

The SOPA 2017 Awards for Editorial Excellence - Awards Winners List

Excellence in Reporting on Women's Issues

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Washington Post	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	India's Divide	The right to work in India
Award Recipients:	Annie Gowen	Ellen Barry
Judge Comment:	<p>This stunning, sobering series on violence and injustice against women in India paints a nuanced picture of how a rapidly changing society, with new laws and social norms, is empowering many Indian women, while endangering others, as some men resist change by lashing out, and the law doesn't yet adequately reach in time to protect the vulnerable. Comprehensively reported, often in difficult and potentially dangerous circumstances, and sensitively told.</p>	<p>Nuanced and complex, it shines a light into the thinking and social world of the life where these women are struggling for their own identity. Absorbing, detailed, beautifully written and exhaustively reported portraits of Indian women reaching for better lives and personal empowerment through employment, and how traditional forces push back, sometimes subtly and sometimes with force.</p>

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Phnom Penh Post	Sixth Tone
Title of Entry:	Coming to terms	Waking Up to the Threat of Domestic Violence
Award Recipients:	Will Jackson, Eli Lillis, Cristina Maza, Kong Meta, Vandy Muong, Charlotte Pert, Bun Sengkong and Athena Zelandonii	Qian Jinghua
Judge Comment:	An incredibly well reported and sourced package that delves into the impact of surrogacy on those involved, especially surrogate mothers and intended parents. It also highlights the murky truths as the business is pushed underground. A fantastic and compelling package with global implications.	Very well-reported, in-depth piece putting into context China's new law on domestic violence. Gut-wrenching detail of individual cases of abuse and the lack of support for victims, coupled with insightful analysis of the new law's shortcomings. Crisply written. A compelling story that delves into a sensitive and important issue that's rarely spoken about in China. An excellent reporting effort that aims to break down barriers.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Initium Media	Ming Pao Weekly
Title of Entry:	July 9th family members: the year-long journey from victims to activists 「7.09」家屬：從受難者到行動者的一年跋涉	I'm a female factory worker 我是女工
Award Recipients:	趙思樂	陳伊敏
Judge Comment:	This entry tells the plight of China's incarcerated human rights lawyers through the lens of their spouses and children. The stories are simple, showing how these individuals are the less conspicuous, but nonetheless significant victims of a repressive regime obsessed with maintaining control. The humanity is beautifully expressed in the text, with the extensive interviews helping to capture the most memorable details and anecdotes, making the story a very strong and persuasive read.	A humanistic presentation of Chinese female labor's livelihood.

Excellence in Journalistic Innovation

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	China Daily Asia Pacific	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	Bhumika Can Speak for Herself	'They Are Slaughtering Us Like Animals'
Award Recipients:	Marc Lajoie	Text and Photos by Daniel Berehulak; Produced by Craig Allen, Rodrigo de Benito Sanz, David Furst, Jeffrey Marcus, Sergio Pecanha and Jodi Rudoren
Judge Comment:	A unique, high level entry about an important and problematic issue. It is shown on a personal way, as a face-to-face discussion with a transgender person. This gives a strong, touching effect on the viewer. The entry uses up-to-date high level complex technology, but the technology is hidden behind of an easy-to-use, natural interface. Great work.	Professionally merged photos, videos, texts, maps. Very effective. It tells this sad but important story with maximum intensity by using up-to-date multimedia technology.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Sydney Morning Herald	South China Morning Post
Title of Entry:	Saving the Reef	Cultural Revolution
Award Recipients:	Adam Morton, Jason South, Dionne Gain, Matt Teffer, Andrew Forbes, Aparna Khopkar, Mallory Brangan, Richard Lama, Nick Wells, Tony Walters, Tim Young	Jun Mai, Oliver Chou, Magdalene Fung, Simon Song, Joe Lo, Dennis Wong, Dan Bland
Judge Comment:	This entry is astonishingly comprehensive, informative and attractive. The interactives work smoothly, the visuals and video elements are well-edited and to the point and the entire package presents a well-rounded examination of the problems facing the Great Barrier Reef, along with possible ways to help reduce the damage.	This was an extensive presentation of the Cultural Revolution, packed with visual extras including propaganda posters, before-after photos, colorful charts, and even a peek into a book published in the U.S. detailing Mao's physical fitness plan. While the entry doesn't break new ground in use of digital storytelling technology, the richness of visual elements makes the reader experience engaging. The video interviews with former Red Guards were also interesting.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Common Wealth Magazine 天下雜誌	Caixin Media Company Limited 財新傳媒有限公司
Title of Entry:	Factories illegally built on farms 農地上的世界冠軍	After the Flood: Never Let Bygones Be Bygones (2016 · 洪水暴至)
Award Recipients:	呂國禎、鄧凱元、劉光瑩、王建棟、張涵青、林有成、王思澄、劉凡瑄、林奕文、黃昱婷、賴品潔、鄭寧寧	Reporters: Chan Ka Wai, Chen Liang; Developer: Wei Meng; Designers: Gao Xu, Leng Bin, Wei Meng; Photographers: Chen Liang, Liang Yingfei; Video Producers: Zhou Yining, Hu Fenhai, Qin Leiyu, Liu Dake (intern); Producers: Huang Chen, Qiu Jiaqiu 记者：陈嘉慧，陈亮； 开发：韦梦； 设计：高旭，冷斌，韦梦； 图片：陈亮，梁莹菲； 视频：周逸宁，胡分海，秦雷雨，刘大可（实习）； 监制：黄晨，邱嘉秋
Judge Comment:	In-depth investigative reporting. Multimedia storytelling, such as map, videos and graphics, broaden the scope of the story by including more information for readers to better understanding and interacting with the stories.	A novel and innovative application of journalistic technology to cover a thousand-year-old natural crisis in China.

