



The 20th Anniversary

SOPA

2018 Awards

Wednesday, 13 June 2018

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About the SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence

The SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence were established in 1999 as a tribute to editorial excellence in both traditional and new media, and were designed to encourage editorial vitality throughout the region. The awards cover a broad range of categories reflecting Asia's diverse geopolitical environment and vibrant editorial scene.

Central to the SOPA Awards' ongoing success is the high calibre of international judges who preside over the award entries. The SOPA Awards have consistently secured judges from many of the region's leading newspapers as well as consumer and trade magazines and academics from prestigious universities - a reflection of the stature of the awards. Judges ensure that entries are analyzed and selected according to a demanding set of criteria.

The SOPA Awards are coordinated by a committee of publishing professionals from the business and editorial sectors. These dedicated individuals volunteer their time throughout the year to ensure the awards' rules, judges, entries, sponsorships and promotions all come together smoothly.

The SOPA Awards set a valuable benchmark for the industry, and have become news items in their own right, generating media coverage and attention not only across the Asia Pacific region, but also in the global arena.

Corporate Support

Sponsorship is key to ensuring the Awards' growth, and over the past years, SOPA has been fortunate in receiving strong, continuous support from its partners. As the Awards have grown, so too has the interest from corporations, and this year, we look again to the generosity of sponsors to help us deliver the best Awards we can.

The SOPA 2018 Awards for Editorial Excellence are supported by Google and Facebook. FleishmanHillard, Media OutReach and High Technology Printing Group Limited provide SOPA with support respectively on public relations, newswire and printing services.

About SOPA

The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) was founded in 1982 to champion freedom of the press, promote excellence in journalism and endorse best practices for all local and regional publishing platforms in the Asia Pacific region. SOPA is a not-for-profit organization based in Hong Kong and representing international, regional and local media companies across Asia. The Society of Publishers in Asia is also host to the prestigious annual SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence, which serve as the world-class benchmark for quality journalism in the region.

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Award Categories (Listed in order of presentation)

- 1 . Excellence in Reporting on Women's Issues (卓越女性议题报道奖)**
- 2 . Excellence in Journalistic Innovation (卓越新闻报道创新奖)**
- 3 . Excellence in Video Reporting (卓越视频报道奖)**
- 4 . Excellence in Human Rights Reporting (卓越人权报道奖)**
- 5 . Excellence in Feature Writing (卓越专题特写奖)**
- 6 . Excellence in Magazine Design (卓越杂志设计奖)**
- 7 . Excellence in Arts and Culture Reporting (卓越艺术及文化报道奖) *NEW 新增**
- 8 . Excellence in Explanatory Reporting (卓越解释性报道奖)**
- 9 . Excellence in Business Reporting (卓越经济报道奖)**
- 10. Excellence in Information Graphics (卓越数据图像奖)**
- 11. Excellence in Reporting Breaking News (卓越突发新闻奖)**
- 12. Excellence in Opinion Writing (卓越评论奖)**
- 13. Excellence in Reporting on the Environment (卓越环境报道奖)**
- 14. Excellence in Photography (卓越摄影奖)**
- 15. The Scoop Award (独家新闻奖)**
- 16. Excellence in Investigative Reporting (卓越调查报道奖)**
- 17. SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism (亚洲出版业协会公共服务新闻大奖) *NEW 新增**

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Message from SOPA Chair

Welcome to the 20th Annual SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence.

The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) was established in 1982 as a non-profit association to celebrate and advocate press freedom across the region, and to recognise the highest standards of excellence in journalism. This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the SOPA Awards and the important milestones we have achieved, collectively, over the past two decades.

In the last twenty years, the SOPA Awards have gained recognition for their significance and gravitas within the industry. We received more than 850 entries this year - a record number of entries for the fourth year in a row, demonstrating our growth in terms of both size and geographical area. We are witnessing renewed energy and interest in the publishing world, despite the challenges and headwinds it has faced and continues to face.

