo. Superb interview-based piece on a core trend in Chinese society with huge implications. It would have been so easy to do it as basically a book review, but the writer made the right choice.	This fast-paced package centers on the challenges behind modernizing Mumbai into an international financial hub to compete with the likes of Hong Kong and Tokyo. Besides monsoon flooding and traffic gridlock, visionaries contend with redeveloping the city's slums. Focusing on a bureaucrat charged with the city's revamp, restaurateurs cashing in on India's rising affluence, and a local architect trying to save the city's historical treasures amid the rush, show the daunting task ahead.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Frontier Myanmar	PostMag
Title of Entry:	The junta's cultural crusade	The Chinese baristas keeping Italian cafe culture alive
Award Recipients:	Hein Thar and Ya Nwe	Zhaoyin Feng
Judges' Comments:	The reporting is original, multi-source and conducted under genuine personal risk. The cultural intelligence is exceptional: both reporters demonstrate deep knowledge of Myanmar's theatrical and literary traditions, situate current events within a centuries-long history of art under authoritarianism, and write from entirely within the Myanmar cultural frame.	An interesting subject, well-written and structured, with vivid reporting and photography. Overall a good piece of reportage that illuminates both individual experiences and the wider context.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	報導者 The Reporter	端傳媒 Initium Media
Title of Entry:	跟唱紅色主旋律？台灣獨立樂團西進中國的靈魂拷問/Playing to the Main Melody? Taiwan Indie Music's China Predicament	中國影像新秩序/Rewriting China's Screen
Award Recipients:	許詩愷 Shih-Kai Hsu 、李雪莉 Sherry Hsueh-li Lee 、謝馥伊 Fu-Yi Hsieh 、黃世澤 Seitei Huang 、黃禹禎 Yu-Chen Huang 、江世民 Ethan Kong 、張詩芸 Shih-Yun Chang	李潔逸 Li Jieyi 、林克 Lin Ke
Judges' Comments:	An excellent, well-rounded series that examines a sensitive and urgent topic in impressive depth. The team navigates a highly political subject with balance and nuance, focusing on the dilemmas faced by musicians and industry professionals rather than playing the blame game. While it is no surprise that Taiwanese musicians face censorship in China, this series pulls back the curtain on how far that control goes, the emotional toll it takes on artists, and the broader risks it poses to Taiwan's music culture. It is deeply reported and well-presents the push and pull these independent artists feel in front of financial gain and creative freedom.	Powerful short videos that hit the nail on its head. The report penetrates deep into different sectors.

Excellence in Bahasa Indonesia News Reporting (Penghargaan Karya Jurnalistik Kategori Bahasa Indonesia)

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Project Multatuli	Mongabay Indonesia
Title of Entry:	Serial #DaruratKekerasanAparat/ #PoliceViolenceEmergency Series	Sisi Gelap Hilirisasi Nikel Indonesia: Krisis Lingkungan dan Ancaman bagi Masyarakat Adat di Halmahera/The Dark Side of Indonesia's Nickel Downstreaming: Environmental and Indigenous Crisis in Halmahera
Award Recipients:	Viriya Singgih, Mawa Kresna & Alfian Putra Abdi	Irfan Maulana, Rabul Sawal, Achmad Rizki Muazam
Judges' Comments:	A comprehensive, engaging, and thought-provoking report that successfully explains what actually happened regarding the public protests against the government and police that reached a climax following the death of Affan Kurniawan, an online motorcycle taxi driver, in Jakarta in August 2025. The protests against government injustice and the abuse of power by authorities led to the arrest of thousands of activists, whose cases remain unresolved to this day. The three articles are meticulously written to provide readers with facts and accurate information.	The three articles are the meticulous and brave works of those involved in producing them to inform the public about the problems on the ground, open the eyes of local people being exploited and abused by greedy corporations and abandoned by the government in easy-to-read journalistic endeavors.

