

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

November 2013  
Volume 45 No. 11  
¥400

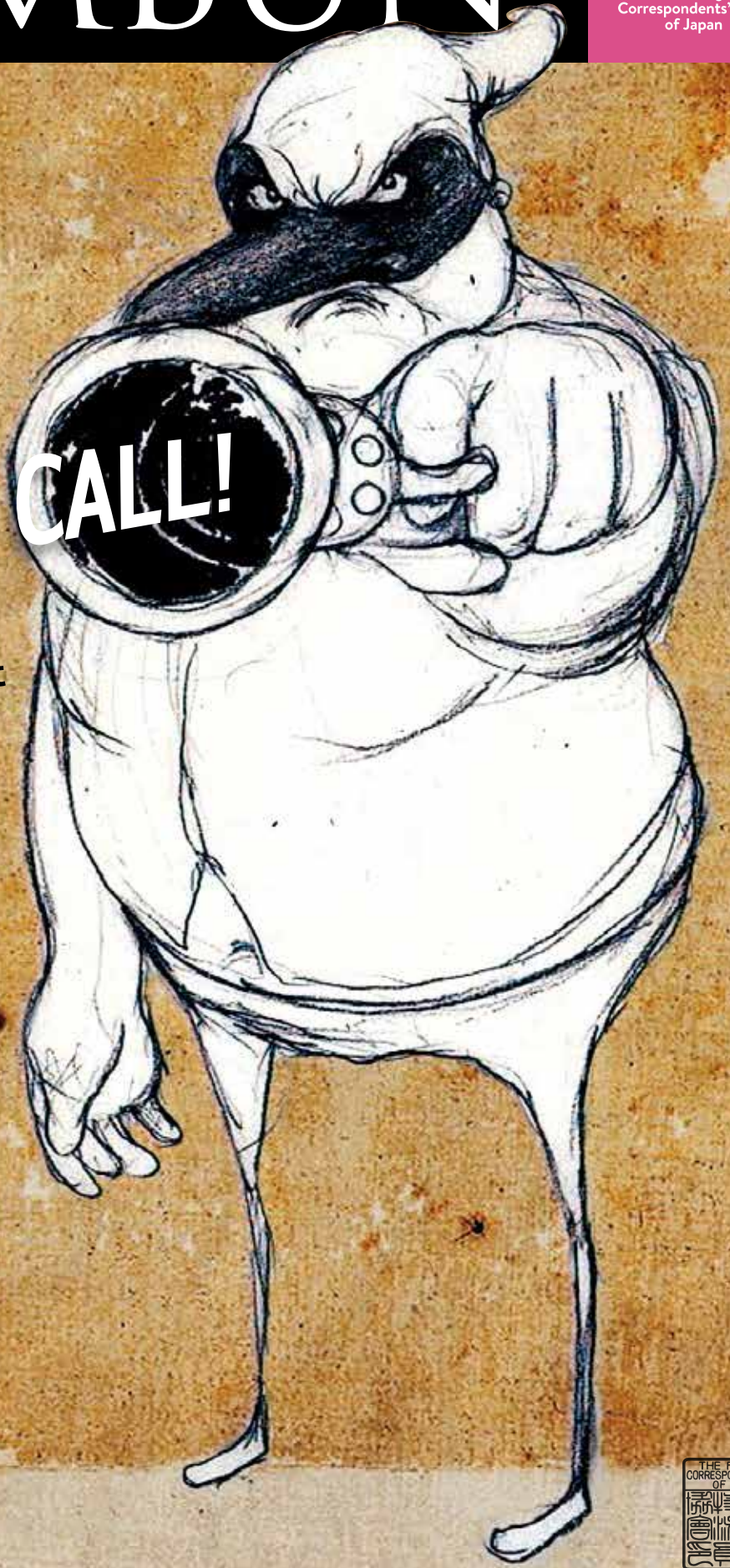


The Foreign  
Correspondents' Club  
of Japan

With *Girlfriend in a Coma*  
**Bill Emmott** wants to  
rouse Italy ... and Europe

## WAKE-UP CALL!

Japan may be  
next on his list



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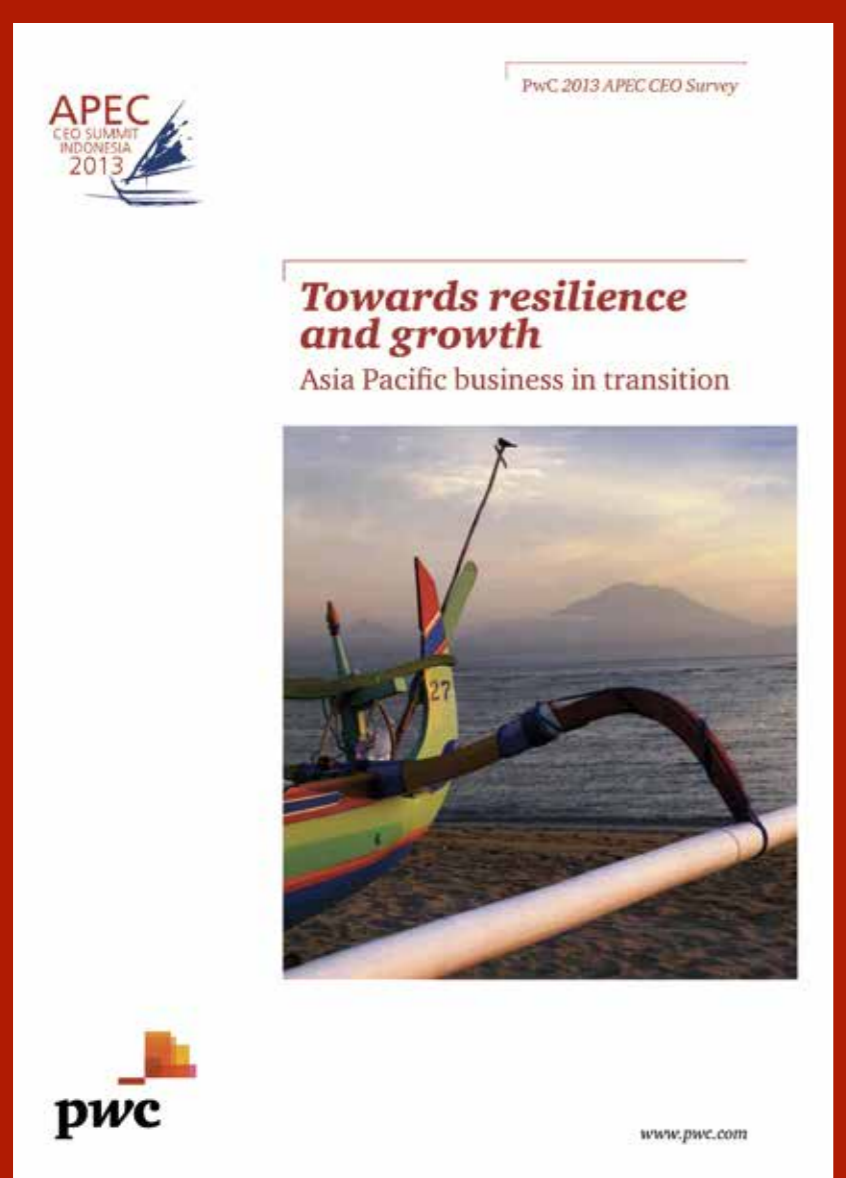
The new secrecy bill's effect on  
journalists explored

PM Abe's revamping of Japan's  
military scrutinized

The *Japan Times*'  
Sayuri Daimon profiled



# Towards resilience and growth



Executives in the Asia Pacific region are in the midst of a major transformation taking place within the region driven by a gradual but steady rise in income and economic opportunity for millions of people.

