

The CoST Uganda Infrastructure Transparency Journalist Awards



22nd January – 24th April 2020 Award Process

Contents

The CoST Infrastructure Journalist Awards 2020..... 1

Introduction 3

Awards Categories 3

 News (written word)..... 3

 News (broadcast – TV, radio or online audio/film)..... 3

 Investigation 4

 Features..... 4

 Documentaries (TV & Film) 4

 Radio & Podcasts 4

 Photojournalism 4

 Student Journalist 4

 Regional Media..... 4

 Innovation 4

Eligibility..... 5

 Judging Criteria:..... 5

Copyright 6

Shortlist and Winners 6

Disclaimer 6

Privacy Statement..... 6

How to Enter..... 6

Introduction

CoST – an Infrastructure Transparency Initiative is aimed at improving citizen's lives through promoting the use of the Infrastructure Data Standard for information Disclosure, Assurance, Multi-stakeholder working and Social Accountability.

CoST Uganda is a National Chapter of CoST International a charity based in the United Kingdom. The initiative is built on a tripartite partnership between Government, Private Sector and Civil Society to address the challenges in the infrastructure sector in Uganda. CoST Uganda is Championed by the Ministry of Works and Transport and guided by a Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) of 9 persons and one observer who lead, plan and engage to build trust, transparency and accountability. In Uganda, the Initiative is hosted by Africa Freedom of Information Centre; an NGO that sits on the MSG. CoST is aimed at enhancing disclosure, validation and interpretation of infrastructure data into simpler language to empower stakeholders to engage. CoST is built on four core features Assurance, Disclosure, Multi-Stakeholder working and Social Accountability.

Over the last two years, CoST has run the CoST Infrastructure Journalist Award, an initiative aimed at recognizing the best journalists in covering matters concerning infrastructure transparency and social accountability in regard to infrastructure projects. The inaugural prize was awarded at the launch of the Second Assurance Report at the National Health Tutors College in Mulago, Kampala and five eminent persons from various media platforms were awarded.

CoST Uganda MSG, seeks to recognize outstanding journalists in 2020. It should be noted that, the 2020 awards will be given to journalists whose articles actually lead to change or action on the issues raised. Journalists should be keen to develop articles/stories that are issue based with keen attention on the 3rd Assurance findings and recommendations; and lead to change or action by the various line agencies. A lot of pieces are produced in the media and no action taken on them, to strengthen objectivity and build the capacity of the media to advocate for change and impact, the 2020 awards will also focus on using the media to realize impact in the delivery of public infrastructure projects. Journalists intending to participate in this award process, should make reference and or extract issues of investigation from the latest CoST reports, the Survey on Citizens needs and stakeholder perceptions and the 3rd Assurance Report launched on 22nd January 2020 on 13 infrastructure projects.

Awards Categories

News (written word)

Written or word news report on a current and/or breaking story relating to one or all of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability leading to change or action on the project written on. This can be print, online or multimedia.

News (broadcast – TV, radio or online audio/film)

Films or audio news reports on a current and/or breaking stories relating to one or all of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability. These can be TV, radio or online. The entry should be no longer than 20 minutes.

Investigation

Outstanding pieces of investigative journalism relating to one or all of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability across all media. These can be print, broadcast, online or multimedia and may be a single report or a number of items covering the same story.

Features

Written word newspaper, magazine, online or multimedia pieces that creatively explore topics, issues or stories relating to one or all of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability.

Documentaries (TV & Film)

Full-length documentaries or films that observe or report on one or all of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability issues. The entries should be between 20 – 120 minutes' duration. These must have been broadcast or available online.

Radio & Podcasts

These can be either excerpts from series, full-length radio documentary or podcast, or compilations from a magazine programme which observe and report on one or all of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability issues. The whole entries (including compilations) should be between 20 – 60 minutes' duration. These must have been broadcast or available online.

Photojournalism

A series of up to 12 photographs from a portfolio, all or part of which has been published in Ugandan media (newspapers, magazines or online) or on a third-party website.

Student Journalist

For students in full-time education at a Ugandan university, higher education or further education college at the time of publication or broadcast of their entry. Entries may have been published in print, online or broadcast, either via a student or commercial outlet. Alternatively, it may have been produced as course work as part of media or journalism studies. Entrants should submit one piece, but may also provide links to three further pieces of work to support their entry. Personal blog posts are not eligible for entry. Finalists will be asked for evidence that they were a student at the time of publication (eg: via a reference from a lecturer).

