

THE

**SOPA**

**2008 AWARDS**

FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

*10<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*



**SOPA**  
The Society of Publishers in Asia

## SOPA MISSION STATEMENT

# SOPA

The Society of Publishers in Asia is dedicated to best practices in professional publishing. It represents the interests of both local and international media brands in Asia.

SOPA provides the platform for Asian and international publishers to network and collaborate, on areas of common industry concern, to secure a productive environment for profitable publishing. It facilitates contacts to explore franchise and joint publishing activities.

It will help its members understand the unique challenges and opportunities of the Asian market, for print and digital media.

Underlying all SOPA activity, is an uncompromising dedication to and promotion of, the best traditions of independent, responsible journalism and freedom of the press, as a vital component of all free societies.

## SOPA CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence continue to go from strength to strength, with increased participation from leading publishers across Asia. In 2007 we set a record by attracting 508 entries from 82 leading publications- both regional and local language – across the region. This year marks a new record, with 629 entries from 111 publications. The bar of editorial excellence continues to be pushed to new heights and the winners should feel proud of their outstanding achievement and contributions in the field of journalism.

As publishers around the world face the emergence of new media platforms and changes in audience behavior, many publications have been re-inventing themselves to better engage and influence their constituent audiences. In this emerging era of what has aptly been described as “participatory media”, editorial excellence is measured by our success in engaging and interacting with our audience through relevant content and through multiple touch points that encompass many different perspectives and points of view.

It is our mission to see to it that media in the region embrace these changes and the SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence will continue to set a benchmark for our industry's commitment to high quality journalism in an ever evolving environment.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan'.

**Mr Alan Lammin**  
SOPA Chairman  
2007-08

**THE SOCIETY OF PUBLISHERS IN ASIA  
BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR OF 2007/2008**



**Chairman**  
**Alan Lammin**  
Publishing Director, Asia  
– TIME Asia



**Deputy Chairman**  
**Terence Tung**  
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– One Media Group



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– Hachette Filipacchi HK Limited

**THE SOCIETY OF PUBLISHERS IN ASIA  
BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR OF 2007/2008**

**Board Members**



**Christine Lee**  
Asia Managing Director  
– BusinessWeek



**Frank Proctor**  
Publisher  
– East Slope Publishing Ltd.



**Barrie Goodridge**  
CEO, Asia  
– Edipresse Asia Ltd.



**Diana David**  
Regional Circulation & Business Development  
Director for Asia – Financial Times



**Randy Weddle**  
Managing Director, Asia Pacific  
– International Herald Tribune



**Jeremy Ford**  
General Manager, Pacific Edition  
– Newsweek



**Rosemarie Wallace**  
Regional Managing Director  
– Reader's Digest Asia



**Kuok Hui Kwong**  
Executive Director  
– SCMP Group Limited



**Alice Chai**  
Research Director  
– The Wall Street Journal Asia



As Asia's longest-running independent brokerage, over the past two decades CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets has grown into one of the region's leading investment groups, delivering equity research and broking, investment banking, capital-market services and alternative asset management.

## ASIA'S INDEPENDENT VIEW

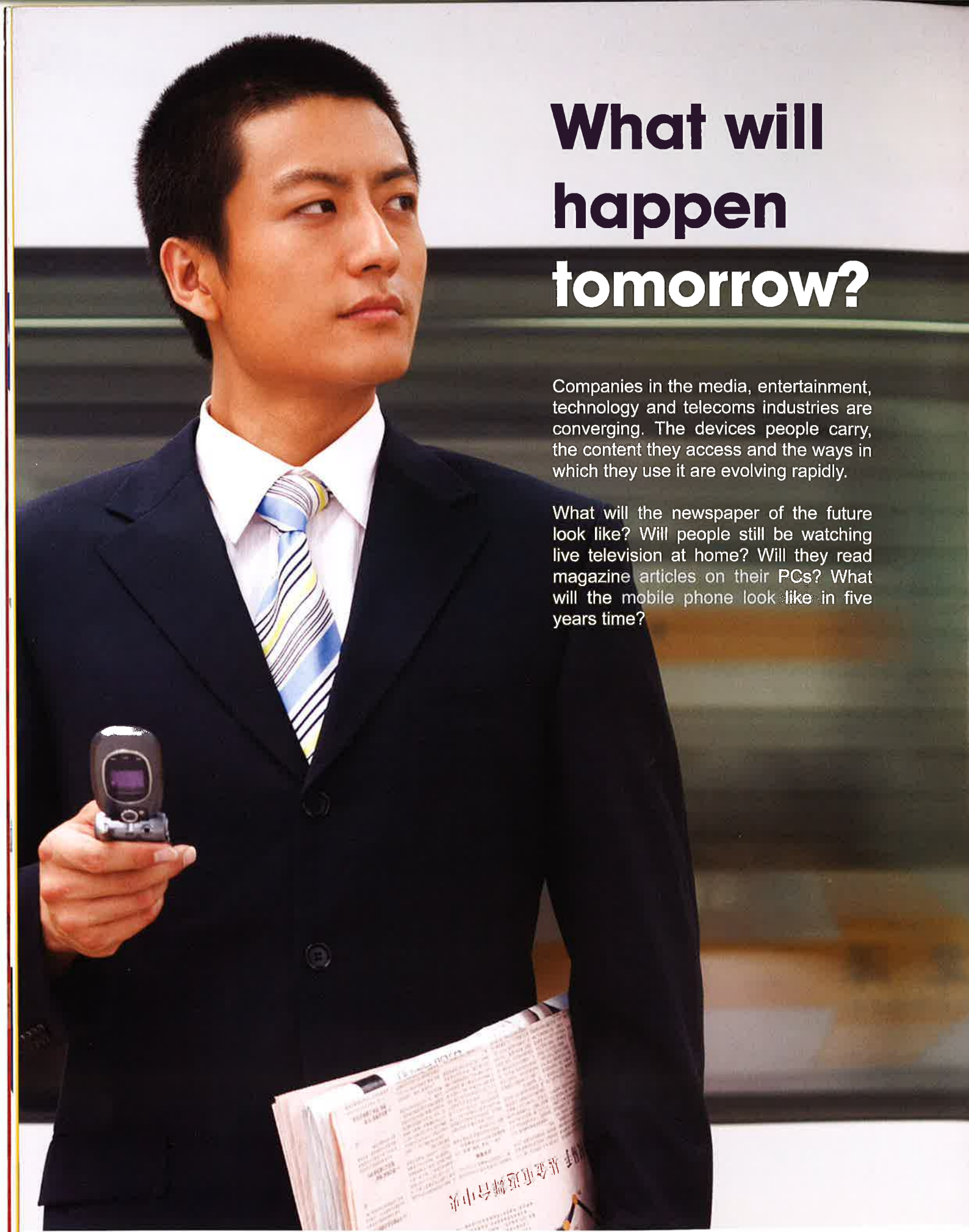
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For details of SOPA members  
please visit: [www.sopasia.com](http://www.sopasia.com)



## What will happen tomorrow?

Companies in the media, entertainment, technology and telecoms industries are converging. The devices people carry, the content they access and the ways in which they use it are evolving rapidly.

What will the newspaper of the future look like? Will people still be watching live television at home? Will they read magazine articles on their PCs? What will the mobile phone look like in five years time?

## Ask the specialists

Ipsos MediaCT works with 15 of the top 20 global corporations operating in the media, technology and telecoms industries. Like every one of these companies, we have recognised the increasing convergence of devices, applications, services and content. Which is why we have re-structured our business.

Having worked with companies in each of these business categories over the years and built up our expertise alongside them, we are now developing tools and capabilities that address the new challenges facing them in a converging world. We specialise in media audience measurement, market sizing, new product development, sales forecasting, brand tracking & positioning and marketing effectiveness tracking.

