

NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

June 2011
Volume 43 No. 6
¥400



ON BEING
ANUCLEAR
INDUSTRY
PR
LACK

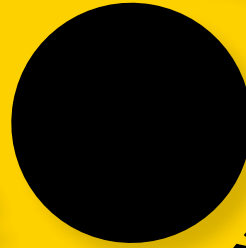
THE MEDIA
VS DOM-
ESTIC
REPORTING

TEPCO &

JAPAN'S
FIRST
ASTRONAUT
LEAVES HIS
FUKUSHIMA
ORGANIC
FARM

TEPCO &
THE MEDIA
FOREIGN
VS DOM-
ESTIC
REPORTING

ON BEING
ANUCLEAR
INDUSTRY
PR
LACK



JAPAN'S
FIRST
ASTRONAUT
LEAVES HIS
FUKUSHIMA
ORGANIC
FARM

ON BEING
ANUCLEAR
INDUSTRY
PR
LACK

THE MEDIA
VS DOM-
ESTIC
REPORTING

TEPCO &

JAPAN'S
FIRST
ASTRONAUT
LEAVES HIS
FUKUSHIMA
ORGANIC
FARM

JAPAN'S
FIRST
ASTRONAUT
LEAVES HIS
FUKUSHIMA
ORGANIC
FARM

ON BEING
ANUCLEAR
INDUSTRY
PR
LACK

THE MEDIA
VS DOM-
ESTIC
REPORTING

TEPCO &



Contents

President's message 2
 Editor's Notes 3

TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE 4
'THE MEDIA IS A MOUTHPIECE FOR TEPCO': TOYOHIRO AKIYAMA INTERVIEW
 Maki Wakiyama 5
THE JAPANESE PRESS AND TEPCO: FROM LAPDOG TO PIT BULL
 Jake Adelstein 6-7
FOREIGN MEDIA CREATE 'SECONDARY DISASTER'
 Takashi Yokota and Toshihiro Yamada 8-9
"THEM" VERSUS "US"
 David McNeill 10
FAMILY OF VETERAN HACK WONDER IF HE'S DEAD OR ALIVE
 Henry Scott Stokes 10
WHOOOPS, APOCALYPSE
 Tod Crowell 11
PHOTOS OF THE MONTH (TOKYO SINFONIA)
 Tony McNicol 12

SPACEFACTS DE



The former astronaut turned organic farmer Toyohiro Akiyama is interviewed about Tepco and leaving Fukushima. Page 5

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE
OSAMA BIN LADEN'S UNDERPANTS
 Richard Lloyd Parry 13
MEDIA
A NEW CHALLENGE TO JAPAN'S INFORMATION CARTEL
 Michael Penn and Makiko Segawa 14-15
FCCJ EXHIBITION
MODERN SAMURAI
 Kiyomi Tagawa 16-17
SWADESH DEROY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
SEARCHING FOR JAPAN'S HOPE FROM TOKYO SKY TREE
 Jo Suda 18-19
 New members 19
 New in the library 19

President's message



EACH YEAR IN JAPAN, AS JUNE APPROACHES WE AWAIT the deluge: the month-long interlude of rain and gloom we call tsuyu. As rainy season coincides with the annual election of a new FCCJ Board, for the incumbent president it is a time for reflecting and summing up.

For many of my predecessors I am sure this has involved counting down the days until liberation from the torments of office. Too often, serving on an FCCJ board has been a purgatory of bickering, frustration and countless hours wasted.

To my great relief, that has not been the experience of the past 12 months. We have had intense debates for sure, but this FCCJ board has been the most collegial and civilized I have served on.

Not to say this has been an "easy" year by any measure.

The March 11 quake, tsunami and nuclear crisis stretched our capabilities to the limit. For working journalists the past three months have been like three years of work. Our staff, with only one weekend to clean up after the quake, graciously hosted journalists arriving from around the world. Our Professional Activities Committee continues to produce excellent events that shed light on the crisis.

It has been a difficult time but we met the test, demonstrating the FCCJ's continuing importance as the world's window on Japan. Despite all this, our Board has managed to tackle fundamental questions of governance and long-term strategy that have eluded previous administrations.

The most fundamental question comes down to this. If you were to invest in a large bar and restaurant in the center of Tokyo, would you hire a bunch of journalists to manage it? And would you get new journalist managers each year?

No, you would be out of your mind! Most of us have no experience in managing any business, much less a complex food and beverage (F&B) operation.

Yet this is what we do, and the consequences are clear. Our cuisine leaves much to be desired. Our bar and restaurant badly need refurbishing. Our employees suffer from erratic management. And we lose money even when we have a full house.

Apart from the obvious fact that this is not financially sustainable, the FCCJ's F&B operation threatens to cost us our incorporated status as a non-profit Shadan Hojin. To meet the requirements of revised legislation, we must demonstrate that our activities are predominantly socially beneficial. But for anyone looking at our books it would be hard not to conclude that we are a bar that dabbles in journalism.

I appreciate that the prospect of change is alarming to members and employees alike. But it would be irresponsible not to reform proactively while we have the luxury of choice.

That is why the Board has exhaustively investigated all possible options before recommending that we move to outsource F&B. We have also proposed other governance reforms.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan
 Yurakucho Denki Building, North Tower
 20F, 1-7-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku,
 Tokyo 100-0006.
 Tel: (03) 3211-3161 Fax: (03) 3211-3168
 www.fccj.or.jp

All opinions contained within Number 1 Shimbun are those of the authors. As such, these opinions do not constitute an official position of Number 1 Shimbun, the editor or the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

Please pitch and send articles and photographs, or address comments to no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp

Published by the FCCJ
 Art Director: Andrew Potheary
 www.forbiddencolour.com
 Cover design by Andrew Potheary

Any matter relating to our core journalistic mission must remain the province of Regular Members. But there is no reason why that should include F&B, House & Property, Human Resources, Treasury and other mechanical functions of the Club. For these matters, we need to draw on the expertise of our Associate Members. Above and beyond that practical rationale, natural justice dictates that our Associates deserve a say in how the Club is run.

As we draw on a wider pool of expertise we also need greater continuity. Drastic changes in the Board each year have led to erratic management. By the time each new Board to come to grips with the issues there is little time to do anything. Each year the pattern is repeated.

In the coming year I hope we can take a different approach. As we have had a very effective Board this year, I hope that most of its members will agree to run again. And I hope that the FCCJ electorate will support them.

By the time rainy season ends our future will be clear. For now, allow me to thank my fellow Board Members, FCCJ staff and committee volunteers for your support over the past year.

– Georges Baumgartner

The most fundamental question comes down to this. If you were to invest in a large bar and restaurant in the center of Tokyo, would you hire a bunch of journalists to manage it? ...No, you would be out of your mind!

Editors' notes

I FEEL A STRANGE SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU... MOST PEOPLE WHO EDIT THIS magazine don't come back for a second go. With meager resources, it's a time-consuming, tricky task to get No.1 into shape for a hyper informed and opinionated group of English-language readers. It's also, and I don't think I'm letting the cat out of the bag here, not a gig that pays many bills.

But I have a confession to make: Even as I struggled to find the time to do it, I loved the job last time around. The people who sit in this chair get to draw from the best pool of English-language writers in Japan. We commission stories that are often neglected elsewhere, and we have the chance to stir up debate, as we have try to do this month, on the issue de-jour. What's not to love?

This time around I'm assisted by Englishman Andy Sharp who will be keeping the wheels on the No.1 wagon and helping to steer it between the ditches. In the back seat, for this issue anyway, is John Harris, who did such a terrific job of putting together the first magazine after March 11, one of the strongest we've ever produced.

As before, we send out our traditional appeal to readers for copy and photographs. No.1 is only as good as the work that it runs. We'll strive to make this a strong, reliable forum for journalism-related stories, opinions and visuals. We depend on you to supply the raw material. So please, do get in touch: no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp.

In the meantime, enjoy the ride. We think we've compiled a strong post-disaster issue with articles exploring how journalism inside and outside Japan responded. Let us know if you agree, or disagree.