Excellence in Human Rights Reporting

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Agence France-Presse (published on Yahoo)	Reuters
Title of Entry:	AFP Exclusive: Taliban use child sex slaves to kill Afghan police	Duterte's War
Award Recipients:	Anuj Chopra	Andrew R.C. Marshall, Manuel Mogato, John Chalmers, Clare Baldwin, Damir Sagolj
Judge Comment:	Impressive investigative work in one of the world's most difficult reporting regions bringing to light some truly horrifying abuses.	This meticulously researched series of articles shed new light on Duterte's brutal drug war, one of the biggest human rights stories of the year.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	ABS-CBN Corp.	IRIN
Title of Entry:	War On Drugs: The Unheard Voices	Myanmar says Rohingya rape and abuse allegations "made-up", despite mounting evidence
Award Recipients:	ABS-CBN Investigative and Research Group	Jared Ferrie
Judge Comment:	This is a good example of modern journalism. Multimedia is well employed to tell and re-tell the story that so many other news outlets are also telling in print, photos or broadcast.	This is excellent reporting, writing and editing. The story is evidence-driven, and is fairly reported, offering authorities the most prominent places in the piece to make their own comments. By being evidence-driven and giving prominent space for comments and denials, this is informative, fair and valuable journalism.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Reporter 報導者	The Reporter 報導者
Title of Entry:	Fraud, exploitation, bloods and tears of fishing 造假·剝削·血淚漁場	Stateless children of migrant workers 無國籍的移工小孩——「沒有名字」的孩子們
Award Recipients:	文：李雪莉、鄭涵文、蔣宜婷；攝影：林佑恩、吳逸驊；封面影片：盧昱瑞；資料分析：陳貞樺；設計：吳政達、黃禹禎；工程：李法賢、王珣沛 設計：吳政達、黃禹禎	文：簡永達、陳貞樺；攝影：林韶安；設計：黃禹禎
Judge Comment:	This is a deeply reported and groundbreaking piece of work, highlighting modern day slavery at an institutional level. The entire project is extremely well planned and executed, and presented in such a matter-of-fact manner that exposes the unjust and highlights the ignorance on the part of authorities. A very captivating and memorable entry that ticks the boxes of great journalism.	This high-impact entry casts a rare spotlight on the hundreds of minors that have been ignored by the Taiwan public and government. This is a riveting narrative of the many years of unjust treatment and psychological torment suffered by the children, and their mothers. The text is beautifully written, with stunning details and attention-grabbing data that quickly wins the reader's sympathy and interest in the subject matter. A truly moving piece of journalism.

Excellence in Feature Writing

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Financial Times	Reuters
Title of Entry:	The Return of Mao	The Road to Ward 17
Award Recipients:	Jamil Anderlini	Dean Yates
Judge Comment:	Top reporting combined with in-depth knowledge and years of experience bring to public notice the little known rise of neo-Maoism in China, and link it to politics in the west.	Immensely personal story bravely told about the effects of long-term proximity to violence on reporters.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Rappler	Sixth Tone
Title of Entry:	In the Name of the Father	Tunnel Vision: Villagers Dig Their Way Out of Isolation
Award Recipients:	Patricia Evangelista	Denise Hruby and Wang Lianzhang
Judge Comment:	Far and away, the best of this category. This was a compelling collection of stories, creatively organized, with layers of story telling, all extremely well written in a manner that draws the reader in deeper and deeper. The use of video and photography was excellent, adding to the written narrative and giving it more emotional weight. Well Done! Bold new approach to story telling and feature writing. This multilevel story seizes the attention of the reader and doesn't let get until the very end. Reflects the dedicated work of the reporter to catalogue and put a human face on Duterte's drug war.	A good example of feature writing -- a well written tale that offered the reader a glimpse into a corner of Chinese life through an unusual story. The visuals accompanying the story were also very well done. A very unusual and well-told story that says so much, from the ground, about China's development. Engaging writing elevates what could have been an ordinary story