Excellence in Explanatory Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Financial Times	The Wall Street Journal
Title of Entry:	Why Trump can't build iPhones in the US	Inside 'Fortress China'
Award Recipients:	Sam Joiner, Nassos Stylianou, Lucy Rodgers, Dan Clark, Michael Acton, Sam Learner, Kathrin Hille, John Reed, Irene de la Torre Arenas	Brian Spegele and Raffaele Huang
Judges' Comments:	Amid many excellent entries across a wide variety of topics, the iPhone story stood out for its clarity and importance both to investors and consumers. Most readers probably had more than an inkling that Trump's dream was illusory. This story spelled out precisely why. A model of explanatory journalism. Rather than relying on rhetoric or leaks, the FT team dismantled the iPhone's supply chain piece by piece to test a political claim against industrial reality. The visual approach complements rather than substitutes for the reporting.	This package on China's rising dominance in AI, war technology, energy, pharmaceuticals and more was to me the strongest among the several entries in this category examining China's rising competitiveness versus the U.S. The stories were wide-ranging, informative and, at times, skeptical about the vulnerabilities just beneath the surface of this power surge.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Straits Times	Frontier Myanmar
Title of Entry:	How South-east Asia navigates the minefields of big-power rivalry	'Hard to fight': Weapon shortages hamper resistance groups
Award Recipients:	Philip Wen	Htet Aung
Judges' Comments:	Excellent and comprehensive reporting on an extremely broad topic. With solid on-the-ground reporting and insights, the reports shed light on the increased complex business and trade landscape in the midst of big-power rivalry.	A story that looks at the weaknesses of the rebel groups is definitely taboo in Myanmar, and it is clear that this was risky reporting. It also advances our understanding of the civil war in Myanmar, rather than rehashing old tropes and easy narratives.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	端傳媒 Initium Media	端傳媒 Initium Media
Title of Entry:	香港世紀大火：解讀報導系列/Hong Kong Mega-Fire: Burning Questions	從自辯到判罪，黎智英案法庭全紀錄/Jimmy Lai: A Court Chronicle
Award Recipients:	李慧筠 Lee Wai Kwan、 鄭淑華 Sara Cheng、符雨欣 Fu Yuxin、 彭嘉林 Pang Ka Lam、吳用 Wu Yong、 龔珏 Gong Jue、陳婉容 Sherry Chan、 吳政霆 Wu Cheng-Ting、白駒 Bai Ju、 路青疊 Cing Lou	梁久凡 Echo Leung、杜海 To Hoi、 陳念 Chan Lim、饒海琛 Yiu Hoi Sum
Judges' Comments:	The entries submitted by Initium Media are truly remarkable in the following ways: the articles were produced within a tight time frame with the last of the series published only three days after the fire; many of the observations withstood the test of time; the analysis contained good comparisons to similar fire hazards in Shanghai and the United Kingdom, which indicated the amount of hard work involved; and, the editorial team appeared to have overcome their personal emotions when many of us were still in grief.	This piece serves as an intricate chronicle of the Jimmy Lai trial, providing a comprehensive and factual account of a legal proceeding that has become a symbol of Hong Kong's changing landscape. It functions as a methodical record, documenting the transition of a significant historical chapter with observational poise.

