

The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka (TEGOSL) which has been conducting the annual Journalism Awards for Excellence programme since 1998 and Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) are pleased to announce that the 2008 Awards will be conducted in partnership by the two organizations demonstrating a common objective in furthering professional excellence, and rewarding those who have excelled over a particular year.

The 2008 Awards Night will be held in July 2009 in Colombo.

What are the Journalism Awards for Excellence about?

This is the single most prestigious annual event at which good journalism is recognized and celebrated by the profession's peers; It is about appreciating and rewarding courage, dedication and excellence in journalism and saluting lifetime contribution and service to the journalistic profession.

Who can apply?

Applications may be submitted by any journalist; who for the purpose of the Journalism Awards for Excellence programme is a person who writes articles or news reports as a profession for publication in newspapers. He or she should be employed fulltime in journalism, or should have written articles or news reports for publication in newspapers, and had at least 10 of his/her articles/news reports published within the stipulated time period. Articles/Reports published while being a journalism student or intern will also be considered.

Year of Publication

Articles/News Reports should have been published between 1st January 2008 and 31st December of 2008.

Mandatory Requirements for Applicants

Journalists should be prepared to meet the Judges for an interview should the Panel of Judges feel the need to do so. All journalists should agree to abide by the Editors' Code of Professional Practice, and co-operate with the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

In all cases where a Right of Reply, Clarification, Correction and/or Apology has been sent on a published story relating to an entry, such information must be disclosed along with the application. Failure to do so could disqualify the Applicant, before or after the Award is to / has been offered.

How to Apply?

Applications and Nominations to be sent to:

**The Chairman,
Journalism Awards Committee,
C/o Sri Lanka Press Institute,
96, Kirula Road,
Colombo 05.**

Fees

No Charge

Closing Date for Applications

31st March 2009 (no extension will be granted)

Judges

Awards have been classified into cluster groups and for each cluster a panel of judges has been appointed based on individual speciality/expertise and sensitivity towards balanced representation.

General Entry Rules

- Incomplete entries will be disqualified
- Material submitted for the program will not be returned.
- Entries must be postmarked or hand delivered no later than 31st March 2009.
- Publication date must be marked on the application form.
- Any applicant may enter as many categories as he/she wishes. Each entry will qualify for only one single category. The category must be specifically mentioned.
- Three copies of the duly completed application form should be neatly attached to the front of the work submitted.
- Name of applicant must be spelled correctly in English and written legibly in BLOCK LETTERS. It is these names that will appear in the awards certifications.
- Supporting statements must not exceed 500 words (if not otherwise specifically mentioned).
- An editor may provide a supporting statement on behalf of any entry, but the absence of such a statement from the editor will not be considered adversely in the selection of the entry.
- Entries must carry the declaration by the journalist/s that they abide by the Code of Professional Practice (CPP) of TEGOSL for the time-being in force, and the endorsement of the editor that the newspaper abides by the CPP-TEGOSL and by the Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL.
- Any form of lobbying or canvassing of judges by applicants will result in disqualification.

Print Entries

- Entries must be in a binder or folder or mounted. Loose copies will not be accepted.
- Original publications of articles/news reports are preferred although clear photocopies are acceptable, provided such photocopies are certified by your editor.

Photojournalism Entries

- Entries must be in a binder or folder or mounted. Entries in any other form will not be acceptable.
- Include copies of any accompanying texts, such as captions, stories etc.
- Submitting a print can be useful but not imperative.
- Original newspaper publication of photographs is essential.

Ensure that...

- ...all sections of the application are clearly marked with the award category, newspaper, and applicant's name and address.
- ...three copies of completed application forms are neatly attached to the front of the entry submitted (Editor's certification may be attached although not mandatory)
- ...the entry carries all relevant declarations mentioned in (j) of General Entry Rules.