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Initium Media	FTChinese.com FT 中文网
Title of Entry:	Mother, journalist, police, lawyer, a 21-year fight for justice 母親、記者、警察、律師，持續 21 年的洗冤之戰（全文版）	"Deconstructing Beijing" Series “拆分北京” 系列报道
Award Recipients:	吳薇	黎岩
Judge Comment:	This is the best article regarding Nei's case and the injustice in China's criminal justice system that I have ever read, with thoughtful information and best writing skills. Throughout interviews with the victim's family and other relevant parties, the article covers firsthand information and touching descriptions that I never seen. This entry refines the 21-year long journey of Nei's case. The writing is sympathetic and it explains the criminal justice structure and the circumstances of injustice in China. The journalist has excellent skills in organizing historical information. Her text brings great impacts and all characters are well described.	Reveals the problems of Beijing city management, including the socio-economics aspect. The writing is interesting and has sympathetic description.

Excellence in Magazine Design

Group A

Category Cancelled

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Esquire Singapore	Bloomberg
Title of Entry:	The 50th Issue	Bloomberg Businessweek - Uber Slayer
Award Recipients:	Zul Andra, Editor-in-chief	Bloomberg
Judge Comment:	A coherent whole, the magazine bounces jauntily with humour and personality. Combines strong illustration and photography with understated page layouts to draw the reader into the articles.	Great pacing, great creativity, great concepts, great voice. Packed full of information the magazine somehow remains structured and clean. The features have their own identity separate from, but related to the departments at the front and back of the book. A masterclass in magazine design

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	LEAP 《艺术界》	LIFE MAGAZINE 《生活》月刊
Title of Entry:	French Edition : Au Sommet, le Verbe 中法文特刊：《一语山》	A Normal Journey 旅程日常
Award Recipients:	杨林青	设计：刘小东
Judge Comment:	The cover creates an initial impression, with a coherent look throughout the publication. This bilingual magazine layout makes use of different column formats, prominent illustrations & graphics, giving the magazine format a new life.	Easy-to-read design for the inside pages. Clear page layouts give breathing space to the composition.

Excellence in Lifestyle Coverage

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Financial Times	Reuters
Title of Entry:	A pilgrim's progress	Japan's abuse of asylum seekers
Award Recipients:	Barney Jopson	Thomas Wilson, Mari Saito, Minami Funakoshi, Ami Miyazaki
Judge Comment:	This is a beautifully written piece, clearly well thought out and researched. It's wonderful to read something genuinely unhackneyed and insightful and the effort and time given to it shines through.	A serious, well-researched look at a country that has no place for refugees.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Nikkei Asian Review	#legend
Title of Entry:	Overworked	High and Mighty: Urban Explorers Take to the Top
Award Recipients:	Kentaro Iwamoto, Seiya Tsuji, Mariko Tai, Tomomi Kikuchi, Yu Nakamura, Joyce Ho, Cliff Venzon, Kim Jaewon, Simon Roughneen, Kyra Jaeger and Nobuyuki Okada	Sam Agars and Michael Hoare
Judge Comment:	Timely, pertinent and unexpected, this series on overwork is superb in all journalistic ways.	A fantastic fresh topic, well-written with great quotes and heart-stopping photos.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The New York Times (Chinese) 纽约时报中文网	Apple Daily 蘋果日報
Title of Entry:	Culture Wars and Cultural Differences: Chinese Students in America's Classrooms 文化战争与文化差异：美国 课堂上的华人同学	Series on Escaping to Foreign Lands 逃走他鄉的故事系列
Award Recipients:	Jessica May Lin, Cao Li, Dong Yifu, Irene Han and Afra Wang; edited by Jonathan Ansfield	黃子配、黃穎妮、梁志永、潘志恆、梁 浩維、劉曉丹、楊永昌、黃創泰、張嘉 豪、鄭皓然
Judge Comment:	Tough topic and reflect contemporary and unique thoughts. Good communication across the two places, despite disorganized topic of each article.	Smart take on a very timely topic. Thoughtful writing. Lifestyle journalism at its best critically explores alternative life choices.