In Asia, our Business Elite Survey of the region's most affluent and influential business leaders is now in its twenty-third year. It helps marketers of upscale products and services to identify and target their highest potential prospects.

To discuss how we can bring our expertise to bear on your business challenges, please contact:

**Jenny Armshaw - Heak:** Business Development Director, Asia - Ipsos MediaCT

**E-mail:** [jenny.heak@ipsos-hk.com](mailto:jenny.heak@ipsos-hk.com)

**Tel:** +852 3621 0207

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**Richard Mecchi:** CEO Ipsos Asia Pacific

**E-mail:** [richard.mecchi@ipsos.com.tw](mailto:richard.mecchi@ipsos.com.tw)

**Ipsos MediaCT**

The Media, Content and Technology Research Specialists



## SOPA AWARDS & AWARDS CATEGORIES

### About the SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence

The Society of Publishers in Asia Awards for Editorial Excellence were established in 1999 as a tribute to editorial excellence in both traditional and new media and are designed to honor excellence and to encourage editorial vitality throughout the region.

Growing industry recognition of the Awards as setting a benchmark for regional publishing has become evident in the year-on-year increase in entries. This year, on the 10th Anniversary of the Award, a record high of 629 entries were received from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, India, Korea and the USA.

The Awards cover a broad range of categories reflecting Asia's diverse geo-political environment and vibrant editorial scene. To encourage entries from both large and small publications, entries are classified by circulation size and language type – either English or Chinese.

Key to the Award's growing success is the high caliber of international judges who preside over the Award entries. The SOPA Awards has consistently secured judges from many of the region's leading newspapers and consumer and trade magazines – a reflection of the stature of the Awards. Each year, the number of judges willing to dedicate their time to the Awards has grown and this year SOPA comprised of professional journalists, design experts and photographic editors collaborated to select winners.

The SOPA Awards are co-ordinated by a committee of publishing professionals from the business and editorial sectors. These dedicated individuals volunteer their time throughout the year to ensure the Award rules, judges, entries; event, sponsorship and promotion all come together smoothly.

### Corporate Support

Sponsorship is key to ensuring the Award's growth and over the past years, SOPA has been fortunate to receive the continuous support of InvestHK. As the Awards have grown, so too has the interest from corporations, and in 2008, the event was also sponsored by CLSA and IPSOS.

### International Recognition

The SOPA Awards are supported by a number of international media organizations and regional media industry press; ifra Asia, International Federation of the Periodical Press (FIPP), the World Editors Forum (WEF), and the editorial division of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN).

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## MEMBERS OF SOPA AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE



### Kevin Brown – Chairman

Kevin was appointed Asia News Editor of the *Financial Times* in December 2004, and is based in Hong Kong. He joined the *Financial Times* in 1980 in London, and has been Parliamentary Correspondent, Transport Correspondent, Australasia Correspondent, National News Editor, Chief Political Correspondent, Industry Editor, UK Affairs Editor, and Personal Finance Editor.

He is responsible for the news gathering operation throughout the Asia/Pacific region, for the presentation of Asian news in the Asia edition and in the FT's three other global editions, and for the Asian news coverage of FT.com.

Kevin has specialized in politics throughout much of his career, and has covered general elections in five countries (the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Fiji). He is married with one daughter, and his other interests include 19th Century English literature, watching cricket and painting. He is trying to learn Cantonese, without success.

Before joining the FT, Kevin worked for *Lloyd's List*, the international shipping and insurance daily newspaper, and for several other UK newspapers.

### David Plott – Head of Judges

David Plott is a specialist in business and financial journalism, with almost 20 years of experience as a reporter and editor. Prior to joining the faculty at The University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Media Studies Centre, he was the editor-in-chief of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. After reporting stints at the *Kansas City Times* and the *St. Petersburg Times* in the United States, he joined Dow Jones in 1987 as a copy editor for *Dow Jones Newswires*. He was transferred to Zurich a year later, where he spent six years covering business and economic issues in Europe, including OPEC and the Uruguay Round trade negotiations. He was transferred to Singapore in 1994 as news editor, where he directed Asian energy and commodities coverage. In 1997 he set up a training program for *Newswires* in Asia and, in 1998, became senior news editor for *Asia-Pacific*, with responsibility for 16 bureaus in the region. He joined the *Far Eastern Economic Review* in January 2000 as a Managing Editor and became the Deputy Editor 18 months later. Plott has an undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley and an MA and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has taught literature and history at Harvard and at the University of Grenoble in France. His literary essays and reviews have appeared in the *American Literary Almanac*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Barron's*, the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, the *St. Petersburg Times*, and elsewhere. Plott is currently managing editor of *Global Asia*, a new quarterly publication of the Seoul-based East Asia Foundation.



## MEMBERS OF SOPA AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE



### Zoher Abdoolcarim

Zoher Abdoolcarim was appointed Asia Editor of *TIME International* in June 2008. One of Asia's most well-known and experienced journalists, Zoher has traveled the region, as a reporter and editor, for more than 25 years. He joined *AsiaWeek* in 1980, and spent a total of 16 years there rising through the ranks to managing editor. When *AsiaWeek* ceased publication in 2001, Zoher moved over to *TIME Asia* as a Senior Editor.

From 1993-1996, Zoher was the Economics Editor and Assistant Managing Editor at *Asian Business*, a Singapore-owned business magazine. He has also had reporting stints as a foreign correspondent in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines.

An ethnic Indian, Zoher was born and raised in Hong Kong. He holds a Journalism Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and lives in Hong Kong with his wife and son. Zoher's family has been in Hong Kong since the 19th century. He becomes *TIME*'s first Asia editor who is a native of Hong Kong.

### Cliff Buddle

Cliff Buddle is Deputy Editor of the *South China Morning Post*. He has worked as a journalist for the last 26 years. Mr Buddle began his career as a news agency reporter at the Central Criminal Court in London. In 1994 he was hired by the *South China Morning Post* and brought to Hong Kong. He was the *Post's* Chief Court Reporter for six years, during which he covered a wide variety of cases including most of the landmark constitutional legal battles which followed Hong Kong's return to China. Since then, he has worked as an editor of the opinion pages, news editor, and chief leader writer. From time to time, he has also written columns on legal affairs. He was appointed Deputy Editor in 2005.

Mr Buddle passed the Common Professional Examination (Post-graduate Diploma in Law) in 2000. Then, in 2005, he graduated from the Master of Laws (Human Rights) programme at the University of Hong Kong. His dissertation was on the legal framework underpinning Hong Kong's political system.



## MEMBERS OF SOPA AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE



### Tom Leander

Mr Leander was appointed Editor-in-Chief of *CFO Asia* magazine in December 2001. He has covered CFO stories across Asia, from profiling top CFOs in China to exploring how one CFO successfully fought local unions by teaching finance to coal miners in a mine north of Hyderabad. Leander's story, "The Great Debate," the first cover to be published globally by all three *CFO* magazines, won an award for feature writing from the American Society of Business Publications Editors for 2001.

### Liu Kin Ming

Kin-ming Liu is Director of Special Projects at *Hong Kong Economic Journal* and a blogger at *PostGlobal*, a global debate blog on international affairs and foreign policy on the *Washington Post* website.



Prior to joining *HKEJ* in November 2006, Mr Liu was a columnist based in Washington, D.C. writing for *The New York Sun*, *The Hong Kong Standard* and other publications. From 1999 to 2005, he was working for *Apple Daily* in which he had served as Opinion Page Editor, Director of Public Affairs and General Manager. He was Opinion Page Editor at *Hong Kong Economic Times* from 1997 to 1999. Since entering the field of journalism in 1992, he had also worked for *Yazhou Zhoukan* and *Sing Tao Daily*.

Mr Liu served as Chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists Association from 1998 to 1999 and as Board Member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong from 1997 to 2001. He was the winner in English commentary in the Human Rights Press Awards in 1998.



### Robyn Meredith

Robyn Meredith is Senior Editor, Asia for *Forbes* Magazine, based in Hong Kong. She has written cover stories on General Motors, Microsoft, Toyota, Li & Fung, and Infosys.

Ms Meredith joined *Forbes* as its Detroit Bureau Manager in April, 2000 to write about the auto industry. One of her *Forbes* articles was included in the 2002 Edition of the book "The Best Business Stories of the Year."

From January, 1996 until April, 2000, Ms Meredith was a Detroit correspondent for *The New York Times*, where she covered the auto industry and other Midwestern news. She spent the 1998-1999 academic year as a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan Business School.

Ms Meredith wrote for *USA Today* as a business reporter in 1995. She spent the previous two years as a reporter in the Washington bureau of the *American Banker Newspaper*, where her reporting exposed a pattern of insider deals at savings and loans that led to four Congressional hearings and an overhaul of U.S. banking regulations governing initial public offerings.

## MEMBERS OF SOPA AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Ms Meredith received a B.A. degree, cum laude, from Boston University in 1990. She is the author of the book "The Elephant and the Dragon: The Rise of India and China and What it Means for All of Us," published by W.W. Norton, available now on Amazon.com.



### Frank Proctor

Frank Proctor is Founder and Publisher of *Muse*, a bilingual magazine providing in-depth coverage of Hong Kong's arts and culture scene. Before launching *Muse*, he was General Manager of *Newsweek* magazine's Pacific Edition from 1997 to 2005. Prior to taking on that role in Hong Kong, Frank was based in New York as *Newsweek's* International Special Projects Director, leading a team to develop innovative marketing solutions for advertisers. Frank was also Project Coordinator for "The Power of Print," a landmark 2006 research project conceived and designed to help media professionals in Asia better understand the role and effectiveness of print advertising. He was Chairman of the Society of Publishers for 2004-2005.

### Peter Stein

As Hong Kong bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal*, Peter Stein runs a team of ten journalists who cover a broad range of Asia-wide industry beats, including finance, M&A, technology, media, marketing, travel, aviation and health. As *The Wall Street Journal* Asia's Associate Editor, Mr Stein does public representation on behalf of *The Wall Street Journal's* Asian edition, is involved with expansion initiatives for the franchise and oversees its growing Chinese language website.



Previously, Mr Stein was Managing Editor for what was then called *The Asian Wall Street Journal* for seven years. He also served as the Senior Hong Kong Correspondent, writing on a broad range of issues surrounding the transfer of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty and coordinating the paper's Hong Kong coverage. He joined *The Asian Wall Street Journal* in 1989 after spending two years in Wuhan, China on a Yale-China Association fellowship, teaching English at Huazhong Normal University and studying Chinese. He graduated from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in comparative literature, and speaks both Mandarin and Cantonese.



# 明報周刊 | 万华媒体

MING PAO WEEKLY | ONEMEDIAGROUP  
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For the sixth consecutive year,  
The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) has awarded Ming Pao Weekly  
with the most honours of any Chinese language magazines published in Hong Kong.



**Excellence in Feature Photography**  
Certificate of Excellence  
Title: 巴馬長壽村 — 十年重訪記  
Photographer: Tse Ho Yin, Henry



**Excellence in Public Service Journalism**  
Honorable Mention  
Title: 香港公共空間 — 你所不知道的二三事  
Writer: Gary Chang, Alvin Yip, Joshua Lau, Stephen Chan



**Excellence in Editorial Cartooning**  
Honorable Mention  
Title: 漫畫生活 — 做假 false consciousness  
Writer: 劉莉莉



## 万华媒体

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## THE SOPA AWARDS FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE 2008

### Award Categories

Listed in order of presentation

- Excellence in Explanatory Reporting
- Excellence in Feature Writing
- Excellence in Human Rights Reporting
- Excellence in Special Issue or Special Section
- Excellence in Feature Photography
- Excellence in News Photography
- Excellence in Editorial Cartooning
- Excellence in Newspaper Design
- Excellence in Magazine Design
- Excellence in Magazine Front Cover Design
- Excellence in Business Reporting
- Excellence in Reporting on the Environment
- Excellence in Opinion Writing
- Excellence in Public Service Journalism
- Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News
- The Scoop Award
- Local Journalist Award – English-language
- Local Journalist Award – Chinese-language





**Excellence in Magazine Front Cover Design**

**Honorable Mention:** *TIME Asia Japan's Open Door* (by Nilanjan Das)

**Comment:** Clever idea, brilliantly executed. Like the way the circle goes over the Time branding. Like the clean white background and the subhead is clean, and to the point.

**Award:** *The Wall Street Journal Asia Asia's Highlands* (by Jessica Yu, David Chan & Robert Walter)

**Comment:** Very inviting, make captures the essence of the hill station

**Excellence in Business Reporting**

**Honorable Mention:** *International Herald Tribune Outsourcing, Revisited* (by Anand Giridharadas)

**Comment:** This series of articles on the many aspects of a single topic – outsourcing to India – shows how a resourceful and creative journalist can milk a topic successfully, breaking it down and looking in turn at a number of aspects, providing depth through the growing grasp of the subject the journalist gains as the series progresses

**Award:** *TIME Asia*

*The Sopranos State* (by Bill Powell)

**Comments:** This stood out above all the rest as an impressive piece of investigative working piecing together difficult information about a very closed state. The work done, the result of a two months' investigation, represents a step forward understanding the clandestine and criminal dealings of the North Korean state. An ambitious project which seeks to break open some of the secrecy surrounding the financing of the North Korean state.

**Excellence in Reporting on the Environment**

**Honorable Mention:** *The Wall Street Journal Asia China's Three Gorges Dam* (by Shai Oster, Andrew Batson & Ian Johnson)

**Comment:** Gives a new perspective to the controversial project.

**Award:** *International Herald Tribune "Choking on Growth" Series* (by Joseph Kahn, Jim Yardley, Howard W. French, Keith Bradsher, David Barboza, Mark Landler)

**Excellence in Opinion Writing**

**Honorable Mention:** *Financial Times South Asia* (by Jo Johnson)

**Comment:** The reporter demonstrates a convincing grasp of the Sucontinent's complexities. He mixes a compelling analysis with some deft, well-crafted touches that make his column both readable and informative.

The articles are crisp, punchy, and tight. He handles the complexity of issues deftly – all the time explaining, highlighting nuances. Johnson keeps the reader engaged and riveted on the unfolding logic of his analysis, an effective columnist.

**Award:** *Financial Times*

*China* (by Richard McGregor)

**Comment:** The best entry by far. The reporter writes with authority and insight, connecting up the dots between the current events and the fundamental problems besetting China in the throes of historic economic change.

The reporter writes thoughtfully, intelligently, and elegantly. What sets him apart is that he situates issues within a context. He brings different angles of a story together and underscores their relationships. The reader is given not only the big picture but a sharper and much more illuminating version of reality.