– David McNeill

NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

Volume 43, Number 6 June 2011

no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp

Editors Andy Sharp, David McNeill
Publisher John R. Harris
Assistant Editor Geoff Tudor
Editorial Intern Yuko Takeo
Editorial Assistant Kanako Nishimura
Photo Coordinator Akiko Miyake

FCCJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Georges Baumgartner, Swiss Radio and Television
1st Vice President Martin Koelling, Financial Times Deutschland
2nd Vice President Steve McClure, McClure's Asia Music News
Secretary Lucy Birmingham, freelance
Treasurer Jonathan Soble, Financial Times
Directors at Large David McNeill, The Independent
 Yozo Hasegawa, BS Japan and Radio Nikkei News
 Yoshio Murakami, The Asahi Shimbun
 Kenneth Cukier, The Economist Newspaper Ltd.
Kanji Haruko Watanabe, Media Report to Women
Ex-Officio Monzurul Huq, Prothom Alo

FCCJ COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Articles & Bylaws Monzurul Huq, Bob Neff
Associate Liaison Joan Anderson
Entertainment Sandra Mori
Exhibition Bruce Osborn
Finance Jonathan Soble
Food & Beverage Mark Gresham
Freedom of the Press Tetsuo Jimbo
Governance Monzurul Huq, Grady Loy
House & Property Martin Koelling
Human Resources Steve McClure
Improvement Mary Corbett, Ed Merner
Information Technology Martyn Williams
Library, Archives and Workroom Suvendrini Kakuchi
Membership Catherine Makino
Membership Marketing Orlando Camargo, Kjell Fornander
Movie Edwin Karmioli, Karen Severns
Professional Activities Mure Dickie, Beryl Tung
Professional Development Tomoko Hosaka
Publications John R. Harris
Shadan Hojin Panel Kazuo Abiko, Yoshisuke Iinuma
Special Projects Yozo Hasegawa
Sports Duke Ishikawa
Swadesh DeRoy Scholarship Suvendrini Kakuchi
Toastmasters Doug Jackson

Foreign Press in Japan David McNeill



Inside the 20-kilometer evacuation zone in Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture

FUKUSHIMA

As we layout this issue, a triple meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi plant is confirmed. In continuing our reports on the Tohoku quake and its aftermath, we look at the nuclear issues and how the media has handled the stories.

'The media is a mouthpiece for Tepco'

By Maki Wakiyama

▶ JAPAN'S FIRST ASTRONAUT, TURNED FARMER, EVACUATES FROM FUKUSHIMA

Toyohiro Akiyama (below) is a former TBSTV Washington bureau chief. He was later selected for Russian astronaut training in a deal between TBS and the old Soviet Union. In Dec. 1990 he gave a live report from the Mir space station. Since retiring in 1995, he has been working as an organic farmer in Takinecho, Fukushima Prefecture.

Why did you decide to retire at the age of 53 to become an organic farmer?

When I saw the shining blue earth from space, I thought, "I am a part of this wonderful planet, and I can't just stand by when it is ailing." I began thinking about environmental issues globally, and this thought persuaded me to become a farmer.

I hear that you visited many places before you chose Takinecho in Fukushima prefecture to settle and farm. What was it like being there during the earthquake?

I heard a rumbling from the mountain just behind my house. Then the house began to shake violently. The rumbling lasted almost ten minutes. That evening, a local friend phoned to inform me there was a possibility of a reactor core meltdown with possible atmospheric dispersion of radioactive material, just as happened in the Three Mile Island disaster.

Did you think about living only 33 kilometers away from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant when you decided to settle in Takinecho?

I knew that the oldest reactor was 40-years-old and was scheduled for demolition by 2011. But in 2005, the government decided on a 10-year extension that might grow to another 20. Soon after that, I bought a simple dosimeter. When I was evacuated by car the day after the quake, the dosimeter was quiet in my house but began to make noise outdoors.

It took 16 years for you to establish your organic farm. You also spent a lot of money to restore an old farmhouse. Why did you abandon them so quickly? One reason was the repeated news of cesium dispersed in the atmosphere. This meant damaged fuel rods. That news was being broadcast by 2:30 p.m. on March 12.

Another was my experience visiting the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1982 when I was a TBS correspondent. During the accident in 1979, engineers released radioactive steam into the atmosphere. I was sure that the Japanese gov-



ernment would do the same.

Also, the chief cabinet secretary (Yukio Edano) kept announcing that the core was not damaged. He repeated it so many times that I began to suspect he was hiding information. Though the TV pundits said it would be OK, I couldn't ignore the possibility of a cover-ups when I recalled earlier cover-ups by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco).

In addition, the French, German and the U.S. embassies were recommending that their people evacuate. The media perception gap between Japan and overseas countries was huge. It seemed to me that the foreign embassies were acting based on information obtained from the Japanese government via the International Atomic Energy Agency. So, I couldn't help but think the Japanese government along with academia and the mass media were trying to hide the truth from their own people while sharing it with people overseas.

Many of my friends in Fukushima felt that a news blackout was going on. There was so little news reported about the MOX fuel, which contained recycled plutonium (in Reactor 3), that we became suspicious. The mass media, it seemed to us, was just acting as a mouthpiece for the government and the power company.

Why would the mass media become complicit in such a scheme?

Tepco is a big advertiser. And Tepco also did a lot of spin doctoring. While they didn't

exactly lie, they provided only limited truth. I've heard that all Tepco's TV advertisements are handled by a single advertising agency, which on March 16 warned its employees to stay indoors. Furthermore, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan pulled out of port as soon as it measured the radiation exposure of returned reconnaissance helicopters from Fukushima.

Those were the reasons I decided to evacuate. I checked my gas and found that I could drive about 300 kilometers, so I headed for a friend's place in Gunma prefecture. The traffic was congested, and I saw a lot of cars carrying Iwaki plates. I left Koriyama (in Fukushima Prefecture) at 9 a.m. but it was after 10 p.m. before I arrived at my friend's house.

You seem to have little trust in the Japanese government or the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency. Where does that come from?

I heard Haruki Madarame's testimony in the 2007 trial after an accident at the Hamaoka nuclear power plant (in Shizuoka Prefecture). Until then, I didn't realize how officials could be so unfaithful to their public trusts. Madarame (then chair of Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission) said that if they had to take into consideration every emergency scenario and obtain the consent of all concerned, it would be impossible to build nuclear reactors. He meant that they had to give up at some point and draw a hard line.

As we entered the 21st century, profits overtook safety as a priority. Now when the question: "Who owns a company?" arises, the answer is the shareholders. This is what happened at Tepco. Viewed in this way, workers at nuclear plants become less important than shareholder's profits.

In the early stages, the government more than once raised the upper limit for worker radiation exposure at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. What do you think about this?

It only demonstrates that nuclear power plants are willing not only to sacrifice the safety of local residents but also their workers once an emergency arises. In other words, it shows that nuclear power plants can exist only on the assumption of such victims.

I think people inside the "nuclear power village" behave like a fanatical religious group. While professing the safety of nuclear power plants, they began to believe what they were saying among themselves. ❶

Maki Wakiyama is a freelance columnist and translator who has published many books on biotechnology and other issues.



tenso (to forward) and denpo (telegram). It's the practice of summarizing a foreign news article, crediting the publication, but without doing any independent verification. It's a convenient way to report on thorny issues without risking any legal liability and it allows the media to save face by simply saying, "Oh, we are just reporting on what the *Washington Post* wrote. Sorry. They brought it up." At times, reporters consciously pass on stories they can't report to weekly magazines or foreign press out of civic duty or to create an opportunity to follow up on a story they are interested in writing.

I've had the experience myself when writing about the liver transplants at UCLA received by four yakuza in 2008. I ran the story past several Japanese news agencies and weekly magazines all of which declined to report it. Only one of them admitted to

killing the story for financial and safety concerns. Only after *The Los Angeles Times* followed up on my *Washington Post* story on its front page, did the Japanese press report on the issue, in classic *tenden* style.

