

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

100-0005 Japan, Tokyo-to, Chiyoda-ku, Marunouchi, 3-2-3, Marunouchi Nijubashi Building 5F
http://www.fccj.or.jp E-mail: front@fccj.or.jp Tel:+81-3-3211-3161 Fax:+81-3-3211-3168

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Awards 2021

The FCCJ is pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Freedom of the Press Awards.

At a time when journalists across the Asia-Pacific region are coming under increasing pressure in the form of censorship, harassment and unlawful detention, the FCCJ's Freedom of the Press Committee wishes to recognise our colleagues' outstanding contribution to upholding the values of a free media.

The committee is now inviting regular members, professional associate and associate members to submit their nominations for individual journalists or media organizations in Japan and throughout the region.

Nominations are open from 12 noon on Monday 22 February 2021 and will close at midnight on Monday 22 March. A reminder will be sent out on Monday 8 March.

Please make sure that you include the nominees' names and affiliations, along with up to 100 words explaining why you believe they should be considered for an award. You can also include a maximum of three links to recent articles or reports to support your nomination.

Nominated work should have been published or broadcast between 1 January 2020 and the close of nominations on 22 March 2021.

The committee will award journalists and/or organisations in two categories:

A **Freedom of the Press Japan Award** for an individual or media organisation (print, broadcast or exclusively online) for coverage of any Japan-based or Japan-related issue that demonstrates a strong commitment to freedom of the press. This could be anything from tackling taboo subjects, an exposé of a political or financial scandal, or reporting in the face of official or other forms of pressure/intimidation. The reporting does not necessarily have to be investigative in nature to meet the criteria.

A Freedom of the Press Asia-Pacific Award for an individual or media organisation (print, broadcast or online) based in the region that meets the same requirements as above.

The Freedom of the Press Committee will study all of the submitted nominations and decide on a shortlist of between three and five candidates in each category, depending on the number of nominations. Members of the Freedom of the Press Committee will not be permitted to submit nominations.

The Board of Directors will then meet to discuss the shortlist and decide the winner and runner-up in each of the two categories.

The board and the committee will send out an English-language announcement naming the award winners in April.

Please note that although nominated journalists do not have to write or broadcast in English, your message of support for their nomination must be written in English.

The two winners will each receive an engraved award, and the two runners-up a certificate.

If the coronavirus situation allows, the awards will be presented at an FCCJ event on media freedom in Japan, with recipients based overseas joining online.

Please email your nominations to freepress@fccj.or.jp by midnight on Monday 22 March, with “Freedom of the press nomination” in the subject line.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Submitted by Justin McCurry and Simon Denyer
Co-chairs, FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee

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