Accuracy and Completeness

- Any corrections, clarifications or retractions made after initial publication should be submitted as part of the application. Copies of any written challenges to the article or the news report's accuracy sent to the applicant or to the news organization must be attached to the application, including responses by the news organization.
- Judges may interview applicants should the requirement arise.
(Please note: Not adhering to (A) above would result in withdrawal of any award made)

General Criteria

Works will be judged by the members of the Awards Judging Committee according to the following criteria:

- Accuracy and completeness
 - Clarity
 - Organization and presentation of information
 - Usefulness to the intended audience
 - Excellence of intellectual content
 - Design and composition of the work
 - Adherence to the Editors' Guild Code of Ethics
- For Photojournalism Awards**
- Composition
 - Story
 - Uniqueness of the photograph
 - Conformity to ethical practices
- For Best Designed Newspaper**
- Style
 - Layout/Format
 - Visibility on newsstand

Additional criteria;

- Writing style
- Enterprise and ingenuity
- Effectiveness
- Extenuating circumstances
- Creative use of medium's unique capabilities
- Judges will weigh the resources available

10th
ANNIVERSARY

JOURNALISM
AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE 2008

Journalism Awards for Excellence 2008

Categories of Awards and Criteria

Mervyn de Silva Journalist of the Year

This award, given to honour the first President of The Editor's Guild of Sri Lanka and his work as a well-known editor, columnist and foreign correspondent, recognises excellence and consistency throughout the year and adherence to best journalistic practices. This category is also open to editors.

A statement of not more than 250 words, explaining the significance of the achievement with supporting material should be submitted with each entry form.

Investigative Journalist of the Year

This award is to the journalist, or team of journalists to have published an accurate insightful story or series of stories on the same subject matter which were strictly of an investigative nature, and were of national significance.

Please submit a copy or copies - in triplicate - of the investigative story or stories as the case may be, with a supporting statement by the applicant(s) of not more than 250 words. (A supporting statement from the editor is required if a team of journalists is applying).

Judges will take into consideration the research done, and the professionalism shown in the investigation, and the impact of the exposure on society and/or the authorities. Judges may kindly note that this need not necessarily be a Scoop, though not excluding a scoop, and one that could even be a follow up but one that had both, public interest and national importance.

Scoop of the Year

This category is for the journalist or team of journalists to have published the single best exclusive report for the year, that had national implications. Please submit a copy of the story, and supporting statement. (A supporting statement from the editor is required if a team of journalists is applying)

Environmental Reporter of the Year

This award is for a journalist or a team of journalists who produced a body of work throughout the year which focused on the environment, helped to protect it, gave a fair and all round picture of the situation and exposed environmental abuse that had an impact on society and/or the authorities.

Judges will look for a long-running investigation, campaign or series of reports, but one-off stories that have had a very strong and definitive impact will also be considered. A supporting statement is required for each entry. If a team is applying, a supporting statement is required from the editor. A maximum of six different articles can be submitted with each entry.

Subramaniam Chettiar Award for Reporting on Social Issues

This award is for a reporter who has consistently highlighted social issues in a fair and ethical manner, sought to give voice to the voiceless and moved to find solutions for these issues through the media.

The award is given in honour of Subramaniam Chettiar, a man who stood for the rights of workers and began a newspaper named 'Virakesari' in 1930 with the aim of achieving this goal.

Sports Journalist of the Year

Given to a specialist journalist covering sports, who has added value to sports coverage by going behind the scenes and producing a solid body of work on the subject. Entries can come from contributors to a single sport or several sports and include sports scoops, coverages, and/or interviews that created follow-up stories. At least six copies with a supporting statement need to be submitted.

Denzil Peiris Young Reporter of the Year

This award is to honour Denzil Pieris, one of the finest journalists of Sri Lanka who was widely admired at home and abroad. The recipient will be a journalist under 26 years of age who by his or her work in 2008 showed potential in journalism, who with fair and accurate reporting, produced a consistent body of work and adhered to best journalistic practices. Judges will be looking for young journalist who has made the most impact in the year. The winner of this award is likely to win a journalism oriented travel scholarship.