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## NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

Volume 45, Number 11 November 2013

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**Published by the FCCJ**  
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](mailto:no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp)

**Cover image from Girlfriend in a Coma**

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## From the President



THE HOLIDAY AND TRAVEL SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING, along with opportunities to enjoy FCCJ's reciprocal ties with press clubs abroad. We've got a total of 13 in Asia, the U.S. and Canada. Please have a look at the list on our new FCCJ website: [www.fccj.or.jp/membership/reciprocal-clubs.html](http://www.fccj.or.jp/membership/reciprocal-clubs.html)

I recently visited the National Press Club ([www.press.org](http://www.press.org)) in Washington, D.C. and the Overseas Press Club of America ([www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org)) in New York City to strengthen our ties and meet with old and new friends.

At the National Press Club I had the great pleasure of reconnecting with Myron Belkind, FCCJ president from 2003-2004. After 43-years at Associated Press, Myron is now teaching at George Washington University's School of Media & Public Affairs, and overseeing the NPC as vice president. He's slated to become president next year. (The announcement will be in December.)

The NPC is located in the heart of D.C. not far from the White House, and occupies an array of elegant rooms, restaurants and office space spread across two floors. My jaw dropped when I saw their fully staffed Broadcast Operations Center. The fitness center with in-house trainer was another eye opener.

Myron revealed the NPC has had four consecutive years with profits of more than \$1 million and hopes to be near that level this year. They've eliminated their long-term debt and built reserves of nearly \$3 million.

This achievement comes from a five-year strategic plan from 2009-2013 led by executive director Bill McCarren and successive boards of governors. Before this, the Club had substantial debt, no reserves, and a business model producing operating losses.

How did they go from loss to profit? Disciplined belt-tightening, a change of course, new goals and new revenue streams. Interestingly, we share several challenges and goals going forward. They're now focusing on attracting young members, as their membership is shrinking and aging. They're also considering corporate memberships, and exploring strategic partnerships.

The National Press Club's financial turnaround is inspiring indeed, and a great example for the FCCJ to work from. It's time we created our own five-year strategic plan.

At the Overseas Press Club of America I connected with executive director Sonya Fry and veteran journalist and author Bill Holstein. Bill was formerly posted to Hong Kong and Beijing and has visited Japan often over the years.

The OPC publishes an informative monthly newsletter and the *Dateline* magazine, published once a year for their annual awards dinner in April. The special edition features winners of the 22 Overseas Press Club Awards. The annual awards are for international coverage published or broadcast in the U.S. or by a U.S.-based company, or accessible to an American audience. The 2013 awards entry deadline is Jan. 30, 2014. The awards dinner is April 24, 2014.

Like many press clubs, the OPC's membership and facilities have been shrinking but the Club continues to be a powerful voice for press freedom and human rights. In *Dateline*, OPC President Michael Serrill writes: "Covering the world has never been more dangerous. And while we at the OPC complain that the band of reporters traveling beyond our shores is constantly shrinking, the number of people targeted by the authorities is rapidly expanding."

It's more important than ever to protect press freedom and honor those who brave the reporting dangers. I'd like to propose the FCCJ establish one if not several awards similar to the Overseas Press Club. Please let me know if you are interested in helping organize this.

Finally, Sonya Fry told me about the International Association of Press Clubs established in 2002 and based in Dubai, UAE at the Dubai Press Club. Please have a look at their website: [www.iapressclubs.org](http://www.iapressclubs.org). I'll be contacting them about the FCCJ joining their important networking organization.

— Lucy Birmingham

## Letter to the Editor

[THE LATE] SAM JAMESON'S 1996 ACCOUNT OF Tanaka Kakuei's fateful October 22, 1974, Club luncheon is more accurate than most (*Number 1 Shimbun*, August 2013).

Even so, it gets some important things wrong.

He says the crucial *Bungei Shunju* article accusing Tanaka of *kinmyaku* (money connections) appeared in the late summer of 1974. In fact it was written much earlier, in May, by Shintaro Ishihara.

It pushed the stock market down by three percent. A nascent anti-Tanaka mood quickly gained strength. (Tanaka was also being blamed for the post-oil shock inflation and other sins such as the Seoul subway corruption scandal).

But in interviews and at press conferences he was generally able to brush it all aside. Moods were no match for "the computerized bulldozer," as Tanaka was called.

It was not till he was scheduled to appear at the Club months later that things began to cave in. On the basis of another *Bungei* anti-Tanaka piece in September, Bernie Krisher in *Newsweek* wrote a widely-read article pulling it together with the original Ishihara *kinmyaku* and other allegations against Tanaka.

Published just before the October luncheon, it was for many Club members their first real hint that Tanaka was in trouble, as should be clear from the Bela Elias quote that Sam uses.

But for the massed Japanese TV cameras covering the luncheon the *Bungei* allegations were old hat. What was new was the fact that the world's media were so willing to rudely attack their prime minister on the basis of those allegations.

Broadcast widely that evening, they provided the occasion for all the anti-Tanaka rumblings that had been going on months before to surface.

So it was not a matter of the Club (and *Newsweek*) bravely exposing a scandal Japan was trying to hide. If anything it was the reverse — it was precisely because Club people like Bela Elias had so little idea of what had been going on for months before that they were able, for all the wrong reasons, to give Japan the excuse it needed to dump a powerful prime minister — a prime minister that, as Sam hints, did not deserve to be so rudely treated.

Little wonder that subsequent prime ministers were so reluctant to continue the tradition of prime ministers making courtesy Club appearances.

Kiuchi Akitane, the laid-back, cooperative and highly respected Foreign Ministry official acting as secretary for Tanaka that Sam mentions as making such efforts to arrange the luncheon, remains furious to this day.

— Greg Clark



## SEOUL SURVIVOR

**Anthony Spaeth**  
claims the South  
Korean capital is  
the place to be  
for a newsman

WHEN I DECIDED IN 1978 TO RESIGN from the *Asahi Evening News*, my first job in journalism, Bernie Krisher asked me to be *Newsweek's* stringer in Seoul. I was very tempted.

But I had different plans, and so did the beautiful Japanese woman, also from the *Asahi Evening News*, who would become my wife. In the three decades that followed, I spent a lot of time in Korea, flying in from other homes. I wondered how my life might have differed had I accepted Bernie's offer.

In 2010, 33 years after I first visited Seoul, I was offered the editorship of the *JoongAng Daily*, a newspaper very similar to the *Asahi Evening News*.

I accepted easily. The country had never been richer, more successful, freer or, arguably, more hopeful. I have a soft spot for Koreans with their charming intensity. I felt I had grown up with Korea at an arm's distance — and it was time we finally came together.

I've now lived in Seoul for a period in which Korea produced its first smartphone; coming late to the game — but going on to take the greatest share of one of the world's most important markets. Samsung is now one of the top brands in the world along with McDonald's and Coca-Cola. "Gangnam Style" became an international phenomenon.

At the same time, Korea remains formally at war. Days after I arrived in 2010, North Korea torpedoed a South Korean warship, killing 49 people. Months later, it shelled an island — the first land attack since the Korean War ended in 1953 — scaring some of the foreign editors at my newspaper. Not the Korean editors or reporters, of course. They laughed it off.

Korea has a lot of news: clockwork corruption scandals, hideous sex crimes, juicy murders, important business news, vicious political infighting and partisanship that makes Washington look cooperative and civil, plus K-pop and sports. That's a good reason for a newsman to live in Seoul.

But there are other reasons to love living

in Korea, even for non-newsmen. They are, in my ascending order of importance:

**Life is cheap:** I moved to Seoul from Hong Kong. After a few weeks, I pulled out a notepad and did the cost calculations. I discovered that living in Seoul was at least 50 percent cheaper than living in Hong Kong. And that was comparing apples to oranges.

