

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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FCCJ 2023 Freedom of the Press Award Nominations

Dear FCCJ members

I hope you're enjoying the return of spring. As you know, every year the Club's Freedom of the Press Committee nominates journalists to receive our Freedom of the Press Award. The prize was established with the aim of enhancing the freedom of the press in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. Individual journalists or media organizations (print media, broadcast or online media) are eligible.

Last year's winner was documentary filmmaker Thomas Ash and we also recognized the work of Shigenori Kanehira and gave a lifetime achievement award to Soichiro Tahara. In Asia, we recognized the work of journalists in Hong Kong and the Novaya Gazeta, "the last independent newspaper in Russia". Speaking via Zoom on behalf of the newspaper, Pavel Kanygin gave an emotional speech, thanking the FCCJ for supporting the global community of journalists in "dark times". "It helps us feel we are not alone," he said: <https://www.fccj.or.jp/number-1-shimbun-article/vive-la-resistance>

The awards are a chance to celebrate the best of our trade and to help throw a spotlight on the dark corners of media freedom, at a time when journalists worldwide are under intense pressure from authoritarianism and populism. We therefore invite you all to make your nominations. You can do so on this spreadsheet, which asks that you also explain why your nominated candidate deserves the award:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iwGnQdFbVBWd4DISqVA-pCa754Hyf-oFFhgAgpJ7jm4/edit#gid=0>

The categories are
Japan (and a runner-up)
Asia (and a runner-up).
Lifetime Achievement award

There's a bit of urgency about this if we are going to make our deadline for presentation of the awards for the end of May. Please do give it some consideration.

Respectfully
David McNeill
Ilgin Yorulmaz
FoP Chairs