

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION UP DESPITE INTERNET



Newspaper circulations worldwide rose 2.3 percent in 2006, while newspaper advertising revenues showed substantial gains, the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) told a gathering of newspaper executives in the South African city of Cape Town Monday.

Newspaper sales increased in Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, with North America the only continent to register a decline. Advertising revenues in paid dailies were up 3.77 percent last year, WAN said.

When free dailies are added to the paid newspaper circulation, global circulation increased 4.61 percent. Free dailies now account for nearly 8 percent of all global newspaper circulation.

The data from WAN's annual survey of world press trends was released to more than 1 600 publishers, editors and other senior newspaper executives from 109 countries at the 60th World Newspaper Congress and the 14th World Editors' Forum in Cape Town.

"These results are even better than we expected," Timothy Balding, chief executive officer of Paris-based WAN, said. "Newspapers are alive and well and exhibiting enormous innovation and energy to maintain their place as the news media of preference for hundreds of millions of people daily."

The trend is defying the rise of the Internet. "As the digital tide gathers strength, it is remarkable that the press in print continues to be the media of preference for the majority of readers," Balding said.

Source : Dubai times

NEW MIDDLE EAST JOURNALISM AWARDS

The UK-based *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* will soon launch a competition to honour outstanding journalists in the Arab region.

The Times and *The Sunday Times*, the UK newspapers which recently started to publish their international editions in the Middle East, have announced that they will be launching a regional media awards competition in the first half of next year. The Times Middle East Journalism Awards will honour individuals for notable contributions to regional print and online media.

The announcement was made on 28 May 2007 at a roundtable event in Dubai, at which regional media professionals debated a wide range of media-related issues with George Brock, Saturday Editor of *The Times* and President of the World Editors Forum, the organisation of the World



Association of Newspapers that represents editors-in-chief and other senior news executives.

George Brock said the competition will recognise excellence in a number of categories, including Outstanding work in Political, Business and Current Affairs Reporting; Local and International Reporting; Lifestyle, Arts and Feature Writing; Sports Writing and Investigative Reporting; Editing; Commentary and Analysis; and Photography and Design. There will also be awards for Overall Excellence and Journalist of the Year.

A better understanding

"Since 1788, when *The Times* was first published, the newspaper has set the standard for editorial quality in the UK," said Brock. "Having established our international editions in Europe, the US and now the Arab world, we are increasingly a global publication. We see our Middle East awards as a way to make a positive contribution to the region. There is a lot of talent here that needs to be nurtured and rewarded. We are happy to play a supporting role in this."



The Times Middle East Journalism Awards will be judged by an independent panel, and are open to people who work in print and online media in the region. Organisers are exploring the possibility of setting up a special work-study award for Best Young Journalist, which will allow a promising newcomer to spend time working in *The Times* newsroom in London.

Through the award, *The Times* wants to introduce a renowned international publication to the region and hope to foster increased understanding and communication between media professionals in the UK and the Middle East.

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