In Hong Kong, I lived on the very noisy King's Rd. in the not terribly attractive section of Tin Hau, next to Causeway Bay. In my cheaper life in Seoul, I live on top of Namsan, the mountain in the center of Seoul, the equivalent of living on Hong Kong's peak. My neighbor is the chairman of Samsung, Lee Kun-hee.

In Hong Kong, there was never a moment of quiet in my apartment even with the windows sealed shut. In Seoul, my apartment is quiet as a tomb with windows thrown wide.

Rent is cheap. Taxis are cheap. They say that eating in restaurants in Seoul is cheaper than cooking at home. (No one in Hong Kong says that.) The only cost in Korea that matches that of Hong Kong is the hourly wage of a Filipina housemaid.

**Ppali-ppali:** Koreans are very proud of their *ppali-ppali* (rush, rush) mentality, and it appeals to me. It has led to numerous follies in industry and governance and explains why motor scooters are allowed on sidewalks in Seoul, a highly hazardous practice for pedestrians. (Many are delivering food and no one wants their Chinese food or McDonald's to come cold.)

For the expatriate resident, *ppali-ppali* translates into finding an apartment quickly, moving in fast, and paperwork being done swiftly. Coming from Hong Kong, *ppali-ppali* was what I was worried I was leaving behind. I needn't have worried.

**Sound of the city:** The way Koreans move around Seoul may not be unique. Women walk arm-in-arm. Men wait at crosswalks performing phantom golf swings or punching their lower backs. But their sound is unique. The sound of Koreans in groups is laughter, which punctuates all conversations. Men have goofy, college laughs. Women's laughs are knowing and sexy.

**Looks matter:** Koreans, women and men, are the best looking people in Asia. This is a matter of taste, and I can anticipate arguments from colleagues in Thailand or possibly Indonesia. I hold my own. ①

**Anthony Spaeth**, former Executive Editor for Asia for *Time* magazine, has lived in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Manila, New Delhi and Seoul.



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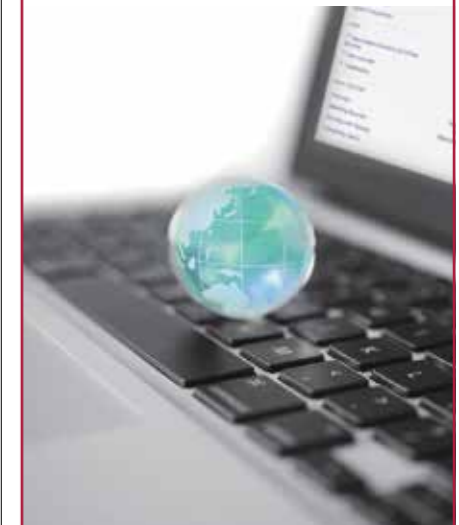
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For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.



# Silvio Berlusconi hates my Girlfriend



STILLS FROM GIRLFRIEND IN A COMA

The former *Economist* editor turns his hand to filmmaking in an attempt to find the cure for Italy's "lost decades."

by Bill Emmott

I had always subscribed to the old print-hacks' joke: "You have a great face for radio." And I had always believed that whatever the lure of large TV audiences, the trade-off of shallowness for reach was not worth it. Words, in inky print or bits and bytes, were where the real action was. Then I discovered Italy, an Italian director-friend, and some themes from Dante Alighieri. The result: a film.

The argument I used to convince Carol, my ever-tolerant wife, was that making a film about Italy represented the least-bad sort of mid-life crisis. Other men buy red sports cars, or start consorting with scarlet women. I had decided to buy some smart suits, get a haircut, and to hurtle around a rather beautiful country in a rather uncomfortable mini-bus along with a camera crew and my guide in this adventure, the aforementioned director, Annalisa Piras.

Thus it was that we – or, really, she, with some amateur input from me, plus my face and voice – made a 98-minute documentary called *Girlfriend in a Coma*. The title was inspired by a pop song from Britain in the 1980s, roughly when I was living in Japan (my excuse for not having heard of it...), by The Smiths.

The idea the title conveyed was that this was Italy viewed through the eyes of a foreigner, one in love with the country – hence, the girlfriend – but who was saddened by her condition. I felt a bit unfaithful – my original such "girlfriend" is Japan – but we journalists are allowed to be a bit promiscuous, after all.

*Girlfriend* is in a sense a classic work for a foreign correspondent, using the advantage of being an outsider with fresh eyes, though it is also crucially a joint venture, blending the passion and patriotism of Annalisa (albeit an exile who lives in London with her family) with the view of the foreign hack. Her patriotic input also explains why we have tried to make the film not just a one-off but a campaign, aiming to "wake Italy up" from its coma through debates on social media and in civil society groups, schools and universities.

Why Italy? you might ask. Well, why not? I might answer. The more serious answer is that I had become engaged with Italy while I was editing *The Economist*, as in 2001 we had taken a look at the country's media-mogul-turned-wannabe-prime-minister, Silvio Berlusconi, and had not liked what we saw: a symbol of the danger of corporate wealth taking over a democracy.

Bill Emmott was editor-in-chief of *The Economist* (1993-2006) and its Tokyo correspondent (1983-86). Now an independent writer based in Britain, he is the author of 10 books and the documentary *Girlfriend in a Coma*. Bill was FCCJ Secretary, 1985-86.

We said on the cover that he was "unfit to lead Italy." He riposted that we were communists, one of his newspapers pointed out that I look like Lenin, and he sued us for libel. There's nothing I like more than a good punch-up, and it made me intrigued as to how a country that has so much right about it could go so wrong – politically, morally and in its economy, over more than 20 years. Italy, like Japan in its different way, has "lost" two decades. So the film tries to explain why, say who is responsible, and show how Italy is not an exception but a warning for the rest of the West.

The whole venture was much tougher than I expected. It took longer, cost a lot more, and was a lot more difficult than I had realized. Not so much the performance (though I now have greater sympathy for actors, understanding that their most crucial item of clothing, given all the standing about, is thermal underwear), but the conception (how to blend images and words) and the execution (how to edit, to choose, and to build a narrative from 100 hours of film and some brilliant animation).

We also made things hard for ourselves in commercial terms. We chose to remain independent and not to involve broadcasters as co-producers, in order to keep editorial control. Since we were operating on a shoestring, essentially from Annalisa's loft, we had no credibility or influence with the film or TV industry. And since we were making a film about

a country whose own media and film industry is very incestuous and resistant to outsiders, we were shunned by our best potential market, Italy itself, whether by film distributors, free-to-air TV channels or film festivals.

Then we had a bit of luck. Knowing an Italian election campaign in February 2013 gave us a good chance to get noticed, we organized a small tour of screenings in Italy in the run-up to the vote, to be opened by a premiere-cum-launch party for which we booked a cinema in a rather cool contemporary art museum in Rome, Maxxi. The luck was that 14 days before the event, the director of the (privately run, but state-funded) museum, Giovanna Melandri, decided to ban our premiere.

She is a political hack, though from the left rather than Berlusconi's camp, and came up with the lovely line that it wasn't right to show a "political" film during an election campaign. Being banned, of course, is the best thing that can happen to any writer or artist. Suddenly we became headline news, martyrs to the cause of free speech, and subjects of an online petition that within four days had got 30,000 signatures calling for our premiere's reinstatement.

## ITALY, LIKE JAPAN IN ITS DIFFERENT WAY, HAS "LOST" TWO DECADES

We would never have been able to organize such good publicity ourselves. The premiere was taken over by the Italian news magazine, *L'Espresso*, in a venue five times larger than the cinema in Maxxi. Our tour of screenings multiplied, as people queued up to organize them all over the country. At last, a private free-to-air TV channel that had previously ignored our approaches, La7 (then owned by Telecom Italia) bought the terrestrial broadcast rights.

