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Austrian photographer wins top prize at sports photo contest in Taiwan

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President Tsai Ing-wen stands in front of "Football's Coming Home" by Austrian photographer Lisi Niesner, which won the first-ever Women in Sports International Photo Awards. Photo source: Office of the President

Taipei, May 5 (CNA) Berlin-based Austrian photographer Lisi Niesner on Friday won the top prize at the first-ever Women in Sports International Photo Awards organized by a Taiwanese NGO.

Speaking at an awards ceremony in New Taipei through a pre-recorded video, Niesner, a sports photographer with Reuters, said she was "deeply, deeply honoured" to have received the Grand Jury Award.

Niesner's winning photo, titled "Football's Coming Home," captures the moment when the England women's national football team scored the winning goal in the final of the Women's Euro 2022.

"Women are often forgotten about and passed over in sport and the media," jury member Lynne Cameron, who is also vice chair of the British Press Photographers' Association, said at the ceremony, adding that Niesner's work was "important in the world of sport."

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Video of the first-ever Women in Sports International Photo Awards, including the video appearance of the top prize winner Lisi Niesner. CNA video

Meanwhile, **American photographer Bruce Bennett** and Taiwanese photographer Yu Cheng-han (余承翰) won First Place in the international and domestic categories, respectively.

While both men and women are eligible to take part in the various categories, the Grand Jury Award -- which features a trophy and US\$7,000 in prize money -- is dedicated to female photographers, according to the main organizer, Taiwan Sport Forward Association.

The association said it received more than 1,300 entries from photographers in 52 countries for this year's photo contest, which aims at honoring outstanding sports photography and bringing more attention to women athletes.



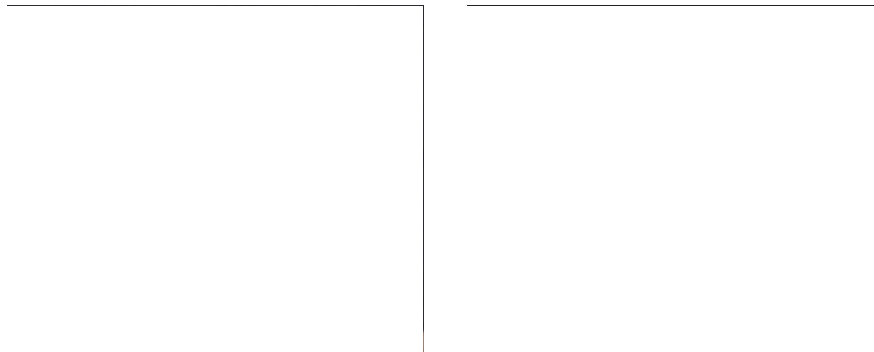
President Tsai Ing-wen (center) with winners and event organizers at the first-ever Women in Sports International Photo Awards

The event was supported by the United States Department of State's Global Sports Mentoring Program, U.S. Ambassador to Belize Michelle Kwan, who is the most decorated figure skater in U.S. history, said in a pre-recorded congratulatory video.

Meanwhile, President Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) praised the photos in the competitions for "raising the visibility" of female athletes and journalists, especially when exposure to women's sport is low and female sports photographers remain a minority.

Moving forward, the president said, Taiwan's government will continue to promote gender equality in sports and other fields in the country and the international community.

(By Teng Pei-ju)
Enditem/AW



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ONLINE EDITOR'S SELECTION

Austrian photographer Lisi Niesner won Grand Jury Award of inaugural Women in Sports International Photo Awards

By Asian Women in Sports | MAY 5, 2023



Berlin-based photographer Lisi Niesner (Austria) was announced the winner of the Grand Jury Award of the inaugural Women in Sports International Award, organized by Women in Sports Media Platform and Taiwan Sport Forward Association. Bruce Bennett (USA) won first place in the International Professional

Division while Silvia Casali (Italy) took second place and Adam Pretty (Australia) won third place.

Taiwan President **Tsai Ing-Wen** delivered the remarks and presented the awards to Grand Jury Award and International Professional Division winners. Niesner' s award was accepted by Lynn Cameron, the official photographer of England Lionesses, and the jury member of the awards. President Tsai commended the association for the efforts in promoting gender equality in sports and praised the photos in the competition for "raising the visibility" of female athletes and journalists, "especially when the exposure to women' s sports is low and female sports photographers remain a minority." President Tsai further stated that "Taiwan will continue to promote gender equality in sports and other fields in the country and the international community."



The Women in Sports International Photo Awards was created to promote and recognize outstanding female photographers in addition to promoting gender equality in sports. The Award is the first international women in sports competition in the world and recognizes the best sports photographers by presenting the Grand Jury Award to a female photographer.



American Institute in Taiwan acting director **Jeremy Cornforth** was invited to speak and to present the awards to the domestic division winners in the ceremony. Staff photographer from Taiwan’s United Daily News Group **Yu Cheng-Han** won the first place in the domestic division, while freelance photographer **Wang Chien-Yu** took second place and amateur photographer **Wu Zao-De** won the third place. In Mr. Cornforth’s remarks he pointed out that sports can also be “a platform to champion other foreign policy, including diversity, equality, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA).”



To raise awareness of gender equality in sports among the younger generation, an academic division was set up for college students to participate in. **Lee Chia-Jui** from National Taiwan Sport University won the first place in this division, while **Chen Ji-Wei** from National Taiwan Sport University won the second place, and **Liang Chia-Rou** from National Cheng-Chi University won the third place in the academic division.

