



Panelists

David Barboza, The New York Times

Michael Forsythe, Bloomberg News Beijing

Moderator

Rusty Todd, JMSC

Tom Leander

Chairman

SOPA Editorial Awards Committee



SOPA

The Society of Publishers in Asia



Excellence in News Photography

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards
of news photography.



Excellence in News Photography

Group **C**

台灣蘋果日報



Business Weekly



遠見雜誌 Global Views



Honorable Mention

Publication:

Business Weekly

Title of Entry:

Elder-Driven Tsunami

Journalists:

Yu-Lung Lo

Judges' Comments:

Beautiful pictures with good attention of details and delicacy. Touching!



Award for Excellence

Publication:

**遠見雜誌
Global Views**

Title of Entry:

**你所不知道的環境中國
An environmental report on the
China you didn't know about**

Journalists:

陳宗怡

Judges' Comments:

**充入反映中國污染的嚴重性。
Deeply reflected the seriousness of
China's environmental pollution.**





Excellence in News Photography

Group **B**

The Myanmar Times



Peace marchers face charges

The New Paper on Sunday



LionsXII survive Sarawak 'hell'

The Myanmar Times



Honorable Mention

Publication:

The New Paper on Sunday

Title of Entry:

LionsXII survive Sarawak 'hell'

Journalists:

Kelvin Chng

Judges' Comments:

This is a picture that can hold your attention. The photographer kept vigilant observation of the scene and captured the decisive moment.



Award for Excellence

Publication:

The Myanmar Times

Title of Entry:

Yangon peace march

Journalists:

Ko Taik, Kaung Htet

Judges' Comments:

Well-planned and comprehensive coverage with sensitivity in capturing the emotions of the participants in the rally.



Activists march in Yangon on September 21 to mark the International Day of Peace. More images of the event on pages 12 and 17. A/C: Ko Taik

Peace marchers face charges

Award for Excellence





Excellence in News Photography

Group **A**

TIME Asia



Reuters



International Herald Tribune



Honorable Mention

Publication:

TIME Asia

Title of Entry:

Japan One Year Later

Journalists:

James Nachtwey

Judges' Comments:

A very strong effort to document the aftermath and the recovery, with nicely composed moments and details that tell the story.



Honorable Mention



Honorable Mention



Award for Excellence

Publication:

Reuters

Title of Entry:

Ethnic War in Myanmar

Journalists:

Soe Zeya TUN

Judges' Comments:

Images are wonderfully composed and capture the right emotion to show the intensity, danger and aftermath of the story.



SITTWE TOWNSHIP An ethnic Rakhine man walks away from burning houses after rival mobs of Muslims and Buddhists fought and torched homes.

Award for Excellence



Award for Excellence



PAUKTAW TOWNSHIP A dead body floats in the sea after deadly clashes between Muslims and Buddhists.

REUTERS



PAUKTAW TOWNSHIP The remains of a mosque that was burnt down when violence erupted between Muslims and Buddhists.

REUTERS

Excellence in Business Reporting

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards
of reporting on a business topic of significance.



Excellence in Business Reporting

Group 

遠見雜誌 Global Views

台灣經濟觀察 Cover Story

日商「六重苦」台灣出口衰，選擇攜手度難關

史上首度！ 日本與台灣經貿合作達高峰

釣魚台事件成為全球關注焦點，但早在30年前島島對釣魚台的台灣，在政治表態上即異常堅定。反倒在經貿議題之外，台灣與日本的企業攜手展開一場史上最熱烈的合作風潮。

文/林士豪

去年至今，台灣與日本，有一股全新合作風潮，正在興起。

根據經濟部投資委員會資料，2011年全年，日本對台灣投資件數已創下近20年來新高，總共441件。

到了今年上半年，日本對台投資金額為1億9264萬美元，比起去年同期增長22%（共1），金額也成長40%，可以說日商在今年投資更積極，正持續加碼中。

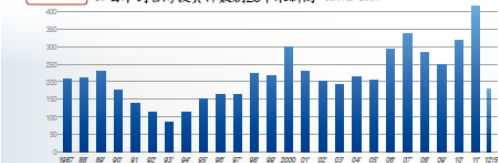
再加上今年1到5月，台灣對日投資金額約2.7億美元，也成長了11%，台日雙方商務都愈加高。

從雙方招商局次數與規模來看，也是空前熱絡。今年9月邀請超過百位日商來台，堪稱是台灣歷年來最高規格的訪台商務活動。此外還包括了前副總統蕭萬長、工研院董事長蔡其昌等；企業界則有鴻海董事長郭台銘、友聲集團總裁朱志洋等人。

參加的日本企業也多是當地企業龍頭，包括日本電機與半導體大廠富士通、而板廠三星。

這次去日本，蕭萬長特別感覺到當地企業對台灣的友善，主要是台灣人去年311大震損傷多，讓他們感動。同時，ECFA可幫助日本企業進駐大陸，引起日商很興趣。

■日本對台灣投資件數創20年來新高



214 遠見雜誌 2012.10

遠見雜誌 Global Views

第二個「5億消費人口」來臨

服務，啟動新中國



CommonWealth Magazine

產業外移，工作出走，以往靠「代工工廠」的機械經濟，賺取豐厚的「台灣第一」，已翻成了歷史。

到底，台灣一流的競爭力在哪裡？還可能在哪裡，找到新的「台灣第一」？

一年多的搜尋、採訪，《天下》深入台灣，在休耕地上大片金黃的太陽麻地，在驚濤拍岸的海岸，在舊城鎮從廢墟的小山丘上，找到一間家運全球台企事業一，卻不為人知的「台灣隱形冠軍」們。

他們擁有核心技術，經營自有品牌，行銷全球，但從研發到生產，從生產到銷售，幾乎全依賴台灣。他們不受不景氣影響，業績長紅，今年加碼。

他們是台灣的隱形冠軍，是台灣最核心也最競爭優勢，也是台灣最難被模仿的競爭者之一。

眼前這堆不起眼的小東西，就是iPhone、液晶電視、汽車等的關鍵零件，隱匿專門技術與工藝品質，這就是一個你不知道的台灣隱形冠軍。

文/陳冠宇、鄭國威
攝影/羅士為

台灣還有第一！ 隱形



Honorable Mention

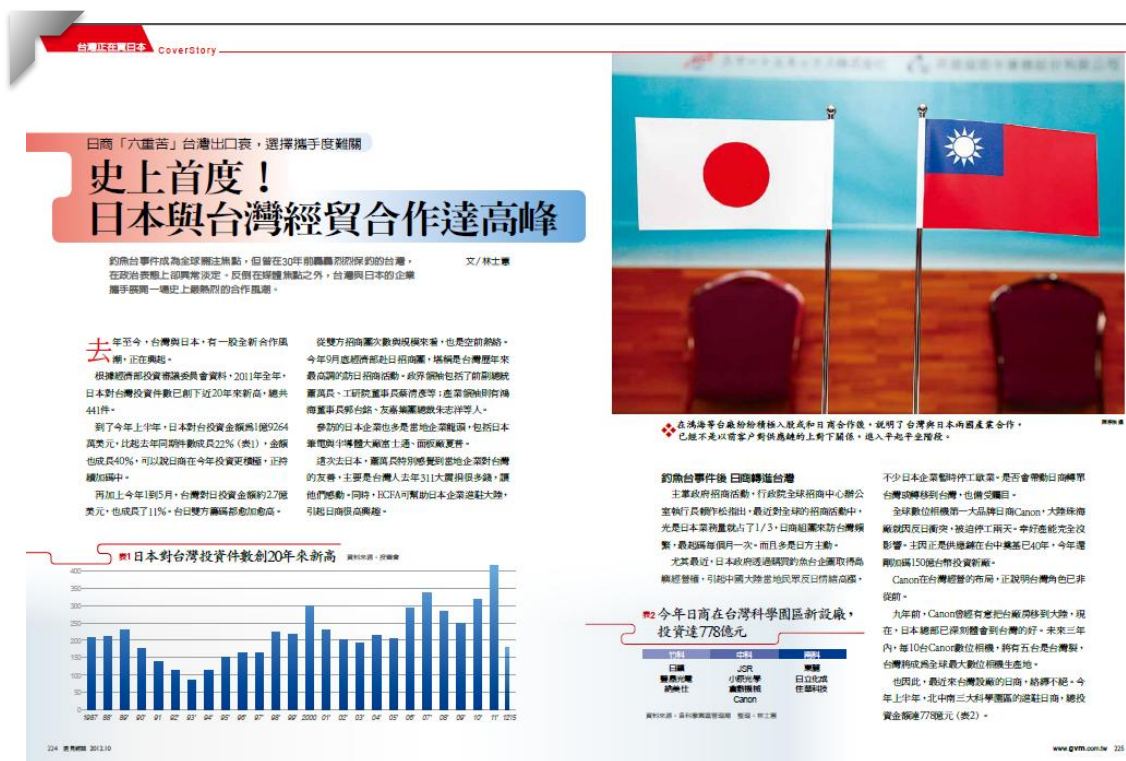
Publication: 遠見雜誌 Global Views

Title of Entry: 台灣正在買日本 Taiwan is buying out Japan

Journalists: 楊瑪利, 彭漣漪, 林士蕙, 林璟筠

Judges' Comments:

This comprehensive package deserves recognition and praise for a job well done.



Award for Excellence

Publication:

遠見雜誌
Global Views

Title of Entry:

服務啟動新中國
Service industry –
China's new start

Journalists:

邱莉燕, 范榮靖

Judges' Comments:

A systematic and thorough analysis of whether domestic consumption is really the answer for China's economy.





Excellence in Business Reporting

Group **B**

Honorable Mention

Publication:

South China Morning Post

Title of Entry:

Dongguan, Deserted Boom Town

Journalists:

Denise Tsang and Charlotte So

Judges' Comments:

This story exemplifies excellent good practice in business reporting – using a real case to illustrate a complex trend.

INDUSTRY



The labour shortage in the Pearl River Delta is acute as fewer migrants are seeking work in the export hub. Photo: Reuters

GLOBAL CRISIS, LABOUR LAWS HIT PRD PLANTS

Hong Kong manufacturers are forced to shut or cut production in response to the 2008 economic crisis and mainland contract rules

Charlotte So
charlotteso@scmp.com

About 15 per cent of Hong Kong manufacturers operating in the Pearl River Delta have either curtailed production or closed down since the global economic crisis of 2008 and the implementation of new labour contract laws.

More factories would shut if the downturn continued to hurt exporters in the export hub, a leading industrial trade body warned yesterday.

Deserted factories are now common sights in industrial areas across Guangdong, Shanghai, Hainan and Tianjin. In Dongguan, the first place Hong Kong manufacturers established on the mainland about 20 years ago, said Stanley Lau, the deputy chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries.

Several thousands of the

dismantled by as much as 30 per cent since 2008 because of the sharp drop in consumer demand in the West, Lau said.

Wilson Shek, the owner of packaging material manufacturer Sincere Products, said its current orders were just 70 per cent of what they were in 2008. The drop prompted him to cut the number of workers to 60 from more than 300 in 2008.

"I have even shut down the kitchen and laid off the four full-time staff to cut costs," he said.

But Shek is not alone. The introduction of the minimum wage and new labour contract laws on the mainland have forced some of factories out of business.

"About 30,000 factories in the province have closed down since 2008," said Edward Tsui, a vice-president of the Chinese

Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong.

The new law enforces permanent contracts between factories and workers, versus the three-year contracts of the past. In addition, workers employed for 10 years in the factory are entitled to as much as 168,000 yuan (\$25,122,162) compensation on termination of their contracts.

30%

The sharp increase in PRD plants has led to a 30% drop in the number of factories in the region since 2008.

"The incentives for workers to work harder have been compromised as they would rather be found in some cases," Tsui said.

Moreover, the labour shortage in Guangdong is still acute as migrant workers, who used to be the major labour source for factories in the southern region, have become reluctant to leave their regions as local economies closer to home start to flourish.

Factories are now leaving Guangdong to relocate to other cities in Jiangxi or Hainan to take advantage of lower costs. Some were even shutting up and moving to Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam where they could halve their operating costs, Lau said.

In response to the difficulties being faced by the manufacturers, the Guangdong government tried to ease their pain by delaying the rise in minimum wages, he said. The new minimum wages were supposed to be launched in January.

Award for Excellence

Publication: The Phnom Penh Post

Title of Entry: Leopard's fishy business

Journalists: Tom Brennan and Don Weinland

Judges' Comments: The reporters have done some great investigative work.

Leopard's fishy seafood foray

Continued - page 1

building, including license permits, a limited supply of raw materials and challenges in sourcing the international food fishery products necessary to get across to export markets. These other logistical issues, however, have problems that need to be solved.

Continued - page 1

By October 2012, the company was facing severe financial problems, according to the internal company files by Nautico. In fact, when Nautico's full financial statements were released, it showed a massive loss of \$1.2 million in the first quarter of 2012.

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A Nautico Seafood truck parked in front of the company's office in Phnom Penh.

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Excellence in Business Reporting

Group **A**

International Herald Tribune



A crowd from an explosion in a chemical factory waiting at a hospital in Chengdu, China, where the gas was released. The explosion was the deadliest in China's history.

Grim backdrop to Apple's shine

At suppliers' factories, workers face long hours and hazardous conditions

BY STEPHEN LEE
AND JAMES L. KAPLAN

The explosion ripped through the walls of a factory in Chengdu, China, on Sunday, killing at least 10 people and injuring more than 100 others. The explosion was the deadliest in China's history.

Apple's suppliers, however, have been hit hard by the explosion. The explosion was the deadliest in China's history.

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The Wall Street Journal Asia



A man in a dark jacket stands in front of a large, modern building in Beijing, China. The building is a high-rise apartment complex.

China's Rich Weigh Moving to U.S., Europe

China's rich are weighing moving to the U.S. and Europe. The rich are weighing moving to the U.S. and Europe.

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Bloomberg News

Shadow Bankers Vanishing Act Leaves China Victims Crying 'Scam'

By Lu Lu and Bloomberg News

September 11, 2012 - To live out his retirement years, He Zhonghui was counting on steady income from an investment that promised interest payments five times higher than what he could earn in a Chinese bank.

Now He, a 62-year-old former municipal official in Wenzhou who rides a rusty bicycle, is cutting back on food and gasoline, having found himself one of a growing number of victims of China's nebulous world of shadow banking. A "friend," who he said had been paying him 2,400 yuan (375) a month after he gave him one-third of his 600,000-yuan life savings to invest in real estate, suddenly disappeared. So did the payments and principal.

"I called, but the number was no longer in existence," said He, who worked for the Water Resources Bureau in Wenzhou, a city of 9 million people on China's east coast. "I went to his home, but nobody was there. I was even invited to his daughter's wedding, for heaven's sake. It was all a scam."

China's slowest economic growth in three years and a slumping property market, where many so-called shadow-banking investments are parked, are squeezing millions of Chinese who have invested the money of friends and acquaintances chasing higher yields to honor those payments. The slowdown also is putting pressure on the government to rein in private lending to avoid a spate of defaults that could increase the number of victims and lead to social unrest.

Suicide, Bankruptcy

The shadow bankers are now disappearing, committing suicide or reneging on agreements, leaving thousands of victims in their wake. In the first half of the year, more than 38,000 lawsuits



Protesters and shoppers walk down the city's main street in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. Protesters are demanding compensation for victims of the shadow banking crisis.

involving disputes over 28.4 billion yuan in private lending were filed in Zhejiang province, where Wenzhou is located, up 27 percent from the same period in 2011 and the most in five years, according to the provincial supreme court. One-fifth of the cases were in Wenzhou, where authorities have set up a special court to handle the surge.

Private-lending victims nationwide filed more than 600,000 lawsuits valued at 130 billion yuan in 2011, an increase of 38 percent from the previous year. In the first half of 2012, the number of filings rose 25 percent to 376,000, according to People's Court, a newspaper run by China's Supreme Court.

In Wenzhou, an expert hub where almost 90 percent of families have taken part in underground lending, more than 100 people have fled, committed suicide or declared bankruptcy since August 2011, and at least 800 lending brokers have gone bankrupt, Xinhua News Agency reported in May. Home prices there declined 36 percent in July compared with a year



Shadow Bankers Vanishing Act

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Honorable Mention

Publication:

Bloomberg News

Title of Entry:

Asia's Shadow Banking Threat

Journalists:

Luo Jun, Sheridan Prasso, Bonnie Cao, Kartikay Mehrotra, Anto Antony, Cathy Chan, Robert Friedman, Shigeru Sato, Shingo Kawamoto and Russell Ward

Judges' Comments:

Compelling and well written, a fine example of good business reporting.

Bloomberg
NEWS

Shadow Bankers Vanishing Act Leaves China Victims Crying 'Scam'

By Luo Jun • Bloomberg News

September 13, 2012 – To live out his retirement years, He Zhongkui was counting on steady income from an investment that promised interest payments five times higher than what he could earn in a Chinese bank.

Now He, a 62-year-old former municipal official in Wenzhou who rides a rusty bicycle, is cutting back on food and gasoline, having found himself one of a growing number of victims of China's nebulous world of shadow banking. A "friend," who he said had been paying him 2,400 yuan (\$379) a month after He gave him one-third of his 600,000-yuan life savings to invest in real estate, suddenly disappeared. So did the payments and principal.

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China's slowest economic growth in three years and a slumping property market, where many so-called shadow-banking investments are parked, are squeezing millions of Chinese who have invested the money of friends and acquaintances chasing higher yields to honor those payments. The slowdown also is putting pressure on the government to rein in private lending to avoid a spate of defaults that could increase the number of victims and lead to social unrest.

Suicide, Bankruptcy

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*Pedestrians and shoppers walk down Wu Ma Jie, or Five Horses Street, in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, China.
Photographer: Qilai Shen/Bloomberg*

involving disputes over 28.4 billion yuan in private lending were filed in Zhejiang province, where Wenzhou is located, up 27 percent from the same period in 2011 and the most in five years, according to the provincial supreme court. One-fifth of the cases were in Wenzhou, where authorities have set up a special court to handle the surge.

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In Wenzhou, an export hub where almost 90 percent of families have taken part in underground lending, more than 100 people have fled, committed suicide or declared bankruptcy since August 2011, and at least 800 lending brokers have gone bankrupt, Xinhua News Agency reported in May. Home prices there declined 16 percent in July compared with a year

Award for Excellence

Publication:

**International Herald
Tribune**

Title of Entry:

The iEconomy

Journalists:

**Keith Bradsher, David
Barboza, Charles Duhigg**

Judges' Comments:

**First rate reporting and
writing, both sweeping in
breadth and compelling in
use of detail.**



A man hurt in an explosion at a Foxconn factory arriving at a hospital in Chengdu, China. Advocacy groups say injuries are common at Apple suppliers' factories across China.

Grim backdrop to Apple's shine

At suppliers' factories, workers face long hours and hazardous conditions

BY CHARLES DUHIGG
AND DAVID BARBOZA

The explosion ripped through Building A5 on a Friday evening last May, an eruption of fire and noise that twisted metal pipes as if they were discarded straws.

When workers in the cafeteria ran outside, they saw black smoke pouring from shattered windows. It was coming from the area where employees polished thousands of iPad cases a day.

Two people were killed immediately, and more than a dozen were hurt. As the

injured were rushed into ambulances, one in particular stood out. His features had been smothered by the blast, scrubbed by heat and violence until a mat of red and black had replaced his mouth and nose.

Six months earlier, the victim, 22-year-old Lai Xiaodong, had moved to Chengdu, in southwest China, to become one of the millions of human cogs powering the largest, fastest and most sophisticated manufacturing system on earth.

That system has made it possible for Apple and hundreds of other companies

ONLINE: THE CHINESE SIDE
Links to a copy of the article in Chinese as well as comments from readers in China. thechinese.blogspot.com

The iEconomy
A punishing pace

to build devices almost as quickly as they can be dreamed up.

"Are you Lai Xiaodong's father?" a caller asked when the phone rang at Mr. Lai's childhood home. "He's in trouble. Get to the hospital as soon as possible."

In the past decade, Apple has become one of the mightiest, richest and most successful companies in the world, in part by mastering global manufacturing. Apple and its high-technology peers — as well as dozens of other American industries — have achieved a pace of innovation nearly unmatched in modern history.

But the workers assembling iPhones,

iPads and other devices often labor in harsh environments, according to employees inside those plants, worker advocates and documents published by companies themselves. Problems range from difficult working conditions to serious safety issues.

Employees work overtime in excess of legal limits, in some cases seven days a week, and live in crowded dormitories. Some say they stand so long that their legs swell so they can hardly walk. Underage workers have helped build Apple products, and the company's suppliers have illegally disposed of hazardous waste and have falsified records, according to company reports and advocacy groups who, in China, are often considered reliable, independent monitors.

APPLE, PAGE 14

Jonathon Whiteley

Honorary Treasurer

The Society of Publishers in Asia



S O P A

The Society of Publishers in Asia



Excellence in Information Graphics

Honoring entries that demonstrate high standards in
presenting information in graphical form.



Excellence in Information Graphics

Group 

[illegible][illegible]

CHRONICLE OF SOVIET ARCHITECTURE IN MOSCOW

简明社会主义建筑史

1917 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s 2020s

1917

Taitel's Tower
塔伊特塔
1917-1918
塔伊特塔是莫斯科第一座现代建筑，由塔伊特设计，是一座五层的公寓楼，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1920s

Shukhov Tower**Shukhov Tower**
舒霍夫塔
1920-1922
舒霍夫塔是莫斯科第一座无线电塔，由舒霍夫设计，是一座高206米的塔，也是莫斯科第一座钢结构建筑。

1930s

Central Lenin Stadium, Luchinskiy Stadium
中央列宁体育场，卢申斯基体育场
1930-1935
中央列宁体育场和卢申斯基体育场是莫斯科两座大型体育场，由中央设计局设计，是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1940s

Monument to the Conquerors of Space
太空征服者纪念碑
1940-1945
太空征服者纪念碑是莫斯科一座大型纪念碑，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的纪念碑，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1950s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
1950-1955
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1960s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
1960-1965
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1970s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
1970-1975
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1980s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
1980-1985
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

1990s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
1990-1995
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

2000s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
2000-2005
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

2010s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
2010-2015
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

2020s

State Kremlin Palace
国家克里姆林宫
2020-2025
国家克里姆林宫是莫斯科一座大型宫殿，由波波夫设计，是一座高110米的宫殿，也是莫斯科第一座钢筋混凝土建筑。

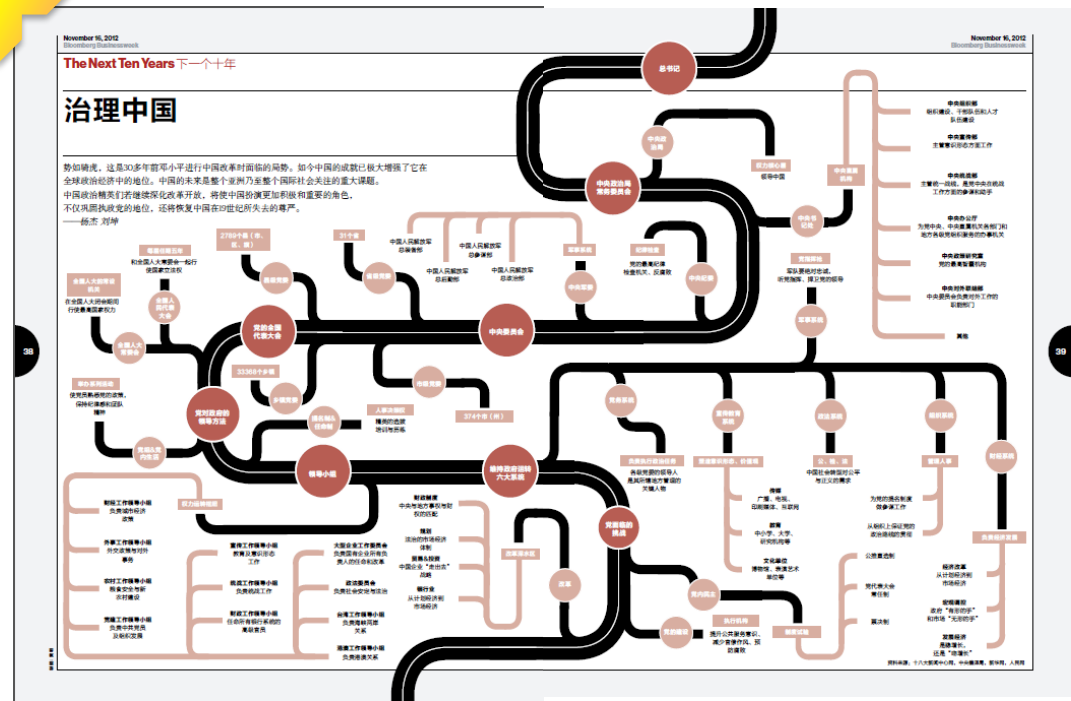
Award for Excellence

Publication:
Businessweek/China

Title of Entry:
Governing China

Journalists:
**Zhangfengan, Yangjie,
Huangchao**

Judges' Comments:
Clean and clear. Shows the
power of info-graphics over
other forms of story-telling to
show the structure of the
Chinese government.

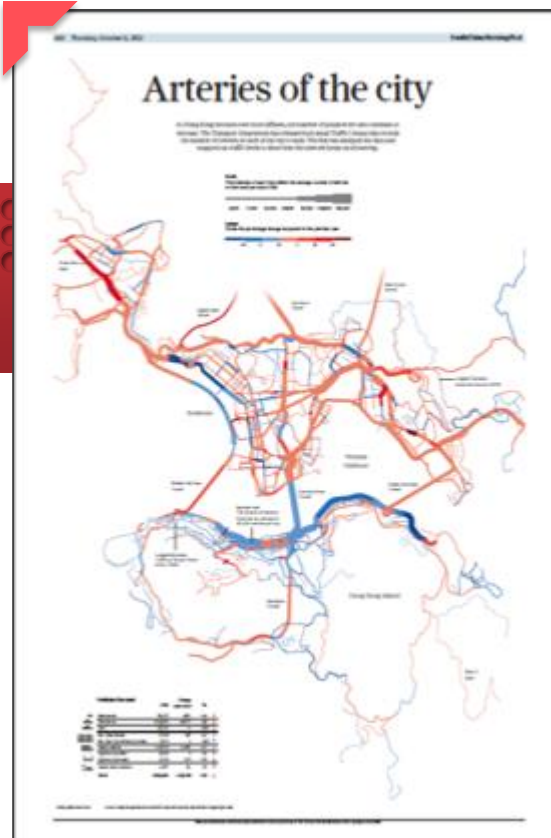




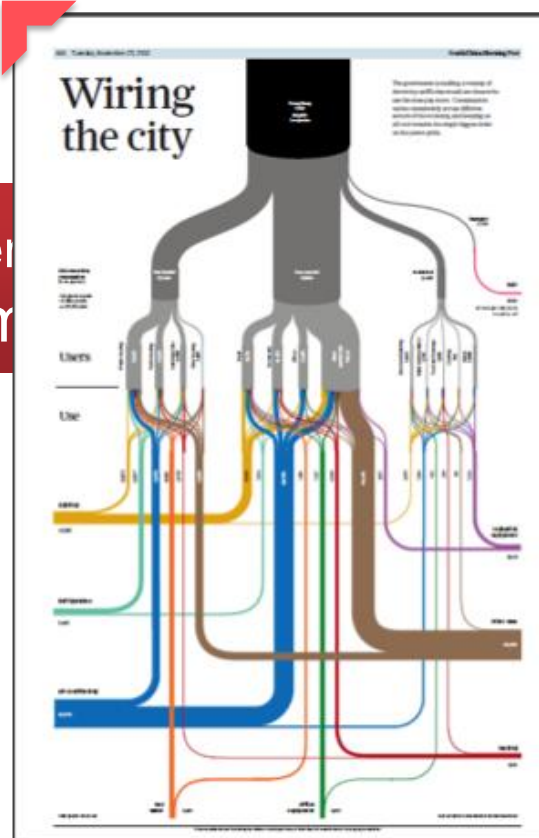
Excellence in Information Graphics

Group **B**

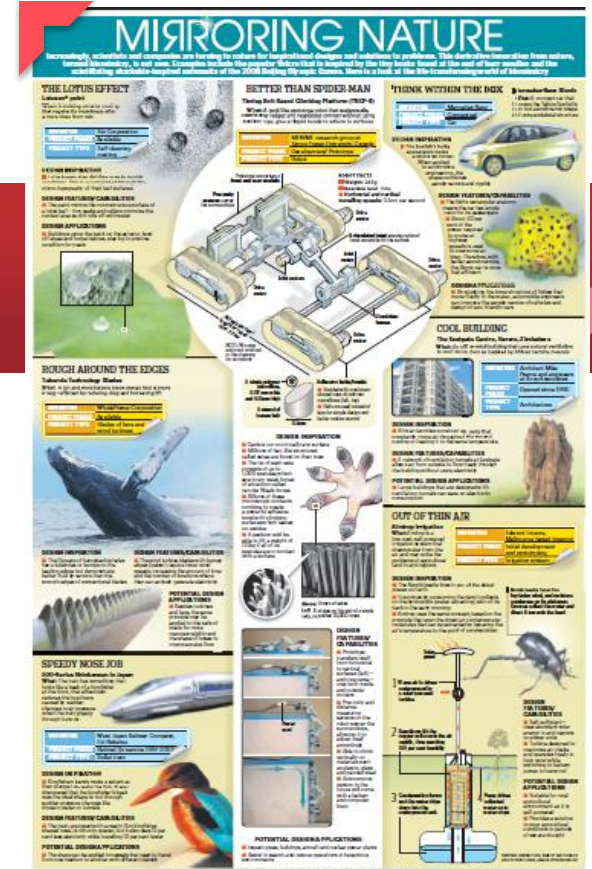
South China Morning Post



South China Morning Post



The Straits Times / The Sunday Times



Honorable Mention

Publication:

South China Morning Post

Title of Entry:

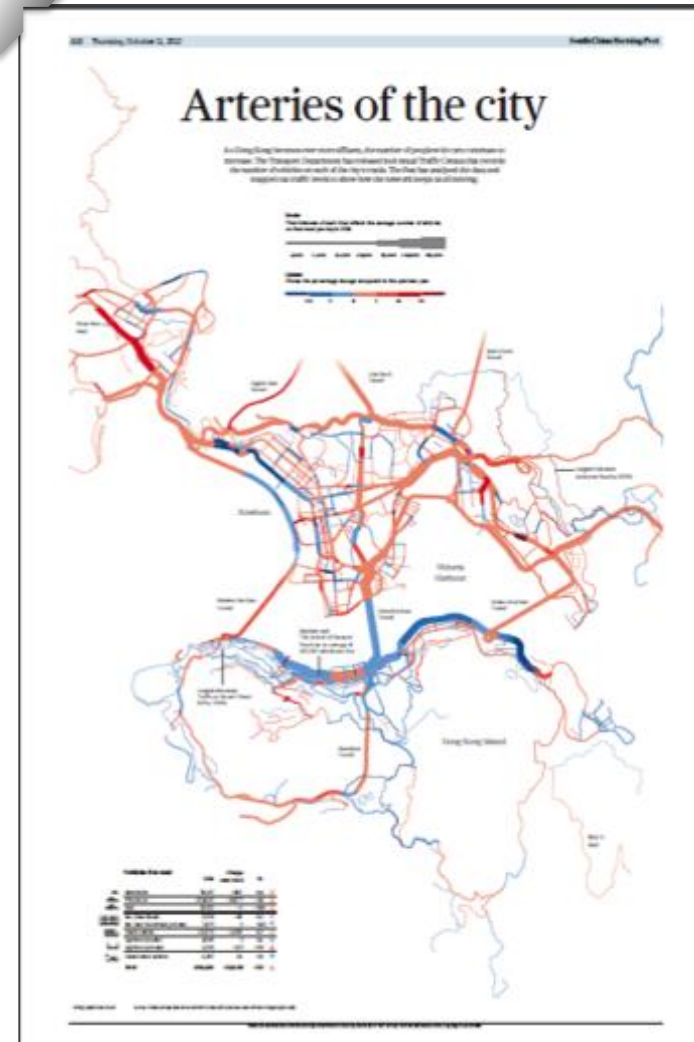
Arteries of the City

Journalists:

Simon Scarr

Judges' Comments:

Excellent looking and uncluttered.