S. Karene Witcher, Editor of Weekend Journal, received the Excellence in Magazine Front Cover Design from Jenny Heak, IPSOS



Victor Mallet, Editor, Asia edition, Financial Times received both the Excellence and Honorable Mention in Opinion Writing



Zohar Abdoolcarim of TIME International received the Excellence in Business Reporting Award from Alan Lammin, Chairman of SOPA



The Wall Street Journal story on China's Three Gorges Dam won The Scoop Award, Excellence in Public Service and Honorable Mention in Reporting on the Environment. Peter Stein, Associate Editor, received the honor from Mr Ching Cheong



SOPA Chairman Alan Lammin presented the Excellence in Reporting on the Environment to Keith Bradsher of International Herald Tribune



Michael Elliott, the International Editor of TIME, received the Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News Award from Mr Ching Cheong

**Excellence in Public Service Journalism**

**Honorable Mention:** *International Herald Tribune*

*China's product safety record exposed* (by David Barboza)

**Comment:** Two stories in this series of six: the suicide of a toy factory owner in Foshan, and the story of the reformer who gave in to graft are notable for a providing insight into the social and economic pressures that have led to product safety scandals.

**Award:** *The Wall Street Journal Asia China's Three Gorges Dam* (by Shai Oster, Andrew Batson & Ian Johnson)

**Comment:** In depth and vivid powerful reporting, the result of considerable investigative work. The profile of environmental activist Dai Qing, China's role in dam building across the world, and the Canada's involvement in the Three.

**Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News**

**Honorable Mention:** *International Herald Tribune*

*Crackdown in Myanmar* (by Seth Mydans, Thomas Fuller)

**Comment:** Mydans has years of experience covering Southeast Asia, and it showed – to the reader's advantage – in the way he added depth and context to a story that he was forced to cover from afar. There were some really good pieces here.

**Award:** *TIME Asia*

*Burmese Days: A Rangoon Diary* (by Andrew Marshall)

**Comment:** The reporter brought the reader directly and vividly into a scene that in other cases was by necessity pieced together second-hand from eye-witness accounts, images on the Internet,

and interviews with analysts. First-person, subjective reporting doesn't often win journalism contests but I thought this piece deserved to. As a reader I'm capable of filtering for this guy's biases; what I get in return are insights into the people living this story that I got nowhere else.

**The Scoop Award**

**Honorable Mention:** *TIME Asia Red Mosque* (by Aryn Baker)

**Comment:** Catches the role of women during a fiery battle to defend the mosque. Having the fortune (or misfortune) to be inside, the reporter produced a captivating story and gave insight into the minds of those present. In contrast to the usual portrayals of the role of women in Muslim societies – which often stereotype Muslim women as 'victims', – the story was a breath of fresh air. A story that offers a unique and courageous look inside a controversial mosque in the pitch of battle with authorities, giving insights not only about the conflict between radical religious members and the Pakistani government but also about the hearts and minds of the women sworn to die for their beliefs.

**Award:** *The Wall Street Journal Asia China's Three Gorges Dam* (by Shai Oster, Andrew Batson & Ian Johnson)

**Comment:** An important story that persuasively documented the heavy environmental and social costs of this massive infrastructure in China and prompted the Chinese government to action. Detailed on-the-ground reportage of a large-scale environmental problem, which revealed significant new facts and led to a swift and meaningful response by the Chinese government.

Delivering news, business reporting, style and substance straight to you in an award-winning fashion: TIME achieved recognition in 8 categories at the SOPA Awards 2008 for Editorial Excellence

**Excellence in Explanatory Reporting**  
Beyond Faith



**Excellence in Business Reporting**  
The Sopranos State



**Honorable Mention: Excellence in Magazine Front Cover Design**  
Japan's Open Door



**Excellence in News Photography**  
Burmese Days

**Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News**  
Burmese Days: A Rangoon Diary



**Excellence in Special Section or Special Issue**  
Hong Kong 10th Anniversary Issue



**Honorable Mention: Excellence in Magazine Design**  
Best of Asia  
India 60th Special  
Hong Kong 10th Anniversary



**Honorable Mention: The Scoop Award**  
Red Mosque

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**TIME**  
time.com

**Group B**

Local newspapers or small magazines published in English

**Excellence in Explanatory Reporting**

**Honorable Mention:** *Far Eastern Economic Review*  
*Pakistan's Last Bid for Democracy* (by Colum Murphy)

**Comment:** Excellent piece of explanatory reporting, does great job explaining the intricate of Pakistan politics.

**Award:** *Muse Magazine*  
*Too Close for Comfort* (by Olivia Chung)  
**Comment:** Well written and vivid

**Excellence in Feature Writing**

**Honorable Mention:** *DestinAsian*  
*Spirits of the Forest* (by Christopher R. Cox)

**Comment:** A finely crafted examination of a disappearing tribe in Thailand's far north. The reporter does an excellent and sensitive job of showing not just how life is changing for these people but also how those people have changed the missionary who arrived to convert them 20 years ago.

**\*\*There are two awards presented in this category after serious discussion among judges.**

**Award 1:** *The Straits Times*  
*Hainan's Missing Girls* (by Theresa Tan)

**Comment:** A moving series of articles about a crucial issue for China and many other Asian countries: a heavy and growing demographic tilt toward boys. Tan has done excellent on-the-ground reporting and shows why this is happening and what effect it's having on communities in Hainan. Good use of statistics and demographic experts. Excellent supporting photos by Wang Hui Fen.

**Award 2:** *The Standard*  
*Horrors of Hongwei* (by Steven Ribet)

**Comment :** A masterful tale of tragedy in modern China, beautifully written. This is an impressive effort to investigate a harrowing instance of the health costs of pollution in a pattern that has been repeated across China, where industrial development has transformed former agricultural land and farmers are among the chief victims. The reporter was honest enough to reveal the ambiguities of the situation in Hongwei, and compassionate enough to try to get practical legal help for the people he writes about.

**Excellence in Human Rights Reporting**  
**Honorable Mention:** *South China Morning Post*  
*Death in Thailand* (by Greg Torode)

**Comment:** Important issue highlighted with effective and clear writings

**Award:** *The Standard*  
*Horrors of Hongwei* (by Steven Ribet)  
**Comment:** Great focus on people to tell this important story.

**Excellence in Special Issue/ Special Section**  
**Honorable Mention:** *Far Eastern Economic Review*  
*Book Review* (by James McGregor, Sadanand Dhume, Emily Parker, Bertil Lintner, Garry Rodan)

**Comment:** Packed with detailed information.

**Award:** *The Straits Times, Saturday Special Report*  
*Why leave? It's the only way* (by Sim Chi Yin)

**Comment:** Superb Analysis of a serious social issue, with vivid persistent reporting.



Jill Wong, Managing Editor of Muse Magazine was presented the Excellence in Explanatory Reporting Award by Mark Michelson



Steven Shellum, the Executive Editor of The Standard received the Excellence in Human Rights Reporting from Mark Michelson



Sim Chi Yin from Straits Times won the Excellence in Special Issue/Special Section

**Excellence in Feature Photography**

**Honorable Mention:** *DestinAsian Kolkata at the Crossroads* (by Martin Westlake)

**Comment:** Great tone of color

**Award:** *DestinAsian*

*Papua Untamed* (by Frederic Lagrange)

**Comment:** Beautiful photo series with excellent color and perfect compose. A mixture of exquisite, perception and tension. Incredible images of this marvelous place.

**Excellence in News Photography**

**Honorable Mention:** *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

*Hostage Crisis/Lanao Elections/Wall Collapses in Antipolo/Makati Mutiny* (by Ryan Lim, Rem Zamora, Raffy Lerma, Edwin Bacasmas)

**Comment:** Overall, the photographers judged the right chance to shoot the impressive images. Powerful photos of powerful event.

**Award:** *South China Morning Post*

*Pain at Queen's Pier* (by Martin Chan)

**Comment:** The photographer is very clever and clam to capture such an evocative moment in a critical situation. The picture is word a thousand word. A potent image that effectively encapsulates the drama and emotion of the people.

**Excellence in Editorial Cartooning**

**Honorable Mention:** *The Straits Times Turning the bowl upside down/Myanmar monks take on junta/Suspend Myanmar from Asean/Coordinated engagement as a way forward/How Charter can be good for Asean* (by Prudencio Miel Jr.)