What is interesting to see is that as public anger towards Tepco takes a steep climb, the Japanese media, which has functioned as a lapdog, is acting much more like a pit bull. This is not uncommon once the scent of blood is in the air; it's the media scam. Increasingly critical reports are being written in the major newspapers, but the weeklies, of course, are the most unrestrained. *Shukan Shincho* recently ran a piece with a provocative title that loosely translates as "The Resumes of The Tepco Class War Criminals," which focused on the career history of Tepco's top executives.

Surprisingly, of all the major newspapers, only two have been vocally critical of Tepco from early on in the news cycle – the far-right *Sankei Shimbun* and slightly left, *Tokyo Shimbun*. One may not like their political views, but the papers have done some excellent journalism in their coverage of the Fukushima reactor crisis. The Japanese media is often criticized as a lapdog to the powers that be. However, there have always been and continue to be some lone wolves in the herd that function like the watchdogs they are supposed to be. ❶

—Stephanie Nakajima contributed to this article

Jake Adelstein is an investigative journalist and author of *Tokyo Vice: An American Reporter On the Police Beat in Japan*.

THE JAPANESE PRESS AND TEPCO

From lapdog to pit bull

By Jake Adelstein

Tepco President Masataka Shimizu, second from right, bows in apology.

JAPANESE MASS MEDIA HAS LONG BEEN IN TEPCO'S POCKET

Reporters are often idealized as watchdogs for the social good, but as many Japanese citizens already know, Tepco has deftly turned many of our major news sources into lapdogs. As a major sponsor of several media outlets, Tepco buys the goodwill and, ultimately, the powerful silence of reporters, their editors, TV producers and publishers. Only because of the gravest of recent events has that begun to change.

According to the 2011 edition of the Nikkei Advertising Research Institute's "PR Funding By Major Companies," Tepco spends close to ¥24 billion per year under the guise of "normalization and development expenses." So why does a default monopoly need to spend what amounts to over \$294 million every year in advertising? To give you an idea of the scale, Sharp spent ¥28.4 billion in 2009 – and they were the 10th largest spender on advertising in the country.

Tepco has two primary instruments of media subjugation. The first is advertising funds: the promise of, as well as the threat of withdrawal. It's well known that Tepco pays huge advertising fees to most media outlets. It's not as well known that Tepco President Masataka Shimizu (who recently resigned) was, until the earthquake, also chairman of the Japan Society for Corporate Communication Studies, which includes former and current top executives from Asahi Beer, Toyota, and Dentsu, Japan's largest advertising agency.

The board of directors also includes a representative of Nihon Television's economic news section.

Shimizu was the chairman of what is whispered to be the equivalent of a lobby group that wields the tremendous power of advertising revenue over anyone who crosses their path. "It's the most powerful lobby in Japan in some ways," a government adviser says. It is ostensibly a group of scholars, executives, advertising agency bosses, mass-media representatives and businessmen who gather together to study more effective means of communication. Veteran reporters assert that the society also functions as a powerful consortium of large corporations who know how to use the threat of taking away advertising as a whip to keep the media muzzled.

You don't have to be too bright to figure out it would be financially devastating if Tepco, Toyota, Asahi Beer and Dentsu banded together and pulled advertising from your newspaper, TV channel, or radio station. In the April edition of the *Asahi Geino* weekly, noted journalist Takashi Uesugi claims that on March 15, after repeatedly lampooning and criticizing Tepco on TBS Radio, the producer asked him to leave the show, claiming that the program was being "revamped." TBS Radio refuses to comment on the issue.

Shimizu is still listed as the chairman of the society (at the time of writing), but on April 1 his "greetings" were taken down from the site and replaced with the words

of the vice-chairman. The current page expresses condolences to the victims of the recent disasters. No mention is made of the problems at the Fukushima reactor, only that Shimizu is now too busy dealing with the disaster to fully devote himself to the organization.

These "normalization and development expenses" are not only spent on millions of dollars worth of ads; the second weapon in the Tepco arsenal is *settai*, or "business entertainment", which basically amounts to wining and dining all those who might report on the firm in an unfavorable light.

When the earthquake knocked out Tepco's Fukushima reactor, setting off a chain reaction of disasters, Tepco Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata was nowhere to be found. Where was he? He was on a tour of China with members of some of Japan's largest media outlets – with Tepco footing the bill.

On March 30, Tepco not only admitted that the chairman had been taking mass-media power brokers on the trip to China, but also that Tepco paid the majority of their travel fees. On April 7, a reporter asked Tepco to reveal the names of the media firms that had executives or former executives joining the chairman on his trip, but Tepco dodged the question. They still have not answered.

According to a mainstream Japanese media reporter, the China tours have been going on for over 10 years. "The trips have a token amount of study, such as visiting a factory, or whatever has been scheduled to justify the event for that year," the reporter says. "In reality, most of the day is devoted

to sightseeing. At night the Tepco executives wine and dine the reporters, editors, or mass-media representatives. And of course, the obligatory karaoke."

When not spending lavishly on these international trips, Tepco also courts the media domestically. Dinners at expensive sushi shops with Tepco executives or PR flacks, are, of course, paid for by Tepco. Or Tepco may ask you write an advertorial, the honorarium usually starting at about ¥100,000. The writer may or may not be credited. And then there are the "nuclear power plant tours."

According to a reporter for one daily, the journalists actually do spend the day touring the plants in question; the company explains how safe nuclear energy is and how well the plants are run. But the tour is cursory. In the evening, the reporters and Tepco workers stay at a luxurious Japanese inn or hotel, and have an elaborate dinner together. Sometimes "companion girls," basically local hostesses, are provided to pour the beer, flirt with the reporters and perform other social functions. Tepco pays for everything.

The reporter I spoke with says he has heard that sometimes the executives of TV stations join the Tepco crew for golf the next day.

Tepco does not ask for favors on these junkets. There are no requests to the reporters for them to write articles praising nuclear energy, nor are they told to refrain from criticizing Tepco. Japan is a country where that's understood without anyone needing to spell it out.

And once a reporter has been on a few



Opposite, Anderson Cooper asks staff during his live broadcast on CNN, "Which way is the wind blowing? ... Should I get out of here?" Above, left to right: ninjas on Sky News; a sense of panic in the Britain's *The Sun*; and kamikazes in Germany's *Die Welt*

Foreign media create 'secondary disaster'

By Takashi Yokota and Toshihiro Yamada

NEWSWEEK JAPAN CHIEF SAYS FOREIGN MEDIA FAILED 3/11 TEST

Disaster reveals the true nature of people and tests our strength. In a blink of an eye, when life abruptly swings from normalcy to chaos, how do we react? Can we stay calm and show concern for others, or do we succumb to panic and act selfishly?

The same applies to the media. Disaster and war test the mettle of journalists. Can the media report heartbreaking situations in battlefields and disaster zones as accurately and sensibly as possible, without inducing panic among their audience?

The foreign media in Japan has long been treated with respect. It has been put on a pedestal as the paragon of journalism, and was viewed as a source of credibility. Frequently, as a reference for criticism of some aspect of Japan, newspapers here would run the line: "According to *The Washington Post*..."

The Great East Japan Earthquake shat-

tered that myth. The Western media failed to fulfill its mission during the disaster, hitting new lows with shoddy journalism as reporters were overtaken by the news and lost their composure.

Initially, the foreign media reported the deadly impact of the earthquake and tsunami with sincerity. But as soon as the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant erupted, perspective was lost and the story quickly turned into "Japan's Chernobyl." To be fair, fear of radiation is understandable – but fear cannot be an excuse for sensational and irrational reporting.

DESERTING JOURNALISTS

Notably, several reporters, including Tokyo-based foreign correspondents, fled because they feared radiation from the Fukushima plant. In one instance, a correspondent for one of the world's most respected newspapers ran away from an army barracks in Sendai while covering relief efforts by the U.S. forces with a *Newsweek* Japan reporter.

On the first day, this Tokyo-based correspondent, who is cool under normal circumstances, was continuously typing a story on his smartphone. But as night fell the next day and the situation at Fukushima deteriorated, his behavior changed. He suddenly started to pack his bags and tried to leave the garrison. A U.S. marine tried to calm him down, but he shot back: "I just want to leave! End of story! OK?" and vanished into the city. (The U.S. forces frequently checked radiation levels at the garrison, but nothing unusual was detected.)