The post-screening debates, with audiences young and old, were lively, engaged, sometimes critical, but always in the end supportive, because we were counted as being against "the system," which many Italians have come to hate. Yet at the now more than 50 such debates we have attended, mostly in Italy but also in London, Paris, Brussels and Berlin, one character in the film drew more criticism than any other.

This was not a politician, nor the Catholic Church, nor a media magnate. It was

the Carlos Ghosn of Italy, a Canadian-Italian called Sergio Marchionne who since 2004 has been CEO of the FIAT car company and has done a huge amount to make it viable as a multinational firm, chiefly by buying Chrysler cheaply and turning it round.

The criticism revealed a deeply ambiguous view of globalization and modernization. What Marchionne has tried to do is to take a failing Italian national champion and make it globally competitive – trying to match productivity and management methods used in Germany, Britain, America and, yes, Japan. And he has tried to rock the boat for the business establishment, quitting the business federation Confindustria just as Rakuten's Hiroshi Mikitani quit Keidanren – except that FIAT is part of the old establishment.

Yet that still doesn't make him popular. He is a hero in Detroit but a villain in Italy, for his tussles with

The author on the streets of Italy; FIAT CEO Sergio Marchionne being interviewed in the film...



... Silvio Berlusconi featured on *The Economist* cover in the documentary; behind the scenes during filming

trade unions and for the uncomfortable message he puts out about what change means in an age of globalization. If Shinzo Abe ever gets round to really doing anything about his "third arrow" of structural reforms he may well feel a bit of sympathy for Marchionne-san.

So what's next? Obviously, not another film? Hmm, well, that mid-life crisis just won't go away. We're at work on a film now about the current threats to the European Dream, this time with the BBC as co-producers. And to support that and other projects, we've set up "The Wake Up Foundation," a non-profit dedicated to research and communication, through films and words, about the sources of Western decline. I'd love eventually to do a film about my real girlfriend, Japan. No peace for the wicked. ❶

Is "collective defense" necessary or a shift toward a more aggressively militaristic Japan?



Changing times:  
PM Abe reviewing  
Self-Defense  
Forces in 2006

AP PHOTO/TSUO INOUE

## Taking the leash off Japan's Self-Defense Forces

by Todd Crowell

**I**magine this scenario: a lightly armed U.S. Navy intelligence-gathering ship cruising off the coast of North Korea is suddenly surrounded by DPRK patrol vessels demanding its surrender. Only a few kilometers away, a destroyer belonging to the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (the Japan's navy) happens to be cruising close enough to offer help.

The prime minister must make a quick and agonizing decision. Does he order the destroyer to the rescue of a friendly vessel in harm's way, thereby violating the constitution, breaking the law and possibly exposing the ship's captain to criminal charges if any North Korean is killed? Or, should he obey the law, restrain the captain and almost certainly destroy the alliance with the nation's main protector?

This scenario is by no means far-fetched. A lightly armed U.S. Navy vessel, the U.S.S. *Pueblo*, was waylaid by the North Koreans and seized in January, 1968. The only difference is that there were no Japanese naval vessels (or American naval or air assets, for that matter) close enough to help the *Pueblo* when it was surrounded and captured.

Yet it is this kind of scenario that lies behind the renewed push to pass the necessary changes to the Self-Defense Forces Act that would permit Japan to engage in what's called "collective self-defense." Briefly, it refers to a country coming to the aid of an ally when it is under attack and the country is in a position to help out. For years the Japanese government has interpreted collective defense as going against the country's war-renouncing constitution.

The U.S.-Japan security arrangement is often called an "alliance." It is not. The term alliance is purely a courtesy title. The so-called alliance is, in essence, a deal. The U.S. promises to defend Japan if it is attacked, with nuclear weapons if necessary (the nuclear umbrella). In return, Japan agrees to permit American bases on its soil for Americans to use basically as they see fit.

However, Japan is not obligated to defend the U.S. if she comes under attack. The most commonly mentioned scenario – intercepting a North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile fired over Japan on the way to the U.S. mainland – is considered by most observers as far-fetched. The "Pueblo scenario," of rendering assistance to U.S. Navy ships if needed, is a more likely contingency.

The main practical emphasis behind a push to approve collective defense is Japan's rapidly expanding involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. In the past 20 years, more than 8,000 Self-Defense Force troops have been involved in PKOs in half a dozen countries. Engineering troops are currently stationed in South Sudan, and army medical personnel help in earthquake-ravaged Haiti. The navy takes part in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden.

The 2007 changes to the Self-Defense Forces Act made participating in U.N.-approved peace operations one of the main missions. But it did not address such issues as lending assistance to other nations participating in the joint operations. So now Japan cannot come to the assistance, say, of an NGO targeted by terrorists, for example, or help a non-Japanese ship attacked by pirates based in Somalia.

"The SDF is literally crossing its fingers that nearby friendly units won't come

under attack," says Yuichi Hosoya, a law professor at Keio University. Other naval vessels on anti-piracy patrol avoid getting too close to Japanese vessels, he said. "It's too dangerous." That Japan has never been in a quandary over protecting its colleagues on anti-piracy patrol "has been sheer luck."

Earlier LDP administrations had sought to modify the current restrictions against collective defense, but they were in office for too short a time to accomplish anything. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's recent remarks to the effect that he is in no rush to enact the change probably comes from a realization that the current government, still enjoying 60 percent-plus approval ratings after eight months in office, is in power for a long stretch.

Currently, two special committees have been convened to consider aspects of Japan's future security posture. They are expected to make their recommendations later this year for introduction to the Diet next year. One is the Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security, dealing with the collective defense issue. The other is the Advisory Panel on National Security and Defense Capabilities.

Additionally, the Diet will consider two security-related bills in the current special session that began in October. This includes a law to create a National Security Council similar to the American NSC, and a projected doubling of the penalties for leaking classified information. Washington considers the current regulations too slack, obliging it to withhold certain sensitive information.

The panel on National Defense Capabilities is separate from the collective defense panel and looks into other issues – such as the question of permitting pre-emptive strikes against a country (say North Korea) that it believes is preparing to launch a missile attack against Japan. Another issue under study is the advisability of creating a marine corps-like branch of the ground forces to defend or, if necessary, retake Japanese islands south of Okinawa.

These could possibly be considered offensive capabilities outlawed by Article 9 of the Constitution. On the other hand, the Defense Ministry specifically defines proscribed offensive weapons systems as being Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, long-range bombers and aircraft carriers. It does not mention cruise missiles, troops trained in amphibious assaults or aerial refueling aircraft.

Put this all together and it seems to herald a significant shift toward a more militaristic Japan. That, certainly, is how many would interpret it, since these measures

### Changing aspects of Japan's security posture

- **Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation** A planned revision of the bylaws that determine each country's security role in peacetime and in war, last revised in 1997, to reflect changing realities in Northeast Asia. Due by end of 2014.

- **Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security** The committee looking into legal aspects and constitutionality of collective self-defense. Report due end of 2013 with necessary laws enacted or amended in 2014.

- **Advisory Panel on National Security and Defense Capabilities** A separate committee looking into possible pre-emptive actions by the armed forces such as creating a marine-corps like unit of the ground forces. Report due by end of 2013 with revisions adopted in 2014.

- **Legislative Initiatives in Current Diet Session** A bill to establish a National Security Council patterned on the American NSC and establishing more severe penalties for civil servants who leak classified documents.

would gut the war-renouncing Article 9, destabilize the regional security environment, irritate China and drag Japan into American-inspired conflicts it has no desire to take part in.