Regional Media

This category recognises excellent local reporting of regional aspects of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability stories. It is open to print, online or broadcast entries from Ugandan regional media outlets.

Innovation

An innovative use of digital tools and/or multimedia techniques to successfully engage people in one or more of CoST's Core Features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working or social accountability story or issue. Entrants must have been published for the first time or have had substantial fresh content published during 2020.

Eligibility

- Entrants must be from a media outlet based in Uganda.
- All entries should be able to demonstrate impact on a Ugandan audience either because they were broadcast on a Ugandan terrestrial or satellite channel, published in Uganda or have been on theatrical general release in commercial cinemas in Uganda. If only available online, they must have originated in Uganda and/or were demonstrably marketed to and/or consumed by a Ugandan audience. All entries must be in English (or subtitled in English).
- Work must have been published or broadcast for the first time between 22nd January – 24th April 2020
- All entries must be submitted via the email address info@cost.or.ug addressed to the CoST Manager
- The closing date for entries is **20th April 2019** no entries will be accepted after this date.

Judging Criteria:

CoST Uganda will shortlist each category to 5 entries. The shortlist will then go to our judging panels, made up of journalists from across the broadcast, print and online media, who will select the three finalists for each category. Shortlisting and judging panels will be looking for excellence in the four CoST core features, judged by the following criteria:

Relevance:

Entries will be judged for how they:

- fit the category description
- expose the CoST Core Features
- introduce the CoST Core Features topic to the outlet's audiences, either for the first time, or in a fresh and innovative way
- Description and understanding of issues regarding the sector aligned to infrastructure transparency.
- Objectivity and not judgmental or baseless statements
- are engaging and appropriate for the audience for which they were intended
- include case studies or first-hand witness accounts or testimonials
- action taken on the publications by the respective agencies.

Well-crafted and responsibly produced:

Entries will be judged for how they:

- are well researched and accurate
- are balanced and fair (news reporting)
- contain high production and editorial values
- show care and consideration for those whose stories are being told

Reach and impact:

The following are not essential, but will be given consideration:

- total audience reached
- a wide demographic audience reached, particularly those less likely to be well informed about CoST's Core Features
- additional media coverage
- demonstrable desired change; this could be a change in policy or law, or proof of a positive impact on the lives of those whose stories have been told
- for Student Journalist, it is accepted that entries may have limited reach if they are produced as part of a journalism course. They will be judged on the understanding and sensitivity shown by the entry and will recognise their potential as an 'infrastructure' journalist

Copyright

Media Awards entries may be used or reproduced by CoST Uganda Chapter to promote the CoST Infrastructure Journalism Awards. This includes being used in the **CoST** magazine and promotional materials for the awards, on the CoST Uganda website, at the CoST Infrastructure Journalism Awards ceremony and other CoST events, and in other CoST communications.

Shortlist and Winners

CoST Uganda will shortlist each category to 5 entries. The shortlist will then go to our judging panels, made up of journalists from across the broadcast, print and online media. The three finalists for each category will be published on the CoST Uganda website on the week commencing on **27th April 2020** and all entries will be informed by email. The finalists will be invited to the CoST Infrastructure Journalist Awards ceremony to be held on 4th May 2020 where the winners will be announced.

Disclaimer

It is the responsibility of the entrant to provide complete, accurate information about the entry. CoST Uganda shall not be liable for errors or omissions in the entries. If the entry is inaccurate or incomplete, if the entry does not meet the eligibility requirements, or if it is deemed ineligible for any other reason, then the entry will be disqualified.

The decision of the judges is final and no discussion can be entered into regarding the final results.

Privacy Statement

CoST Uganda will store and process your data in order to provide you with the information necessary to process your entry to the awards, and as a past entrant to inform you of future award events. You can opt out of receiving information about future awards at any time by email or calling us. Contact details will not be shared with any third parties without your agreement.

How to Enter

You will be asked to submit your entries in one of the following ways:

- by uploading files ideally as PDF, JPG, MP3 or MP4 to the email address info@cost.or.ug.
- a link to your own viewing platform (eg: vimeo/youtube).
- URL (for entries published online).

Please Note: We do not require high res or HD versions at this stage as these will only be used for shortlisters and judges to view online. If you are a finalist, we will come back to you to request higher resolution versions to show during the ceremony if necessary.