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Organiser:

## 2011 Business China Young Achiever Award Recipient



**Han Yong Hong**

**Age: 39**

**Lianhe Zaobao, Beijing Chief Correspondent**

### Background

Joint Presenter:



Ms Han graduated from NUS with a Master's Degree in Chinese Studies. Between 1996 and 2000, she was a freelance theatre stage manager, theater director and script writer. Her concerns and research interest are on Chinese Theatre in Post-Independent Singapore, focusing on the leftist theatre movement. She has been an arts journalist covering theatre, music and visual arts with *Lianhe Zaobao* when she joined the department since 2000.

Supporting Media:



In mid-2005, Ms Han was appointed as *Lianhe Zaobao*, Beijing-based bureau correspondent. Since 2009 till date, she was promoted to *Lianhe Zaobao*, Beijing-based Chief bureau correspondent who gathered updates on the China's latest news and developments.



### Achievements

Throughout these 6 years in China, Ms Han had accumulated many experiences on China issues and the proper way of managing the news reports objectively. She had participated and wrote news articles on many major events that are related to China which are as followed:



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2007:

1. Exclusive coverage on the finalize location for the Eco-city in the Tianjin Binhai region
2. Coverage of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visit to Singapore and his walkabout visit to the HDB flats

Joint Presenter:



2008:

1. Reports on the snow disaster at Chenzhou, China
2. Interview in Tibet after the 314 incident at Lhasa
3. Reports on Sichuan earthquake, close coverage of life during disaster epi-centre. She was one of the first foreign reporters to enter into epi-centre, Yingxiu Town.
4. Reports on Beijing Olympics

Supporting Media:



2009:

1. Interview with the Chairman of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.
2. Interviews and reports on the aftermath social and political impacts after the riots and unrest in Xinjiang



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2010:



1. Special edition of the report on Singapore-China 20<sup>th</sup> year of bilateral relationships – Exclusive interview with Foreign Minister George Yeo and Wang Gung-wu & the historic milestone of the strong establishment of the Singapore-China relationships.

Joint Presenter:



Ms Han displayed professionalism in all the interviews and reports that she conducted. This was to ensure that apart from being comply in working within the laws of China, readers will also be able to keep abreast with the most current happenings within China. She had also learnt how to deal with the Chinese officials to ensure the smooth coverage of the news. Although it was known for the fact that there were strict censorships within the Chinese media, Ms Han had been able to make exclusive reports on certain major events that occur in China. This was made possible by the recognition from the Chinese authorities on the fair reports that came from *Lianhe Zaobao*.

Supporting Media:



One such example was the invitation of Ms Han to be part of the highly-selected team of foreign journalist to Tibet from 26 March to 28 March 2008. Since the riots broke out in Lhasa in 14 March 2008, the media and foreigners' access to the Tibetan capital and its surrounding states have been restricted. Hence, Ms Han was privileged to the one of the 9 foreign media organizations and also the only media representative from Singapore and Southeast Asia to be selected for the exclusive exploration and interview of the latest situations in Tibet.



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As the only media representative from Southeast Asia, Ms Han was later invited for a Q&A session with AsiaMedia to describe her experience in the official visit of Tibet. Ms Han acknowledged that the government-escorted tour of Tibet was a surprise move meant to demonstrate China's willingness for more transparency and to showcase its ability to handle damage control ahead of the Beijing Olympics in August. However, she did recognize the great efforts by the China government in opening up the media transparency over the past few years.

Joint Presenter:



Ms Han believed that some issues, such as the case of Tibet were still sensitive to the authorities, but the general environment was improving. Most importantly, one should work with the most sincere attempt and carry out the task of a journalist in a professional way in whatever conditions, neutral of any political and other reasons.

Supporting Media:



During the Sichuan earth-quake, Ms Han report on Yingxiu Town which highlights the dignity, resilience of the Chinese people touched the hearts of many Chinese. The People's Daily even introduced Ms Han's reports and carried abstracted version of her stories, which was a very rare recognition given to a single foreign journalist. Ms Han was later invited to contribute a piece of work to summarize her thoughts of a foreign journalist watching and experience China in the year 2008, which has went through massive snow storm, riots, earth-quake and the Olympics.

Through these 6 years in China, Ms Han had trained to become an experienced journalist. She would continue to



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involve actively in the reporting of the first-hand news to the readers. Ms Han's professional service as a China correspondent will eventually promote *Lianhe Zaobao* as a reputable media organization that could provide the latest information for the readers of Singapore and the rest of the world.

Joint Presenter:



### Awards

2006: China newspaper - 《南方周末》 Tribute Media Award

1996 to 1997: NUS Advanced Level Scholarship

Supporting Media:

