



HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

香港記者協會

新聞稿

香港首個新聞自由指數公布

(2014年4月23日)根據國際調查,香港的新聞自由每況愈下,為盡監察之責,香港記者協會(記協)與一群學者,組成「新聞自由指數調查」顧問團,共同設計研究方法,透過科學化的抽樣調查,得出香港首個「新聞自由指數」:公眾部分是49.4,而記者群的新聞自由指數是42.0。

有關指數的評分範圍由0至100,結果反映香港現時的新聞自由情況處低分水平。記協指出,制訂指數的問卷調查在《明報》前總編輯劉進圖遇襲和商業電台突然撤換清談節目主持人李慧玲之前進行,可見香港新聞自由的景況如何惡劣。記協呼籲,港府若要維持香港作為區內資訊中心的地位,便必須營造開放透明的環境,放鬆對新聞界的桎梏,而資訊自由法的制訂將是急不容緩。

為監察香港新聞自由的變化,記協承諾,將定期進行調查,讓社會透過指數之變化來審視港人在多大程度上享有《基本法》承諾的新聞自由。

記協的「新聞自由指數調查」分為兩個單元,公眾人士隨機抽樣意見調查於2013年12月20日至30日進行,成功訪問了1,018名符合資格的人士;新聞工作者的調查於2013年12月23日至2014年2月4日進行,成功訪問了422名新聞從業員。

用以制訂指數的公眾意見調查,由香港大學民意研究計劃進行,而新聞從業員的調查則由香港記者協會負責。顧問團成員中文大學新聞與傳播學院教授蘇鑰機博士在發布會上解釋指數制訂的過程和學理,而另一名顧問團成員香港大學民意研究計劃總監鍾庭耀博士則解釋指數的調查方法。

分析制訂指數的具體問題評分可見,公眾人士與新聞從業員的認知存在落差,例如對香港新聞自由的滿意程度(0代表極之不滿、10代表極之滿意),公眾部分的平均數為6.3,而新聞從業員的平均數為4.8。

當被問及香港政府發布與公眾利益有關重要資訊的表現時(0代表極之不滿、10代表極之滿意),公眾人士部分的評分為5.0,新聞從業員部分的評分為3.7,反映記者對政府發放與公眾利益有關資訊的表現非常不滿。

調查同時反映，香港傳媒出現自我審查的情況值得關注。當被問及傳媒自我審查的情況是否普遍時（0 代表沒出現、10 代表極之普遍），公眾人士部分的平均數為 5.4；新聞從業員部分的評分則高達 6.9，反映新聞工作者認為香港傳媒出現自我審查的情況相當普遍。

在新聞從業員的問卷中，記協特別問及記者如何評價港府問責官員在回應傳媒查詢時的態度（0 代表絕對迴避問題、10 代表絕對如實作答），結果顯示，74%受訪者給予 0 至 4，平均數為 3.1，反映記者普遍認為問責官員未能做到開誠布公。此外，對於香港新聞自由受到打壓時，港府會否挺身維護的問題，71%回答「多數不會」或「一定不會」。

香港首個新聞自由指數得以成功制訂，端賴顧問團成員無私協助，本會特此表示謝意。顧問團成員包括（排名不分先後）：

- 麥燕庭女士（香港記者協會前主席）
- 雷子樂先生（香港記者協會新聞自由小組召集人）
- 蘇鑰機博士（香港中文大學新聞與傳播學院教授）
- 梁旭明博士（嶺南大學文化研究系副教授）
- 黃天賜先生（香港浸會大學傳理學院講師）
- 成名博士（香港科技大學社會科學部副教授）
- 鍾庭耀博士（香港大學民意研究計劃總監）

香港記者協會

傳媒查詢

若有進一步查詢，請致電本會(電話：2591 0692)



HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

香港記者協會

Press Release

First Hong Kong Press Freedom Index Announced

(23rd April 2013) According to recent international surveys, press freedom in Hong Kong is deteriorating. To raise awareness of the need to safeguard press freedom in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) with the help of a group of consultants comprising of academics, designed a scientific research method to collect data to produce the first Hong Kong Press Freedom Index. The index of the general public is 49.4 while the journalists is 42.0.