Perhaps he felt there was nothing else to report on. Or maybe he wanted to move on to cover a different story. Yet one thing was clear: he was extremely upset and appeared as if he wanted to leave the Tohoku region (although he may have been exposed to the same amount of radiation by boarding a plane to Osaka, to where his office had been relocated).

He isn't the only one. Several Tokyo-based correspondents fled to Osaka or abroad from fear of radiation exposure.

They may have left for personal reasons, but nevertheless they abandoned their jobs while journalists from the Japanese press continued to report on the crisis on the ground. Safety should take priority, but that doesn't excuse a journalist from insensitive and irrational coverage.

Among the most hysterical were U.S. broadcasters. There is nothing new about sensationalist reporting by U.S. networks, but this time it was truly over the top. The reports by ace reporters and anchors deployed to cover the disaster were initially levelheaded, but it didn't take long for sensationalism and hype to set in.

Take, for example, Anderson Cooper, anchorman and star reporter at CNN. He was in the middle of a live conversation with nuclear expert Jim Walsh in the studio, when he was told about the hydrogen explosion at the Fukushima plant.

He nervously checked with his crew, "How far are we from Fukushima? Which way is the wind blowing?" After learning that they were 100 kilometers north of Fukushima, he interrupted Walsh and nervously asked, "Should I get out of here?" It's not clear whether he was trying to illustrate the severity of the situation or if he was genuinely terrified, but one thing is clear – instead of calmly ascertaining the situation, he unnecessarily alarmed viewers.

THE REAL HARM

This sensationalist reporting, though broadcast to an international audience, was also picked up in Japan. Many people

following events on the Internet became confused by the conflicting reports at home and overseas. The foreign media and reporters such as Cooper, who hyped the fear of the radiation, led some to believe the situation was far worse than the Japanese press had reported. The unnecessarily exaggerated reporting on the crisis may have encouraged embassies in Tokyo to order their citizens to evacuate.

In some cases, the foreign press didn't just lose their cool, but their intellect as well. While workers at Fukushima were frantically trying to bring the situation under control, the Western media didn't just stir panic, but also fell back on stereotypical reporting. When the number of plant workers was cut from 800 to 50, Western outlets dubbed those workers the "Fukushima 50" and praised their heroism.

But Sky News went with a more prejudiced approach, dubbing them "nuclear ninjas" and "samurai warriors." German newspaper *Die Welt* referred to Self-Defense Forces helicopters as "kamikaze."

At first glance, these phrases may seem innocuous – but they are not. "Calling the incident 'Crisis in Japan' sounds more like the title to a movie, and terms like 'nuclear ninjas,' 'samurais' and 'kamikaze' could even be construed as racist," says Stephan Garnett, a teacher of journalism at Northwestern University's Medill School. "Most importantly, it shifts the emphasis away from the earthquake and tsunami that has actually killed thousands and deprived thousands more of their families and homes."

That became the reality. The real voices of the victims were obscured behind the close-up, dramatized reports about the tsunami and the nuclear crisis. Stories about victims searching for their relatives, the lack of medical treatment for elderly evacuees, and the slow steps to recovery were placed on the backburner.

There are, of course, exceptions. The *New York Times*, which previously had a reputation for running its share of stereotypical "wacky Japan" stories, temporarily increased the number of its reporters in Japan and produced exceptional coverage of the disaster area. And while some foreign journalists fled the country, there were others from overseas bureaus who volunteered to support their overloaded Tokyo colleagues.

However, by labeling the issue as a "Chernobyl-level" disaster from the outset, Japan's image was damaged by fear-mongering rumors. The radiation scare prompted cargo ships to avoid docking in Tokyo and Yokohama, and experts were unable to come to Japan to survey the damage, holding back the recovery efforts. In short, the media produced a "secondary disaster."

Japan has endured the ordeals of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The foreign media has not. ❶

Takashi Yokota is editor-in-chief of *Newsweek Japan* and Tokyo correspondent at *Newsweek*. Toshihiro Yamada is a reporter at *Newsweek Japan*. Original version ran in April 6 issue of *Newsweek Japan*. Translated by No. 1 Shimbun intern Yuko Takeo.

See overleaf for a response to this article ▶

"Them" versus "Us"

By David McNeill

NO. 1 SHIMBUN EDITOR RESPONDS: WHAT IS THE SENSE IN FOREIGN VS JAPAN DEBATE?

Did foreign journalists perform worse or better than their Japanese counterparts in the week of March 11-18? Even to pose the question is odd. Which foreign journalists: The thousands of correspondents, stringers and fixers who live, work here and often have families here, or the small army of reporters jetted in from abroad during the week?

Most of the criticism from their counterparts in Japan seems to be directed at the latter. But many foreigners in Japan have been equally critical of the worst excesses of the parachute corps: most of the entries in the famous "Journalism Wall of Shame" log come from foreigners. And there is plenty of criticism of Japanese journalists by local journalists.

In this issue of No.1 Shimbun, for example, former TBS Washington Bureau Chief Toyohiro Akiyama tells us how he fled his home in Fukushima after deciding that there was in effect a news blackout after the crisis erupted. Freelancer Takashi Uesugi also says elsewhere that Tepco, the government and the media conspired to keep the worst of the news off the air and out of print. Several Japanese magazines have been equally, sometimes bitterly critical of reporters at NHK and other news organizations.

Undoubtedly some foreign journalists did put their safety first, and who could blame them? Others, such as *The Independent's* Daniel Howden or *The Times'* Richard Lloyd Parry went dangerously close to the Fukushima power plant and the irradiated local area to report on life there for local Japanese people. Many more debated getting close to the disaster before deciding not to go and turning back from what we now know was the world's first triple meltdown. And yes, some panicked.

But in what sense is this a foreign-versus-Japan issue? Japanese journalists working for the big newspapers and TV companies pulled out of Minami-soma and other stricken towns near Fukushima en masse on the weekend of March 12-13 and didn't return for weeks. That was clearly a decision made by their companies and they simply obeyed it. Japanese freelancers, such as the FCCJ's Tetsuo Jimbo, later braved the radiation

to report inside the evacuated zone.

Characterizing the post-disaster response in this way sets up an unhelpful binary and perpetuates the soft nationalism that has been one of the unfortunate, even disturbing side effects of March 11. We stayed and did our job. They ran away. We can't rely on them.

As the dust settles, we can see that the best and worst of journalism on all sides. Japan's big newspapers and TV companies, amplifying information directly from the government and Tepco, were disciplined, descriptive, somber and focused on the facts. They also almost entirely avoided speculating on what might be going on inside the stricken plant, although many reporters, like Akiyama-san, must have concluded the worst.

The foreign parachute corps drew the conclusions that others couldn't or wouldn't: explosions, cesium in the air and plutonium in the ground means a meltdown. Free from Japan's press club system, and from the worry of inducing panic in the world's most populated metropolis, some undoubtedly pushed the panic button. Anderson Cooper was one of many who understandably wondered, "What is going on? Are we safe?"

Broadcaster NHK, perhaps fearing mass panic – a not inconsiderable worry – drew on its war cabinet of nuclear experts who crooned their reassuring message in the darkest days. As the Nuclear safety Agency warned on March 12 that some of the metal containers of uranium fuel inside reactor one may have started melting University of Tokyo Professor Naoto Sekimura popped up on screen to wave away any concerns. "Only a small part of the fuel may have melted and leaked outside," he said. He then called on residents near the power station to "stay calm," saying that "most of the fuel remains inside the reactor, which has stopped operation and is being cooled."

Which was the best approach? Uesugi concludes thus: "I think the correct way to report about the events at the nuclear power plant is to assume the worst case and write about it, and then also add what the current situation is in relation to that. Newspapers and television shouldn't say, 'Don't worry, it's safe. You don't need to run away,' like Japan's have."