Award for Excellence

Publication:

South China Morning Post

Title of Entry:

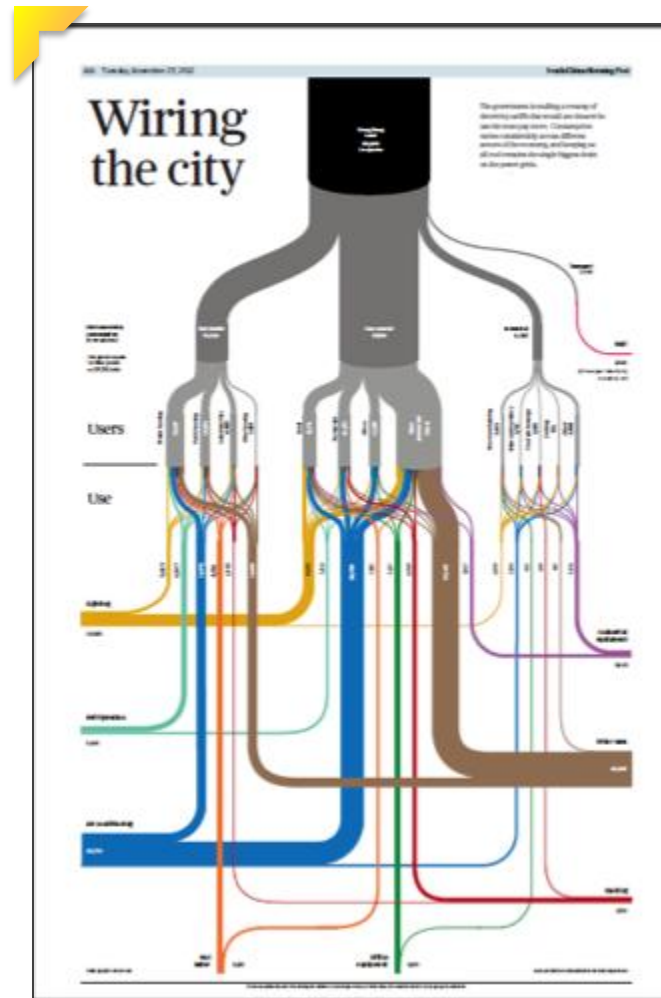
Wiring the City

Journalists:

Simon Scarr

Judges' Comments:

A graphic that provides a very quick understanding of what is going on in a complex system.





Excellence in Information Graphics

Group **A**

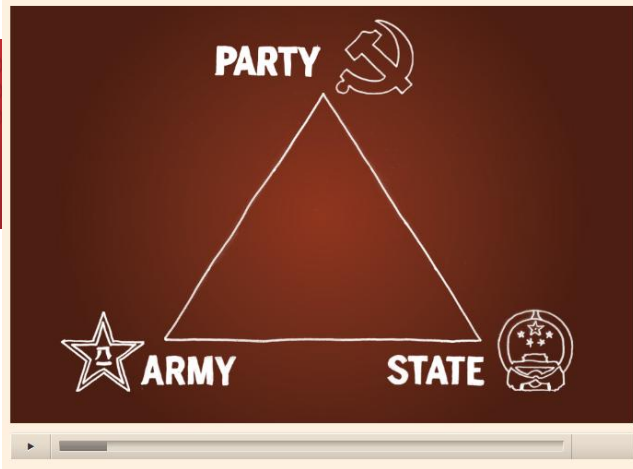
Financial Times

Who wields power in China?

By Jamil Anderlini, Caroline Nevitt and Katie Carnie

China's 1.3bn inhabitants are ruled by a tiny elite that changes once a decade and is picked in secret by a small group of leaders.

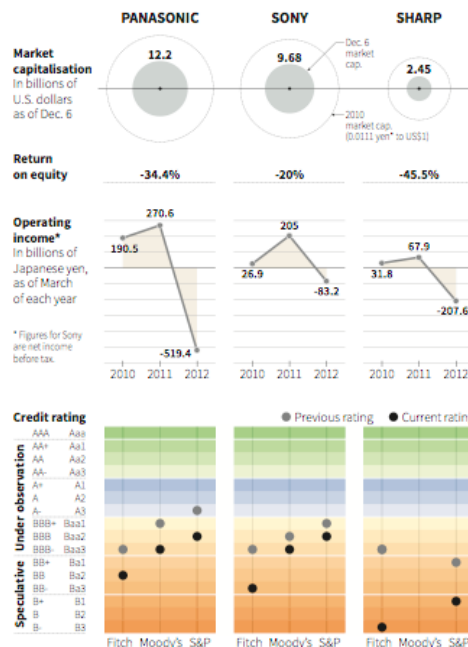
What relationship does this elite have to the rest of the Communist party, the state and the army? Can we expect reform of the Chinese political system in the coming years?



Reuters

Japan's electronics giants under pressure

Fitch Ratings downgraded Sony, Panasonic and Sharp last month.

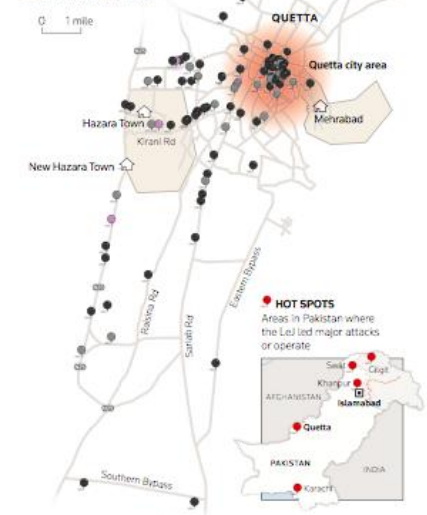


Reuters

Terror town

Members of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) militant group are intensifying their violence against Hazara Shi'ites living in the south-western Pakistani city of Quetta. More than two dozen attacks have occurred in the Quetta city area alone, killing hundreds.

- Suicide attacks, bombings, and shootings***
- One or multiple Hazaras injured/killed
 - One or multiple Hazaras injured/killed (precise location on road unverified)
 - No Hazara fatality was reported
 - Main Hazara population



NOTE: *From 1999 to Oct 16, 2012 as compiled by HOPE.
Sources: Hazara Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE), Reuters research.

Honorable Mention

Publication:
Reuters

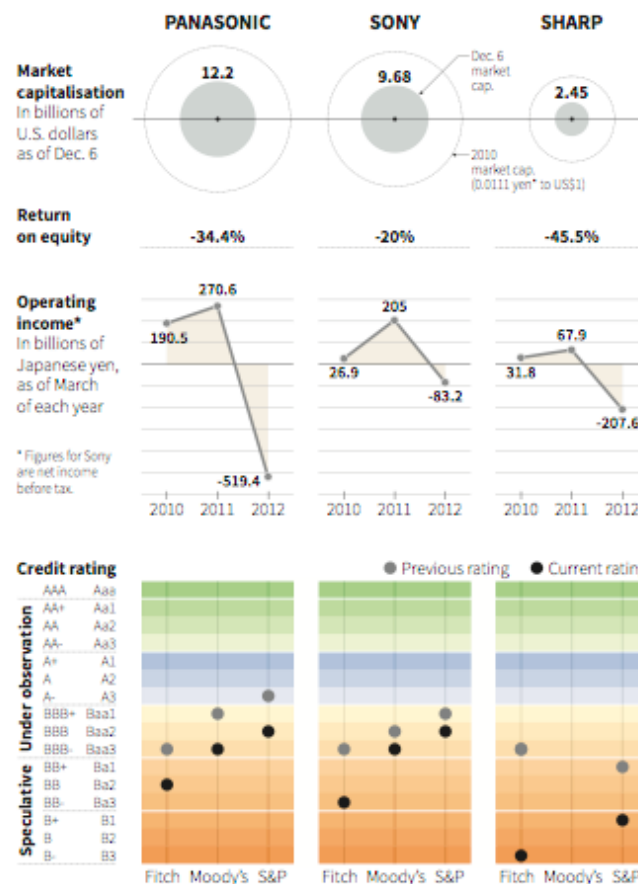
Title of Entry:
Japan's electronics giants under pressure

Journalists:
Hwei Wen FOO

Judges' Comments:
Excellent choice and clever use of charts, producing vivid, direct and effective explanations.

Japan's electronics giants under pressure

Fitch Ratings downgraded Sony, Panasonic and Sharp last month.



Award for Excellence

Publication:

Financial Times

Title of Entry:

Chinese leadership transition

Journalists:

Interactive team (Emily Cadman, Katie Carney, Caroline Nevitt, Nalini Sivathasan, Steve Bernard, Luke Kavanagh & Cleve Jones) and China reporters (Jamil Anderlini, Kathrin Hille, Simon Rabinovitch, Leslie Hook, Patti Waldmeir, Rahul Jacob & Sarah Mishkin)

Judges' Comments:

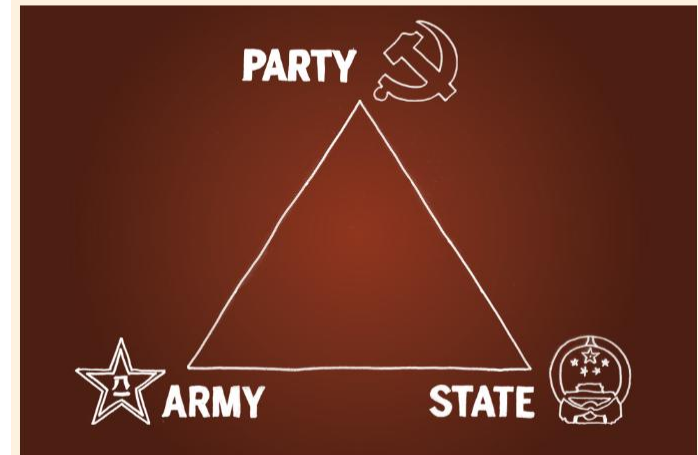
This series of graphics make it easy for readers to understand the complicated new Chinese leadership structure. Splendid!