This year marks another turning point as we bid farewell to S.K. Witcher as Chair of the Editorial Committee and welcome Cliff Buddle, an Editor at the South China Morning Post, to the role. We thank S.K. and the Editorial Committee for their incredible work and for championing SOPA with such dedication.

We are grateful for the steadfast support of our sponsors, Facebook and Google News Initiative, and partners, Fleishman Hillard, Media Outreach, High Technology Printing Group Limited and Laithwaites Direct Wines, in celebrating the SOPA 2018 Awards. We also give thanks to our experienced administrators at the Journalism and Media Studies Centre at the University of Hong Kong, as well as our team of distinguished international judges.

Thank you for joining us this evening to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the SOPA Awards and to recognise the world-class journalism produced here in Asia. We look forward to your continued support of SOPA and to the next twenty years.

Rhonda Taylor
SOPA Chair

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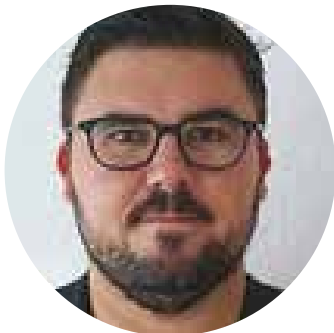
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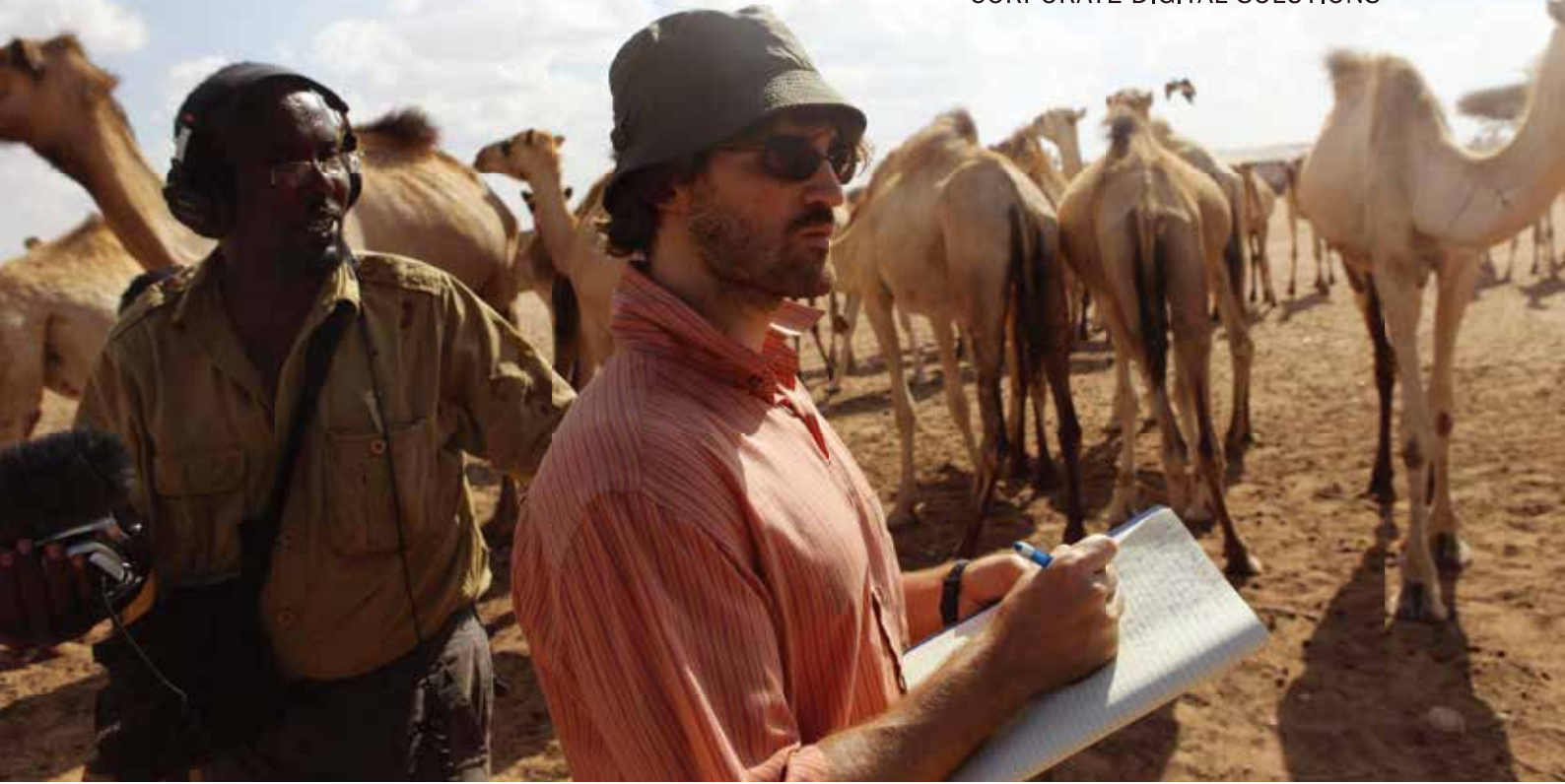