The point is, that's a Japanese journalist, not a foreign one. ❶

FAMILY OF VETERAN HACK WONDER IF HE'S DEAD OR ALIVE



I LIVE IN A BLOCK OF facts in central Tokyo, on the fifth floor. My first action, when the quake struck on March 11, was to go and stand by a Buddhist sculpture we have in our living room – we were

rocking back and forth – to make sure the sculpture, which is a foot high, did not fall off its base and crash to the floor. I could do nothing about the rest of the room. A modern piece by Francis Morland did indeed hit the floor with a thud.

Other than that, I kept an eye on Fumi, 91. She is my wife's mother, and she lives with us. She was OK, I felt, she would not fall down. Our building was rocking like a small boat at sea in a swell, rising and falling in time with the waves coming up from beneath us. How that temblor kept going. It seemed like it would never stop. On and on, it went. Concentrating on the sacred sculpture, though, I didn't have much time to worry.

Friends told me later that there were actually three earthquakes, separated by intervals of a few seconds, and conjoined. It felt like that.

In the hours that followed I received e-mails from relatives. Dr. Charity Scott Stokes, my younger sister, was among the first to get in touch. She contacted me from Munich, almost immediately. Then there was Natasha Scott Stokes, my niece, living in Chile. And I heard from my cousin David Scott Stokes in Australia. And more. The messages had the same import. Was I alive or was I dead? Which was it?

The Scott Stokes Diaspora was at work. To all of my relatives and to inquiring friends I responded that we were OK. My wife Akiko in England was the first to hear from me. We spoke on the phone. The gist of all of the above, honestly, was that the world's press was getting it right. We were spreading the word of a major event. How big it was, how many casualties of the tsunami there would be, we could say in time.

If journalism is a first draft of history, how did we do? Not badly, I submit, as a lazy bones who stayed in Tokyo. Exaggerations there were. Information gaps there were. Corrections were made. On balance, we did a good job.

– Henry Scott Stokes

CONFESSIONS OF AN AMERICAN NUCLEAR PR FLACK

In Christopher Buckley's delightful comic novel *Thank You for Smoking* three public relations executives from the alcohol, gun and cigarette industries meet regularly at a posh Washington restaurant to swap war stories. They called themselves the "Mod [Merchants of Death] Squad." Save a place for me.

Before returning to journalism and moving to Asia, I spent several years working as a flack for the nuclear power industry. I worked in the public relations department of a Pacific Northwest utility called the Washington Public Power Supply System, known and loved from its initials as "Whoops."

How the local headline writers loved our nickname. "Whoops, Another \$100 Million Cost-Over Run." Or, "Whoops,

Asked whether the plants were safe, he said: "They are now." Then hastened to add that they would be when they went into operation too.

Documentation lost, Says NRC." And many more like that. At one time we were unquestionably the biggest story in the Pacific Northwest.

At that time our organization, which before had run one modest hydroelectric plant and a steam generator, was attempting to simultaneously build five large nuclear power plants – supplied by three different vendors and of two basic types (Boiling Water Reactor and Pressurized Water Reactor).

At the time, cost not safety was the main concern. Asked once at a public meeting whether the plants were safe, our managing director deadpanned: "They are now." Then he hastened to add that they would be safe when they went into operation too.

Despite our herculean efforts, including at one time organizing a mass march of irate construction workers against our

Whoops, apocalypse

By Todd Crowell

own benefactor, the Bonneville Power Administration, we had to terminate four of the five plants, one by one, precipitating at one time the largest municipal bond default in American history. As far as I can tell, they haven't been missed.

That left us with only one plant that stayed the course and eventually went into operation, a General Electric boiling water reactor similar to the Fukushima reactors, but of a somewhat more advanced design. The first Fukushima unit went online in 1971; our plant started in 1983.

Those dozen years between the early 1970s and early 1980s were a period of great ferment in boiling water reactor design and regulation. It seemed like we were forever tearing out stuff from the plant and replacing it with new stuff to meet changing regulations. That was a principal reason why our costs kept rising.

I don't know whether the Japanese benefited from all of this ferment or

The accidents all were variations on one theme: an airplane crashes into the substation knocking out electric power, a diesel backup generator is down for maintenance, another one was sabotaged. Some way or another, all of the generators were knocked out, just as in Fukushima. (We were in the desert; we didn't consider a tsunami.)

Many times our operators came up with a solution that would have solved the problem and stopped the exercise. To this the inspectors would say: "Good job; now we're going to pretend you didn't do that." The exercise had to run to the level of a general emergency so that off-site players, such as fire and police were put through their paces.

When I worked for Whoops I used to think that public relations was the most fun when you were in trouble, matching wits with the mainstream media. I doubt my counterparts at Tepco or the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum would feel the same way right now. ❶



Todd Crowell covers the Fukushima crisis for *Nuclear Intelligence Weekly*, a New York-based energy publication.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



The Tokyo Sinfonia, regular performers at the FCCJ, traveled to the Tohoku region during Golden Week to play concerts for victims of the earthquake and tsunami. They were accompanied by ballet dancer Yuriko Nagai, who improvised to Tchaikovsky pieces.

"We were able to bring the solace of our music to show that we cared, and offer some respite to those who have lost so much," says Music Director Robert Ryker. "I would, if I could, return to the disaster area to perform again, and I believe that the entire orchestra feels the same way."

Photos by Tony McNicol



Stop me if you've heard this before...

by Richard Lloyd Parry

▶ RICHARD LLOYD PARRY RECALLS
THE DAY HE FOUND OSAMA BIN LADEN'S
UNDERPANTS.

Over the years I have traveled to some interesting places, but I have assembled only a paltry and disappointing collection of souvenirs. A blow pipe from the Dayaks of Borneo. A Kim Il Sung badge from North Korea. A lump of rock from the crater of Krakatoa – and not much more. The pride of my trophies, the one genuine treasure among them, are nothing much to look at – grey, stripy, and slack round the waistband, and not the kind of ornament that one can readily display (although I could, I suppose, have them framed). These are the underpants of Osama bin Laden.

I was in Tokyo when the planes hit the World Trade Center; I remember watching the cable news coverage in the FCCJ on Sept. 12 and getting the first inkling of how much had changed. Four weeks later I was in Pakistan, with hundreds of competing colleagues, all hatching ways of getting across the closed border into Afghanistan, where the U.S. was bombing the Taliban and looking for clues to the whereabouts of Bin Laden.

Some crept across disguised in burkas; a handful were taken in on brief Taliban-guided tours. But it was only with the fall of Kabul in mid-November that it became possible to travel through the Khyber Pass and on to the western city of Jalalabad. I had planned to spend just a couple of nights there before driving on to Kabul. But the day before I was due to travel, an Italian, a Spanish, an Australian and an Afghan journalist were murdered on the Kabul road. It seemed wise to wait for a while; and by the time the road was safe to travel down again, Jalalabad had become far too interesting to leave.

For this was al-Qaida country. Scattered around the city, many of them cratered or reduced to rubble by the U.S. bombs, were tank parks, training camps, bomb factories and residential compounds where the men known locally as "Arabs" had lurked and plotted. The resident Afghans spoke of them with awe and more than a little suspicion; all had melted away into the surrounding mountains days or weeks before.

The most interesting place of all was a big compound at the end of a dusty road in a place called Ghulam Dog.

It was the kind of structure to be found all over Afghanistan – a big, mud-brick compound built for an affluent extended family, containing a maze of tightly packed rooms with round turrets at its corners. Inside were stacks of abandoned food, a dusty ping pong table, and piles of bullets – none of them unusual in a home of this kind. But by the account of the mujahedeen – the pro-American, anti-Taliban militia who were the de facto authority in liberated Jalalabad – this was no ordinary compound.



British intelligence wanted to see me. My colleague assumed that they wanted DNA samples.

"I saw him myself so often, so what I tell you I saw with my own eyes," said the mujahedeen commander who guarded the house. "His bodyguards lived here with him – they slept in the mosque in front of the house, and he kept his family here, including his wife." He was talking about Osama bin Laden.

The idea that, until a few weeks ago, the world's most wanted man had lived here was tinglingly exciting. The young mujahedeen shared this thrilled alarm; they wanted us to leave quickly, so I was in a hurry when I came across my prize in a bathroom at the back of the compound.