Photojournalist of the year

This award is for the Photojournalist who has consistently captured the best news or feature pictures of the year, was technically sound and clear in his or her presentation. Judges will look for the most compelling news and/or feature photographs taken by this photojournalist over a period of an year. Judges will also look for versatility, technical skill, including cropping of pictures, and the ability to capture the picture that matters. The mood of an interview subject or feature needs to come across strongly.

Every picture must be accompanied by a caption and cutting showing the publication & the date of publication where ever possible. Each submission should consist of a minimum of 6 – maximum of 10 pictures.

Best Designed Newspaper of the Year

This award is given to the team or individual producing the best designed newspaper in the country that makes the newspaper reader-friendly, attractive and appealing to the general public. Judges will look for the newspaper that has achieved the biggest impact through design and the treatment of stories throughout the different sections of the newspaper. Judges will take into consideration the fact that the design of some newspapers may be restricted due to the lack of colour pages, heavy advertising and/or the number of pages which are outside the control of the design-Journalists.

Entries must include of six different publications of the original newspaper sent to the panel of judges.

Cartoonist of the Year

Awarded to the artist who caught the mood of the country through his or her paintbrush, or computer graphic and commented on the state of the nation through his or her talent.

By Nomination

D. R. Wijewardene Award for earning the appreciation of peers and public
Sepala Gunasena Award for defending press freedom in Sri Lanka
Long and distinguished service Awards

Judges will look for cartoonists who transcend the language barrier in work and capture the imagination of the public on public issues through art and humour. A minimum of six cartoons need to be submitted to the judges covering the year.

Prof. K. Kailasapathy Award for reporting under special circumstances

This award is given in honour of an academic cum journalist who fought for an independent Sri Lankan Tamil readership. This award is for a journalist or a team of journalists working under unusually stressful conditions where their personal and professional freedoms have been gravely threatened and where they have placed their lives in danger to keep the citizenry better informed.

Judges will require a supporting statement for this category, and if a team of reporters submit an application, a supporting statement from the editor. As many published articles as possible (though not more than 10) may be submitted in support of the entry. This award could be made posthumously provided an entry is submitted by an editor or a family member.

Upali Wijewardene Feature Writer of the Year - Sinhala/Tamil/English

This award given in honour of Upali Wijewardene, the founder of Upali Newspapers Ltd., in language groups, recognizes a body of features (minimum 6 features) that is varied and captures the essence of issues and subject matter of the article while creating the necessary interest to enable the reader to have a better understanding of the subject. The articles must also be fair and accurate and adhere to the best journalistic practices. Quality of writing and language is paramount in this category. Judges will be looking for journalists who demonstrate a compelling style in news-feature reportage and/or feature writing. They could vary from human interest articles to travel writing and need not necessarily be issue-based. One-to-one interviews will not be entered in this category. Minimum of six features must be submitted.

Business and Finance Journalist of the Year - Sinhala/Tamil/English

This award is given to the journalist who consistently covered business stories that interest and impacted readers and increased the understanding of business, finance and the economy, was fair and accurate and adhered to best journalistic practices. Entrants will be judged on their ability to break news, predict trends, analyse stories and explain issues to a general audience. A compelling style and clear understanding of their core readership will also score highly.

B. A. Siriwardena Columnist of the Year - Sinhala/Tamil/English

This award is in honour of B.A. Siriwardena, a versatile writer and editor, and goes to the writer who expressed himself or herself boldly whilst stimulating thought and debate among the ordinary reader. This commentary could be written either under his /her own name or under a pseudonym but should be a regular by-lined column.

Judges will be looking for the writer's unique style. At least 12 such columns must be published within the year, and six submitted as entries. A supporting statement is required from the editor in the case of an application where a pseudonym is used.