**Comment:** Prudencio Miel tells his stories effectively through simple cartoons that convey powerful messages and are wickedly funny.

**Award:** *South China Morning Post Harry's View Election Special* (by Harry Harrison)

**Comment:** Hilarious, and demonstrate high thorough understanding of the idiosyncrasies of Hong Kong's election process.

**Excellence in Newspaper Design**

**Honorable Mention:** *Sunday Morning Post*

*Sunday Morning Post* (by Sunday Morning Post Design Team)

**Comment:** Clean and clear, and good use of pictures. The HK 10 years' anniversary supplement is particularly good.

**Award:** *The Edge Financial Daily Ekovest plans RM19b waterfront city/Malaysia a safe haven/This year in REVIEW.....*(by Sharon Khoh & Team)

**Comment:** Clean and attractive layout – very inviting; bold, clear design, innovative use of color, especially on the market data pages.

**Excellence in Magazine Design**

**Honorable Mention:** *ish*

*Journey To The End of the Night/To See A World In a Grain of Sand / I Am Not Yours* (by The ish team)

**Comment:** The designer has a good sense of integrate graphic into layout, which create a modern, stylish atmosphere through the magazine. Also good understanding of the pictures when laying them.

**Award:** *WestEast Magazine WestEast Magazine #21 – SKINI#22 – West Coast East Coast/#23 – DREAMS* (by Goggo Ko)

**Comment:** Artistic, stylish and elegant. Good consistency and usage of the colors, fonts and pictures. Highly readability, simple elegant design



The Chief Photographer, Martin Chan of South China Morning Post received the Excellence in News Photography



C K Lau of SCMP was presented the Excellence in Reporting on the Environment



Joyce Cowie, Special Projects Manager of DestinAsian was presented both the Excellence & Honorable Mention in Feature Photography by Simone Wheeler, CLSA.



Tim Burroughs from China Economic Review received Honorable Mention in Business Reporting from the SOPA Chairman Alan Lammin



Jing Zhang, Managing Editor of WestEast Magazine received the Excellence in Magazine Design from Jenny Heak, IPSOS



Chong Cheng Hai from The Sun received Honorable Mention in Opinion Writing

**Excellence in Magazine Front Cover Design**

**Honorable Mention:** *AsianInvestor The battle for Japan's Beatles generation* (by Noel De Guzman, Chow Lee)

**Comment:** AsianInvestor used modest production values and a single bold idea to produce a visually arresting cover that immediately told their story for them. A great conceptual cover for a very tough topic to illustrate. The dark tone embodies the great trouble of Beatles Generation.

**Award:** *Post Magazine*

*One Man's Meat* (Post Magazine Design Team)

**Comment:** Simple but strongly illustrate the story. Nice placement of cover lines. Stunning illustration sketches the horror of dolphin hunting.

**Excellence in Business Reporting**

**Honorable Mention:** *China Economic Review*

*Starting Afresh* (by Tim Burroughs)

**Comment:** An admirably clear explanation of the development of China's corporate bond market, with enlightening insights on the bureaucratic actors behind the policy shifts and their interests. A fine example of how to write and present an article on what could have been a dry and complex topic

**Award:** *South China Morning Post*

*Risky Business: Gaming in Macau and Beyond* (by Neil Gough)

**Comment:** Demonstrated superb investigative and analytical skills. His Edmond Ho expose was a classic scoop. Impressive in both its breadth and depth, from economic of junket operators to the ties that bind the territory's most powerful politicians and businessmen.

**Excellence in Reporting on the Environment**

**Honorable Mention:** *The Straits Times Straits Times Special on Climate Change* (by Nirmal Ghosh, Arti Mulchand, Devi Asmarani and Tracy Quek)

**Comment:** A great series. It was well written, beautifully illustrated and packed with facts and on the ground insights into the lives of those affected by global warming. A competent and colorfully written series. Good pictures as well.

**Award:** *South China Morning Post*

*Xiamen's Chemical Reaction* (by Didi Kirsten Tatlow)

**Comment:** Solid reporting supported by interviews with experts, residents and government officials. Strong and in-depth analysis explains how the local government ignored environmental problem and public safety to achieve GDP growth and political benefit. Hard hitting reporting. The reporter found a story that mattered, chased it, researched it, probed and stuck with it to the end. A fine piece of investigative reporting – picked all the boxes

**Excellence in Opinion Writing**

**Honorable Mention:** *The Sun CITIZEN NADES* (by R. Nadeswaran)

**Comment:** A strong series of stories taking government to task in a country where the press has to tread carefully.

**Award:** *South China Morning Post*

*Monitor* (by Jake van der Kamp)

**Comment:** The reporter makes a powerful case that a proposed rail merger championed by the Hong Kong Government and big business trampled on the interests of minority shareholders.

### Excellence in Public Service Journalism

**Honorable Mention:** *The Sun Sports centre plan stalled/Nothing to show yet/High obsession with training center /Centre of many no's/Mystery of the missing hostels /Come clean on public money spent/ Flawed grounds for having kicks/ Council says 'no' (by R. Nadeswaran and Terence Fernandez)*

**Comment:** It's fairly unusual to see a Malaysia state paper pursue anything remotely embarrassing to the government there. It was surprised to see a correspondent sent all the way to Britain to pursue a misuse of government funds case, to say the least! It was heartening to see a tangible result from the reporting. The fact that the paper pursued the matter over a long period of time: 2 years. Sun Media's hammering on the misuse of public money, a worthy topic, the journalism might be a bit ahead of the *Inquirer's* but still struck me as a lot of sound and fury about a project that on the Malaysian corruption scale probably doesn't even register.

**Award:** *MINT Fake Drugs (by Bhuma Shrivastava)*

**Comment:** Very impressed reporting, especially given that the reporter pursued the story over a matter of months, and covered all angles – the regulator, the government, and the drug companies. It's a public health issue that tangibly affects thousands of people, both in India and abroad. And the reporter's tenacity forced the government to acknowledge the problem. Also engagingly written and clearly presented. Show tremendous determination over time to deal with an issue fundamental to human health: Drug safety. While the opening article was impressive in breadth and sweep, it stands out as the reporter determined to follow-up the story again and again until the government finally was forced to comment.

### Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News

**Honorable Mention:** *Philippine Daily Inquirer World watched drama/Sidebars: Two men free 26 kids after 10-hr standoff/Sir Ducat gave toys, kids thought it was a game/Ducat: not your typical hostage taker (by Volt Contreras, Tina G. Santos, Alcuin Papa)*

**Comment:** Riveting and comprehensive coverage of breaking news. Good coverage of gripping crime.

**Award:** *South China Morning Post HKIEd Inquiry Fallout (by Liz Gooch, Polly Hui, Denise Hung)*

**Comment:** Very comprehensive, good analysis and presentation. Solid and thorough overview with good context and analysis.

### The Scoop Award

**Honorable Mention:** *South China Morning Post Macau Chief's Casino Stake (by Neil Gough)*

**Comment:** Raises legitimate conflict of interest questions about how a tiny gambling enclave has been governed. A detailed investigation that must have made Edmund Ho squirm.

**Award:** *Philippine Daily Inquirer Gov bares Palace payoff/ Palance fixes 190 solons; 3 more solons confirm/ 'Christmas gift' (by Editorial Team)*

**Comment:** A clear glimpse of the money-politics nexus, despite efforts of elected representatives to both obscure and justify it.