They have must have been there for the

last fortnight, hanging crisply on a clothes line across a bath tub – freshly washed, but baggy and worn, the kind of thing you wouldn't mind leaving behind if you had to pack and leave in haste. They may, of course, have belonged to one of the bodyguards or advisers who also lived with him. But the label revealed that they were one of the more expensive gents' underwear lines sold by the European department store C&A – suggesting a man of means and a certain cosmopolitanism.

After I wrote about my find in my newspaper, I was contacted, indirectly, by British intelligence who wanted to see me when I left Pakistan. The colleague who passed on the message assumed that they wanted to examine my find for DNA samples; I couldn't decide whether I would agree to this or not. But by the time I got back to Pakistan, the spooks had lost interest, and the meeting never took place.

I was never quite able to believe in Osama bin Laden. A week after my find, a battle began between the mujahedeen and the "Arabs" holed up in the mountainous Tora Bora valley south of Jalalabad. I talked to several villagers there who swore that they had seen him with their own eyes, riding past on a bay horse. Later, it came to seem that he probably had been in Tora Bora and had narrowly give the Americans the slip.

It is an obscure feeling and difficult to explain. But even though I know that this is true in the cold factual sense, I find it hard to believe in imaginatively – in the same way that it is still hard to believe the planes flew into the towers on Sept. 11 – that the United States and Britain went to war, that guilty and innocent people were blown apart by the bombs, that the four journalists were killed on the road that day, that war is still going in Afghanistan 10 years later, and that Bin Laden was finally identified and killed in Pakistan this May. Perhaps this is what makes the underpants such a valuable trophy, the original kind of souvenir: a reminder that somewhere all of this really did happen and that, whatever else Osama bin Laden was, he was one of us – a human being who bought and wore underpants – had to have them washed from time to time, and left them behind when he ran away in a hurry from falling bombs. ❶

A new challenge to Japan's information cartel



Livedoor founder Takefumi Horie speaks at a FPAJ press conference

By Michael Penn and Makiko Segawa

KISHA CLUB CHALLENGE BY NEWLY FORMED FREE PRESS ASSOCIATION

It seems to have gone barely noticed in the hectic atmosphere of earthquakes, the tsunami, and the Fukushima nuclear crisis that an important movement has recently emerged within the Japanese-language media.

On April 25, a new organization called the "Free Press Association of Japan" (FPAJ) was established by Japanese magazine, Internet and freelance journalists. Officially, they have no agenda other than to host open press conferences with leading newsmakers, but they are posing a serious de facto challenge to the traditional "kisha clubs" (press clubs) which have dominated the newsgathering landscape of this country in the postwar period.

Michiyoshi Hatakeyama, a freelance journalist and one of the key organizers of the FPAJ, explains: "I hope Japan will turn into a society which tolerates full media access to information. Today's Japan

represses diversity. The FPAJ is one effort to promote a more democratic media." He adds, "We fear that unless we take on this challenge, Japan will never be changed."

The press conferences hosted by the FPAJ are open to any journalist and even to some ordinary citizens. Many online journalists, bloggers and others are attending these events.

Michiyo Masayama, an administrative staff member of the FPAJ, tells us, "I really sympathize with the way it is open to everyone and the way it incorporates the viewpoints of ordinary people. The press conferences have become more interesting since ordinary people are often extremely outspoken in comparison to the professional journalists."

So what kind of speakers is the FPAJ pulling in? The list is already impressive: Democratic Party of Japan bigwig Ichiro Ozawa, Softbank boss Masayoshi Son, former Minister for Internal Affairs Kazuhiro Haraguchi, the former governor of Nagano Prefecture, Yasuo Tanaka, and Internet entrepreneur Takafumi Horie are among the leading names.

Figures such as these appear to sympathize with the FPAJ's goal of ending the stranglehold of the kisha clubs. They are also attracted to the FPAJ-hosted press conferences because Japanese net journalists are live streaming the entire events to their audiences, meaning that no newsroom editor is controlling the message.

For this reason, Ozawa quickly agreed in January to a press conference hosted by the FPAJ even as he was rejecting requests from almost everyone else – including the FCCJ. When Son wished to unveil his antinuclear "energy shift" proposal in April, it was the forum offered by the FPAJ that he turned to.

Likewise, just hours after word came down that Horie would have to spend 2½ years in prison the FPAJ organized an emergency press conference at International House of Japan in Roppongi.

In their several months of activity, they have distinguished themselves as being faster and more open than their competitors, and the opportunity for unedited and unfiltered media coverage is making them

"FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SHOULD WELCOME THIS ORGANIZATION"

THERE IS PROBABLY NO SERIOUS FOREIGN JOURNALIST WORKING IN TOKYO WHO HASN'T been hindered in some way by our supposed colleagues in the Japanese mainstream press. Our access to many government press conferences is limited, and in other cases we are shut out entirely.

There do seem to be variables for foreign journalists operating here. Some people allege that the large wire services seem to have established a sort of "intermediate cartel" that allows them better access than those affiliated with smaller media organizations. Also, we can speak from our own experience of unreasonable restrictions put on the filming of many government press conferences, making it much harder environment for small-scale television journalists to operate.

Foreign journalists with longer experience in Tokyo tell us that things have been better under the Democratic Party of Japan government than in the previous era, and we ourselves have seen efforts from officials in the Prime Minister's Office to loosen things up and to utilize some of the new media. The Kantei website, for example, is becoming increasingly useful now that full press conferences are available online.

The foreign ministry and the DPJ headquarters should also be commended for being more-or-less open to any foreign journalist who wants to attend – though almost none of us actually utilize this opportunity.

The establishment of the FPAJ should be welcomed in two respects: first, it provides FCCJ members with potential allies in our efforts to break down the walls surrounding government press conferences; and second, it may give us some "healthy competition," stimulating us to rethink how we can better operate our own FCCJ press conferences.

We might also take this opportunity to consider whether or not the FCCJ has been doing all that it could be doing to challenge kisha club obstruction of our legitimate newsgathering activities. As journalists, we have a job to do – a job that plays a critical role in democratic societies – and we think it's time to train our collective fire on the unjustifiable information cartel that still exists in this country.

The establishment of the likeminded FPAJ among our Japanese freelance colleagues and the existence of a reasonably sympathetic government make this an ideal time to remind our club of its original purposes and for the FCCJ to take the initiative for the overall betterment of journalism in Japan.

– Michael Penn

attractive to the speakers.

Although the FPAJ was formally launched only a few weeks ago, its activities have been ongoing since January. The first FPAJ press conference was held on Jan. 27 with Ozawa. Fourteen independent journalists organized that initial event, including Hatakeyama, Takashi Uesugi, Shoko Egawa, Yu Terasawa and Tetsuo Jimbo.

Uesugi, author of *The Collapse of Journalism*, has long been one of the fiercest critics of the kisha club system, so it should come as little surprise to see him hosting many of the FPAJ events.

At an April 6 media session attended by dozens of DPJ lawmakers – including former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama – Uesugi asserted that the performance of the established Japanese media system during the recent disaster has been abysmal: "Freelance journalists and the foreign media are pursuing the facts, even going into the radiation exclusion zone, but all the while the Japanese government continues to prevent freelance journalists and overseas media from gaining access to official press conferences at the prime minister's office and other government offices."

In Uesugi's view, the lack of trust that Japan's media system engenders has contributed to the "rumor-rife news that has been broadcast overseas."

The independent journalists of the FPAJ also point out that their organization is paid for by private donations and member contributions, while the closed kisha club system is subsidized by Japanese taxpayers.

According to Uesugi's estimate, public expenses in 2009 for managing official press rooms at central government ministries – excluding all local government expenditures – amounted to more than 1.3 billion yen (about \$16.7million). The mainstream media has thus been allowed to use taxpayer subsidies on behalf of their exclusive clubs.

Daiki Nakazawa, one of the board members of the FPAJ, points out, "As their system has been maintained through the taxation of the people, it is natural that their press conferences should be open to the entire nation." ①

Michael Penn is the president and Makiko Segawa is a staff writer for the Shingetsu News Agency, a media production company registered in Minato-ku, Tokyo.