Excellence in Business Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Reuters	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	Fast lane	China and Rare Earths
Award Recipients:	Nick Carey, Zhang Yan, Eduardo Baptista, Norihiko Shirouzu, Brenda Goh, David Dolan, Chenxi Yang, Qiaoyi Li, Brian Thevenot, Mike Colias	Keith Bradsher, River Akira Davis, Kiuko Natoya
Judges' Comments:	A deeply reported series of articles examining one of the world's most important recent industrial developments - the rapid growth of China's auto industry and the global implications for manufacturers and consumers. Deep knowledge of the subject and local expertise. Classic business reporting that was early on this subject. Crisp writing, appropriate graphics add to its virtues.	A series of fascinating stories uncovering the decades-long history of rare earths manufacturing in China, the dire cost to the country's environment, and Japan's attempt to reduce its reliance on Chinese exports. Together, these three stories form a comprehensive and detailed primer on all the key aspects of the rare earths industry. An essential read.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Australian Financial Review	The Australian Financial Review
Title of Entry:	Chairman Stokes: The inside story of Seven (as told by the board)	We didn't have a hope in hell': KWM's cautionary China tale
Award Recipients:	Max Mason, Greg Bearup and Sarah Thompson	Maxim Shanahan
Judges' Comments:	A sad end to an incredible career and personal story told with dramatic flair and drive. The narrative of how power corrupts uses the source materials to help "show, not tell" without overwhelming the reader; the emails add color and drama to the story, bringing to life the frustration of the board members with the chairman's behavior. The arc of the story is crafted in such a way that even as the outcome is well-known, the reader wants to follow the story line to the end. Well done! This is reporting that provides a valuable public service.	I was fascinated by this story, not just because of the many details it surfaced about the law firm's apparent involvement in problematic or corrupt deals, but also because of what it said about the trajectory of Australian-Chinese relations, and how the high hopes of an earlier era foundered over time. A valuable piece of work.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	商業周刊 Business Weekly	報導者 The Reporter
Title of Entry:	台灣世紀豪賭 到美國蓋竹科/Taiwan's Century Gamble: Replicating Hsinchu Science Park in US Desert	一通電話踏進債務流沙—揭開「融資租賃」的高利結構與剝削真相/A phone call that pulls you into the quicksand of debt - Unmasking the usurious structure and exploitative truths of 'finance leasing'
Award Recipients:	吳中傑 Matt Wu、邱品蓉 Hedy Chiu、 侯良儒 Louis Hou、 楊文財 Wen-Tsai Yang、 林靖珈 Justy Lin、陳皜 Haw Chen	方德琳 Te-Lin Fang、藍婉甄 Wan-Chen Lan、 孔德廉 Te-Lien Kung、黃鈺婷 Yu-Ting Huang、 鄭宇辰 Yu-Chen Cheng、杜岳軒 Yueh-Hsuan Tu、 黃禹禎 Yu-Chen Huang、陳思樺 Szu-Hua Chen、 林彥伶 Yen-Ling Lin
Judges' Comments:	It is the core issue in Taiwan. With clear graphics and complete personality stories, the reports recorded the growth and plight of the most special geopolitical economy in this century.	This comprehensive reporting exposed how shadow banking has metastasized in Taiwan's economy and affected tens of thousands of ordinary people and their families. It's a textbook example of good economic reporting.

Excellence in Infographics

Combined Global & Regional/Local groups

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Reuters	Reuters
Title of Entry:	Scammed into scamming	Air India crash
Award Recipients:	Adolfo Arranz, Poppy McPherson, Devjyot Ghoshal, Han Huang and Ally J. Levine	Vijdan Mohammad Kawoosa, Adolfo Arranz, Arathy J Aluckal, Han Huang, Sudev Kiyada and Dea Bankova
Judges' Comments:	This story of criminals kidnapping people to work in scam call centers in Myanmar, perhaps with the connivance of Thai immigration officials, is delivered in a comic book format but maintains the reporting standards and balance of more traditional Reuters story formats. Compelling story, beautiful art. It demonstrates the virtues of a graphic novel as an informative piece.	I assume some of these graphics were created as breaking news. If so, their quality is undeniable in such a short period of time.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	天下雜誌 CommonWealth Magazine	報導者 The Reporter
Title of Entry:	馬太鞍溪堰塞湖 致災關鍵事件簿/How a Landslide Lake Turned Deadly: Reconstructing 64 Critical Days of the Matai'an	從數據找病灶，用設計改風險：盤點台灣 119 座道路圓環問題/From Data to Design: Risks in Taiwan's 119 Traffic Circles
Award Recipients:	蔡立勳 Johann Tsai、陳盈諭 Ying-Yu Chen、楊時鈞 Steven Yeo、李郁欣 Sylvia Lee、史書華 Silva Shih、蕭歆諺 Matthew Hsiao、楊竣傑 Jeffrey Yang	林雨佑 U-lu Lim、黃靖瑋 Ching-Wei Huang、謝佩穎 Pei-Ying Hsieh、楊子磊 Tzu-Lei Yang、江世民 Ethan Kong、張子午 Tze-Wu Chang
Judges' Comments:	Successfully melted different graphics into reports, vividly illustrate the disaster for readers to understand why it happened. This piece marries impressive 3D mapping technology with deep on-the-ground reporting, it creates an immersive experience that really shows the scale of the impact of the landslide.	Thorough investigation by visual graphics and media content. The graphics are very effective in showing the pros and cons of traffic circles. And it is a great example of data journalism that the story is driven by the findings from the data.