Excellence in Explanatory Reporting

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Bloomberg	Reuters
Title of Entry:	India's demonetization	China and the Vatican
Award Recipients:	Jeanette Rodrigues, Anirban Nag, Anto Antony, Archana Chaudhary, Hannah Dormido, Adrian Leung	Lisa Jucca, Benjamin Kang Lim, Greg Torode, Philip Pullella, Natalie Thomas
Judge Comment:	These articles do a remarkable job of bringing to life, and explaining, the consequences of India's momentous decision to withdraw from circulation high-value rupee notes. They skillfully use on-the-ground reporting to vividly describe the impact of the government's surprise move.	The sourcing is truly remarkable as was the access and level of knowledge on one of the most opaque aspects of modern-day China. With clear narrative, lots of context and a news peg, this series was utterly compelling - shedding light on how both the Vatican (with some fresh thinking) and Beijing (not so fresh) work. It's an important China story and reflects on the China leadership, giving it relevance even to non-religious people.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Sixth Tone	South China Morning Post
Title of Entry:	Supersized Medication: Inside China's Biggest Hospital	G20 Hangzhou: all you need to know
Award Recipients:	Colum Murphy, Fu Danni, and Wu Yue. With additional reporting by Cai Yiwen	Nectar Gan, Sidney Leng, Zhou Xin, Laura Zhou, Wendy Wu, Magdalene Fung, Lea Li, Tom Wang, Marco Hernandez, Dan Bland
Judge Comment:	A fascinating story of a giant hospital few outside China have heard of, a tale that ties together many different threads of China's saga of breakneck growth. The story is artfully told, with gripping anecdotes and a well-paced presentation of facts and issues. The result is a balanced, thorough picture that delivers as an impressive piece of explanatory journalism.	A visually compelling and comprehensive curtain-raiser for the G20 summit that weaves cultural, historical and recreational color with a hard-news narrative and uses multimedia effectively. A captivating package.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Initium Media	Business Weekly 商業周刊
Title of Entry:	8 questions for Cultural Revolution 文革八問	Why an order shakes the island's footwear manufacturing.
Award Recipients:	鄒思聰	Joyce Kuang, Tseng Ju Ying, Chao Wei Hsiao
Judge Comment:	Cultural revolution is a heavy and taboo topic with complicated historical background and has great value to understand the contemporary history of China. The reporter has do a great job. He should have spent a lot of efforts, including review and absorb substantial publications and theories, interview professionals and summarize their thoughts. The story is worth telling and easy to read.	Discover the revolution and trends from a small piece of order, reveal the risks and opportunities of the Taiwanese traditional shoes industries and other manufactory industries. Thoughtful interviews with multiple contries and multiple industries. The storytelling and disclosure are well structured and organized.

Excellence in Photography

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The New York Times	Reuters
Title of Entry:	"They Are Slaughtering Us Like Animals"	Nepal's oldest student
Award Recipients:	Daniel Berehulak	Navesh Chitrakar
Judge Comment:	The viewer is first struck by the ethereal, cinematographic beauty before realizing the photograph is a slain 17 year-old woman left to be collected with the garbage. Shocking. Visual story-telling at it's best: I defy anyone not to be profoundly moved.	Interesting, beautiful and inspiring photo essay. The story of a unique, determined man with a simple goal of becoming a teacher. The story and the photos resonate and inspire.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Philippine Sunday Inquirer	Frontier Myanmar
Title of Entry:	Lamentation	Fight or flight
Award Recipients:	Raffy Lerma	Victoria Milko
Judge Comment:	The journalist captured a powerful emotional moment that depicts the human cost of the Philippines' war on drugs. This is an outstanding work of photojournalism not just for the impact of the harrowing image but for its ability to raise questions about a government's controversial use of extrajudicial killings.	This is a technically beautiful photo with excellent composition and use of light. But what makes this an outstanding image is the strong level of visual information and reporting that went into capturing this moment. It is an excellent work of photojournalism.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Initium Media	Initium Media
Title of Entry:	Disappearance of the Hong Kong-China border 消失的中港邊界：從生死相搏到風水輪轉	Gallery: 10 snapshots in the longest night at Mongkok 圖集：旺角最長的一夜 十個震撼定格
Award Recipients:	盧翊銘	Billy H.C. Kwok、盧翊銘、林亦非、Anthony Kwan
Judge Comment:	The visual impact enhanced the attractiveness of this fascinating story. It illustrated the great skill of the authors in using multimedia methods to analyze and explain an extremely complicated issue in Hong Kong.	Vivid and up-close captures of the incident. Excellent photojournalistic reporting.