Or, it may simply be recognizing the changing security circumstances in Northeast Asia, including North Korea's nuclear weapons and China's growing military and its intransigence over the disputed Senkaku islands. Speaking at the first session of the Defense Capabilities panel in September, Abe said: "I will proceed with the rebuilding of a national security policy that clearly addresses the realities facing Japan."

The prospects of any of this being enacted are uncertain. The current relatively short Diet session is crammed with many potentially contentious issues, mostly related to the government's economic program. There may be opposition from the LDP's parliamentary coalition partner, New Komeito, which is more pacifistic. But at the moment the government has the luxury of time. ①

Todd Crowell was Senior Writer for *Asiaweek* from 1987 to 2001, and is the author of *Who's Afraid of Asian Values*.



# Sayuri Daimon, the *Japan Times*

by Lucy Alexander

Sayuri Daimon is quietly inciting a cultural revolution. As the first female managing editor of a Japanese national newspaper, she is implementing a strategy that she is confident will secure the future of two threatened species: working mothers and paying newspaper readers.

After a 22-year career on the *Japan Times* as a reporter and editor, Daimon was appointed to the paper's top editorial and management job on Oct. 1, two weeks before it shape-shifted into a bulky hybrid creature, the two-headed "*Japan Times*, incorporating the *International New York Times*."

The new package is as cumbersome in physical bulk as it is in nomenclature, but its front page design, complete with colorful masthead cutout puffs, gives good news-stand. On Sundays, a new svelte tabloid edition with a photo-led cover and bright center pullout section out-sparkles its turgid rivals.

Daimon expects the tie-up to increase print circulation from its current level of around 27,000 a day to about 45,000. The paper's website introduced a metered paywall on Nov. 1, charging up to ¥3,000 a month for access to all articles. Readers who register on the site can see 20 articles a month for free.

She is confident that the new package will improve the paper's fortunes. The key advantage, she says, is her paper's ability to attract the increasing number of overseas online readers who want to find out more about the land of Abenomics and radioactive fish. "We have this unique position that we are reporting in English. When the paper was established in 1897, it only catered to foreign residents of Japan – a very limited readership. Now in this digital age we can reach out to international readers, which the Japanese-language papers cannot do. I think this is an area in which we can do well."

Daimon personally exemplifies the international values for which the *Japan Times* stands. As a pupil at a "regular Japanese school" in Tokyo, she was fascinated by the carefree students at a nearby international school. "I used to watch them and could see that they were actually enjoying their school life. They didn't have to wear a uniform. I thought, 'Those people are so free!' So I guess envy motivated me to study more and to explore their world."

The young Sayuri begged her parents to let her go to school in America. "They said, 'Of course not!'" When she finally got the chance, on a high school exchange program to Tennessee in 1983, she found the experience "shocking." "People said things like 'Howdy,' and they were so big!" Nevertheless, on her return

## 'IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WOMEN HAVE A SAY IN THE NEWS INDUSTRY AND BRING IN OTHER PERSPECTIVES'

she persuaded her mother to let her transfer to a boarding school in Pennsylvania, where she spent two happy years.

Daimon returned to Tokyo to study politics (in English) at Sophia University, and spent a year in New Zealand before graduating in 1991 and starting work as a reporter on the *Japan Times*. Her working life became more complicated nine years ago when she became a parent. Like every prominent full-time working mother, she is regularly asked how she manages to "juggle housework and childrearing and work." Naturally, this correspondent asked the same question. Daimon found a private nursery that would look after her daughter until 9pm, and shared pick-ups with her husband, who is self-employed.

"I can't imagine how it would work if he had a full-time job," she said. "My neighbors help me a lot. We are all working mothers so I do the same for them too." Is it worth it? "It's important that women have a say in the news industry and bring in other perspectives."

While supportive of Shinzo Abe's recent



Lucy Alexander is a freelance journalist and correspondent for *The Times*.

promise to boost the economy by harnessing the power of Japan's housewives, Daimon is highly sceptical of his wheeze to enforce three-year maternity leave. "Initially I wondered whether that was a deliberate attempt to exclude women from the workplace," she said, "because it's very difficult to return to work after

three years. He should think about raising the number of nurseries and babysitting services instead."

Daimon has implemented a family-friendly rota of flexible working at the paper, which she says enables employees with children to spend time at home while also being able to plan ahead for shifts at the paper. "No one else does this type of shift work," she says, "because all the other editors are Japanese men, and there is this belief that newspaper people should be always on call. Being on call is exactly what parents can't do."

Government and employers, she says, have to realize that men will increasingly have to take time off to care for their families. "Our society is aging and people will need to care for their parents. Now that there are so many single men, they will not be able to depend on a wife, so they will have to do it themselves at exactly the age when they will be getting to managerial level. This is what Abe should be focusing on, not just seeing it as a female problem."

From her position on the edge of the male-dominated world of Japanese business and politics, Daimon contemplates the role of the *Japan Times* on the edge of the closed shop that is the Japanese media. "We are not in every press club," she says, pointedly. However, she feels this distance gives the paper an objectivity that others lack. "The paper is the creation of a collaboration between Japanese and non-Japanese perspectives," she says, "and what we produce is more valuable because of that." ❶

ANDREW POTHECARY

A renowned documentary filmmaker undergoes an epiphany; his new film avers that advances in nuclear energy are an answer to climate change

# Nuclear energy to save the world?

by Justin McCurry

Anxiety over the dangers of nuclear power in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi meltdown is overshadowing the far more urgent problem of climate change, according to the filmmaker Robert Stone.

In a recent appearance at the FCCJ to promote his new documentary, *Pandora's Promise*, the U.S.-based director suggested that opinion among environmentalists was shifting towards an acceptance – at least in private – that without nuclear in the energy mix, combating global warming will be impossible.

[Environmentalists] have expressed the belief that we are doomed, that there was no hope, and that climate change would eventually engulf us all," Stone said. "I found that appalling as a father of two children. The more I looked at [climate change and nuclear energy] the more fascinating it became. I learned that everything I thought I knew about nuclear power was wrong."

The role nuclear energy could play in steering the world away from an environmental catastrophe forms the narrative arc of the 90-minute film, which caused a stir after its debut at the Sundance film festival earlier this year.

As a former opponent of nuclear energy, Stone has undergone the same dramatic conversion as other erstwhile anti-nuclear figures, notably the newspaper columnist Georges Monbiot, who publicly ditched his opposition to atomic energy in a widely distributed column in the *Guardian* newspaper. Like Monbiot, Stone accepts that his change of heart is unlikely to endear him to most environmental activists.

While making the film, Stone visited the Fukushima nuclear evacuation zone and Chernobyl, and took atmospheric radiation readings in locations around the world. But if Fukushima galvanized Japan's anti-nuclear movement, for Stone it simply reaffirmed his belief that, rather

than abandoning its nuclear plants, Japan needs to perfect the technology and build the safest reactors in the world.

"What we need to do is use the best technology we have to solve this problem, and get past the ideological dogma that has prevented us from looking at all of our options," he said.

"It is utterly hypocritical to suggest that we are facing an existential challenge to human civilization with climate change and yet we're going to reject one of the biggest sources of energy that doesn't produce CO<sub>2</sub>."

"I think there's an opportunity here for Japan to take the lessons of Fukushima . . . and turn it into something positive [and] lead the world with the best, safest and most efficient nuclear power plants in the world."

*Pandora's Promise* replays many of the debates that have been raging on social media since the Fukushima accident a little over two and a half years ago. On one side, environmental activists, authors and experts, including Stewart Brand, editor of the *Whole Earth Catalog*, make the case for nuclear energy. On the other, prominent anti-nuclear activists such as Helen Caldicott are portrayed as alarmists who refuse to confront the grim reality of global warming.