Mr Ching Cheong presented the Honorable Mention in Public Service Journalism to Terence Fernandez from The Sun



C K Lau of SCMP received the Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News from Mr Ching Cheong



Gabriel Formose from Philippine Daily Inquirer was presented the The Scoop Award by Mr Ching Cheong



Mandy Liang from Common Health received the Honorable Mention in Explanatory Reporting from Mark Michelson of Invest HK



Cabula Chang, Deputy Editor-In-Chief of Business Weekly received the Excellence in Featuring Writing from Mark Michelson, InvestHK

### Local Journalist Awards – English-language

**Publication:** South China Morning Post  
**Journalist:** Didi Kirsten Tatlow

#### Comment:

- She tackled some tough subjects and really drew you in. The articles were well written and researched.
- Hard-hitting and in-depth reporting
- She went after sensitive and complex subjects and nailed them – in the reporting and the writing. She brings strong reportorial and narrative skills to her investigations of China's dark corners.

### Group C

#### Chinese-language publications

#### Excellence in Explanatory Reporting

**Honorable Mention:** *康健雜誌 (Common Health)*

*2007健康城市調查：那個城市對老人最友善？(梁嫻純, 林慧淳, 黃惠如, 李怡華)*  
*2007 Healthy City Survey: The city with the friendliest elderly.*

**Comment:** This is a very outstanding survey of social issues. Very professional investigative method and excellent team work.

**Award:** *南方人物周刊 (Southern People Weekly)*

*兩個礦工的生還奇蹟 (馬金瑜)*

*The Miracle Survival of Two Miners.*

**Comment:** Despite the strict restriction on freedom of speech, *Southern People Weekly* has been striving to reveal the real life of people in Mainland China. By describing the struggle of miners in a mine accident. The Miracle Survival of Two Miners has uncovered the hardship miners have been suffering from and criticized the government who has not acting as responsible. Excellent expose of the mining industry through poignant individual stories.

#### Excellence in Feature Writing

**Honorable Mention:** *明報 Ming Pao Daily*

*回歸十年系列 (明報編輯部)*

*The 10th Years Anniversary of HKSAR*

**Comment:** Write with new angle and give an all around account for the changes during the 10 years. Detailed and nicely match with good photos.

**Awards:** *商業周刊 Business Weekly 快樂國 — 不丹 (孫秀惠, 林正峰)*




*(The Happen Nation – Bhutan)*

**Comment:** Brings new concept to the Taiwan society. The topic brings about the re-examination of oneself.

# APPLE DAILY

The No.1 HKABC Audited paid Chinese Newspaper in H.K.

## 2008 SOPA Awards for

-  Excellence in News Photography
-  Excellence in Newspaper Design
-  Excellence in Editorial Cartooning

### Winner of Excellence in News Photography : Apple Daily (朱培慶獵艷驚惶躲避)

"Being able to capture the moment of action with excellent contrast : male vs. female ; an official vs. club girl ; composed vs disconcerted ; straight out vs. hypocritical."

### Winner of Excellence in Newspaper Design : Apple Daily (1.列車爆炸 2.馬場驚天大陰謀 3.龔如心病逝)

"Good planning and illustration."

### Winner of Excellence in Editorial Cartooning : Apple Daily (塗鴉的頑童)

"Simple message bring out the whole theme. Catchy and impressive."

- Judges' citation



Yau Lop Poon, Chief Editor, Yazhou Zhoukan received both the Excellence and Honorable Mention in Human Rights Reporting from Mark Michelson



Leo Wong, CEO of the Modern Media was presented the Excellence in Special Issue/Special Section by Mark Michelson, InvestHK



On behalf of Apple Daily, Lee Ngo Kai, the Sub-Editor, received the Excellence in Editorial Cartooning from Simone Wheeler, CLSA

### Excellence in Human Rights Reporting Honorable Mention: 亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan

高耀潔赴美·胡佳網絡建功 (紀碩鳴)  
AIDS Activist Gao Yaojie Traveled To the U.S To Receive Award, Hu Jia Gained Kudos For Rights Promotion On the Internet (by Kei Shek Ming)

**Comment:** A report on latest movements of mainland rights-upholders who have been fighting for human rights.

**Award:** 亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan  
揭開現代中國奴工產業鏈真相 (高尚行, 高中校, 陳穎, 劉山鷹)  
Uncovering Slave Laborers' Plight in the Production Chain of Nowadays China (Gao Shang Xing, Guo Zhong Xiao, Chen Ying, Liu Shan Ying)

**Comment:** A report full of humanism, uncovered the existing human right issue in the mainland, by revealing the truth.

### Excellence in Special Issue/ Special Section

**Honorable Mention:** 天下雜誌 (Common Wealth)  
獨立與探索 (天下雜誌編輯組)  
Independent and Exploration

**Comment:** A bold topic covers extensive area of reporting. Very inspiring.

**Award:** 生活月刊  
重走梁思成之路 (生活月刊編輯部/設計部)

Follow the lights of Liang Ssu-ch'eng  
**Comments:** Yesterday's grandeur starkly juxtaposed against today's challenges; exquisite and touching.

### Excellence in Feature Photography Honorable Mention: 明報 Ming Pao Daily

皇后碼頭最後時光 (林振東)  
The last moment of Queen's Pier

**Comment:** Seat of pictures captured the poignant moments of the sit-in, with the emotions of the participants: hopeful, determined and turned out.

**Award:** 明報周刊 Ming Pao Weekly  
巴馬長壽村 一十年重訪記 (謝浩然)  
Visit to Bama Village 10 years after

**Comment:** Creative photos to give holistic sense of village life. The photos bring out the stories.

### Excellence in News Photography Honorable Mention: 亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan

澳門民怨沸騰, 暗藏七大危機 (葉堅耀)  
Macau Citizens' Grievances Explode, Reflecting Seven Crisis Embedded In The Society (Yip Kin Yiu)

**Comment:** Forceful and impressive photos.

**Award:** 蘋果日報 Apple Daily  
朱培慶獵艷驚惶躲避 (陳慧安)  
The Sex Scandal of Head of RTHK and Director of Broadcasting, Chu Pui Hing

**Comment:** Being able to capture the moment of action with excellent contrast: male vs. female; an official vs. club girl; composed vs disconcerted; straight out vs. hypocritical.

### Excellence in Editorial Cartooning Honorable Mention: 明報周刊 Ming Pao Weekly

漫畫生活—做假 (劉莉莉)  
False consciousness

**Comment:** The color and format is simple yet strong. Message is obvious well illustrated.

**Award:** 蘋果日報 Apple Daily  
塗鴉的頑童 (尊子)  
The graffiti brat

**Comment:** simple message bring out the whole theme. Catchy and impressive.



### Excellence in Newspaper Design

**Honorable Mention:** 明報 Ming Pao Daily

回歸十周年/財政預算案 (明報美術組)  
10th Anniversary of HKSAR/The Financial Paper

**Comment:** Neat and clear

**Award:** 蘋果日報 Apple Daily

1) 列車爆炸 2) 馬場驚天大陰謀 3) 龔如心病逝 (蘋果日報美術部, 編輯部)

The West Rail Explosion/Conspiracy in the Racing Course/The Death of Kung Yu Sum

**Comment:** Good planning and illustration.

### Excellence in Magazine Design

**Honorable Mention:** 號外 City Magazine

進念 — 香港實驗/周潤發 — 拾閱私相簿/劉青雲 — 要神定要探 (號外設計部)

**Comment:** Very special, full of Bohemian mood. A nice balance of space and color.

**Award:** 商業周刊 Business Weekly

快樂國 — 不丹/沒有成績單的第一名/全球暖化 燒掉你的錢 (丁海權)

**Comment:** Photos are very good. Edgy and bring out the main theme.

### Excellence in Magazine Front Cover Design

**Honorable Mention:** 生活月刊 Life Magazine

沿海中國 (生活月刊設計部)  
The China Seashore

**Comment:** Powerful and Modern

**Award:** 晨刊 West East

東成西就 Culture Issue #6 (Liang Su)

**Comment:** Detailed and nicely designed.

### Excellence in Business Reporting

**Honorable Mention:** 天下雜誌 Common Wealth

低調拳王 奇襲全球: 台灣IC設計 世界不能沒有他們 (吳琬瑜·孫珮瑜)

The IC design technology in Taiwan

**Comment:** Provides a panoramic view of a very promising industry. Also illustrate an important industry development in Taiwan. Comprehensive coverage with interesting anecdotes. Tell readers a successful Taiwan story which people may ignore.