Excellence in Reporting Breaking News

Combined Global & Regional/Local groups

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	CNN International	The Wall Street Journal
Title of Entry:	CNN coverage of the India-Pakistan war	The Disaster of Air India Flight 171
Award Recipients:	Sophia Saifi, Kunal Sehgal, Nic Robertson, Esha Mitra, Aishwarya S. Iyer, Ross Adkin, Rhea Mogul, Aditi Sangal, Jessie Yeung, Helen Regan	Shan Li, Krishna Pokharel, Alison Sider, Allison Pohle, Aakash Hassan, Andrew Tangel and Stu Woo
Judges' Comments:	As two of the world's nuclear-armed powers, India and Pakistan, squared off against each other in May 2025, CNN was poised to tell viewers around the globe why they should care. A live blog kept pace with developments. Standalone features detailed how a truce was reached, as well as the fallout of uneasy calm in Kashmir that remains. Great graphics and historical context made the package easily accessible to anyone unfamiliar with the history of the disputed territory.	A riveting account. The Wall Street Journal's global reporting team quickly produced a comprehensive spot story of the air crash itself. Next came a profile of the lone survivor among the 242 people on board, including a telling bedside video. The WSJ stayed on the case and a month later —as the story was still unfolding— revealed that preliminary signs inside the confidential crash investigation pointed to pilot suicide. The writing was calm, factual and benefitted from reporters who had experience in covering air disasters.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	香港 01 HK01	端傳媒 Initium Media
Title of Entry:	香港大埔宏福苑大火/Hong Kong Tai Po Fire Tragedy	馬太鞍堰塞湖潰壩事件/The Matai'an Landslide
Award Recipients:	香港 01 記者 HK01 Journalists	許伯崧 Hsu,Bo-Song 、蕭函青 Hsiao,Han-Ching
Judges' Comments:	HK01 provided timely updates of the fire through its live blogs and also a comprehensive deep-dive on the systemic failures that led to the tragedy. It also used multiple visual elements, videos and creative storytelling to cover the disaster.	A comprehensive reporting package on the Matai'an landslide, featuring tic-toc pieces tracking the hours leading up to and during the tragedy, alongside strong data visualizations and charts analyzing its causes and aftermath. It gives readers from all over a direct sense of how vulnerable and powerless local disadvantaged groups are when natural disasters strike.