Excellence in Business Reporting

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The New York Times	The Economist
Title of Entry:	China Rules	Big but brittle: Finance in China
Award Recipients:	David Barboza and Brooks Barnes	Simon Rabinovitch
Judge Comment:	David Barboza and Brooks Barnes imaginatively and comprehensively expose the power dynamic at play in China's commercial engagement with the West in an increasingly insular global politico-economic climate.	Simon Rabinovitch engages in the most exhaustive scrutiny of the rot in China's banking system that not only threatens its economy but risks the global economic reconstruction within a decade of the world's most severe financial meltdown.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	MLex Market Insight	Nikkei Asian Review
Title of Entry:	MAXpower Bribery Scandal in Indonesia	Series of reporting on Foxconn
Award Recipients:	Phoebe Seers	Debby Wu, Cheng Ting-fang, Shunsuke Tabeta and Kensaku Ihara
Judge Comment:	This is an impressive piece of journalism. MLex owned this story for so long, and it's clear how much work went into the process. The stories show a professional handling of a sensitive subject -- the facts are laid out in a clear and straightforward manner -- and the extensive reporting shows in the details and authority of the writing. These articles had clear and significant repercussions for the people and companies involved, and MLex deserves great credit for what they accomplished.	A sharply focused collection of stories with lots of exclusive details and scoops. The series was full of instructive step-by-step reporting and understandable explanations of why these technologies or products will make or break Foxconn after the acquisition of Sharp.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Business Today 今周刊	Global Views 遠見雜誌
Title of Entry:	Stepping into the Billions Taiwanese Tea Business 台灣百億茶金 解密	Catch up with the 13th Five-Year Plan 跟上十三五錢潮
Award Recipients:	陳玉華、萬年生、許秀惠、高靜玉、洪依婷	邱莉燕
Judge Comment:	The article is very informative and a delight to read despite its length. It encapsulates more than 100 year-old history of the Taiwanese tea plantation and production, and sales.	A thoughtful analysis of business opportunities brought by the China's 13th Five-Year Plan.

Excellence in Video Reporting

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Wall Street Journal	The New York Times
Title of Entry:	A 360-Degree View Inside an IKEA Factory	Myanmar's Unemployed Elephants
Award Recipients:	Preetika Rana, Thomas Di Fonzo and Karan Singh	Jonah M. Kessel
Judge Comment:	Immersive visual experience backed up with strong reporting anchored in the business and workforce challenges of rural India.	Compelling shooting and characters. The paradox between denuding forestry with use of magnificent beasts explains the current political and social ramifications of the teak industry that once founded the military and civil wars. Good use of original video.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	IRIN	Michelin Guide Singapore
Title of Entry:	Why this Indonesian fisherman risked it all	The Story Behind The World's First Michelin-Starred Street Food Stall
Award Recipients:	Florian Kunert	Debbie Yong
Judge Comment:	Shows the utter devastation environmentally and economically how the fishermen are receiving a tiny fraction - 10c when the fish sells for US\$180/kilo. Well shot, good sequences. The subject tells his story of loss, despair and desperation to feed his family when there are no other options or education. It shows the spiral of decline for both humans and the environment and the helplessness of ordinary folk to improve.	A beautiful story, the video captured a very special expression on his face, portraying him as a genius. Some sequences earlier could have been better planned out - some wider shots to capture the scene, then the mid shots. Close ups shots beautifully captured the subject. The video did well to juxtapose the hawker's world with the Michelin world in a way that did not patronise or belittle him.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	WeMedia01 (HK) Ltd	Apple Daily 蘋果日報
Title of Entry:	U.S. environmental group investigation: Hong Kong becomes a dumping ground of e-waste 《香港 01》美國環團跨國調查 港淪全球 電子垃圾崗	70 million left behind children [留守兒童] 有父母的孤兒 七千萬個不 幸
Award Recipients:	陳潤南、鄭思思、楊曼璐、黃永俊、陳 俊聲、岑卓熙	黃兆康、蘇汝卿、謝榮耀、彭志行、梁 清偉
Judge Comment:	A textbook example of investigative journalism using technology and multimedia presentation.	A well-crafted report tells us a heartbreaking teenage suicide story underpinning a significant social problem in modern China.

Excellence in Information Graphics

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Bloomberg	Reuters
Title of Entry:	China Deal Watch	China's debt problem
Award Recipients:	Yue Qiu, Mathieu Benhamou, Ben Scent, Cynthia Hoffman, Jonathan Browning, Cedric Sam, Parker Leung, Adrian Leung	Simon Scarr, Ashlyn Still, Jin Wu
Judge Comment:	Fantastic data aggregation, unintentionally a reporter's guide to trends Chinese overseas deals. Intuitive color scheme and hover-over context allows the reader to explore more in a way that isn't overwhelming.	Clear explanation of a very complex topic. Smart use of scroll animations to direct the readers attention. Focus on the message, not gimmickry.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	South China Morning Post	Philippine Sunday Inquirer
Title of Entry:	Bolts from the Blue	China's 21st Century Vision
Award Recipients:	Marco Hernandez	Manuel L. Quezon III
Judge Comment:	Beautifully done, rich with information and plenty of white space to ease the eye. The interactive version added a lot more too. Very nice work.	An impressive amount of information about a critical relationship for the Philippines.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Reporter 報導者	WeMedia01 (HK) Ltd
Title of Entry:	Taiwan's offshore fisheries 台灣 遠洋漁業的大「鮪」鱸鰻	2017 CE-election campaign website - investigation on the election committee 2017 特首選委網站「選委名單勢力圖」
Award Recipients:	文：鄭涵文、陳貞樺；設計：黃禹禎； 工程：李法賢	數據新聞組、IT 部 蕭輝浩
Judge Comment:	Neat and effective info graphic design. Good usage of animated graphic and numeric data display.	Neat, powerful and clear visual functions and explanations.