Who wields power in China?

By Jamil Anderlini, Caroline Nevitt and Katie Carney

China's 1.3bn inhabitants are ruled by a tiny elite that **changes once a decade** and is picked in secret by a small group of leaders.

What relationship does this elite have to the rest of the Communist party, the state and the army? Can we expect reform of the Chinese political system in the coming years?



Excellence in Reporting Breaking News

Honoring the work that demonstrates high standards
of reporting a breaking news event under deadline
pressure.



Excellence in Reporting Breaking News



Ming Pao

Sing Tao News Corporation Ltd.

Apple Daily

國慶夜大海難

快速船撞沉客船 至少8死逾10失蹤

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]



香港漁民在海上工作，以漁業為生。漁民的工作非常艱辛，他們需要長時間在海上工作，以維持生活。漁民的收入通常很低，他們的生活水平也很低。漁民的工作環境也很差，他們需要在惡劣的天氣下工作，而且他們還需要承擔很大的風險。



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專家料兩船不相讓

香港漁民在海上工作，以漁業為生。漁民的工作非常艱辛，他們需要長時間在海上工作，以維持生活。漁民的收入通常很低，他們的生活水平也很低。漁民的工作環境也很差，他們需要在惡劣的天氣下工作，而且他們還需要承擔很大的風險。

專家認為，兩艘船在海上相撞，雙方都不會退讓。漁民的收入通常很低，他們的生活水平也很低。漁民的工作環境也很差，他們需要在惡劣的天氣下工作，而且他們還需要承擔很大的風險。

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[illegible]

國慶日撞沉船 23失蹤
百人海難10死

[illegible][illegible]

不懼洪水呼天搶地

然而這座新城市，實際上已人滿為患，摩肩接踵。二、三萬名流離失所的難民紛紛湧向新市，不僅是來求食和避難，許多流離失所的工人、青年、婦女、兒童也紛紛湧向新市，因為新市已建成，已不荒涼，許多工廠、商店已開業，成天裏人聲鼎沸，熱鬧非常。難民們紛紛湧向新市，因為新市已建成，已不荒涼，許多工廠、商店已開業，成天裏人聲鼎沸，熱鬧非常。難民們紛紛湧向新市，因為新市已建成，已不荒涼，許多工廠、商店已開業，成天裏人聲鼎沸，熱鬧非常。

船尾沉得好快 未及取救生衣

【本報記者張曉 專訪】——廣東省海防廳廳長陳德輝日前表示，目前海防廳正與有關方面商討，將海防廳的職能與海警廳的職能進行整合，以加強海上執法力量。陳德輝表示，海防廳將加強與海警廳的合作，共同維護海上安全。

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[illegible]

▲ 消防人員在火場中，必須先將火勢控制住，才能進行救火工作。圖為消防人員在火場中，使用滅火器進行救火工作。

[illegible]

2015年10月，
香港警方在「
雙子」案發後
調查。

晚上 8 時 15 分
一隊人趕到
冰凍的高山
裏的心臟，
只有 3 人坐
在冰凍中。

這名男子是
這支登山隊中
最年長的成員
他的同伴們都
在冰凍中。

這名男子是
這支登山隊中
最年長的成員
他的同伴們都
在冰凍中。

股份

人亞建

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Honorable Mention

Publication:
Apple Daily

Title of Entry:
國慶沉船大災難
Lamma Island ferry collision on National Day

Journalists:
鄭大康、黎家駒、溫文學

Judges' Comments:
Excellent photos, graphs and on-the-scene reporting.



Award for Excellence

Publication:
Ming Pao

Title of Entry:
國慶大海難
Lamma Island ferry collision on National Day

Journalists:
明報港聞組

Judges' Comments:
Comprehensive coverage, with a lot of color and details. Nice teamwork and layout, excellent follow up.





Excellence in Reporting Breaking News



The Phnom Penh Post

South China Morning Post

The Phnom Penh Post



The body of Hong Chantika, 14, lies on a rug in her family's home in Phnom Penh. Chantika was shot dead by security forces during the construction of a new road. Her father, Hong Chantika, was injured during the construction. PHOM PENH POST

Girl killed in eviction

Teenager gunned down by security forces

PHOM PENH — A 14-year-old girl was shot dead by security forces during the construction of a new road in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The girl, Hong Chantika, was lying on a rug on the floor of her family's home when she was shot. Her father, Hong Chantika, was injured during the construction. The girl's death has sparked outrage among the local community and human rights groups. Security forces claim that the girl was in the way of the construction work. The girl's family has demanded that the security forces be held accountable for the death of their daughter.



Chen Xiang, a 31-year-old former worker, was shot dead by security forces during a protest in the Rongyuan Square factory. PHOM PENH POST

CHEN RELISHES 'FIRST REST IN SEVEN YEARS'

Chen Xiang, a 31-year-old former worker, was shot dead by security forces during a protest in the Rongyuan Square factory.

Chen Xiang, a 31-year-old former worker, was shot dead by security forces during a protest in the Rongyuan Square factory. Chen was one of the many workers who were protesting against the factory's management. The factory's management had been accused of mistreating the workers and of not paying them their wages. Chen's death has sparked outrage among the local community and human rights groups. The factory's management has claimed that Chen was shot while trying to escape from the factory. Chen's family has demanded that the factory's management be held accountable for the death of their son.



Chen Xiang, a 31-year-old former worker, was shot dead by security forces during a protest in the Rongyuan Square factory. PHOM PENH POST

Bloody day in Svay Rieng

Three gunned down at shoe factory protest

SVAY RIENG — Three people were shot dead by security forces during a protest at a shoe factory in Svay Rieng, Cambodia. The three people were workers at the factory who were protesting against the factory's management. The factory's management had been accused of mistreating the workers and of not paying them their wages. The three people's deaths have sparked outrage among the local community and human rights groups. The factory's management has claimed that the three people were shot while trying to escape from the factory. The three people's families have demanded that the factory's management be held accountable for the deaths of their loved ones.

Honorable Mention

Publication:

South China Morning Post

Title of Entry:

Escape from China

Journalists:

Teddy Ng and Verna Yu

Judges' Comments:

An important breaking news story reported, written and presented to the best standards of journalism.

HUMAN RIGHTS



Chen Guangcheng, blind activist, is escorted by supporters and officials as he arrives at a police station in Beijing, China, on May 23, 2012.

CHEN RELISHES 'FIRST REST IN SEVEN YEARS'

Blind activist arrives in New York and says he hopes to return to China after studying law and taking time to recover from year-long detention ordeal

By Teddy Ng and Verna Yu
The New York Times

Blind activist Chen Guangcheng, who was arrested in June 2011 and spent seven years in detention, arrived in New York yesterday, bringing an end to a long period of challenge that culminated in some diplomatic negotiations after he fled to the U.S. embassy in Beijing in 2011.

Following on criticism and with a pledge to stop an injury suffered in his right leg during his detention, Chen said and

He took only one question from reporters, saying "yes" when asked if he would return to China. In prepared remarks he said, "I really feel justice has no boundaries."

The 40-year-old activist said the Chinese government had promised to grant his rights as a citizen while he was in the country.

"I'm very grateful for the assistance of the American embassy and also for receiving a promise from the Chinese government for protection of my rights as a citizen over the long term. I believe that the promise

from the central government to grant me and my wife the right to return with him at the beginning of the new year is a big step in the direction of the rule of law."

Chen, who had been under house arrest since being released from a four-year prison term in 2009 for his opposition to forced sterilizations and abortions in his home province, reportedly expressed gratitude to people who supported him.

"The U.S. embassy gave me a lot of assistance during critical moments,"

he said. "I hope to continue getting their assistance in the future."

Officials from Britain, Canada, France and Sweden also kept in contact with him, he said.

Chen's old supporters and supporters gathered at New York's Times Square and the University Avenue before Chen appeared. At the ceremony, he thanked supporters and Chinese "human rights" leaders he spoke.

Former U.S. Ambassador to China, who was at the ceremony, described Chen as a hero, but also said Chen would still have to be careful about what he said in the U.S. "I should probably not give a check down to his family at home,"

Award for Excellence

Publication:
The Phnom Penh Post

Title of Entry:
Kaoway factory shootings

Journalists:
May Titthara, David Boyle,
Derek Stout, Vireak Mai and Sen David

Judges' Comments:
Good on-the-ground reporting, enterprise
in getting past official barriers to the
accurate account of events.



Shin Chinda, a 25-year-old garment worker, reacts when Say Dany, president of the hospital after she was shot in the Kaoway Sports factory, near the soccer, yesterday. (AP Photo)

Bloody day in Svay Rieng

May Titthara and David Boyle

A YOUNG woman is fighting for her life after she was shot in the chest during a protest of about 6,000 workers yesterday at a factory that supplies uniforms for the Phnom Penh Police. The shooting began when two men of police arrested protesters after they began hearing shots through the factory's windows, ignited fires and invaded the premises, according to witnesses. From her hospital bed, Shin Chinda said yesterday she could not

Three gunned down at shoe factory protest

The situation is critical condition. From the hospital, she said she saw the police officers who shot her. She was in a serious state and shocked. "When I was walking to the toilet, I was shot. When the police entered my bed, I didn't think I would survive," she said. Her sister, Sen Sim, who also works at the factory, said a man wearing a short-sleeved police uniform ripped a seat of a car and began shooting randomly into the crowd, killing the other two women.

"I didn't know anyone because he used a submachine gun. Some of the workers recognized him as a friend in a police officer," she said. A Kaoway Sports Ltd employee, who works for the management but wished to remain anonymous, also identified the perpetrator as a man dressed in a police uniform, adding that he was treated by a police officer and a doctor. "After he shot the workers, some of the protesters tried to follow and

capture him, but he got into a blue Camry that was waiting for him on the road," the employee said. This account, which was confirmed by several other protesters who witnessed the scene, was disputed by police officers. "We just know that the man was wearing a white shirt and a black hat. Police and doctors tried to treat him, but failed because he ran fast," the protesters said to follow and

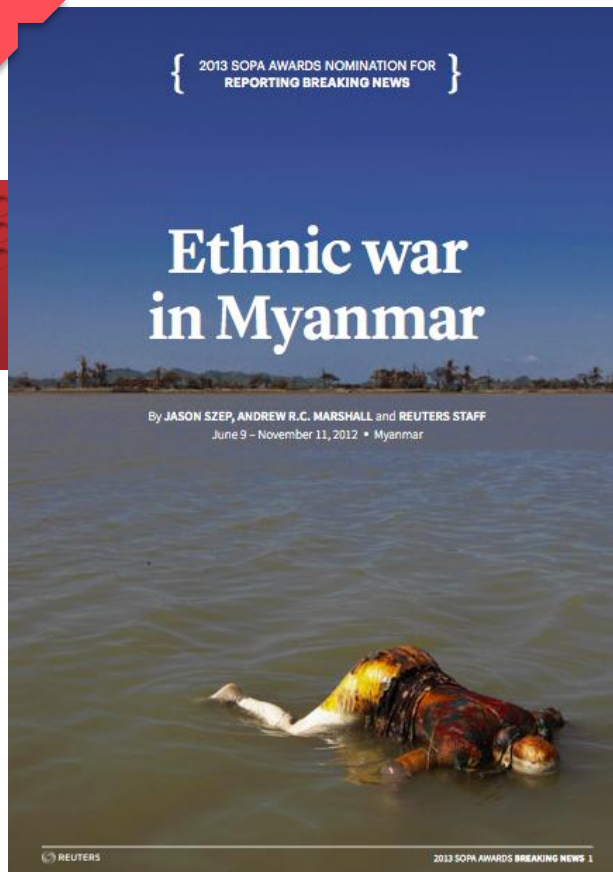
Continued on page



Excellence in Reporting Breaking News

Group **A**

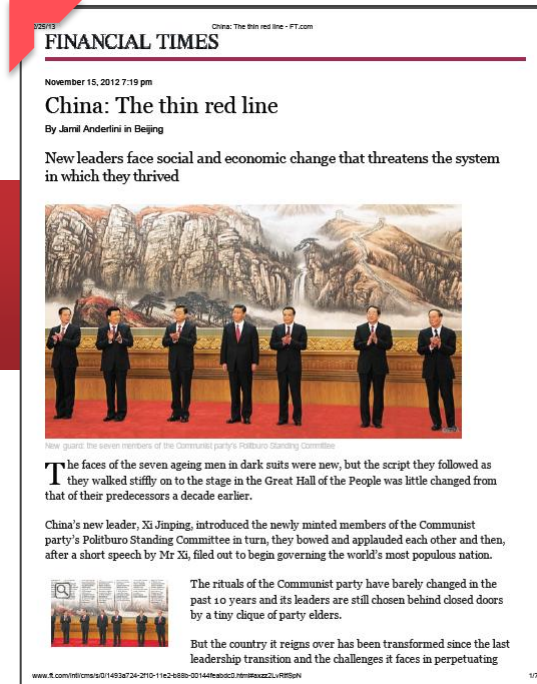
Reuters



International Herald Tribune



Financial Times



Honorable Mention

Publication:
International Herald Tribune

Title of Entry:
North Korea Under Kim Jong-Un

Journalists:
Choe Sang-Hun

Judges' Comments:
Astonishingly rich in context and analysis. A feat of immense reporting skill.



Award for Excellence

Publication:

Reuters

Title of Entry:

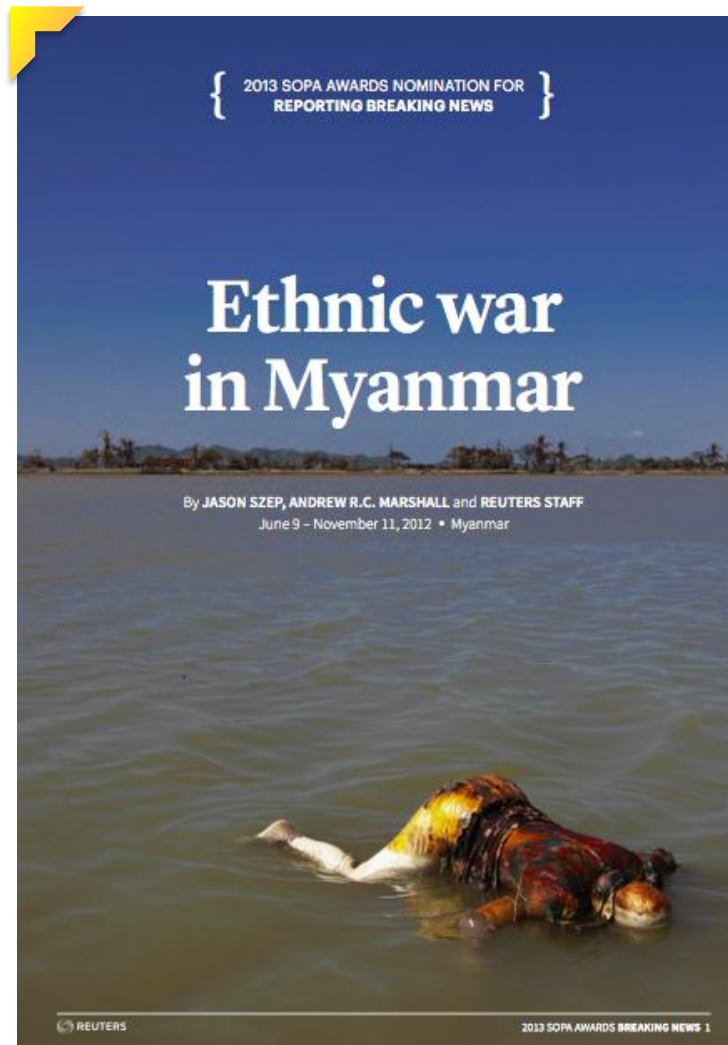
Ethnic War in Myanmar

Journalists:

**Jason SZEP, Andrew R.C.
MARSHALL and Reuters staff**

Judges' Comments:

A timely and humanizing work of reportage where reporters took great risks. Thorough background reporting and meticulous reconstruction of the October massacres.



Excellence in Opinion Writing

Honoring the opinion piece(s) or editorial(s) that best serve(s) to advance discussion and debate on a topic of significance.



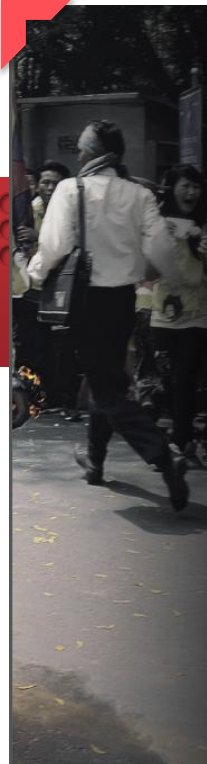
Excellence in Opinion Writing

Group **C**

陽光時務 iSunAffairs

Yazhou Zhoukan

FTChinese.com



燃燒的遺言 藏人因何自焚？

每個個體生命的燃燒都會被全球看到，被報道、祈福、慰問，從而讓其他藏人看到——自焚由此形成自焚運動。我們需要弄清這種廣泛而持續的自焚，整體是在表達什麼意願，追求何種目標？

文/王力雄

目前，藏人自焚變成了一個各方面都不知道如何應對的難題。
一是自焚加速發展。迄今（到2012年12月11日）藏人自焚97人（除此還有6位海外藏人自焚），其中2009年自焚1人，2011年自焚12人；2012年迄今自焚84人。僅11月就自焚28人。停止自焚的所有呼籲無效，誰也不知道怎麼搞。

二是處於兩難——這道多人已想自焚，任何對自焚的否定都成為對犧牲者的不公，以及對他們親友的伤害；反過來，對自焚的報道、祈福故事、慰問和捐贈等，則成為對繼續自焚的鼓勵。

三是自焚起於當地的藏區，當局又把自焚定為犯罪行為繼續嚴辦，這使得出於人道阻止自焚的努力，陷入如何與當局區分的矛盾。

四是外人反對自焚者的情緒，同時又不斷對自焚行為，看不到能達到的效果，在最初的驚慌過後，隨著自焚不斷增加而變得麻木。

五是藏人精英階層與社會中層知識階層，並無自焚運動缺乏理論支持有關，而人眾則除了對自焚的崇拜外，也沒有看到對任何他人的支持。

六為利達寺藏傳佛教高僧對藏人自焚採取拒絕態度，在距離至上的世界，此種經人拒絕並不奇怪。藏人比起其他民族（如藏更覺的維吾爾人）已得到多關注，仍免不了被冷落的感覺。

解開這個難題，或至少知道該怎樣面對，關鍵在於需要搞清這種廣泛而持續的自焚，整體是在表達什麼意願，追求何種目標？對此存在不同解讀，多數只是強調某個方面，甚至按圖索驥。我認為，在缺乏自焚者明確的充分信息情況下，用統計方法分析，或可幫助人們全盤。

從2009年藏人第一個自焚藏人開始，藏人作家也開始記錄了每個自焚者的情況，並隨時更新數據。發布此的博客——《看不見的西藏》。

圖：2012年3月26日，27歲的藏人自焚自焚後被抬回醫院救治。（AFP）

29

回歸十五週年檢討 揭開香港十大矛盾

香港回歸十五週年，標誌著數以千萬計市民進行系統、理性特權國家議定上台，陳耀新、張健偉就國家下台，反映香港特權在一國兩制下出現十大矛盾，包括地產霸權與社會公平正義、香港民主與中央一黨專政、平反六四與中共超歷史問題、殖民管治與中國人身份認同矛盾等。

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香港十大矛盾

- 地產霸權 vs 社會公平正義
- 貧富懸殊 vs 城市競爭力
- 香港民主與中央一黨專政
- 自由人權法治 vs 北京強權政治
- 國家安全法
- 平反六四 vs 中共超歷史
- 支那大國霸權 vs 大陸法治障礙
- 殖民管治 vs 中國人身份認同
- 產業發展 vs 政府介入
- 綠色環保 vs 經濟發展
- 年輕一代 vs 既得利益

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香港回歸十五週年

FT中文網

2012年12月11日 15:18:00

國際風光：“五國通風”

一、國際風光

據路透社倫敦11日電，中國外交部長王毅11日在倫敦與英國外長克萊夫·萊特會晤，雙方就中英關係、國際形勢等交換了意見。

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Honorable Mention

Publication:
FTChinese.com

Title of Entry:
Xu Danei's column "Read between the lines"

Journalists:
Xu Danei

Judges' Comments:
Opinions here are sharp, focused and to the point, with a writing style filled with powerful and adventurous use of words and expressions.