Since its release in the U.S., the film has had a "remarkable impact among campaigners and experts," Stone said. "For far too long, when this subject was discussed, the word nuclear is hardly ever mentioned as a clean energy source. It's been ignored and this film has really put this back on the table. We're definitely having an impact."

In August, the U.S.-based anti-nuclear group Beyond Nuclear labeled the film pro-nuclear propaganda and accused Stone of making light of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. And Stone

dismissed the suggestion by a member of the FCCJ audience that the film is a "slick advertorial" for the nuclear power industry. "This is a 90-minute documentary for the general public to raise a discussion," he said. "Would you like it to not be slick? Would you like it to be boring? I have to tell a story that connects with human beings or they won't see it."

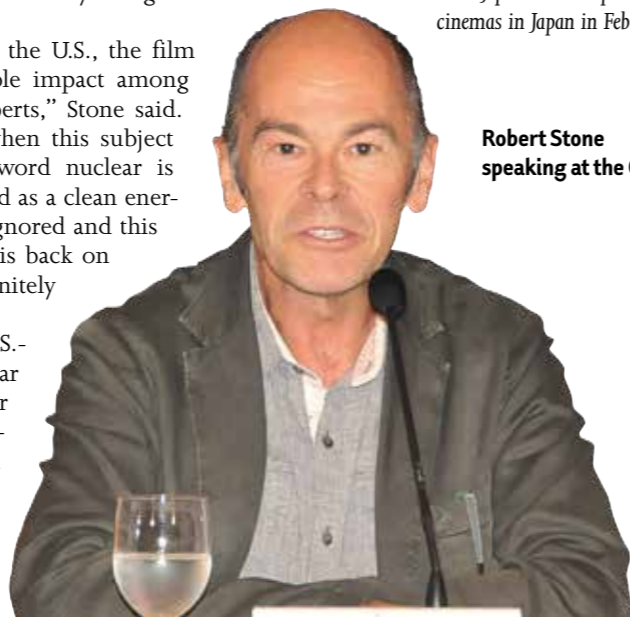
"It's fine for people to decide to turn away from nuclear power, if that's what they want to do, but it needs to be done with open eyes and open minds about what the alternatives are. Japan has shut down its nuclear reactors but has just switched over to fossil fuels, and that creates its own problem."

Stone was critical of the tone of much of the media coverage of Fukushima, although he understood the attraction of the narratives generated by the evacuation of tens of thousands of people from areas near the power plant.

"With Fukushima, the story unfortunately is one that amps up the fear and amps up the possibility of what might happen, what could happen, what might have happened," he said. "You also have the emotional drama of the people who've been impacted by this. These are all good stories, there's absolutely no question of that. There's not so much of a story in saying that, actually, radiation levels in most of the exclusion zone around Fukushima are within normal background levels in many parts of the world."

"Are you going to get a headline out of that?" he asked. "I don't think so." ❶

*Pandora's Promise* will be broadcast on CNN in November and will soon be available for download via iTunes in 25 countries. Stone promised a screening at the FCCJ prior to its opening at cinemas in Japan in February.



Robert Stone speaking at the Club

Justin McCurry is Japan and Korea correspondent for the *Guardian* and the *Observer*. He contributes to the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Lancet* medical journal, and reports on Japan and Korea for France 24 TV.

It was probably the best – or at least one of the most dramatic – leads that I produced in nearly 40 years in journalism. It was also the first and last interview that any journalist held with Mandela before he was betrayed and arrested a few months later.

The contents of that exclusive underground interview with Mandela 52 years ago also proved to be historic, as the African leader assured South Africa's white supporters of apartheid that they had nothing to fear from black majority rule.

"We want a National Convention of all groups of the country which would form a new, non-racial constitution to bring about a new non-racial and democratic South African society. We will certainly not start any violence. That would play into the governments hands," he declared, in an attempt to assure an apprehensive but unbending white ruling minority.

In sharp contrast to the opportunistic swings of most politicians worldwide, Mandela never wavered from that statement when – after spending 27 years in prison – he ushered in relatively peaceful majority rule and a democratic constitution in South Africa in 1993.

In May 1961, the South African police – spearheaded by a ruthless political Special Branch – had launched a national manhunt for Mandela, then a 42-year-old attorney, who was in hiding while organizing the National Action Council, which was planning massive demonstrations against the government to be held on May 31.

The South African government had tarnished Mandela as a dangerous rabble rouser who advocated the violent overthrow and suppression of the white ruling minority.

The propaganda had successfully equated Mandela with the hardline policies of the anti-colonial movements in other parts of Africa – particularly the Mau Mau in Kenya.

No one had the slightest inkling at the time that Mandela would emerge within four decades as one of the greatest advocates of non-violence on the continent – and, ironically, the savior of the white and other non-African minorities in South Africa.

I was then a reporter on the *Johannesburg Sunday Express*. Naturally, other African leaders in the movement were hesitant to reveal Mandela's whereabouts, even to

## HIDE-OUT INTERVIEW WITH WANTED MAN

# Native leader says: "Violence is out"

By Peter Hazelhurst  
THEY took the blind-fold off, sitting in front of me was Nelson Mandela, the most wanted man in South Africa.

The underground leader of the National Action Council, the guiding spirit behind the May 31 demonstrations, sat at his desk in his secret headquarters and gave his first interview to a white reporter since he went into hiding two weeks ago to avoid arrest before May 31.

During the 10-minute interview, Mr. Mandela declared to me: "The demonstrations are not aimed at Whites – English or Afrikaans-speaking – but directly at the Government and the National Party." "Direct demonstrations have been given that an violence is to be used by the demonstrators."

At street corner  
I stood waiting on a lonely street corner but lighted after a while a large car pulled up and a voice asked: "If you want to meet Mandela, get in the car."

Only the first  
When the National Action Council was formed at Pietermaritzburg, it decided to plan a series of campaigns. The first demonstrations are the first in a series of campaigns.

Assurances  
The underground headquarters of the National Action Council is in a small house.



Mr. Mandela, who promises a "non-violent" movement on May 31.

While a weakened Nelson Mandela battles for his life, a former Member recalls his encounter with the icon

# My exclusive sit-down with the outlaw Mandela

by Peter Hazelhurst

journalists. But one of my contacts and a friend, Ruth First, a white supporter of the African National Congress, assured Mandela's close aides that they could trust me. (Ruth was later killed in Mozambique by a letter bomb designed by the South African Special Branch.)

The go-between, Ahmed Kathrada – who was to spend 27 years in prison with Mandela – walked into the reporters' room in early May and quietly promised to take me to the African leader within a few hours.

I had no idea of what to expect when this tall imposing figure – dressed in a dark polo neck pullover – rose to shake hands at a point in history when race relations in South Africa appeared to be on the precipice of an unprecedented disaster.

But within minutes Mandela made it clear he and the ANC were offering the

Peter Hazelhurst was Asia correspondent for the *Times* and a member of the FCCJ from 1972 to 1989.

ruling white minority a non-violent solution of equal rights in the future of South Africa.

I was left with no doubt that he was genuine.

When I outlined the story to my editors the next day, they were hesitant in providing space to a man who had been labeled as a dangerous advocate of violence – a step which could inflame the newspaper's white readers.

I had taped the interview, and asked the editor of the *Sunday Express* to listen to the recording before coming to a decision.

As the tape ended, he declared: "We will run the story."

With rat-like cunning, which has proved to be my main forte in four decades of reporting, I had foreseen that the Special Branch would take an unhealthy interest in anyone with access to Mandela. I insisted that even if I became aware of the meeting place I should be blindfolded to protect contacts who were hiding the African leader.

And within hours of publication my precautions were justified: the Special Branch pulled me in for interrogation.