Excellence in Opinion Writing

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Economist	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	From restaurant scandals to booming museums and economic battles	China and Trump's America
Award Recipients:	Simon Rabinovitch	Li Yuan
Judges' Comments:	The Chaguan columns submitted for this award demonstrate both range and insight into contemporary China. The column on the Chinese economic model and its impact on the global economy is excellent opinion/analytical writing. The columns on museums and fine dining in China provide very different but also valuable windows into China today, from the intensified use of historical patriotic narratives to the growing class divisions illustrated through the prism of the food scene. Well-written and entertaining, with a hefty dose of critical perspective.	Thoroughly brilliant piece of business opinion writing that pulls together the contradictions of U.S. policy towards China and how it is being pushed by Silicon Valley towards protectionism, and by the Trump Administration towards isolationism. The technological rivalry "never ends," but it has a major impact on outcomes as the U.S. undermines its legacy of technological innovation while China strives for the technological frontier and beyond.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Diplomat	Culpium
Title of Entry:	Criminal Governance in Plain Sight: Cambodia's State-Linked Cyber-Scam Economy (An Opinion Essay Series)	AI Isn't the Doctor You Need in a Cancer Crisis
Award Recipients:	Jacob Sims	Tim Culpan
Judges' Comments:	The writer uses facts to lay bare the hypocrisy and contradictions of the international system that sanctions Cambodia's scam compound operators, while it conveniently avoids holding accountable the powerful officials behind one of the worst human trafficking and financial crimes of this century. A trio of thorough, forcefully expressed pieces that call for action regarding Cambodian crime in a way that any reader can understand.	Brave, powerful, urgently relevant and human. This is the best piece of opinion writing I've read in a long time. (I also like the AI-generated cartoon). Very personal piece on the author's own battle with cancer, well-researched and the first-person narrative makes for a unique and powerful read from a known tech expert.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	明報 Ming Pao	亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan
Title of Entry:	長和賣港口風波——做足功課 理智應對/CK Hutchison Port Deal Uproar - Research Thoroughly and Handle With Good Sense	香港怎樣面對苦澀的過去/How Does Hong Kong Face Its Bitter Past?
Award Recipients:	黃賢 Hanson Y Huang	黃宇翔 Wong Yu Cheung
Judges' Comments:	The columnist must be congratulated for injecting a unique background rarely mentioned in most, if not all, of the huge amount of analysis on this hot topic.	An informative and insightful commentary not shying away from sensitive topics.

Excellence in Reporting on the Environment

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Gecko Project, The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Deutsche Welle, KCIJ Newstapa, Tempo and The Guardian	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	Green cars, toxic costs: Inside a nickel titan's pollution and cover-ups	Power Moves
Award Recipients:	Alon Aviram, Hasya Nindita, Eli Moskowitz, Serdar Vardar, Kiyo Dörrer, Jiyeon Kim, Praga Utama, Katia Patin	Keith Bradsher, David Gelles, Somini Sengupta, Brad Plumer, Qilai Shen, Gilles Sabrie, Raymond Zhong, Chris Buckley, Harry Stevens
Judges' Comments:	Multiple entities pooled resources for this expose of the apparent lies of the Indonesian nickel mining company Harita Nickel. A major supplier of nickel to the global market, Harita recorded dangerous levels of water pollution, internal documents showed, but never told the people on the island of Obi who were drinking the water. Chalk up another stellar moment for consortia journalism.	This series, which relies on satellite imagery, on-the-ground reporting and strong visuals, explains how the global energy future is being shaped by officials in China and the United States. A look at the potential of fusion energy casts an eye forward in a world where China is accelerating toward clean energy, while America remains locked in fossil fuels. Excellent reporting in China, showing the most consequential global energy divide, driven by geopolitics.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Earth Journalism Network	Mongabay.com
Title of Entry:	Dark Side of the Boom	In southern Myanmar, armed groups and the military junta profit as toxic mines devour landscapes
Award Recipients:	Sam Schramski	Dawei Watch
Judges' Comments:	Spectacular work that clearly demonstrates a strong level of organisation, research, collaboration and dedication across borders. The story reaches into supply chains, national and international policies and individual consumer choices in a powerful and poignant way. Very, very well done. This cross-border collaboration shines light on a global issue's relevance on a regional level, bringing an abstract idea into tangible form. Real people, vetted data, creative visuals and strong writing come together for an impactful series.	This investigation --done in a dangerous country where impunity is the norm-- demonstrates the power of environmental reporting to cause change, empower local communities and shine light on the start of international supply chains. The brave journalists and sharp editors who worked on this piece showed great courage, skill and tenacity to bring an important issue to a global audience.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	報導者 The Reporter	端傳媒 Initium Media
Title of Entry:	煙囪下的國中小：發展競逐中遺落的學童呼吸權/Schools in the Smog: The Forgotten Right to Breathe Amidst Economic Pursuit	極端天氣來臨時系列/In the Age of Extreme Weather
Award Recipients:	方德琳 Te-Lin Fang、孫文臨 Wen-Lin Sun、 柯皓翔 Hao-Hsiang Ko、 簡毅慧 Helene Yi-Hui Chien、 江世民 Ethan Kong、黃世澤 Sei-Tei Huang、 黃鈺婷 Yu-Ting Huang	甘葉 Gan Ye、豐燁 Feng Ye、 王志元 Wang Chih Yuan
Judges' Comments:	A landmark piece of data journalism. By cross-referencing factory locations with school coordinates across the country, this reporting team created a finding that simply did not exist before they built it. The gap between what the data said and what children were breathing is the kind of central revelation that defines investigative environmental journalism at its best. Policy impact was direct and documented -- the Minister visited affected schools, and children were formally designated a sensitive group.	Excellent series. The illustration of the relevance of extreme weather to daily life is just about right. First-hand reporting of Henan farmers is highly difficult. Detailed and in-depth reporting helps tell the story of how climate risk directly affects farmers and how policies can help.