Excellence in Reporting Breaking News

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The New York Times	Reuters
Title of Entry:	Bangladesh Cafe Attack	Myanmar's Crackdown in Rakhine
Award Recipients:	Julfikar Ali Manik, Geeta Anand, Ellen Barry and Russell Goldman	Simon Lewis, Wa Lone, Yimou Lee, Antoni Slodkowski and Michelle Nichols
Judge Comment:	Highly detailed and riveting account of a terrorist attack and its unlikely perpetrators. An excellent example of how to report breaking news, mixing first hand on the ground journalism with thorough and insightful background and context reporting.	An excellent example of on the ground investigative journalism to peel back the layers of the official story to reveal what was really happening through the voices of the victims.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Nikkei Asian Review	The Phnom Penh Post
Title of Entry:	Bye Bye Britain?	The portrait of a 'killer'
Award Recipients:	Yasu Ota, Kenji Kawase, Mayuko Tani, Cheng Ting-fang, Rosemary Marandi, Kentaro Iwamoto, Hiroyuki Nishimura and Thitinan Pongsudhirak	Mech Dara, Niem Chheng, Shaun Turton, Thik Kaliyann, Lay Samean, Athena Zelandonii, Hong Menea and Heng Chivoan
Judge Comment:	Comprehensive, multi-faceted and thought-provoking series of articles and graphics on the impact of Brexit on Asian economies and on prospects for Asian regional and global multilateral cooperation.	Impressively rigorous reporting on deadline, both about one social activist's murder, and about some of the larger problems facing a country where political assassinations of the government's critics, particularly those exposing corruption at the highest levels, have happened with troubling frequency.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Ming Pao	Apple Daily 蘋果日報
Title of Entry:	Mongkok unrest classifying as riot 旺角衝突 定性暴亂	Series of mini-storage fire: two firemen are killed and revealed no control in the storage centre 時昌迷你倉四級火系列：兩消防殉職 揭迷你倉無王管成奪命陷阱
Award Recipients:	港聞組、攝影組、電子平台組	蘋果日報突發組
Judge Comment:	A thorough and impartial account of the clash by Ming Pao. It handled the coverage with fairness offering details of actions taken by both protesters and police.	The Apple Daily team showed remarkable reporting here by revealing the storage of hazardous goods and potential problems with firemen's protection uniform.

Excellence in Investigative Reporting

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Bloomberg	The Wall Street Journal
Title of Entry:	Superbug Profiteers	A Global Heist
Award Recipients:	Natalie Obiko Pearson, Adi Narayan, Sharang Limaye, Ganesh Nagarajan, Jason Gale, Lydia Mulvany, Monte Reel, Wenxin Fan	Tom Wright, Bradley Hope, Justin Baer, Ken Brown, Nicolas Parasie, John R. Emshwiller and Ben Fritz
Judge Comment:	A deeply reported set of articles on a topic of global reach and relevance, supported by plentiful data, on-the-ground research from around the globe, and infographics. A powerful series. A deep and thoughtful examination of issues of vital importance to every human on the planet.	Admirable and relentless work into the draining of an investment fund by the Malaysian prime minister. This series benefits from a persistence, range and global reach that few others can match. Well sourced throughout, and supplemented by a good set of infographics, it is a stand-out example of investigative reporting, and teased out the world-wide threads and relevance of something that must first have appeared to be a local story.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Cambodia Daily	ABS-CBN Corp.
Title of Entry:	Still Taking a Cut	War on Drugs: The Unheard Voices
Award Recipients:	Zsombor Peter and Aun Pheap	ABS-CBN Investigative and Research Group
Judge Comment:	A very important look at the illegal logging devastating the Cambodian countryside and the complicity of a corrupt military.	Once the death toll from President Rodrigo Duterte's murderous campaign against slum-dwelling drug dealers and users reached 1,000, the ABS-CBN research team decided to take a close look at 50 cases chosen at random. The team compared police and autopsy reports with the stories of witnesses and relatives to find common patterns. One chilling pattern: most died without resisting arrest.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The Reporter 報導者	Initium Media
Title of Entry:	Taiwan's offshore fisheries: Fraud, exploitation, bloods and tears of fishing ground 台灣遠洋漁業專題：造假·剝削·血淚漁場	Investigation on Causeway Bay bookstore - The end of the banned books readers, authors and publishers 重磅調查：銅鑼灣書店一年後，禁書讀者、作者與出版商之死
Award Recipients:	文：李雪莉、鄭涵文、蔣宜婷；攝影：林佑恩、吳逸驊；封面影片：盧昱瑞；資料分析：陳貞樺；設計：吳政達、黃禹禎；工程：李法賢、王珣沛	陳倩兒、張潔平、孫賢亮
Judge Comment:	Staggering truth exposed through joint efforts by Indonesian and Taiwanese journalists. The dawn of cyber era has made this kind of international projects possible.	A good in-depth story on an important topic, with historic contexts.