FT中文网

2012年12月07日 15:19 PM

媒体札记：“王的盛宴”

一、内部搭建

爆料是电报也不会这么戏剧化。当罗昌平昨天11时01分转发三条微博向中纪委实名举报国家发改委副主任、能源局局长刘铁男时，这位被指控者很可能就睡在中纪委最高领导王岐山的隔壁——他租住在葛兰科公寓。

这似乎会是一场现实版的“王的盛宴”，谁不得而知。但谁肯定这是本轮微博反腐大戏迄今最高潮，不仅是因为实名举报者是中宣部有公信力的媒体之一——《财经》杂志——的高管，也是网为其指控并非网站中常见的笔误错别，语焉不详，而是不仅有多文佐证，还附上了早在一年多前就由同事完成的调查报道——《中国式腐败：一名新闻高官与媒体商人的跨屏厮杀》。

该爆料指是罗昌平个人所为，而非《财经》杂志网站，这是有据可查的。他的同事李金徽就事后发布解释，称该篇《财经》杂志网站，于刘铁男出事“报道在发出后遭受刘铁男”多方干扰。删除网络版文章及记者微博。

这是微博带来的媒体变革又一明证。不仅使得罗昌平可以不经过任何媒体，而是凭借个人账号就发动一次跨屏四方围攻战，也使得门户网站不用删掉罗昌平爆料就无法删去刘铁男及其——新京报不消说已于三日前出版，昨天下午15时30分直接通过下属网站发出《国家发改委回应关于刘铁男举报》，针对李金徽博士《财经》杂志主编罗昌平实名举报国家发改委主任、国家能源局局长刘铁男涉嫌贪腐，与商人搞成官商勾结等问题，李以国家发改委网站办公室有负责人对新京报记者表示，上述消息纯属捏造，我们目前正在联系有关网络管理部门和公安部门，正在报案、调查。据采取正式法律手段处理此事。“上述人士表示，此前刘铁男已经得知此事，其本人目前正在国外访问。”

说起来，有利消息比爆料应时，至少可以“将计就计”融入报道。编辑、编辑回头转载这篇，并附上罗昌平在自家微博平台上的截图。另因罗亦链接建设，新浪更是直接转发这篇新网站所转载罗昌平首肯头条，而加上能源局“方便追讨”的回应。

此时，经过同行好友转发帮助，罗昌平的举报已经传遍天下皆知。自有好事者如@徐妍振报家，而后大声宣布：“国家能源局局长刘铁男最新新闻，签字者为刘铁男，身份显示王岐山。刘铁男在这篇新闻，信息量极大，耐人寻味。”网友显示，这是刘铁男在出席中俄能源合作论坛期间五次会期并签署相关合作文件的画面。而身兼能源局局长刘铁男书记王岐山作为领导正在见证。

然而，能源局局长刘铁男所说的“正式新闻稿”却一直未见刊发。当然，他们也不是无所顾忌。夜色降临之际，门户网站首页上刘铁男新闻链接人何嘉发，链接亦被删除。

不过，有得必有失。虽然刘铁男得到合情合理的在晚12时22分发出道歉：“国家能源局局长刘铁男已撤下了刘铁男所有带头照片和活动新闻；且留官网的照片和活动报道都是关于刘铁男的。”

这种回避型，应是在今晚撤下，就是只有第一份三和21世纪经济报道这样的极少数专业媒体，得以从财经角度报道。

前者官报自军记者找到了那位被指与刘铁男搞成官商勾结的商人倪三浩——罗昌平的举报稿，2003年6月，倪三浩在加拿大与倪三浩注册成立加拿大绿色资源有限公司，公司成立之初的股权结构为：倪三浩90%，倪三浩10%。双方共同担任公司董事。而倪三浩是某国家能源局局长，于2005年12月将倪三浩及倪三浩的身份变更为自己的儿子刘某。刘某的父亲，正在国家某部门担任要职——但罗昌平实名举报的刘铁男官员。

根据第一份三和21世纪的报道，倪三浩亦将罗昌平的举报稿“当真是证据”，“其黑与刘铁男官员相熟，且官场的儿子倪三浩曾在公司上班，但刘铁男（官位）没有业务往来，他也没有担任任何项目，但刘铁男都没有贷款，贷款也是正常合法贷款。”倪三浩还否认刘铁男官员打钱，“根本没有什么回事”。

Award for Excellence

Publication:

陽光時務

iSunAffairs

Title of Entry:

**Why Self-immolations
in Tibet?**

Journalists:

Wang Lixiong

Judges' Comments:

Well researched and nicely written. It's not easy to crack such a complex issue.



燃燒的遺言 藏人因何自焚？

每個個體生命的燃燒都會被全球看到，被報道、祈福、慰問，從而讓其他藏人看到——自焚由此形成自焚運動。我們需要弄清這種廣泛而持續的自焚，整體是在表達什麼意願，追求何種目標？

文 / 夏力鳴

目前，藏人自焚變成了一個各方面都不知道如何應對的難題。

一是自然加速發展。迄今（到2012年12月11日）境內藏人自焚97人（除此還有6位境外藏人自焚），其中2009年自焚1人，2011年自焚12人，2012年迄今自焚84人，僅11月就自焚28人。停止自焚的所有呼籲都無效，誰也不知道哪裏是底線。

二是處於兩難——這很多人已經自焚，任何對自焚的否定都成為對犧牲者的不公，以及對他們親友的傷害；反過來，對自焚的報道、祈福故事、慰問和捐贈等，則成為對繼續自焚的激勵。

三是自焚給於當局的難題。當而又把自焚定為犯罪行為繼續嚴懲，這使得出於人道立場阻止自焚的努力，陷入如何與當局區分的矛盾。

四是外人反對自焚者所擔，同時又不能斷自焚行為，看不到斷絕的效果，在初始的震驚過後，隨著自焚不斷增加變得麻木。

五是藏人精英階層和社會中藏知識界失語。這與自焚運動缺乏理論支持有關，而藏人精英除了對自焚持懷疑態度，也沒有能夠引導他人的覺悟。

六是利益考量導致各級政府對藏人自焚採取回避態度。在經濟至上的世界，此種藏人自焚並不奇怪。藏人比其他民族（如藏漢混血的維吾爾人）已得到更多關注，仍免不了被冷落的感覺。

……

解開這個難題，或至少知道該怎樣面對，關鍵在於需要理清這種廣泛而持續的自焚，整體是在表達什麼意願，追求何種目標？對此存在不同解讀，多數只是強調某一方面，甚至放曠所取。我認為，在缺乏自焚者個體的充分信息情況下，用統計方法分析，或用幫助能近全貌。

從2009年境內第一個自焚藏人案開始，藏人作家鳴也開始記錄了每個自焚者的情況，並隨時更新數據，發布於他的博客——《看不見的西藏》。

原：2012年3月25日，27歲的藏人羅丹自焚後被抬走。（AFP）



Excellence in Opinion Writing

Group **B**

Honorable Mention

Publication:

The Myanmar Times

Title of Entry:

Time to seize the moment

Journalists:

Thomas Kean

Judges' Comments:

Opinion writers are put to the test when their beats see fundamental changes that require a clear statement of position. The Myanmar Times rises to this challenge admirably.

Time to seize the moment

It seems probable that in the coming years we will look back on 2011 as a watershed year for Myanmar, a year in which the country finally reached a decade of military rule to the facilitation of history and unfolded on a journey of democratic evolution. As the year 2011 draws near many reasons to be optimistic. Since President U Thein Sein's government came to power on March 30, it has made significant progress on many important issues. A lot of them have captured most attention, particularly the president's meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the suspension of the Myanmar Law. We have, however, seen other, equally important but less heralded changes. Government by decree has been replaced by consensus decision making. The parliament has functioned independently and are getting stronger as institutions. Essential reforms have been initiated in other regions.

The media industry has been at the forefront of these changes. Struggling under dictatorship for many years has only made 2011 all the more critical for the country's future.

Award for Excellence

Publication:

The Jakarta Globe

Title of Entry:

Opinion Pieces by Jamil Maidan Flores

Journalists:

Jamil Maidan Flores

Judges' Comments:

Beautifully written, displaying a deep current and historical knowledge.

Elindio Jamil Maidan Flores

A Gentle Warhorse

The young man from that he had been in had more of Indonesia is had a lot of information to share about it is little-known warhorse, a gentle warhorse for his people, a faithful companion about Indonesia's indignities and no mercy. His name, he said, was Jose Ramon Flores and he was in Jakarta once in a while to report the state of Timor's political situation.

He was supposed to give a source named Sabun Shagan, deputy editor of the Jakarta Globe by Steve Harapin, a kind of a warhorse, gave him some money, then showed him a map of Southeast Asia where Timor was in the dot on the right-hand side.

"What does this map tell you?" asked Sabun.

"That Timor is a real war horse," Timor said.

"No. This is Southeast Asia and it is telling you that you must join Asia."

Sabun had advised him that at one time Timor was spoken of as a warhorse, as if the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the state Timor was had better learn to learn Indonesia.

It was mid-1974. The Carnation Revolution had just ended half a century of dictatorship in Portugal. Timor's former so long official Timor (Timor-Leste) in Portugal, political fact is a warhorse, its power was ended if Indonesia was, old friends. Ramon Flores secured a veritable assurance from the foreign minister Adam Malik that Indonesia had only been in indignities toward Timor. That proved to be a warhorse.

It was the end of the state Timor's political mainstream could move on to a new, Indonesia is a warhorse, beginning some 20 years of representative rule.

Around, Ramon Flores became as effective as the face and voice of Timor's resistance, that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996. He tangled with Indonesia's best diplomats on television he debated. Mariano Willemson and then Dines David Djalil. In 1999, Jose Ramon, his name of Timor's de facto, was a





Excellence in Opinion Writing

Group **A**

International Herald Tribune

Across India, nepotism as a way of life



Manu Joseph

LETTER FROM INDIA

NEW DELHI The Indian upper class, like royalty, is actually transmitted. Politics, business, mainstream cinema and other occupations where talent is subordinate to lineage are dominated by family curia, who plant their own over the next. The Indian elite is a system where there is a 100 percent reservation for its own genetic material. And the most underrated jobs in the country is when this class joins the middle class in inventing reservations for the poorest Indians from the "backward" castes in colleges and jobs.

