

## Plan for the FoP awards

As part of its mission as a koeki shadan houjin (public interest corporation), the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, through its Freedom of the Press Committee, annually recognizes outstanding individual journalists and media organizations contributing to upholding the values of a free press in the Asia-Pacific region and Japan.

The award is the highlight of FCCJ's efforts to promote free speech and free exchange of information, which include issuing statements to condemn particularly serious cases of censorship, harassment or unlawful detention affecting journalists in the region and inviting speakers to highlight such problems in Japan and Asia.

1. A Freedom of the Press Japan Award given to an individual or media organization (print, broadcast or exclusively online) for coverage of any Japan-based or Japan- related issue over the previous year that demonstrated a strong commitment to freedom of the press and elevated Japanese media standards. This could be anything from tackling a taboo subject to an exposé of a political or financial scandal, or reporting in the face of official or other forms of pressure or intimidation. The reporting doesn't necessarily have to be investigative in nature to meet the criteria.

2. A Freedom of the Press Asia Award given to an individual or media organization (again - print, broadcast or online) based in the region that meets the same requirements as above. We hope this category will help us forge closer ties with other FCCs in Asia, particularly in countries where journalists are under serious and continual attack.

3. At the discretion of the committee and the FCCJ Board of Directors, a Lifetime Achievement Award may also be given to an individual whose reporting (in print, broadcast or online) has been of outstanding quality over an extended period, not limited to the year leading up to the award.

Step 1: A request for nominations is sent out to all members with a deadline for submissions by March 1 2025 (the committee reserves the right to revise this date). Members who wish to put forward a person or organization for one or more categories are required to explain, briefly, why they have nominated them and preferably attach some samples of their work.

Step 2: The Committee studies the nominations and selects the winners in each category, depending on the number of candidates.

Step 3: The Board of Directors is briefed by the Committee on the winners.

Important: If the number or the quality of nominations does not meet the Freedom of the Press Committee's standards in any given year, the Committee reserves the right to include its own nominations. To avoid conflicts of interest, no member of the Committee or the Board may nominate his or her own organization or colleagues, but Committee members can vote for them if nominated by another member. To encourage nominations and for ease of voting, nominations can be made and votes cast online by members who cannot physically attend the Committee meeting or are not present in Japan at the time.

The prize for each award is an engraved item of glassware and/or a certificate and a year's free membership of the FCCJ. The runner-up in each category receives a certificate. The awards are presented at an FCCJ event on media freedom in Japan and Asia to enable us to talk to the recipients about their work and, ideally, generate media coverage here and elsewhere in the region. Unless they happen to be in Japan at the time, the Asia-Pacific winner and runner-up will take part remotely.