The Index rate ranges from 0 and 100. The Index shows that the level of press freedom in Hong Kong is low. Data collection for the Index was made before the attack on Mr Kevin Lau, former Chief Editor of Ming Pao and the sudden termination of Ms Li Wei Ling's employment contract as a talk-show host by Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co. This shows that press freedom in Hong Kong is much worse than shown by the Index. HKJA urges the Hong Kong Government to maintain a high degree of transparency and to lift restraints on the media so as to protect Hong Kong's status as an information hub. Most important of all, enactment of freedom of information legislation cannot be delayed any longer.

To monitor the change of press freedom in Hong Kong, HKJA will conduct the survey regularly. The public will understand to what extent they enjoy press freedom in Hong Kong, a freedom enshrined in the Basic Law, through changes in the Index.

The HKJA Press Freedom Index Survey had two groups of target respondents. The first was the general public for which a survey was conducted through random sampling telephone interviews between 20th to 30th December 2013 in which 1,018 respondents were successfully interviewed. The second part was conducted among journalists with questionnaires distributed to journalists by HKJA between 23 Dec 2013 and 4 Feb 2014. A total of 422 respondents were successfully interviewed.

HKJA commissioned the Public Opinion Programme (POP) at the University of Hong Kong to conduct the general public survey. At the press conference to announce the Index, consultant group member, Prof. Clement So, Professor of the School of Journalism & Communication, CUHK, explained the process and theory behind the formulation of the Index. Another consultant group member, Dr Robert Chung, Director of POP, HKU explained the methodology of the survey.

By analysing the rates of individual questions, it was found that there is a difference between the general public's and journalists' perceptions of the enjoyment of press freedom. For example, when asked about their satisfaction with press freedom in Hong Kong (with 10 being very satisfied, 0 being very dissatisfied), the average rate for the general public is 6.3, while for journalists it is 4.8.

On the question of Hong Kong Government's performance in releasing information of important concern to the general public (10 represents very good, 0 represents very bad), the rate for the general public and journalists is 5.0 and 3.7 respectively. This shows that journalists are very dissatisfied with the way the HK Government releases important information of public concern.

In addition, the survey throws light on the situation of self-censorship amongst media personnel. The interviewees were asked about self-censorship in Hong Kong news media (10 represents very common self-censorship situation, 0 represents no self-censorship). The rate for the general public

and journalists is 5.4 and 6.9 respectively. This suggests that, from the view of journalists, self-censorship is common within the Hong Kong media.

The questionnaire also asked journalists for their response towards officials under the Principal Officials Accountability System during media enquiries (10 represents truthful answers, 0 represents evasive answers). 74% interviewees gave the rate of between 0 and 4. The average rate is 3.1. In the eyes of journalists, the principal officials are far from speaking frankly and sincerely. On the question of whether the HK Government would come out to protect press freedom if the threat was dire, 71% interviewees replied with either "probably not" or "definitely not".

The HKJA would like to express our sincere appreciation of the unstinting and generous help of the consultant group, without which the first Hong Kong Press Freedom Index would not be in existence today. The consultant group members are:

- Ms Mak Yin Ting (Former Chairperson, HKJA)
- Mr Ken Lui (Convenor, HKJA Press Freedom Subcommittee)
- Prof Clement So (Professor, School of Journalism & Communication, CUHK)
- Prof Lisa Leung (Associate Professor, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University)
- Mr Wong Tin Chi (Senior Lecturer, School of Communication, HKBU)
- Prof Sing Ming (Associate Professor, Division of Social Science, HKUST)
- Dr Robert Chung (Director of POP, HKU)

Hong Kong Journalists Association

Media Enquiries

Should you wish to know more about the report, please contact us at 2591 0692.