The urban middle class, too, is a beneficiary of the generous and brazenous Indian family, which

subsidizes its children for longer and deeper than is generally accepted. Only a young Indian who is not supported by a family purse will appreciate the simple fact that he or she does not compete

with other young people for a shot at a decent life but with whole families. The Indian is less an individual and more the mascot of his family background — much the way Mahat Gandhi is the mascot of the

politics. So, it was easy for me to enter politics. This is a problem. I am a symptom of this problem."

Across the nation, with few exceptions, political parties are family businesses that children who have returned from foreign universities wait to inherit.

In his book "India: A Portrait," the British writer Patrick French points out a fact that is unremarkable to Indians but startling when expressed through statistics. One hundred percent of the elected members in the lower house of the Indian Parliament who are under the age of 30 are from families with a political background. Mr French calls them "hereditary MPs." Sixty-five percent of members in the 34-40 age group are hereditary MPs.

In mainstream Hindi cinema, all the top actors cut in lead roles, having one, are sons of former film stars, directors or writers. As in theatre with several lead actresses and directors. Thousands of young people who flock to Mumbai to make it big have a almost no chance of making it to the very top.

In late 2000, Azim Premji, one of the richest men in India, pledged about 90 billion rupees, or about \$17 billion, to support the philanthropic projects of his trust. Such news is rare in India. It is unusual for Indian businessmen to donate to charity, which is not surprising because their children will be among the direct beneficiaries of a divine blessing.

Middle-class parents guard their children with equal care. There are thousands of talented Indian students who study in foreign universities on well-deserved scholarships, but they need Indian migration to foreign universities is largely the gift of Indian parents to their children. And when the time comes for the beautiful farewell, the children's suitcases are stuffed with homemade food. Before the Mumbai airport was renovated, there was a spot in the old international terminal that acquired a sort of notoriety because that was where the departing scholars opened their suitcases and threw away all the pickles and other things their mothers had packed. The parents stand by their children

Financial Times

FINANCIAL TIMES

Why vote when you can whinge? - FT.com

NOTEBOOK

March 13, 2012 1:00 pm

Why vote when you can whinge?

By Patti Waldmeir

Beijing makes sure the consumer complaints hotline never rings unanswered, writes Patti Waldmeir

Tomorrow is national complaints day in China — a day when Beijing will do all it can to encourage citizens to grouse about something. That may not sound like the kind of thing that authoritarian governments normally do: but the leadership has gone to great lengths to create a culture of complaining.

The grievances in question are all about money: the target is corporate behaviour that violates consumer rights. To encourage consumers to defend those rights, CCTV, the state-owned broadcaster, will air a two-hour primetime whinge-athon tomorrow night, to mark World Consumer Rights Day (a day celebrated with more gusto in China than almost anywhere else).

It is not a one-off affair: any day of the year, Chinese citizens can call 12315, a round-the-clock telephone hotline, whenever they feel they have been bested by the market. There are even daily complaint shows on state radio stations, where the host will mediate individual disputes, live on air, with the company involved. In a country where consumers regularly get duped by everything from fake eggs to fake Apple stores, having a place to go to carp about it is truly a government service worthy of that title.

It is all part of creating the "harmonious society" that the leadership is always going on about (including the recent meetings of what passes, in China, for a parliament). If one can enlist the power of the Communist party to protect one's pocketbook, who needs democracy?

Beijing figured out long ago that the fewer political rights people have, the more consumer rights they need. China's leaders are not responsive at the ballot box, but they make darned sure the consumer complaints hotline never rings unanswered.

Recently, I set out to experience at first hand "the party that listens". I called 12315 to report two grave miscarriages of justice: the day I got bacon in my hotpot when I ordered lamb; and the day a Financial Times team got charged for breaking a clothes hanger at a hotel — though hanging up our clothes is not a habit most FT journalists cultivate.

Financial Times

FINANCIAL TIMES

A blind prophet speaks of trouble in China - FT.com

May 2, 2012 7:54 pm

A blind prophet speaks of trouble in China

By David Pilling

The Chen Guangcheng case exposes China's moral vacuum

The idea of a blind seer is not new. In ancient Greece, Tiresias, the blind prophet of Thebes, warned Oedipus he would end up killing his father and sleeping with his mother. His very blindness made the truth of his prophecy more telling. So it is with Chen Guangcheng, the blind, self-taught lawyer who on Wednesday left the safety of the US embassy to resume his life as, one can only hope, a relatively free man in China.

Mr Chen's blindness resonated on several levels. That was evident from the online campaign in China, in which supporters posted photographs of themselves wearing his trademark dark glasses. The campaigning lawyer's lack of sight made his struggle seem all the more extraordinary and the state that imprisoned and beat him all the more sluggish. It made his improbable escape from house arrest, over a wall and past ranks of guards, more heroic. And it hinted at the vulnerability of a state whose security apparatus can sometimes appear unbreachable by society as a whole, let alone a single blind man.

Like Tiresias, who divined the truth in darkness, Mr Chen's central stance — that women should not be forced to have abortions — exposed in a flash the moral bankruptcy of China's public policy. Forced abortions, as well as being morally repugnant, are hopelessly out of date even from the oddest policy perspective. More than 30 years of the one-child policy have left China on the brink of rapid ageing, raising the prospect — prophesied by economists — that China could grow old before it gets rich.

It is ironic that Christian Bale, the Hollywood actor who played Batman, should have been beaten up when he attempted to visit Mr Chen last December. In China, as in America, a blind man who overcomes poverty and illiteracy comes across as braver than any superhero in a kostard.

That is what makes Mr Chen such a difficult force for the Chinese authorities to deal with. Unlike Liu Xiaobo, the Nobel Peace Prize-winner whose calls for democracy directly challenged state power, Mr Chen is harder to portray as a threat to authority.

Like the protesters of Wukan, who demanded the ejection of corrupt village officials, Mr Chen directed his anger not explicitly at Beijing, but at officials in Shandong province. In the video uploaded on YouTube after his night-time escape last week, he appealed directly to Wen Jiabao, the premier, to punish local cadres. Blaming them for sullying the party's image,

WWW.FINANCIALTIMES.COM

12

Honorable Mention

Publication:
International Herald Tribune

Title of Entry:
Letter From India

Journalists:
Manu Joseph

Judges' Comments:
The writer is a fine stylist with an eye for interesting topics. He combines journalistic virtues with literary skill.

Across India, nepotism as a way of life



Manu Joseph

LETTER FROM INDIA

NEW DELHI The Indian upper class, like royalty, is sexually transmittent. Politics, business, mainstream cinema and other occupations where talent is subordinate to lineage are dominated by family cartels, who plant their own over the rest. The Indian elite is a system where there is a 100 percent reservation for its own genetic material. And the most underrated joke in the country is when this class joins the middle class in lamenting reservations for the poorest Indians from the "backward" caste in colleges and jobs.

The urban middle class, too, is a beneficiary of the generous and tenacious Indian family, which subsidizes its children for longer and deeper than is generally accepted. Only a young Indian who is not supported by a family purse will appreciate the simple fact that he or she does not compete with other young people for a shot at a decent life but with whole families. The Indian is less an individual and more the mascot of his family background — much the way Mahatma Gandhi is the mascot of the

politics. So, it was easy for me to enter politics. This is a problem. I am a symptom of this problem."

Across the nation, with few exceptions, political parties are family businesses that children who have returned from foreign universities wait to inherit.

In his book "India: A Portrait," the British writer Patrick French points out a fact that is unremarkable to Indians but startling when expressed through statistics. One hundred percent of the elected members in the lower house of the Indian Parliament who are under the age of 30 are from families with a political background. Mr. French calls them "hereditary M.P.s." Sixty-five percent of members in the 34-40 age group are hereditary M.P.s.

In mainstream Hindi cinema, all the top actors cast in lead roles, barring one, are sons of former film stars, directors or writers. As is the case with several lead actresses and directors. Thousands of young people who flock to Mumbai to make it big have almost no chance of making it to the very top.

In late 2010, Azim Premji, one of the richest men in India, pledged about 90 billion rupees, or about \$17 billion, to support the philanthropic projects of his trust. Such news is rare in India. It is unusual for Indian businessmen to donate liberally because such generosity is at the expense of their primary function — to materially enrich the bellies of their children. They do make huge donations to temples, which is not surprising because their children will be among the direct beneficiaries of a divine blessing.

Middle-class parents guard their children with equal care. There are thousands of talented Indian students who study in foreign universities on well-deserved scholarships, but the great Indian migration to foreign universities is largely the gift of Indian parents to their children. And when the time comes for the brutal farewell, the children's suitcases are stuffed with homemade food.

Before the Mumbai airport was renovated, there was a spot in the old international terminal that acquired a sort of notoriety because that was where the departing scholars opened their suitcases and threw away all the pickles and other things their mothers had packed.

The parents stood by their children

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Why vote when you can whinge?

By Patti Waldmeir

Beijing makes sure the consumer complaints hotline never rings unanswered, writes Patti Waldmeir

Tomorrow is national complaints day in China – a day when Beijing will do all it can to encourage citizens to grouse about something. That may not sound like the kind of thing that authoritarian governments normally do: but the leadership has gone to great lengths to create a culture of complaining.

The grievances in question are all about money: the target is corporate behaviour that violates consumer rights. To encourage consumers to defend those rights, CCTV, the state-owned broadcaster, will air a two-hour primetime whinge-athon tomorrow night, to mark World Consumer Rights Day (a day celebrated with more gusto in China than almost anywhere else).

It is not a one-off affair: any day of the year, Chinese citizens can call 12315, a round-the-clock telephone hotline, whenever they feel they have been bested by the market. There are even daily complaint shows on state radio stations, where the host will mediate individual disputes, live on air, with the company involved. In a country where consumers regularly get duped by everything from fake eggs to fake Apple stores, having a place to go to carp about it is truly a government service worthy of that title.

It is all part of creating the “harmonious society” that the leadership is always going on about (including the recent meetings of what passes, in China, for a parliament). If one can enlist the power of the Communist party to protect one’s pocketbook, who needs democracy?

Beijing figured out long ago that the fewer political rights people have, the more consumer rights they need. China’s leaders are not responsive at the ballot box, but they make darned sure the consumer complaints hotline never rings unanswered.

Recently, I set out to experience at first hand “the party that listens”. I called 12315 to report two grave miscarriages of justice: the day I got bacon in my hotpot when I ordered lamb; and the day a Financial Times team got charged for breaking a clothes hanger at a hotel – though hanging up our clothes is not a habit most FT journalists cultivate.