The head of the Johannesburg Special Branch, a Colonel Att Spengler, and two other interrogators demanded that I expose Mandela's whereabouts. I simply referred them to the opening paragraph.

After three hours of frustrated questioning, they reluctantly released me with the words: "We are sure you know where Mandela is." I just shrugged and left.

After Mandela was arrested in August 1962, I was subpoenaed by the prosecutors to give evidence at his first trial. The state required evidence under oath confirming the contents in the article.

I agreed, as I knew Mandela would certainly not retract the statements he had made in his outspoken fight against the Nationalist government and apartheid. And, much to the chagrin of the prosecution, Mandela then cross-examined me, using the court as an instrument to publicize some of the injustices of white minority rule. (He later used extracts from my evidence in his first book, *No Easy Walk to Freedom*.)

The prosecutors now found they had a hostile witness on their hands. During the recess a senior police officer and a prosecutor approached me outside the court and used threats in an attempt to sway my response to Mandela's questions.

My responses stuck with the truth. The threats never materialized. ❶

**In a little more than a decade, the news and information site has come a long way – and it has ambitious plans for more growth**

## Japan Today is looking at tomorrow

by Julian Ryall

From an adjunct to *Metropolis* magazine that only went live in September 2000, the *Japan Today* website has grown into an established news and information portal that gets as many as 4 million page views a month and is giving Tokyo's traditional English-language media a run for their money.

With print media struggling to find a way of generating income in an increasingly online news world and more instituting pay walls – *The Japan Times* having recently announced it will start charging for access to its online offerings – *Japan Today* remains committed to the free content model. “While we have considered the pay-to-view option, we want to continue to offer our core news content for free and bring in new products that give

to comment on news topics on one of their programs.”

When *Japan Today* was launched in 2000, the online news revolution was already under way, but founders Mark and Mary Devlin are credited by the respected *Editor & Publisher* magazine with making the portal the first in the world to have a comments section beneath each story.

The site was acquired in 2007 by GPlus Media, which includes GaijinPot, CareerEngine, Realestate.co.jp, Savvy Tokyo and ChinaSplash in its stable of titles. “*Japan Today* was already an established brand and it had become a high-traffic site with a large user base,” said Cashell. “Simply, the traffic and the readers were attractive to us and we knew we could expand the audi-

ence and brand even further.”

The aim is to remain “ahead of the curve in giving our readers what they demand

and expect,” said Cashell. “We had a mobile version of the site even before reading news on smartphones was popular. We now present readers with options to enjoy the news in a variety of ways, such as mobile apps, social media platforms in both Japanese and English, a digital monthly magazine, embedding audio interviews with articles, podcasts, as well as video – although this is mostly in the community pages – and all of which is free for the user.”

New innovations include the Insight community pages, which enable users to have their own space on the site where they can upload announcements, news, promote special offers and so on, and which readers can view alongside the news. A monthly lifestyle “magazine” has also been released, available through subscription on iTunes, iPad and iPhone, with Android devices to be added to that list very soon.

At present, more than 30 percent of visitors to the site are accessing it via a mobile

Julian Ryall is the Japan correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*.

device. That is expected to grow to more than 50 percent within the next five years.

The Lehman Shock and, more specifically to Japan, the March 2011 disasters have taken their toll on the industry, primarily through savage reductions in advertising revenues – a cause for concern in a title that admits it relies “100 percent on our advertisers.”

“Of course our advertising revenues suffered temporarily, but were bolstered by strong sales in jobs,” says Cashell. “We also began innovating new forms of advertising and leveraging our large readership, both in Japan and abroad, through new products such as Insight.”

Covering events such as the 3/11 Earthquake and its aftermath “tested our ability to deliver the news and stay on-line,” Betros said. “Huge spikes in traffic during such crises are a burden on our servers and sometimes access to the site is not as fast as we would wish, but we managed and grew our readership,” he added.

Having ridden the rough times, Cashell is confident that *Japan Today* can continue to build on its reputation and reach. “Japan, like the rest of the world, is consuming more and more information – including news – via the web, so in that respect electronic media is strong and growing,” he said. “However, we see social media quickly taking over as the platform for marketing budgets and so on.”

At present, the site is recording more than 600,000 unique visitors a month with up to 4 million page views. “I think many overseas readers use us as a window into Japanese society or have direct business dealings with Japan,” said Betros, pointing out that readers of the site include the prime minister’s office, U.S. congressmen, overseas news organizations, ambassadors and corporate leaders. “Crime and national news are popular categories of news, as is anything offbeat,” he added. “The comments are another big draw as this brings additional views on the news, although unfortunately too many readers use that to bash Japan.”

That downside apart, Cashell and Betros have faith in the product and its future.

“In the short term, we would like to see *Japan Today* have another year like we did this year, which featured a rise in all areas: amount of content, traffic, revenues and services,” said Cashell. “And the possibilities extend well beyond news; it could become the biggest English-language media brand in Japan.”

Betros is looking even further into the future: “In the long term, it has the potential to be the foremost site for Japan news in English.”

### BOOK REVIEW

#### The Reason I Jump

by Naoki Higashida

Translated by KA Yoshida and David Mitchell (135pp. Random House)

reviewed by Tyler Rothmar

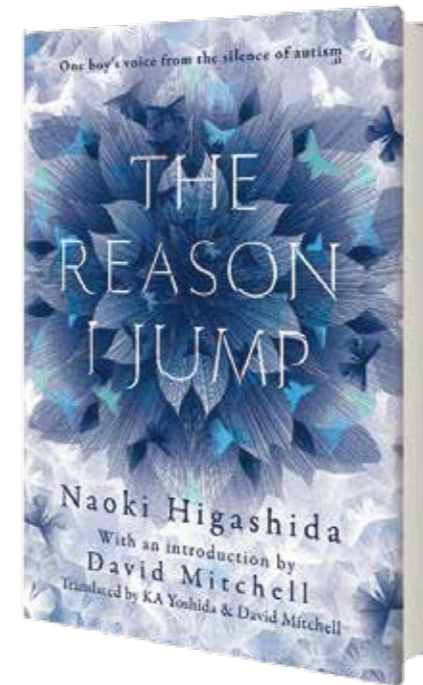
Just two days after the popular host of “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” raved about the English translation of *The Reason I Jump* – a book on autism written by a 13-year-old Japanese boy – it had soared to number one on Amazon.com.

The book was introduced on the show by the guest, *Cloud Atlas* author David Mitchell, who with his wife translated this rewarding little book and penned its forward, and whose young son, like Higashida, is autistic.

Although Higashida is now 21 and a public speaker and author, when he wrote the original Japanese-language edition of the book at the age of 13, he joined the ranks of Temple Grandin, Carly Fleischmann and others as a kind of embedded correspondent reporting from the trenches of the disorder. In the form of answers to 58 questions, interspersed with short stories and musings, the author attempts to explain his condition, to be understood and to improve the quality of life for people with autism and those who care for them.

Throughout the book, Higashida speaks both for himself and for autistic people interchangeably. This is understandable, given his age, but the assumption that his experiences of autism are shared by all autistic people is worth questioning, especially given the wide array of symptoms the disorder presents. As Mitchell noted in his “Daily Show” appearance, it’s probably better to speak in terms of “autisms,” rather than the singular, so varied and mysterious is the disorder. The other side of that coin is the idea that people with autism are fundamentally different from those without it.

Yet it is that very assumption that makes this book such a worthwhile read. The attempt to elucidate the differences unearths universal human experience. As he struggles with his autism and fights to interact with a world run by non-autistic people, the young Higashida marvels at the rest of us: “You normal people, you talk at an incredible speed. Between



thinking something in your head and saying it takes you just a split second. To us, that’s like magic!” And fair enough.