According to the hosting organization, the awards, with a total prize money of USD 20,000, received more than 1,300 entries from 52 countries in all five continents. Award convener **Richard Wang** stated that “49.7% of all participants are female photographers, and in the academic division more than 70% of the participants are women.” The Awards Jury is led by **Anthony Edgar** (Australia), former head of media operations of International Olympic Committee, with 2021 IOC Women and Sports Award recipient Tracey Holmes (Australia), England Lionesses official photographer **Lynn Cameron** (UK), sports and picture editor at Flipboard **Steve Fine** (USA), and two-time Olympic gold medalist **Ann Chen** (Taiwan).

The award ceremony also served as the opening segment of the “Sports Diplomacy: Taiwan-USA Collaboration on Building the Asia-Pacific Gender Equality in Sports Exchange Program.” The event, organized by Po-Chun Sophiyah Liu’s Taiwan Sport Forward Association, was supported by the United States Department of State’s Global Sports Mentoring Program, U.S. Ambassador to Belize Michelle Kwan, who appeared in a pre-recorded congratulatory video.

Here is the full list of the Photo Award winners:

Grand Jury Award: Lisi Niesner, Austria (Reuters)

Jury Awards – International Professional Division

1st Place: Bruce Bennett, USA (Getty Images)

2nd Place: Silvia Casali, Italy

3rd Place: Adam Pretty, Australia (Getty Images)

Jury Awards – Domestic Division

1st Place: Yu Cheng-Han, Taipei City (United Daily News Group)

2nd Place: Wang Chien-Yu, Yunlin County (Freelance)

3rd Place: Wu Zao-De, Keelung City (Amateur)

Jury Awards – Academic Division

1st Place: Lee Chia-Jui, National Taiwan Sport University

2nd Place: Chen Ji-Wei, National Taiwan Sport University

3rd Place: Liang Chia-Rou, National Cheng-Chi University

女性在體壇國際攝影大賽頒獎 蔡總統：推動運動平權

全球第一次！以「女性在體壇」為主題的國際攝影大賽，今(5日)於國立臺北大學舉行頒獎典禮。蔡英文總統出席頒獎典禮，頒發評審團大獎及國際職業組前三名。奧地利女性攝影師Lisi

Niesner抱走評審團大獎獎座及7000美元獎金；而國際職業組冠軍，由美國資深攝影Bruce Bennett獲獎。

首屆「女性在體壇」國際攝影大賽，由社團法人台灣運動好事協會及「女性在體壇」媒體平台主辦，賽事組委會設於台灣，總獎金達60萬台幣，為全球創舉，力邀國際專業人士組成評審團。賽事分設國際職業組、國內組與校園三組，各組前三名都有獎金；尤其特別的是，大會特設頒予女性攝影師的「評審團大獎」，可獨得7000美元獎金。本屆賽事共收到全球52國、逾1300件作品，其中女性攝影參賽比例之高，全球少見。

蔡英文總統頒發評審團大獎，意義獨具。儘管得主Lisi Niesner，因工作，今日需留在倫敦、拍攝英國國王查爾斯三世加冕典禮，不克來台領獎，但她除了錄製得獎感言，也特別委由英國媒體攝影協會副主席Lynne Cameron代為領獎。Cameron也特別感謝這個獎項，讓世界看見女性攝影師的價值及女性在體壇之美。



總統蔡英文也頒發國際職業組前三名獎。冠軍得主Bruce Bennett(美國)，獨得5000美元獎金、亞軍Silvia Casali(義大利)、季軍Adam Pretty(澳洲)。蔡總統致詞時，特別恭喜國內外得獎者，肯定透過運動攝影，看見女性在運動場域的傑出表現；她也表示，台灣願意在運動平權上貢獻心力，與世界攜手推動。盛讚攝影大賽與今日展開的國際論壇，是透過運動和世界交朋友，與世界連結的絕佳範例！

美國在台協會AIT代理處長柯傑民頒發國內組前三名，臺北大學校友總會理事長林錫琦頒發校園組獎項。國內組前三名為余承翰(獎金5萬台幣)、王茜瑜、吳昭德；校園組前三名為李佳叡(獎金1萬台幣)、陳紀璋、梁家柔。獲獎作品主題多元，呈現各運動領域的女性運動員面貌，震撼人心。獲獎作品今明兩天首度在臺北大學現場展出，未來也計畫安排在台灣各地及海外展出。



本屆賽事的5名國際評審團成員專業及公信力兼具，包括Anthony Edgar、Lynne Cameron、國際奧會2021大洋洲女性與運動獎得主Tracey Holmes、前運動畫刊攝影總監Steve Fine，以及台灣體壇代表陳怡安。校園組評審為游智勝、王嘉菲及鍾宜杰。國際評審團主席Edgar表示，「這項賽事獨特且重要，尤其凸顯了對女性攝影的肯定」，他也表示，獲獎者素質極高，成功將卓越的運動及風格，透過攝影呈現。

大會特製獎座深具台灣特色。由鶯歌傑作陶藝董事長許元國，力邀文化部評鑑台灣工藝之家卓銘順設計，以女性運動伸展肢體的動作發想，形塑成星星造型。

台灣運動好事協會執行長劉柏君說，結合藝術與運動的女性在體壇國際攝影大賽，首度舉辦就獲得全球52國職業與業餘攝影愛好者的熱烈迴響，感謝國內外專業人士的支持，透過這項大賽，看見運動場域的女性身影與專業，也讓世界走進來，看見台灣在推動運動平權上極為堅強的軟實力。



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