

Rugoho-Chin'ono, CNN Multichoice African Journalist 2008

Hopewell Rugoh-Chin'ono, from Zimbabwe, has been awarded the top prize at this year's CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2008 Awards ceremony.



Hopewell, founder and film director for Television International, Zimbabwe, won for his story "Pain in My Heart," which was chosen from among 1912 entries from a record 44 nations across the African continent.

Hopewell was one of 23 finalists at the awards ceremony on Saturday evening and was also the category winner in The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Reporting in Africa.

His Excellency J. A. Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, presented him with the award at a gala ceremony hosted by CNN and MultiChoice at The State Banquet Hall, Osu, Accra, Ghana on Saturday 19 July. Tony Maddox, managing director, CNN International and Eben Greyling, chief executive Officer, MultiChoice Africa, were also on stage.

The 2008 awards, which rotate location each year in tribute to their pan-African credentials, mark a welcome return to Ghana, West Africa, home to many of the competition's winners over the years, and birthplace of the awards, first held in Accra in 1995.

Hopewell Rugoho-Chin'ono said: "The recognition this award gives me goes a long way to improving journalistic standards for many colleagues who are working under very difficult conditions. It is a huge honour and commitment and I will do my best to meet the expectations of my peers. I dedicate the award to all those struggling to be recognised, and I salute the ongoing challenge to achieve excellence across the African continent."

Chairperson of the judging panel, Azubuike Ishiekwe, executive director, Punch Nigeria Limited said: "Hopewell Rugoho-Chin'ono is the overall winner of the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist Award 2008, because in a continent where resources are a great problem in telling the story, he overcame this major difficulty, with a nose and a passion to tell the story. He goes on to tell the story in a compelling and sympathetic manner. A good nose and a passionate heart, that's what makes him the overall winner."

Tony Maddox, executive vice-president and managing director of CNN International, said: “The awards have become the pre-eminent prize, honouring the best of what Africa has to offer, and the benchmark by which many African journalists measure themselves. Once again, this year has unearthed a wealth of voices from around Africa, each demonstrating a quality of journalism, and in some cases a resourcefulness and bravery in pursuing the story which has my deepest admiration.”

Eben Greyling, CEO MultiChoice Africa said: “Congratulations to the winners this year; we hope that the recognition you received in this year's awards will encourage further excellence and success in your careers as we have seen with previous winners of these prestigious awards. To the many journalists who have not been recognised this year, we would like to salute and celebrate the vital role you play in the ongoing development of democracy and diversity on the African continent. Once again the judges were overwhelmed by the high quality of the entries which made the judging a very difficult process. One can see from the entries over the years the dramatic progress African media has made in reporting the African story.”

The CNN MultiChoice competition, now in its thirteenth year, is held in collaboration with The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Accra-based accommodation is provided by the official hotel sponsor, The Holiday Inn Accra Airport. Other prestigious sponsors include: Coca-Cola Africa; Ecobank; IPP Media; Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD); MIH Print Africa; Safebond Africa Limited (SAL); Zain; Global Media Alliance (GMA) and Camerapix.

The overall CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2008 wins a substantial cash prize, a visit to CNN Centre, Atlanta to attend the three-week CNN Journalism Fellowship, along with the prize awarded to all category winners, which consists of a laptop computer, modem, printer and a cash prize.

Winners in the individual competition categories are:

Arts and Culture Award, presented by Zain:

Winner: Barbara Angopa, NTV, Uganda

Title: Teso's Peace Music

Economics and Business Award, presented by Coca-Cola Africa:

Winner: John Grobler, freelance journalist for the *Namibian*, Namibia

Title: Mafia linked to Namibian gems

Environment Award, presented by Ecobank:

Winner: Emmanuel Mayah, *The Sun Newspaper*, Nigeria

Title: The Silkworm Genocide

Francophone General News Award: Print

Winner: Nassima Oulebsir, *Le Jeune Indépendant*, Algeria

Title: Ces enfants interdits...d' école!

Francophone General News Award: TV/Radio

Winner: Koumoureéoua Issa Napon, Radio Burkina, Burkina Faso

Title: Yako, Situation d'enfants orpailleurs

Free Press Africa Award

Winner: Seyhoum Tsehay, Eritrea

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Reporting in Africa

Winner: Hopewell Rugoho-Chin'ono, Television International, Zimbabwe

Title: Pain in my Heart

MSD Health and Medical Award, presented by Merck, Sharp & Dohme (MSD):

Winner: Bamuturaki Musinguzi, *The East African Newspaper*, Uganda

Title: Silent Killer

MIH Print Africa Award - Best Feature in a Consumer Magazine

Winner: Marjorie Copeland, Freelance Journalist for *Marie Claire*, South Africa

Title: Your Child may still be in Danger

Mohamed Amin Photographic Award, presented by Camerapix:

Winner: Boniface Mwangi, *The Standard*, Nairobi, Kenya

Title: Under Siege

Portuguese Language General News Award:

Winner: Fernando Lima, Jornal Savana, Mozambique

Title: Quando o rio zangou (When the River Got Angry) and No epicentre da crise

The Print General News Award, presented by Safebond Africa Ltd:

Winner: Richard Mgamba, *The Sunday Citizen*, Tanzania

Title: Buzwagi: The untold story of a controversial mining deal

Radio General News Award:

Winner: Israel Laryea, Joy FM, Ghana

Title: Naa Koshie: victim of child abuse

Sport Award, presented by Global Media Alliance:

Winner: Mutwiri Mutuota, *Kenya Times*, Kenya

Title: The art of cheering

Television - General News - Feature/Current Affairs Award, presented by IPP Media, Tanzania:

Winner: Peter Moyo, e.tv, South Africa

Title: The root of all evil

Television - General News - News Bulletin Award

Winner: Deji Badmus, Channels Television, Nigeria

Title: Third Mainland Bridge

Tourism Award, presented by The Ghana Tourist Board:

Winner: Evaline Ngono, CRTV, Cameroon

Title: Mythes et Realités du Mont Cameroun

Again this year the judges highlighted some excellent work and awarded commendations in six categories. These journalists participated in the extensive finalists' programme in Accra, Ghana and received a cash prize and Certificates of Commendation.

Economics and Business sponsored by Coca-Cola Africa:

Lucas Ajanaku, *Tell Magazine*, Nigeria

Title: Power Paralysis

Environment Award sponsored by Ecobank:

Daniel Nkrumah, *Daily Graphic*, Ghana

Title: Rot at Chorkor

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Reporting in Africa:

Kennedy Gwonde, Freelance for Hone FM, Zambia

Title: Umoyo Programme on HIV/AIDS

MSD Health and Medical:

Sasha Wales-Smith, SABC, South Africa

Title: Dodgy doctors

Print General News sponsored by Safebond Africa Ltd:

Godwin Nnanna, *Business Day*, Ghana

Title: Peace for a troubled nation

Tourism Award: sponsored by The Ghana Tourist Board

Mwondoshah Mfanga, *The Guardian Newspaper*, Tanzania

Title: The 101 wonders of 'khanga' and many more to come.