Excellence in Photography

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Reuters	Agence France-Presse
Title of Entry:	Hong Kong fire	Botox under burqas: Cosmetic surgery in vogue in Afghanistan
Award Recipients:	Tyrone Siu	Wakil Kohsar
Judges' Comments:	This collection is anchored by a definitive image of despair that resonated far beyond Hong Kong. It captures the sheer scale of the disaster while keeping the focus on the human cost, documenting everything from the intensity of the flames to the raw emotion of the community as the tragedy unfolded. From my point of view, the photo of the year.	This series provides a rare look at a side of Afghan life that usually stays hidden, especially under restrictive conditions. It's an intimate look at how people try to hold onto their identity, captured with impressive access and a clear respect for the subjects' privacy and safety. I love the way magazine covers are used into the photos: they become context, story, and protagonist of the narrative.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	CNA	Hong Kong Free Press
Title of Entry:	Malaysia's charcoal workers who risk life and health to do the work shunned by most	The Hong Kong inferno: Tai Po fire at a glance
Award Recipients:	Zamzahuri Abas	Kyle Lam
Judges' Comments:	This work stands out because the photographer chose to inhabit the same choking, hazardous environment as the workers rather than shooting from a distance. It results in a visceral and honest documentation of the grit required for a type of labor that society usually keeps out of sight. The heavy lifting, strain and toll on the workers bodies as well as the heat and the extraordinarily hard conditions are clearly evident in the images. Poignant.	These five images heartbreakingly represent the Tai Po tragedy. The families watching their homes, and communities on fire, the personal tragedies, the destruction and the massive public response are encompassed in technically powerful images. Very moving.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	歪脑 Wainao	報導者 The Reporter
Title of Entry:	盐碱地上的中国农村现实 · "田园牧歌"还是"乡下人的悲歌" ? /China's Rural Reality on Saline-Alkali Land: Pastoral Ideal or a Peasant's Lament?	自黑泥中起身：花蓮光復鄉災後紀實/Rising from the Black Mud: After the Disaster in Guangfu Township, Hualien
Award Recipients:	Shell Long	謝佩穎 Pei-Ying Hsieh
Judges' Comments:	This series of photographs possesses a strong narrative quality; it comprehensively depicts the issue of land degradation, while also featuring human subjects that foster a sense of immersion. Deeply resonating photos that translate crises into intimate stories. An extraordinary reminder that while a camera is a machine, the heart behind it is what makes the image move.	The composition invites the viewer in, but the story is what makes me stay. The quiet grace of a lens that looks at the world's suffering without ever looking down on it.