Excellence in Reporting on the Environment

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Financial Times	The Guardian
Title of Entry:	Indonesia's rainforests and why they are not being saved - yet	Asia's wildlife crime family
Award Recipients:	Pilita Clark	Nick Davies and Oliver Holmes
Judge Comment:	A strong narrative follows a Norwegian minister to Indonesia and explores why a \$1 billion aid offer hasn't halted rampant deforestation. Handsome online display.	One hundred thousand pythons and 20 tons of ivory are just some of the colossal animal hauls illegally traded in south Asia. The Guardian's investigative report names the traders and ministries that collude in this despoliation.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	R.AGE	Sixth Tone
Title of Entry:	The Elephant In Our Room	From Tufts to Dust: A Two-Part Series on Desertification
Award Recipients:	Elroi Yee and Shanjeev Reddy	Denise Hruby and Li You
Judge Comment:	In an extremely strong field, this untold story about the conflict between indigenous Orang Asli people and elephants in remote Malaysian jungle edged it for me because of the way a tenacious reporting team used text, video and their own wits to expose a critical situation in the face of blanket denials by inept and apathetic government officials. A powerful revelation of a problem the authorities deny exists: conflicts between elephants and the indigenious Orang Asli, because the elephants are relocated into their forest. The voices of the Orang Asli and of the conservationist vs. the anthropologist were particularly strong.	In 10 years or so of judging the SOPA awards, this category was probably the most difficult I have encountered because of the high quality and originality of the reporting. Despite the constraints of imposed by being part of a State-owned media group, these two well-written, well-reported frontline accounts of the desertification of China stood out as one of the two best, in my view.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	WeMedia01 (HK) Ltd	Factwire 傳真社
Title of Entry:	E-Waste Destroys Hong Kong series 電子垃圾禍港系列	Safety concerns over Taishan Nuclear Power Plant series 「台山核電廠安全隱憂」系列
Award Recipients:	陳潤南、鄭思思	傳真社「調查組記者」
Judge Comment:	<p>An in-depth investigative piece with impact. This is also a textbook case of how the innovative use of technology has helped unearth a major scoop. The entry hits at the core of the struggle of balancing environmental protection needs with the greed of capitalism. Months of persistent and well-planned reporting paid off in this series of stories, raising red flags about the environmental damage to Hong Kong and the lack of regulatory scrutiny. The premise of the entry -- that Hong Kong has become the rubbish bin for U.S. electronics waste products -- is absolutely stunning, and the solid reporting puts this entire business enterprise in the spotlight. It is all the more surprising to note from the reporting that many of the waste products end up in Hong Kong, instead of China, because of new stringent laws on the mainland against such imports. This is investigative reporting near its finest.</p>	<p>It is such an alarming story with solid investigation and background research. Nuclear power plant is never an easy topic to work on and this piece has shown the efforts and quality of this news institution. 採訪專業機構，並且擴展到國際機構，突出關鍵性問題，獨家報導，顯示出新聞敏感性以及組織報導的能力。</p>