**Award:** 遠見雜誌 Global Views Monthly  
全球機場: 通往大未來的機會 (楊瑪利, 江逸之, 徐仁全, 高宜凡, 林妙玲)

The re-construction of airports, the new passage to future success.

**Comment:** Very good comparative analysis of an interesting industry. Unique perspective news you can use. Excellent report in a land where press freedom doesn't always prevail. Global view, full of insight.

### Excellence in Reporting on the Environment

**Honorable Mention:** 天下雜誌 Common Wealth

全球暖化 台灣不願面對的真相 (蕭富元, 吳韻儀, 黃靖萱, 陳名君, 李育豪)

Global Warming Facts that Taiwan doesn't want to face

**Comment:** Well-researched and stimulating. Pictures and info-graphics are the key winning factor. Many aspect of global warming are discussed. However, slightly lack of focus may weaken the piece.



Jenny Heak presented the Honorable Mention in Magazine Design to Vince Leung, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of City Magazine



On behalf of FT Chinese.com, Tracy Tu received the Excellence in Opinion Writing from Alan Lammin, the SOPA Chairman



Ho Wen-Jung, Associate Editor-in-Chief of Taiwan Global Views Monthly, Taiwan, was presented the Excellence in Business Reporting



Mr Ching Cheong presented the Excellence in Public Service Journalism to Fuyuan Hsiao, Senior Editorial Writer of Common Wealth, Taiwan



Chan Hing Yuen, Strategy Director of Yazhou Zhoukan got the Excellence in Reporting on the Environment from Alan Lammin



Cabula Chang from Business Weekly took the Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News Award from Mr Ching Cheong

**Award:** 亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan

環境危機催生中國新民主運動 (杜劍, 張潔平, 陳慶源)

Environmental Crisis Gives Birth to New Democratic Movements in China (Du Jian, Zhang Jie Ping, Chang Hing Yuen)

**Comment:** Provocative topic. Various angle to cover the issue, careful analysis. Yazhou Zhoukan's environment report has gone beyond the usual scope within the environment. By elevating the angle to political, the report is able to present a comprehensive coverage on the inter-connectivity of environment, economy and politics.

### Excellence in Opinion Writing

**Honorable Mention:** 明報月刊 Ming Pao Monthly

台灣選民的理性與感性 — 從北高市長選舉看台灣民主 (陳彥)

The Sense and Sensibility of Taiwan Votes — Democratic progression in Taipei and Kaohsiung

**Comment:** A thoughtful analysis of democracy in Taiwan.

**Award:** FT 中文網 FTChinese.com

北京的10月 (許知遠)

Beijing In October

**Comment:** A depiction of China and its ruling party at a political crossroads; subtle and elegant. A fine piece of writing: poetic, political and provocative.

### Excellence in Public Service Journalism

**Honorable Mention:** 明報週刊 Ming Pao Weekly

香港公共空間 你所不知道的二三事 (Gary Chang, Alvin Yip, Joshua Lau, Stephen Chan)

The Thing You Don't Know About the Public Area in Hong Kong

**Comment:** Creative and vivid description with good discussion. Should have given more constructive resolution

**Award:** 天下雜誌 Common Wealth

全球暖化 台灣不願面對的真相 (蕭富元, 吳韻儀, 黃靖萱, 陳名君, 李育豪)

Global Warming Facts that Taiwan doesn't want to face

**Comment:** Precisely point out how the Taiwanese runaway from the problem and quote good suggestion for problem solving.

### Excellence in Reporting of Breaking News

**Honorable Mention:** 明報 Ming Pao Daily

保衛皇后碼頭 (明報港聞組)

Protect the Queen's Pier

**Comment:** Detail report with excellent photos. Catching the moment of "de-colonization" in Hong Kong.

**Award:** 商業周刊 Business Weekly

名駒遇到狼 (成章瑜, 呂國禎, 曹秀雲, 單小懿)

When a Horse run into a Wolf

**Comment:** Stunning story. Revealing the threats and traps the Taiwan business encounter in Mainland.

# PRIZED NEWS

With 11 prizes at the Society of Publishers in Asia 2008 Awards, the South China Morning Post is once again the region's most awarded newspaper.



**Local Journalist Award - English Language**  
Didi Kirsten Tatlow



**Reporting of Breaking News**  
"HKIED Inquiry Fallout"



**Business Reporting**  
"Risky Business: Gaming in Macau and Beyond"



**Reporting on the Environment**  
"Xiamen's Chemical Reaction"



**Editorial Cartooning**  
"Harry's View Election Special"



**News Photography**  
"Pain at Queen's Pier"



**Magazine Front Cover Design**  
Post Magazine - "One Man's Meat"



**Opinion Writing**  
"Monitor"



**Newspaper Design**  
Sunday Morning Post



**Human Rights Reporting**  
"Death in Thailand"



**The Scoop Award**  
"Macau Chief's Casino Stake"



Mr Ching Cheong presented the The Scoop Award to Doo Lok Man, Managing Editor of Ming Pao



Mr Ching Cheong presented the Local Journalist Award - Chinese Language to Jiang Xun of Yazhou Zhoukan

**The Scoop Award**

**Honorable Mention:** 亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan

西藏談判僵局·達賴特使密晤京官內情 (紀碩鳴, 張潔平)

Tibetan Talks Entered A Stalemate. Dala Lama's Aides Met Beijing Officials Secretly and Stories Behind The meetings (Kei Shek Ming, Zhang Jie Ping)

**Comment:** Yazhou Zhoukan's scoop on negotiations between Beijing and the Dalai Lama won by its detailed presentation and well-illustrated pictures.

Very comprehensive. Took good care of the balance. Would be perfect if could present some Chinese government's side of story. Yazhou Zhoukan scooped the rest of the media by presenting a detailed picture of negotiations between Beijing and the Dalai Lama; story was sensitively done with a profusion of color and shade.

**Award:** 明報 Ming Pao Daily

曾慶紅退休 (明報中國組·政情組)

The Retirement of Zheng Qing Hong

**Comment:** The reporting team from Mingpao must have worked extremely hard and forged close relationship with people close to the top Chinese leaders. Moreover, all the details in the scoop were confirmed by the later development. Perfect scoop! A clean scoop, of some importance locally. Of course, Ming Pao makes it clear in the story that the implications are quite limited, and it was not unexpected that he would retire since he was already above the retiring age, but still a worthy entry. Ming Pao performed valuable service by its early reporting of the personnel changes at the 17th Party Congress; this report was widely quoted by other media.

**Local Journalist Award - Chinese-language**

**Publication:** 亞洲週刊 Yazhou Zhoukan

**Journalist:** 江迅 Jiang Xun

**Comment:**

- Jiang has mined a treasure trove of 1st-hand materials and demonstrated real insight into the censorship issue on the mainland. Reporting is outstanding.
- Good investigative series in censorship.