The Scoop Award

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Nikkei Asian Review	Financial Times
Title of Entry:	Is North Korea's 'princess' walking a path toward succession?	China bans tech companies from buying Nvidia's AI chips
Award Recipients:	Hirofumi Yamamoto, Sotaro Sakai, Tetsuya Fujita, Hiroshi Kuno, Takeshi Yamada, Yosuke Onchi, Akira Ikeya and Takashi Igarashi	Zijing Wu, Cheng Leng, Tim Bradshaw
Judges' Comments:	Fascinating and revealing about the inner workings of one of the hardest stories in the world to report. Using cutting-edge technology and impressively vast hours of video evidence, the team reached clear conclusions in surprising detail, analyzing obscure and opaque source materials. Their work shed valuable light understanding an unpredictable, belligerent nuclear power.	Early definitive piece on China's decision, as opposed to other stories saying China was considering, banning purchases of key Nvidia microprocessors. This showed enterprise and sourcing on one of the most sensitive issues between the U.S. and China, and described the inter-reliance and tensions between the countries regarding this highly strategic component.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	DealStreetAsia	Bangkok Tribune
Title of Entry:	The Collapse That Shook VC in Southeast Asia - eFishery Series	The Poisoned Rivers: From gold to rare earth, unregulated mining in Myanmar poisons the Mekong and its tributaries in Northern Thailand
Award Recipients:	Gita Rossiana, Marsya Nabila, Andi Haswidi	Piyaporn Wongruang
Judges' Comments:	Highly impressive investigative reporting. A clear, high-impact scoop that exposed alleged yearslong financial manipulation at a well-known Indonesian start-up that was backed by heavyweight investors including Temasek well before the full extent of the scandal became apparent. Details about how it inflated its numbers for years, and the overall mechanics of the fraud were meticulously laid out. This was a strong scoop that set off a big conversation about the start-up sector.	There was clearly lots of legwork involved and some strong human elements to bring it to life. A strong piece that brings attention to a largely overlooked transboundary crisis, showing how unregulated mining in Myanmar is contaminating rivers that sustain communities downstream. It stands out for connecting local voices, scientific data and regional geopolitics.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	香港 01 HK01	信報財經新聞 Hong Kong Economic Journal
Title of Entry:	獨家揭發工程分判商偽造假證書 涉醫院、機場、市區重建工程/HK01 Exclusive: Fraudulent Certifications Uncovered in Critical Infrastructure and Urban Redevelopment Works	教育雞棚系列報道/'Education Chicken Coop' Series
Award Recipients:	梁祖饒 LEUNG Cho Yiu Joe	劉凱欣 Lau Hoi Yan
Judges' Comments:	An important piece of investigative reporting that exposes serious systemic flaws in the city's construction industry, affecting both the public and private sectors. HK01's investigation prompted the health authority to act, report the matter to police, and ultimately led to arrests over fraudulent certifications used in the city's critical infrastructure. The fraudulent certificates were used in at least five hospital authority projects.	This exclusive series of reporting exposed a serious issue and had real-life impact that shaped policymaking and raised public awareness.

Carlos Tejada Award for Excellence in Investigative Reporting

Global

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Reuters	The Washington Post
Title of Entry:	Contest in the Pacific	Chinese organized crime goes global
Award Recipients:	Pete McKenzie, Hollie Adams, Allison Martell, David Lague, Clare Farley and Minami Funakoshi	Rebecca Tan, Katrina Northrop and Pei-Lin Wi
Judges' Comments:	A series that truly shows Reuters' strengths as a news outlet. The report on Beijing's efforts to tap its civilian fleet in the case of an invasion of Taiwan was a great example of using satellite data to uncover an otherwise hidden story. The added dispatches from the Marshall Islands and Palau offered a deeply reported, and very human, look at how these tiny nations are impacted in a variety of negative ways by ongoing tensions between global powers. The story on Palau specifically also helped connect the dots between the actions of Chinese organized crime and the goals of Beijing that we've seen play out elsewhere, like in Southeast Asia.	The Post presents several case studies of Chinese gang activity in Southeast Asia and Taiwan and evidence of the interaction between Chinese organized crime and the Chinese state. The article on the meth production operations in Southeast Asia was the most powerful and persuasive of the three articles but all showed excellent investigative reporting and writing that was full of details and well-presented.