The Scoop Award

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Reuters	The Associated Press
Title of Entry:	The Bangladesh Bank Heist	How Alibaba Lost a Friend in Washington
Award Recipients:	Serajul Quadir, Shihar Aneez, Tom Bergin, Nathan Layne, Krishna N. Das, Jonathan Spicer	Erika Kinetz and Desmond Butler
Judge Comment:	Lights-out, clearly the best scoop among some very good and tough scoops. Dogged reporting, an amazing connecting of the dots, this scoop exposed severe flaws in our global banking system from a small transaction in an obscure part of the world.	Home run. Exposed something few knew about this International Anti Counterfeiting Coalition and Alibaba in a way that led to action being taken. In the process the AP also exposed rot inside the IACC.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	MLex Market Insight	Philippine Daily Inquirer
Title of Entry:	MAXpower Bribery Scandal in Indonesia	\$100-M laundering via PH banks, casinos probed
Award Recipients:	Phoebe Seers	Daxim L. Lucas
Judge Comment:	This is an impressive piece of journalism. MLex owned this story for so long, and it's clear how much work went into the process. The stories show a professional handling of a sensitive subject -- the facts are laid out in a clear and straightforward manner -- and the extensive reporting shows in the details and authority of the writing. These articles had clear and significant repercussions for the people and companies involved, and MLex deserves great credit for what they accomplished.	Probably one of the biggest Asian stories of 2016, detailing the brazen theft of tens of millions of dollars from Bangladesh's account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York through an old family-led bank and then to large casinos in the Philippines in just a matter of days. The president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., through which the stolen funds entered the Philippines, eventually left his post, showing the story had an impact.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	WeMedia01 (HK) Ltd	WeMedia01 (HK) Ltd
Title of Entry:	Abused small house policy in New Territories series 新界套丁風雲系列	Senior officials on the conflicts of interest series 高官利益衝突系列
Award Recipients:	香港 01 偵查組 蔡傳威	香港 01 偵查組 蔡傳威
Judge Comment:	<p>This series provide in depth reporting on the abuse of small housing policy in Hong Kong. Facts in the story are remarkable showing the reporters were detailed in fact checking upholding the best in the fourth estate.</p> <p>跨年的連串調查報道合成的「套丁風雲系列」，規劃周詳，採訪全面、深入，內容翔實，焦點清晰，揭發多宗涉及權貴的套丁個案。以證據說故事出色，蒐證查冊嚴謹，是記者專業的表現。用心用力的採訪，廣度及深度的報道，充揮發揮新聞媒體「第四權」的功能。</p>	<p>This entry offers critical scrutiny of the conflict of interest of a number of high officials in Hong Kong. Much investigative effort would have been required to trace documents and sources that reveal the detailed circumstantial evidence. The story would sound more credible if sources were clearly cited.</p>

Excellence in Opinion Writing

Group A

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	The New York Times	Barron's Asia
Title of Entry:	Australia's Offshore Cruelty	Asia Gets Trumped
Award Recipients:	Roger Cohen	William Pesek
Judge Comment:	A fascinating and heartbreaking series of articles that tenaciously reveals the true horror and hopelessness through the first hand stories of those involved without ever resorting to sensationalism or preachiness. Opinion writing of the highest caliber.	William Pesek has consistently set a high standard for opinion pieces this century, and his insightful and in depth pieces on Trump and Asia reveal both a profound depth of knowledge and the skill to cut straight to the heart of the matter.

Group B

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Sixth Tone	Coconuts
Title of Entry:	"Little Pinkos" and the Problem of Patriotism in China	Aung San Suu Kyi is making wartime rape easier to commit
Award Recipients:	Zheng Jiawen	Jacob Goldberg
Judge Comment:	Very thoughtful, balanced and analytical -- a remarkable balancing act for someone writing in mainland China.	Arguing persuasively and with passion, Jacob Goldberg shows the power of excellent opinion writing to challenge the powerful to live up to their ideals.

Group C

	Award for Excellence	Honorable Mention
Publication:	Common Wealth Magazine 天下雜誌	FTChinese.com FT 中文網
Title of Entry:	<p>Belt and Road initiative becomes hot topic and Taiwan should be working on this/ Rage from U.S. grass-root level cause Trump phenomenon/ Unconditional Basic Income is the only way to do in the 21st century/ Hangzhou Summit - The sad journey of Obama/ U.S. Strategic Contraction and Taiwan moving forward to the next step</p> <p>一帶一路正熱 台灣必須做功課/美國基層的怒吼 造就川普的現象/無條件基本收入 21世紀必經之路/杭州高峰會 歐巴馬感傷之旅/美國戰略收縮 台灣的下一步</p>	<p>Reaffirm the greatest concept of people of republic 重申共和国这一伟大理念</p>
Award Recipients:	朱雲漢	許章潤
Judge Comment:	A series of insightful comments with global perspective.	Excellent commentary. The author wrote a strong response to the threat of reappearance of "Cultural Revolution" in China by bringing up the principle of constitutional republic. The five key points rightly stated the most pressing issues in current China's politics.

Journalist of the Year

Award for Excellence

Publication:	Thomson Reuters Foundation
Award Recipients:	Nita Bhalla
Judge Comment:	The judges called it a brave exposé of the deadly conditions for Indian children involved in the production of mica - once called “fool’s gold” but now used to create the sparkle in cosmetics - that shows the real fools are the illegal mine operators who thought their crimes would go unreported.