LexisNexis®

Discount LexisNexis Subscriptions for FCCJ Members

The FCCJ is pleased to offer members a substantial discount on subscriptions to LexisNexis' news database service, Nexis.com

The members-only deal allows for flat-rate access at **¥7,900 per month** — offering big savings on a service that normally costs **¥126,000 per month**.

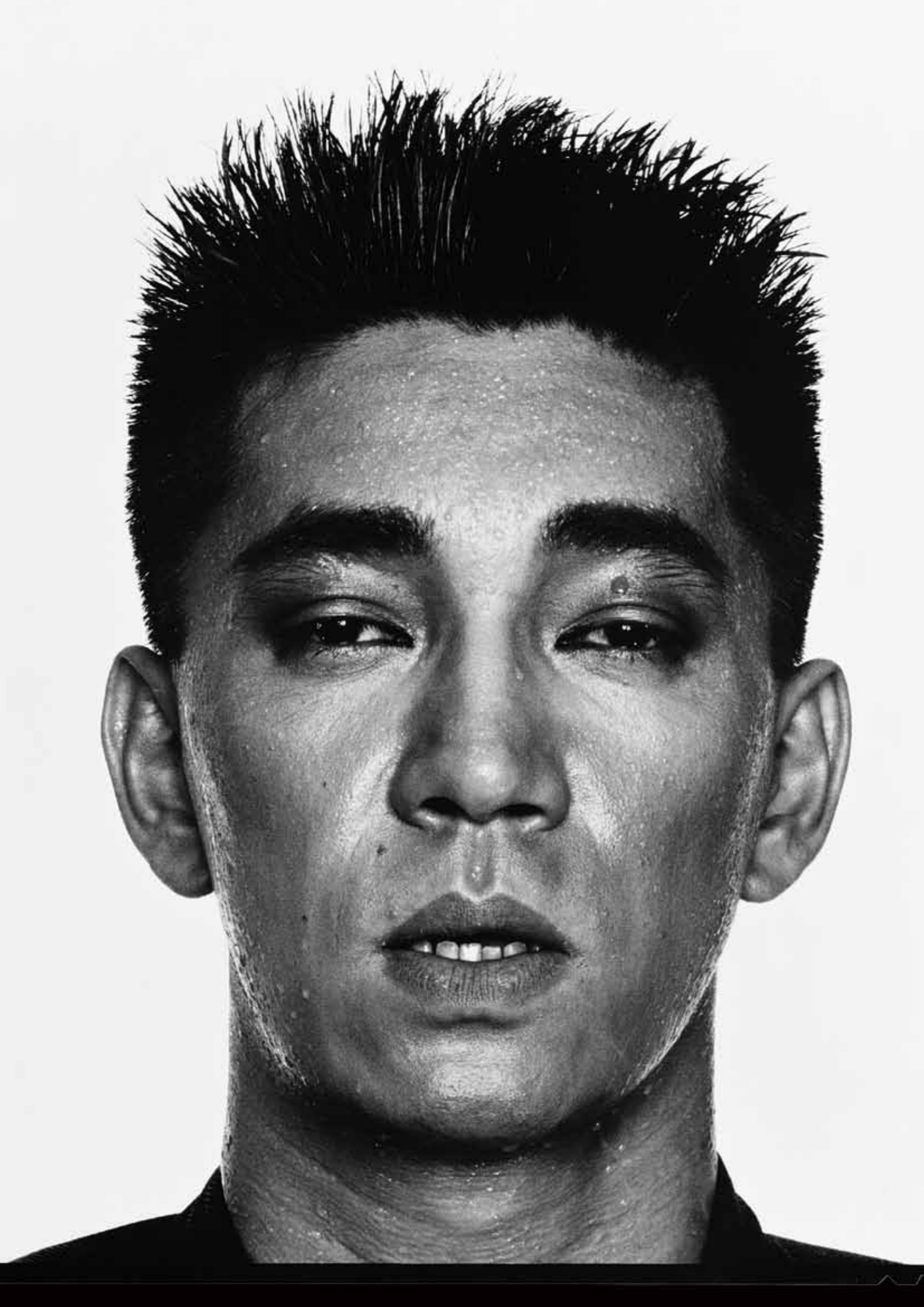
Nexis provides access to news and information from more than 34,000 sources, including Kyodo News, Jiji, Yonhap, Xinhua, AP, Reuters, AFP, all major world newspapers and specialist news sources. Also included is a database of U.S. and international company information, biographical databases, country profiles and a U.S. legal database.

The FCCJ rate allows for "all you can eat" access, with no per-document charges for access news or database items available.

Compared to online news sources, Nexis provides a much more detailed search mechanism and database stretching back years. It's also possible to set up news alerts that automatically inform you of developments on subjects, places, people and other topics of interest to you.

For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ Web site or from the 19F Club office. Members may also sign up for two-week trial accounts, via the 19F Club office or direct www.lexisnexis.co.jp/form/lexisdocrequest.html

The service will be billed by the Club. The FCCJ benefits from all subscriptions sold under this arrangement.



FCCJ EXHIBITION, THROUGHOUT JUNE

Modern samurai

Gendai no Samuraitachi

Photographs by Kiyomi Tagawa

The figures of “Modern Samurai” are actors, musicians, sumo wrestlers and comedians.

Each photo was taken just after the personalities finished performances; be it a stage, a sumo ring, a concert or a stand up show.

The photos are aimed at showing the excitement, relief, nervousness, happiness, achievement and exhaustion that accompany their hard work.

I truly hope that this collection might enable you to sense the samurai’s heart-beat and breath, their inner energy and their souls.

— Kiyomi Tagawa



Opposite:
Ryuichi Sakamoto

Mikijiro Hira



Takeshi Kitano



Yasokichi Konishiki

Swadesh Deroy Scholarship Award 2010-2011

The Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan marked the Swadesh Deroy Scholarship Award in April with a sparkling champagne luncheon for more than 40 guests. The event was a landmark for the Club, which was still struggling to shrug off the pall of the March disaster. The decision to go ahead with the much-awaited celebration paved the way for a restart of Club activities.

This year the award attracted over 30 applicants – the highest ever – from Japan's top universities, and a diverse array of nationalities. The theme focused on Japan-Asia relations, gender discrimination and social issues.

The chief guest was Chi-Tai John Feng, representative of Taipei Economic & Cultural Representative Office, who not only brought special Asian flavor to the occasion but also generously gave ¥200,000 from his personal funds to the scholarship fund.

"The donation comes from the fees I earn through my writing. The contribution to aspiring journalists is an appropriate recipient," he told the audience. Feng's illustrious career includes a stint at the Central News Agency and Central Broadcasting Corporation, two of Taiwan's leading news organizations. His speech to the young audience focused on the growing importance of the Asian region in global trading and international diplomacy and incorporated vividly the aspirations of Taiwan to become a leading country with a stable and rich economy and its own culture, distinct from China.

The scholarship committee comprised of Atsushi Yamada of *Aera Magazine*, Amy Huang, Tokyo Bureau Chief, China Times Group, William Saito, associate member, Eric Johnston of *The Japan Times* and Atsuko de Roy. Chair: Suvendrini Kakuchi, Inter Press Service.



FCCJ SCHOLARSHIP AWARD, FIRST PLACE

Searching for Japan's hope from Tokyo Sky Tree

By Jo Suda

ON A COLD, GLOOMY DAY IN JANUARY, I thought about Japan's future right at the foot of Tokyo Sky Tree, on the week it hit 569 meters. Tokyo Sky Tree will transmit electric waves and replace wasteful analog technology. It is a symbol of new prosperity and of Japan's future.

There, however, I heard the voice of a nameless, homeless man sitting at the side of the Sumida River. When I saw his message written on a cardboard box I was attracted to him, like a moth to a candle. "Though I am an object of pity, my existence must be observed," it said.

He was kind and I began to enjoy the conversation with him. His hands were covered with dirt. I saw the figure of Japan in this man, because now Japan is "an object of pity," too. I cannot forget his last statement: "What a harsh reality..."

