The Nikkei Asian Review won two prizes at this year's Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) Awards for Editorial Excellence, it was announced on Wednesday in Hong Kong.

This is the second year in a row SOPA has recognized the Nikkei Asian Review's coverage, underscoring the publication's dedication to credible and comprehensive Pan-Asia reporting.

A series of commentaries by Minxin Pei won the 2016 Award for Excellence in Opinion Writing.

Pei, a Shanghai native, is a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College in the U.S. His contributions sought to uncover the underlying causes of key problems facing Chinese policymakers, and offered possible solutions.

The panel of judges, comprising industry veterans and scholars, commended Pei for his "lucid and unbiased analysis" on some of the key economic issues facing China, from state-owned enterprise reforms to air pollution.

A story package titled "Praying for rain," which appeared in the July 27-Aug. 2, 2015, issue of the magazine, received an honorable mention in the category for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment. The package combined on-the-ground reporting in areas hit by severe water shortages with in-depth analysis of the economic consequences and expert opinions on how to address the crisis.

The Nikkei Asian Review won the environmental award in 2015, as well, with another package on the region's water problems — "A future in drought" (April 24, 2014, issue). The consecutive awards highlight the Nikkei Asian Review's consistent focus on environmental issues.

Tsuyoshi Hasebe, senior managing director of Nikkei Inc. and editor-in-chief of The Nikkei, said: "We are honored to receive this award for the second consecutive year. We are confident that this will be a major step for the Nikkei Asian Review as it solidifies its reputation as an internationally competitive news media."

About the SOPA Awards

The SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence were established in 1999 as a tribute to the finest reporting in both traditional and new media. They are intended to encourage best practices in journalism across the region.

The judges are veteran journalists and academics from leading newspapers, consumer and trade magazines and prestigious universities. They analyze and select entries based on a demanding set of criteria.

The SOPA Awards set a benchmark for the industry and garner media coverage not only in the Asia-Pacific region but around the globe.

About the Nikkei Asian Review

The Nikkei Asian Review offers insights on Asia from an insider's perspective. As part of Nikkei — Asia's largest independent business media group, with 24 bureaus region wide and over 1,300 local and international reporters — it is uniquely positioned to cover the stories that matter in this dynamic part of the world.

Launched in November 2013, the Nikkei Asian Review is changing the way the region is understood in the global marketplace. Designed for the leaders who are shaping Asia's future — and anyone with an interest in getting to know the real Asia — it is available on the web, on mobile devices and in print.