

SAUDI JOURNALIST IS 'ARAB MEDIA PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR'

DUBAI — His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, presented the 'Media Personality of the Year' award to Saudi Arabia's Othman Al Omeir for his contribution to the industry in the Arab world.



The honour was conferred at the Arab Journalism Awards (AJA) on the concluding day of the Arab Media Forum 2007 at the Madinat Jumeirah here yesterday.

The AJA also honoured deserving Arab media personalities and publications in 13 other categories.

Mona Al Marri, Secretary-General of the AJA, said a distinguished panel of judges had evaluated the nominees on the criteria of objectivity and unbiased reporting. This year, the AJA posthumously honoured Joseph Samaha for his pioneering role in the Arab media. Samaha's daughter, Amina Samaha, received the award from Talal Salman, Editor-in-Chief and writer for Al Safer, Lebanon. The other AJA winners include:

- Best Column in an Arabic daily or weekly publication: Musaed Al Saleh, Al Qabas, Kuwait.
- Best Business Reporting: Abdul Aziz Al Hindi from Magazine
- Best Sports Publication: Super Magazine
- Best Environmental Journalism: Ayman Khalil Rummaneh, Al Khaleej, UAE
- Best Interview: Suheir Hilmy, Al Ahram, Egypt
- Best Cultural Journalism: Akel Al Oweit, Al Nahar, Lebanon
- Best Photo Journalism: Mahmoud Ibrahim, Agence France Press
- Best IT Technology Report: Abu Al Hajjaj Bashir, Modern Language, Egypt
- Best Political Journalism: Ghassan Al Shahbani, Al Waqt, Bahrain
- Best Caricature: Amer Al Zughby, Akhbar Al Arab, UAE
- Best Investigative Journalism: Youssef Saad, Al Khaleej, UAE
- Best Child Journalism (for children under 12 years of age): May Malhas, Al Jazirah (KSA)

Source : KHALEEJ TIMES

ANALYSIS OF ARAB MEDIA LAUNCHED

Dubai: In what is being called the first report of its kind, the Arab Media Forum launched yesterday a comprehensive analysis on the state of Arab media which aims to serve as a reference for the media industry in the region.



The Dubai Press Club, Dubai Media City and PricewaterhouseCoopers have put together a report entitled the Arab Media Outlook 2007-11, which was presented on the second and concluding day of the Arab Media Forum.

"This report aims to provide an outlook for the development of the sector in the Arab world", said Mona Al Merri, chairperson of the Dubai Press Club. "It is not enough to just look at the current state of the Arab media but also at the future of the industry".

The report, published in English and Arabic, offers an analysis of news and current affairs media in six Arab countries, focusing on the "business of media" while acknowledging the significance of the news content "that often overrides financial concerns". The research was conducted on media in Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE.



Mona pointed out that the first issue of the report is an "experimental" one and that the organisers are open to feedback and recommendations from the media industry. The next issue is also expected to double the number of countries studied to twelve.

Dr Ameenah Al Rostomani, Executive Director of Media at TECOM investments, the parent company of the Dubai Media City, said the report would serve as "an important reference for policy makers, syndicates, media personnel, regulators".



Entertainment

Marcl Fenez, Global Media Leader for Entertainment and Media Practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers, said what he found "distinct" in the region was that news and current affairs programming attracted the most viewers, but added that entertainment was catching up.

"Television is very important here and will continue to be," he said. Significant changes have been witnessed in how media operates, he added, which have forced "power to shift from content owners to consumers"

Source : GULF NEWS

Middle East Publishers' Association (MEPA).

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