The South China Morning Post • The first place for news

## 2008 SOPA AWARDS FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE PRESENTATION DINNER

On June 4, 2008, The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) drew more than 200 guests of the publishing industry's key business and editorial executives to its pinnacle event of the year. The 2008 Awards for Editorial Excellence gala dinner held at the JW Marriot Hotel presented a total of 96 awards to winners selected from 17 categories of the English and Chinese languages media. On its tenth anniversary, the SOPA Editorial Awards received a record 629 entries from leading publications across the region. The 82 judges comprised respected journalists, editors and academics from top national and regional media and the world's best universities.

"This rapid rate of growth reflects increasing interest around the region in raising journalistic standards, together with growing acceptance of the concept of a benchmark of excellence underpinned by SOPA's commitment to free speech and professional integrity," said Kevin Brown, Chairman of SOPA's Editorial Awards Committee.

The dinner was hosted by Jim Laurie, Director of Broadcasting at the Journalism and Media Studies Centre at the University of Hong Kong, and a renowned reporter, writer, and current affairs program producer. Mr Ching Cheong (程翔先生), the Senior Writer of *The Straits Times*, delivered an inspiring keynote speech on freedom of speech now being enjoyed in Hong Kong.

At the gala dinner, SOPA presented a cheque to The Society for the Relief of Disabled Children of Sandy Bay, Pokfulam. This was part of SOPA's annual donation to charity from the proceeds of the organization's activities.



Mr Ching Cheong, Keynote Speaker



Mr Ching Cheong, greeted by Mr David Plott, the Head of Judges and Mr Liu Kin Ming, member of the SOPA Editorial Awards Sub-committee



The *Straits Times* team: (from left to right) Teresa Tan, Prudencio Meil Jr, Reme Ahmad and Sim Chi Yin



Mr Mark Michelson, Associate Director General of Investment Promotion, *InvestHK* and Mr Kevin Brown, the Chairman of the Editorial Awards Sub-committee



(from left to right) Stella Yang and Claren Mui from *Newsweek*, Mimi Lam from *InvestHK* and Lillian Kung from *BusinessWeek*



(from left to right) Sarah Tucker, the Regional Director of Operations and HR from LGT Bank, Helena Phua, Deputy Managing Director of IHT, Iris Fung, Executive Director of SOPA, Leo Wong, CEO of *Modern Media* and Vince Leung, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *City Magazine*.

# MAKING THE HEADLINES FOR 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

At Singapore Press Holdings, the focal point in all our news stories and presentation styles has always been on excellence. It is an unwavering commitment that has given us the winning edge once again, at the 10th Society Of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) Awards for Editorial Excellence.

THE **SOPA**  
2008 AWARDS  
FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE



(From left to right): The *Apple Daily* team: Mr Chang Chi Pun, the Art Director, Ms Lee Ngo Kai the Sub-Editor, and Ms Chen Wai On, the Photographer



(From left to right): Jenny Heak of *IPSOS* with her guests, John Hirsch, General Manager and Rosanna Kwok, Country Manager of *Dawson media Direct China*.



(from left to right) Terence Fernandez, Chong Cheng Hai from *The Sun* and Toh Lye Huat from *The Edge*



Jenny Heak of *IPSOS* with Nicola Hall and Christoph Rowen from the *Financial Times*

## Award For Excellence In Feature Writing

Theresa Tan (The Straits Times)



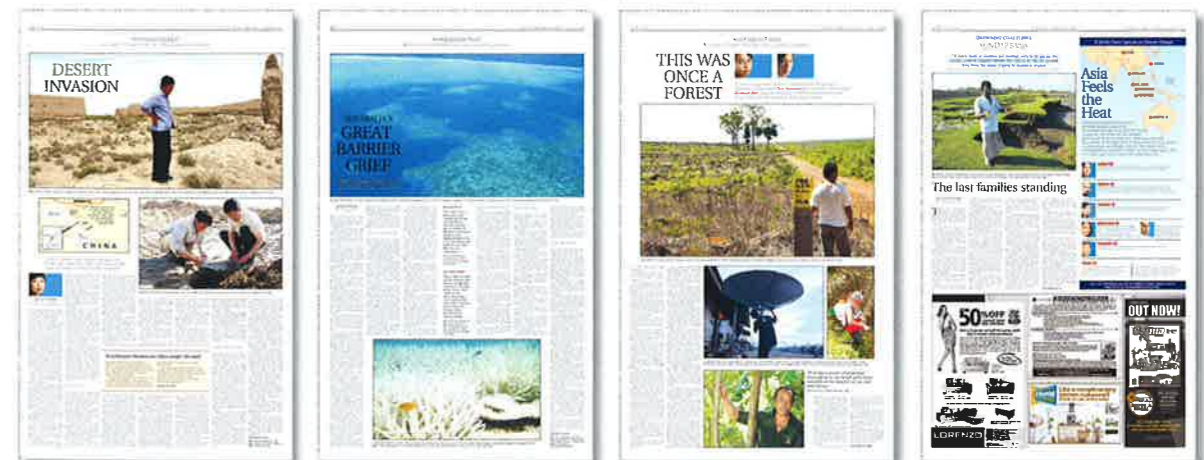
## Award For Excellence In Special Issue / Special Section

Sim Chi Yin (The Straits Times)



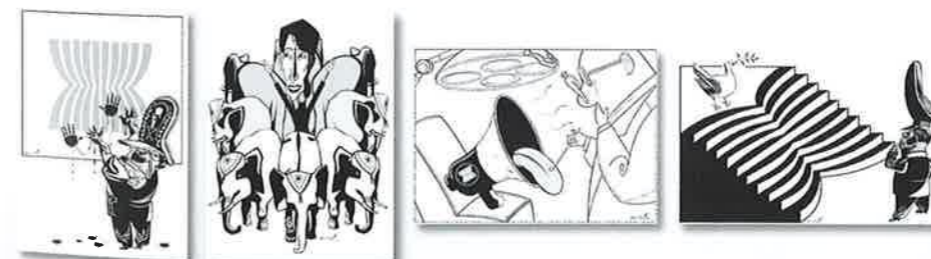
## Honourable Mention – Excellence In Reporting On The Environment

The Straits Times



## Honourable Mention – Excellence In Editorial Cartooning

Prudencio Miel Jr



## Excellence In Magazine Design

Her World





(from left to right) The *Financial Times* Asia Pacific team: Dan Molloy, Deputy Commercial Director, Anca Coman, Senior Manager, Luxury Sales and Partnerships, Michelle Davel, Finance Director and Christoph Rowen, Business Development Manager, Conferences and Event



(from left to right): Don Durfee, Managing Editor of *CFO Asia*, Dennis Chong of SCMP and Wu Chen, Editorial Director from *CFO Asia*



(from left to right) Jocelyn Cripps, Diana David from *Financial Times* and Mary Kissel of *The Wall Street Journal Asia* with Jim Laurie



Frank Proctor and the *Muse* team win the award for Explanatory Reporting in Group B.



Fuyuan Hsiao, Senior Editorial Writer of *Common Wealth Magazine Taiwan* and Mr Ho Wen-Jung, Associate Editor-in-Chief of *Global Views Monthly, Taiwan*



Do Do Yeung (third from the left), Managing Director and Publisher of *Hachette Filipacchi* with her guests at the Hachette table



(from left to right) The General Manager of *Newsweek* Jeremy Ford with his wife Ines and the Editor George Wehrfritz and his wife.



Dan ten Kate and Joost Akkermans from *Bloomberg News*

Asia's multi-award-winning travel magazine now has three more laurels that we don't intend to rest upon.

Our thanks to the Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) for recognizing DestinAsian in its 2008 Awards for Editorial Excellence:

- Excellence in Feature Photography ("Papua Untamed," Apr./May 07)
- Excellence in Feature Photography, Honorable Mention ("Kolkata at the Crossroads," Aug./Sep. 07)
- Excellence in Feature Writing, Honorable Mention ("Spirits of the Forest," Oct./Nov. 07)

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