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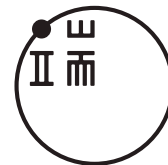


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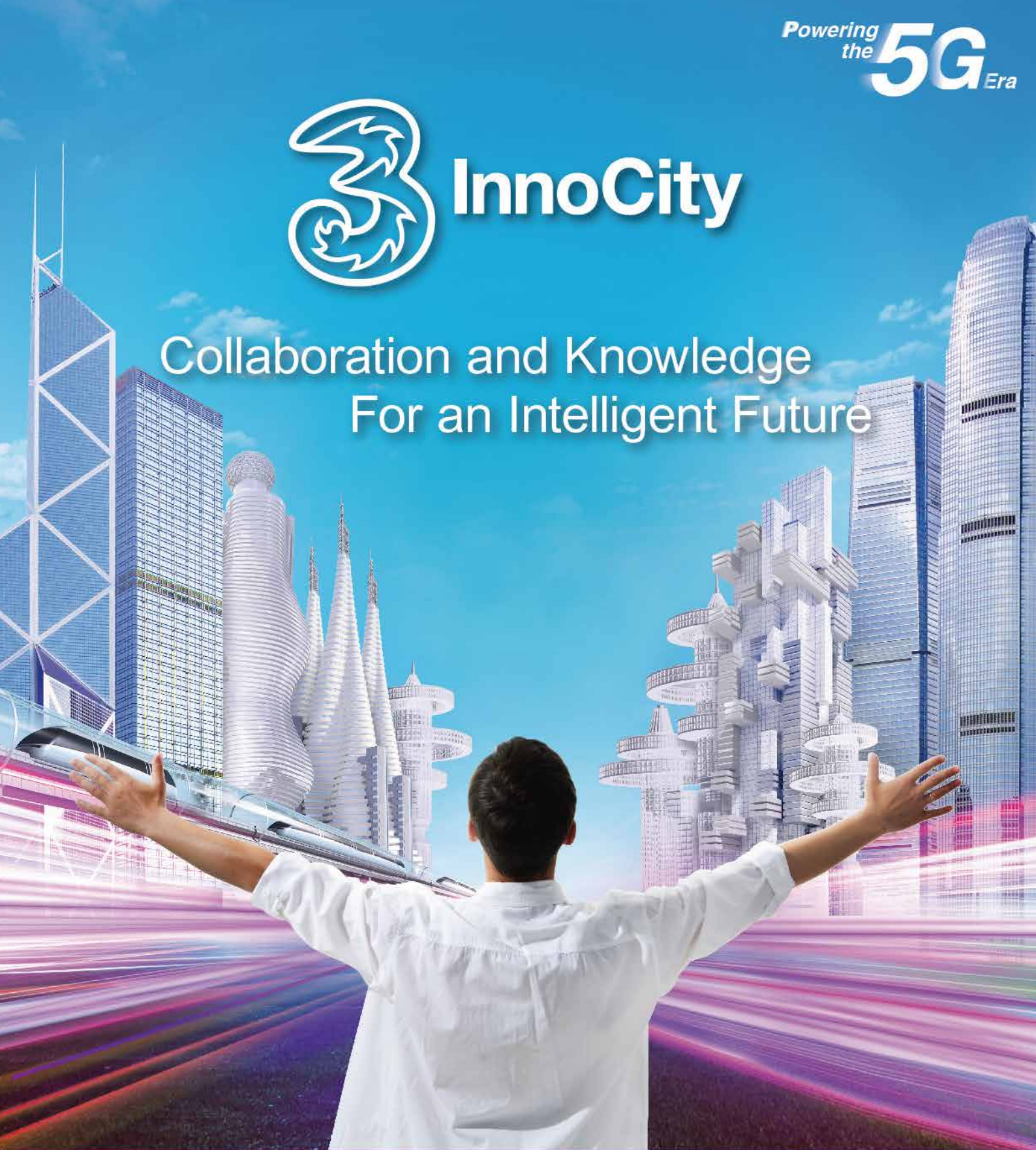