Regional/Local

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Himal Southasian	Hong Kong Free Press
Title of Entry:	Pills, Perils, Profits: A Himal investigative series on Southasian pharma	Is it a coincidence?' - Hong Kong independent bookstores, publishers face simultaneous tax probes
Award Recipients:	Vidya Krishnan and Arshu John	Irene Chan
Judges' Comments:	This is an excellent and impactful series that explores the many facets of the failures of the World Health Organization, Big Pharma and India, among others, to adequately protect vulnerable populations in poorer countries from dangerous medicines. The piece on Bangladesh shows the potential for doing better, despite the various shortcomings of that country's pharmaceutical sector.	Ground-breaking reporting into an abuse of the power to tax.

Chinese

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	经济观察网 The Economic Observer	報導者 The Reporter
Title of Entry:	揭秘三体公司原 CEO 许垚投毒杀人案始末 /Unveiling the Truth: The Poisoning Murder Case of Former CEO of 'Three-Body' Company	消失的住院醫師：健保兆元時代，擋得住「直美」風潮與急重難科持續失血嗎？/The Vanishing Residents: Can a NT\$1 Trillion Budget Save Taiwan's Critical Care from the Aesthetics Boom?
Award Recipients:	李微敖 LI WEIAO	楊惠君 Hui-Chun Yang 、 王芊凌 Chien-Lin Wang 、 黃浩珉 Hao-Min Huang 、 楊子磊 Tzu-Lei Yang 、黃世澤 Seitei Huang 、 簡毅慧 Helene Yi-Hui Chien 、 江世民 Ethan Kong 、張詩芸 Shih-Yun Chang 、 黃鈺婷 Yu-Ting Huang 、林彥伶 Lin-Yen Ling
Judges' Comments:	Spanning five years, the reporter's investigation delved deeply into a high-profile poisoning murder case, offering a full and detailed account to readers and demonstrating the value of investigative reporting.	With solid data and clear illustrations, the reports exposed the manpower problem of Taiwan's healthcare system, making direct impacts on policy. The investigation was thorough, addressed key social issues, and drew attention from the relevant government ministries.

SOPA Award for Young Journalist

Combined English and Chinese-language groups

	Award for Excellence
Publication:	The Economist
Title of Entry:	Sarah Wu
Award Recipient:	Sarah Wu
Judges' Comments:	From low-altitude economy to DeepSeek's breakthrough and gig economy to self-driving vehicles, Sarah has shown an exceptional maturity of insight and skills in storytelling, making serious and complex topics interesting with a personal touch, depth and width. Her podcast episode on the rise of female stand-up comedians in China has provided not just a good audio program, but a vivid story of a greatly changing China. Her work across both print and podcast platforms illuminates the complexities of contemporary China with nuance and humanity, making some of the world's most opaque systems intelligible to a global audience.

SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism

Combined English and Chinese-language groups

	Award for Excellence
Publication:	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	China's Malaise and Its People's Endurance
Award Recipients:	Vivian Wang, Siyi Zhao, Pablo Robles, Berry Wang
Judges' Comments:	Despite immense difficulties and unimaginable pressure in doing journalism work in China, the NYT team has shown passion and persistence and journalistic excellence in the selected articles about the lives ordinary people face in a profoundly changing nation. Each of the stories, including a "chained woman" and a deported migrant from the U.S., is well-written and a great read on its own. Put together, they told the story of "one nation, many faces."