Asakusa and the Sanya district is Tokyo in miniature because this is where new technology, poor people and foreigners gather, and Tokyo is Japan. Therefore, we must be able to find Japan's hope here. I think this grotesque contrast between a new brilliant object like something from science fiction and poor people indicates Japan's despair and hopes.

Last year, China's economy overtook Japan, just one of many gloomy portents of our future. As everyone knows, Japan

is now an aging society. The number of working people is decreasing and in 2050 the population will fall below 100 million.

According to the Japanese government, the economy grew in 2010 by 3.1 percent but this will fall to 1.5 percent in 2011. Compared with other OECD countries, these rates are very low. Though we are broaching new technological frontiers with digital multimedia broadcasting and e-newspapers, we do not have enough stamina to tackle more difficult tasks because of the lack of labor.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the unemployment rate in Japan 2010 is 5.3%. That means more than 3 million people cannot get jobs. The homeless man I talked to is one of them and he is just the tip of the iceberg.

When I strolled around Sanya (the name has vanished from the map and is now the Taito and Arakawa districts), I found the office of Sanyukai, a local nonprofit organization that provides poor people with free health care. There were many unemployed men outside of the office. Though Japan seeks more workers

Jo Suda is a 22-year-old student at Keio University. His essay won first prize in this year's Swadesh Deroy Scholarship Award

while the population shrinks, those men cannot get jobs because they lack skills.

I asked Sanyukai volunteer Mr. Sonobe to name his organization's most profound problem. "Lack of contributions. That is money, food and clothes," he said. The dark side of the Japanese economy is so deep that these men cannot support the Japanese economy and can only be supported by others.

However, in the same district, I found hope too. In Sanya, there are many foreign travelers. Many stay at the Juyoh Hotel. According to the Ministry of Justice, there are 2,186,000 foreign residents in Japan. The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare says 563,000 foreigners work here. That's more than double the 207,000 who worked here in the year 2000.

Those people could be a huge help to the Japanese economy. However, every coin has both sides, I thought, so I went to ask local Sanya policemen about problems caused by these foreign newcomers. An older policeman with a kind face answered: "Foreign travelers seldom cause trouble. Nor do homeless people. The former are well educated and the latter can get social security."

My concern was meaningless. An increase of well-educated foreigners would support Japanese society.

From my experience in Sanya, I felt that I grasped the hint of Japan's revival. I talked to a graduate student at Keio University, a French national. Viewed objectively, Japan is declining as the result of the falling population, but we have great technologies, represented by Tokyo Sky Tree. If we open the country more to foreigners, we can support weak people and become a strong country once again.

However, this conversation generated one more difficult but meaningful question because he did not agree with me. He said that he feels even if he works for many years in Japan and is naturalized here he can never be considered a true Japanese citizen because of his appearance. I had bumped against the wall called nationality. Japan is a country for and by Japanese but what are the qualifications to become Japanese?

We have a constitution that guarantees the sovereignty of the people but we do not know who "the people" are. Recently, a professional football player, Lee Tadanari, has played an active part in the 2011 Asian Football Federation Cup. He said in an interview after a game that he is both Korean and Japanese. He is an excellent Japanese but also Korean.

On the other hand, there are people who still fall back on racial stereotypes. Ki Sung-Yong, another professional football player, who racially insulted Japanese people. As sophisticated, 21st century adults we should overcome the old, prejudiced ideas about nationality and develop open minds like Lee Tadanari.

Right at the foot of Tokyo Sky Tree near Senso-ji Temple, I thought that the true Japanese people are not those who only secured Japanese nationality by law, but those who respect Japanese history and culture regardless of their race or appearance. If we share this idea, new, fresh and open "Japanese people" can revive our devastated economy and our culture. Without the power of new Japanese, including "foreigners," Japan cannot survive in this harsh reality. But if we develop new attitudes toward nationality, Japan's future will grow tall, just like Tokyo Sky Tree. ①

FIRST PRIZE

Jo Suda, Keio University

SECOND PRIZE

Amanda Weiss, The University of Tokyo

THIRD PRIZE

Thomas William Wilson, Kansai University

HONORABLE MENTION:

Alexandra Erikova Homma, The University of Tokyo
Xiaoye Wang, Waseda University
Ai Tamura, Osaka University
Amy Jacqueline Seaman, Sophia University
Ji Hyun Rhim, Waseda University
Takafumi Inoue, Keio University

NEW MEMBERS



DANIEL POPPY is the associate managing Tokyo bureau editor of *PharmAsia News*, a trade magazine for the pharmaceutical and biotech industry. Daniel has covered the life sciences industry for *Elsevier Business Intelligence* since 2006, first with *The Pink Sheet* in Washington. He transferred to Elsevier's Tokyo office in June 2010 to lead *PharmAsia News'* coverage of the Japanese market. He is also a freelance writer for science and technology news. Poppy is an active member of the

DC Listening Lounge – a collective of radio documentary producers – and his work has appeared at the Venice Biennale. He is currently writing a book on his jury duty experience in the United States. Daniel is a graduate of Carleton College and a diehard Philadelphia Phillies fan.



Baseball enthusiast **MASAAKI HARUKAWA** began his career as a video editor at Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation in Osaka. He became a news reporter in 1990 and was dispatched to Los Angeles in 1997 as a correspondent for the NNN TV network for four years. Upon returning to the western Japanese city, he became the chief producer of a weekend morning news show, during which time he also served as editor of the news division. Masaaki has been a news commentator

since July 2007, recently discussing current affairs on *Joho Live Miyaneya*, a weekday afternoon broadcast. This proud father of three has been coaching little league baseball for the past nine years.



ANDY SHARP is a Tokyo-based independent journalist and translator, and a copy editor at *The Nikkei* online. He has written for *The Diplomat*, an online magazine covering current affairs and international relations in the Asia-Pacific region, and publications such as *Eurobiz Japan*, JAL's in-flight magazine and *Metropolis*. Prior to his freelance career, he worked as a translator and staff writer at *The Daily Yomiuri*, and in industries as diverse as video game localization and semiconductors. A resident of Japan for more than 10 years, he lives in Yokohama with his wife, baby son and troublesome cat.

REGULAR MEMBERS

Daniel Poppy, Elsevier Business Intelligence, *PharmAsia News*
Masaaki Harukawa, Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation

STATUS CHANGE (PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST ASSOCIATE TO REGULAR)

Andrew Philip Sharp, Freelance

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Said Karlsson, Freelance
Sayaka Shiotani, J.F. Oberlin University

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Taro Yamada, Asia Maritime Pacific Ltd.
Yoshinobu Fujimoto, Nishimura & Asahi
Shigeru Matsuda, Eastwind Limited
Atsushi Sasaki, ZIM Japan Ltd.

REINSTATEMENT (ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)

Kenichi Suzuki, The Democratic Party of Japan
Bhaban Bhatta, TBI Co., Ltd.
Keiichiro Tominaga, TBI Co., Ltd.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Still Crazy Nuclear Power Plants as Seen in Japanese Landscapes

Hirokawa, Taishi
Korinsha Press & Co., Ltd.
Gift from Taishi Hirokawa
Shuppan Daihokai
Yamada, Jun
Bungeishunju
Gift from Jun Yamada

On the Attack Against ROK Ship Cheonan

Ministry of National Defense, Republic of Korea
Myungjin Publication Inc.
Gift from Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Taction

Ishikawa, Kyuyoh
I-House Press
Gift from I-House Press

Chiji Massatsu

Sato, Eisaku
Heibonsha
Gift from Eisaku Sato

Well Planted in Fertile Ground

Crimes, Andrew
Createspace
Gift from Createspace

1945 Nihon Senryo

Tokumoto, Eiichiro
Shinchosha
Gift from Eiichiro Tokumoto

The Sino-Japanese War

Saya, Makito
I-House Press
Gift from I-House Press

The Lost Symbol

Brown, Dan
Doubleday
Gift from Joseph I. Peters

The Dream of Lafcadio Hearn

Pulvers, Roger
Kurodahan Press
Gift from Roger Pulvers

Zero Emission

SHIFT_the way you move



Nissan LEAF. Car of the year 2011.
The first 100% electric car to win.
Ever.



WORLD CAR AWARDS