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Message from Editorial Chair and Head of Judges

Journalists, or at least editors, love anniversary stories and the SOPA Awards have a great story to tell on their 20th anniversary. It's hard to imagine now, but when the Awards began back in 1998, news organizations were just taking their first steps onto the internet, with most simply duplicating the content of their print products online. It was perhaps an inauspicious year to be born: a year of the Tiger that saw the tiger economies of Asia humbled in a regional financial crisis. But it was a great time to be a journalist in Asia. And ever since then, geopolitical events, not least China's stunning rise since joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, have provided ample fodder for outstanding journalism in the region, while the rapid spread of the internet has presented new opportunities - and pitfalls - for publishers of digital online news.

The SOPA Awards have kept pace with the news and with the changes. In 2006, new categories were added to honour excellence in reporting breaking news and major scoops; three years later, the first category to recognize excellence in digital journalism was created, in addition to honours for infographics and investigative journalism. An award for excellence in reporting on women's issues was added in 2014, to encourage better and wider coverage of the half of the region's population that is too frequently overlooked in the news.

It's been a tumultuous 20 years but, in all that time, one thing hasn't changed: the positive impact that quality journalism can have on people's lives. The efforts of a team of Reuters journalists over the past year to reveal the brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar's security forces against the Rohingya helped, in the words of the United Nations, to save lives. Those journalists, including Wa Lone who was jailed by the Myanmar government for his work, have been nominated for this year's inaugural SOPA Award for Public Service Journalism. It's also doubtful Malaysia's first peaceful handover of power to an opposition party, just last month, would have happened without the untiring efforts of journalists both within and beyond Malaysia, including SOPA 2016 Journalist of the Year Tom Wright of The Wall Street Journal.

Here's hoping that will never change. And those of us involved in the SOPA Awards will continue to do what we can to ensure it never does.

Cliff Buddle
CHAIR
Editor, Special Projects
South China Morning Post

Dr. Jeffrey Timmermans
HEAD OF JUDGES
Associate Professor of Practice
Director, Bachelor of Journalism programme
Journalism & Media Studies Centre,
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Speaker

Maria A. Ressa - CEO and Executive Editor of Rappler

Maria A. Ressa is the CEO and Executive Editor of Rappler, a social news network which uses a hearts and minds approach to news through a unique mood navigator. Rappler combines the best of professional journalism with citizen journalism and crowdsourcing.

