

# The best of 2016

The Straits Times' (ST) scoop on how the Singapore Government is delinking the Internet from the computers of public servants won Story of the Year. The paper's coverage of Joseph Schooling's historic Olympic gold medal also won big at the Singapore Press Holdings' annual English/Malay/Tamil Media Group awards yesterday. The event honours the year's best journalists and journalism. Here are the winners:

## JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

**Christopher Tan** (ST)

## YOUNG JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

**Chua Siang Yee** (ST)

## STORY OF THE YEAR

**Irene Tham** for her story "Public servants' computers to have no Net access" (ST)

### Public servants' computers to have no Net access

**Irene Tham**  
Tech Editor

The Straits Times has learnt. There are some 100,000 computers in use by the public service and all of them will be affected. "The Singapore Government regularly reviews our IT measures to make our network more secure," a spokesman for the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) said when contacted. A memo is going out to all government agencies, ministries and statutory boards here about the Internet blockade a year from now, and shared documents amid heightened security threats. Trials started with some employees within the IDA – the lead agency for this exercise – as early as April. Web surfing can be done only on the employees' personal tablets or mobile phones as these devices do not have access to government e-mail systems. Dedicated Internet terminals have been issued to those who need them for work. The move is aimed at plugging potential leaks from work e-mail and shared documents amid heightened security threats. It is rare even for banks, telcos and casinos – which are known to have the strictest computer-use policies – to cut off Internet access on all work terminals. Banks give only some personnel – such as analysts, sales staff and corporate communications employees – Internet access, but file-sharing, Web-hosted e-mail and pornography websites are

It was the story that got the nation talking. The implications of removing Internet access for 143,000 civil servants were immense. It was a radical security step few have done and merely emphasised the dawn of a new era of heightened security threats. ST's exclusive was picked up by international media such as the BBC and New York Times.

## FEATURE OF THE YEAR

**Zakir Hussain, Francis Chan & Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja** for their feature "The 'ISIS four' Spore stopped and sent back / Secluded school believed to be home to ISIS supporters / Village officials have long been suspicious of school, occupants / Duo guided online by leader of S-E Asian unit" (The Sunday Times)

It started out as a story of four Indonesians being deported. But ST's team managed to uncover a much bigger tale – of how these extremists were hoping to use Singapore as a launch pad to build their travel footprint so their passports would raise less suspicions when they travel. The team also managed to find out the school that is widely believed to be the home of ISIS supporters and responsible for training would-be radicals.



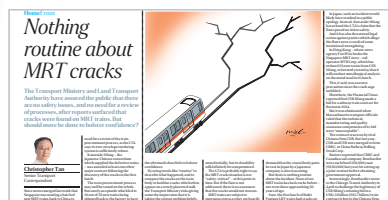
## FEATURE PICTURE OF THE YEAR

**Ng Sor Luan** for her feature picture "Fit and swinging at 67" (ST)



## COMMENTARY / ANALYSIS OF THE YEAR

**Christopher Tan** for his commentary "Nothing routine about MRT cracks" (ST)



## HEADLINE OF THE YEAR

**Sim Mui Hoon** for her headline "Do you see what IC?" (ST)



## NEWS PICTURE OF THE YEAR

**Desmond Foo** for his news picture "Trainee barely escaped as best friend was killed" (ST)



## LAYOUT / PAGE DESIGN OF THE YEAR

**Fraemone Wee** for her layout / page design "50 parades. In photos" (ST)



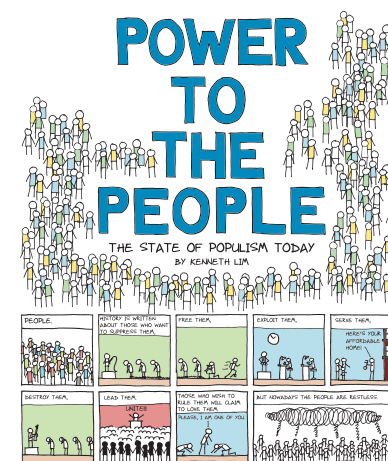
## ILLUSTRATION OF THE YEAR

**Simon Ang** for his illustration "Saturday with Simon: This message is made possible by these sponsors" (The Business Times Weekend)



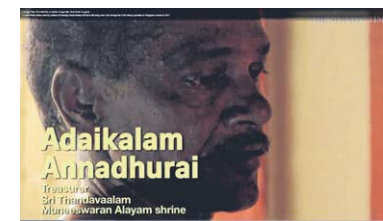
## INFOGRAPHICS OF THE YEAR

**Kenneth Lim** for his infographics "Power to the people" (The Business Times Weekend)



## BEST VIDEO OF THE YEAR

**Basil Edward Teo** for his video "Living City: Devoted to a shrine long after last train is gone" (ST)  
Link: <http://str.sg/4A7Z>



## BEST CROSS MEDIA STORY OF THE YEAR

**May Chen, Jonathan Wong, Kevin Lim, Rohit Brijnath, Lin Xinyi, Chua Siang Yee, Rebecca Pazos, Rodolfo Pazos, Yime Benites, Chew Hui Min, Shea Driscoll, Sally Lam, Winnie Chong & Digital Desk** for their cross media "Joseph Schooling wins gold: Live Blog" (ST)  
Link: <http://str.sg/4p7G>

## BEST DIGITAL PACKAGE OF THE YEAR

**Noor Ashikin Abdul Rahman & Azim Azman** for their digital package "TAXI TALK" (The New Paper)  
Link: [tnp.sg/taxi-talk](http://tnp.sg/taxi-talk)



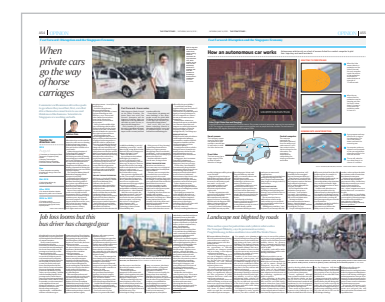
## SPECIAL AWARD OF THE YEAR FOR CONSISTENTLY GOOD WORK

**Manuel Francisco** for his illustrations (ST/SUT)



## SPECIAL AWARD OF THE YEAR FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENTERPRISE & TEAMWORK

**Adrian Lim, Yasmine Yahya, Lin Yangchen, Karamjit Kaur, Irene Tham, Carolyn Khew, Joanna Seow, Janice Heng, Audrey Tan, Samantha Boh, Jacqueline Woo, Calvin Yang, Elaine Tan, Chng Choon Hiong, Manuel Francisco, Mike M. Dizon, Tang Wee Chew, Lim Yong & Bryant Lyn** for their "Fast Forward: Disruption and the Singapore Economy" series (ST)



## BEST INTERACTIVE INFOGRAPHICS OF THE YEAR

**Rebecca Pazos, Yime Benites, Winnie Chong & Rodolfo Pazos** for their interactive infographics "Tracking down Singapore's unsold private homes" (ST)  
Link: <http://str.sg/4oTD>



## SPECIAL AWARD OF THE YEAR FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

**Akshita Nanda, Alyssa Woo, Anjali Raguraman, Ankita Varma, Bryna Singh, Chan Boon Lian, Eddino Abdul Hadi, Lea Wee, Lydia Vasko, Nur Asyiqin Mohamad Salleh, Rohit Brijnath, Venessa Lee, Tan Hsueh Yun & Wong Ah Yoke** for their "Reading Special – An ode to reading" special issue on the love of books (SUT)