Ms. Ressa has been a journalist in Asia for more than 30 years, most of them as CNN's bureau chief in Manila (1987-1995) then Jakarta (1995-2005). She was CNN's lead investigative reporter focusing on terrorism in Southeast Asia and wrote "Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia" (Free Press, 2003).



In 2005, she took the helm of ABS-CBN News and Current affairs, for six years determining strategic direction and managing more than 1,000 journalists for the largest multi-platform news operation in the Philippines. Her work aimed to redefine journalism by combining traditional broadcast, new media and mobile phone technology for social change.

She taught courses in Politics and the Press in Southeast Asia for her alma mater, Princeton University and in broadcast journalism for the University of the Philippines. She worked on her second book, "From Bin Laden to Facebook" as Author-in-Residence and Senior Fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research in Singapore. She is also the Southeast Asia Visiting Scholar at CORE Lab at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Master of Ceremonies

Karen Koh

Karen Koh is a broadcast media professional and familiar face and voice to many viewers and listeners in Asia. Her background is in television news and current affairs, and she has anchored and reported for BBC World, CNBC Asia, CNN International, STAR TV, Thomson Reuters and WSJ Digital. She's also a regular co-host on RTHK Radio 3's flagship current affairs show "Backchat" and produces and hosts a series on gender issues called "The Agender Café".

In the course of her 20+ years of international experience she has interviewed a range of people from heads of state to corporate and non-profit leaders.



Karen frequently MC's and moderates a variety of events, including the Asian Financial Forum, the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference, and the DHL/SCMP Business Awards. She has also moderated private events for clients in the financial services, luxury and consulting sectors.

Karen conducts media and presentation skills training for corporate, public and education sector clients. She has designed and taught courses for the Hong Kong Police, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and companies such as Goldman Sachs, Richemont Group, and Swire Properties. She has also trained text and print journalists from Thomson Reuters and WSJ in live TV and video package skills.

Karen also serves on the Board of Directors of EngenderHealth, a US-based NGO working in the field of global sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Karen has lived in Sydney, Singapore, London and Hong Kong and is married with three sons.

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It had an average daily circulation of 110,510 copies.

(Source: Hong Kong Audit Bureau of Circulations (HKABC) - Audited Circulation Report (July to December 2017))

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Former news editor,
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The New York Times



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Keith Bradsher	The New York Times	Shanghai Bureau Chief
Marianne Bray	Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU	Honorary Lecturer
Cliff Buddle	South China Morning Post	Editor, Special Projects
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Reg Chua	Reuters	Chief Operating Officer, Reuters News
Crystal Chui	Bloomberg LP	Editor
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Phillip Day	Self-employed	Writer/Editor
Bob Drogin	Los Angeles Times	National Security Editor
James Dyson	FleishmanHillard HK	Senior Vice President
Graham Earnshaw	Sinomedia Ltd	CEO
Robin Ewing	Hong Kong Baptist University	Senior Lecturer in journalism
Tak Ho Fong	Freelance	Freelancer
King-wa Fu	Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU	Associate Professor
Ian Gill	Freelance journalist	Freelance journalist
Danny Gittings	HKU SPACE	Associate Professor
Paul Goddard	Freelance	Media Consultant
Erin Hale	Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU	Teaching Assistant
Huifeng He	South China Morning Post	Guangdong Correspondent
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Elaine Kurtenbach	The Associated Press	Asia Business Editor
Vivian Kwok	Modern Media	Editor in Chief
Tripti Lahiri	Quartz	Asia bureau chief
MC LAM	Freelance	Freelance Writer
C K Lau	Hong Kong Baptist University	Principal Lecturer in Journalism
Kelvin Lee	Hong Kong Baptist University	Senior Lecturer
Matthew Leung	Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU	Honorary Lecturer
Raymond Li	Hong Kong Baptist University	Senior Lecturer
AJ Libunao	Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU	Assistant Lecturer
Kin-ming Liu	KM & Associates	Director
Darren Long	South China Morning Post	Head of Graphics and Magazine Design

Full name	Company	Job Title
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