In his descriptions of the beauty of nature, however, and his experience of time, Higashida unwittingly dusts off unimagined common ground. Evoking religious and mystical tones, he writes, “Just by looking at nature, I feel as if I’m being swallowed up into it, and in that moment I get the sensation that my body’s now a speck, a speck from long before I was born, a speck that is melting into nature herself. This sensation is so amazing that I forget that I’m a human being, and one with special needs to boot.”

In another section on being immersed in water, Higashida voices a sentiment to which many divers and swimmers can relate: “It’s so quiet and I’m so free and happy there. Nobody hassles us in the water, and it’s as if we’ve got all the time in the world. Whether we stay in one place or whether we’re swimming about, when we’re in the water we can really be at one with the pulse of time.

Outside of the water there’s always too much stimulation for our eyes and our ears, and it’s impossible for us to guess how long one second is or how long an hour takes.”

Where the isolation and stigmatization that mark the disorder often result in autistic people being thought of as another category, Higashida’s writing clearly situates them on a spectrum, albeit at the far end, of the human experience. Reading his words, one is left with the notion that we’re all subject to the peculiarities of our own grey matter and the myriad nuances and differences in perception that entails.

That said, the daily battle of living with autism is dealt with plainly. “Whenever we’ve done something wrong, we get told off or laughed at, without even being able to apologize, and we end up hating ourselves and despairing about our own lives, again and again and again. It’s impossible not to wonder why we were born into this world as human beings at all,” he writes.

The horror of being trapped in a body that won’t obey, the paralysis of trying to keep up with life among the non-autistic and the shame and despair of disappointing loved ones run through the work like a pulse, always accompanied by a constant reminder, a plea, not to give up on autistic people.

In that Higashida casts light on some of autism’s stranger traits, giving an insider perspective on sensory perception, feelings, panic attacks, numbers, schedules and language, the book is an indispensable aid for people who live or work with others who have the disorder.

Beyond that though, it is a thoroughly engaging read in and of itself. With disarmingly simple turns of phrase, Naoki Higashida, writing at the age of 13 with help by pointing at a chart of the Japanese alphabet, deals with joy and despair, wonder and death and the pith of what it is to be alive in the tradition of the finest writers.

Tyler Rothmar is an editor and writer based in Tokyo.



▶ A call for action against a bill that could intimidate journalists from doing their jobs

## Will the Secrets Protection Bill criminalize journalism?

by Michael Penn

By the very nature of the FCCJ, engagement with the society that surrounds us is a primary concern. Indeed, right there near the beginning of the Articles of Association is a declaration that our objective is “to defend the freedom of the press and free exchange of information and, in so doing, to maintain and increase friendly relations and sympathetic understanding between Japan and other countries.”

That being the case, we cannot be silent in the face of a government bill that could potentially criminalize investigative journalism in this country. The “Designated Secrets Bill” advanced by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and reluctantly agreed to by the coalition New Komeito Party, is a threat clearly aimed at journalists as well as Japanese public officials.

The bill provides for prison terms of up to ten years, not only for government insiders who leak information regarded as “secret,” but also for those, including journalists, who encourage them to do so. And whereas existing laws mandate protection of military secrets alone, the new bill will expand such secrecy to every government ministry.

As for the crucial issue of oversight, the new bill will allow each ministry itself to decide what should be deemed a secret. The LDP specifically rejected calls from lawyers and other groups for third-party panels to scrutinize how the bureaucrats would employ secrecy designations.

Among the groups that were alarmed by the earlier versions of this bill was the coalition New Komeito Party. While Abe’s ruling party was reluctant to provide any specific guarantees for “freedom of the press” or “the people’s right to know,” New Komeito insisted that this language be specifically mentioned in the bill. After an extended tug-of-war, the ruling party finally acceded to the idea and this language was included.

However, as the *Japan Times* rightly pointed out in a strong editorial on Sept. 25, these phrases “will be a mere declaration that will not have any effective power to guarantee those rights.” The editors went on to conclude that “the bill is clearly antidemocratic in nature.”

Just how antidemocratic? The more

operative section of the bill describes the role of journalism as follows: “So long as it aims exclusively at serving the public interest, and does not violate the law or engage in inappropriate methods, it is a legitimate activity.”

Freedom of the press, according to this bill, is no longer a democratic right of an open society, but rather something for which the government “must show sufficient consideration.”

This is the grudging acknowledgment of our profession that long hours of negotiations between the LDP and New Komeito eventually produced. The Abe government didn’t want to include even this degree of protection for journalists.

Outside of the arch-conservative circles that concocted this bill (cheered on by

### HOW MANY WILL BE DETERRED FROM PUBLISHING STORIES FEARING 10 YEARS IN A JAPANESE PRISON?

some former U.S. government officials who see it as a step toward firming up the bilateral military alliance), there has already been a great deal of criticism.

The influential Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association (*Nihon Shinbun Kyokai*) has issued a series of declarations expressing concern about the bill. Some opposition political parties argue that this bill would effectively deprive the people of their right to know about their own government’s activities. Even a normally non-political celebrity like model Norika Fujiwara has weighed in against the bill.

The Japanese public, too, has spoken up. During the brief public comment period on the bill allowed by the government, a flood of about 90,000 messages was received, with just under 80 percent of those messages expressing clear disapproval.

Working journalists in Japan can also reflect upon our experience with the Personal Information Protection Act of 2003. Individual privacy is, of course, an important right of democratic citizenship, but the expansive way in which that law was interpreted hindered the legitimate work

of more than one investigative journalist in Japan.

If the Designated Secrets Bill becomes law, I wonder how many journalists and their editors will be deterred from publishing stories based on unofficial government sources fearing, whether fully justified or not, that they may spend 10 years in a Japanese prison for doing so? Beyond that, of course, is the matter of how public officials themselves might be so terrorized by the law that they would become almost entirely unwilling to respond to quiet media enquiries.

Naturally, the reality may prove to be considerably less grim than the picture drawn here. It may turn out that by the end of the legislative process the Designated Secrets Bill could contain many

appropriate guarantees that ensure that legitimate media activities will not be disrupted and that the Japanese people’s right to know about their government’s behavior will not be seriously imperiled. Future applications of the law, should it be enacted, may be conducted with restraint.

However, the evidence to date suggests considerable cause for alarm.

For this reason, members of the Freedom of the Press Committee urge the FCCJ membership to engage in a positive fashion with this crucial issue. We cannot remain silent in the face of a bill that is clearly aimed at deterring journalists from carrying out our democratic responsibilities. Indeed, fighting for “freedom of the press and free exchange of information” is a central principle upon which our Club was established, and now is one of those occasions upon which we are required to fulfill the noble sentiments that an earlier generation laid down for us. ❶

Michael Penn is president of the Shingetsu News Agency and chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee

## FCCJ EXHIBITION: PrismTokyo 2013



Photographs by Jasna Boudard

THIS MONTH’S EXHIBITION OFFERS a way to view reality from a different perspective.

The collection presents women from Europe and America, although they may appear to be from places beyond your imagination. Jasna does not alter reality with Photoshop, but uses her creativity and works together with other artists to bring a surreal feeling to her work. Her photographs can be compared to looking through a prism at a rainbow layered with colors, designs and lights.

These pictures present a dream-like and poetic twist on portraits, alongside an additional series of Jasna’s world travels. ❶

Jasna Boudard is of French and Bengali descent, and has lived on four continents. She also works as a painter, model, performer and conceptual artist. She has exhibited in the USA and Europe. This is her first exhibition in Japan.

*Heard at the Club*

“Radiation levels in most of the exclusion zone around Fukushima are within normal background levels in many parts of the world . . . Are you going to get a headline out of that?”

Robert Stone, documentary filmmaker, page 13



CLASSIFIED AD

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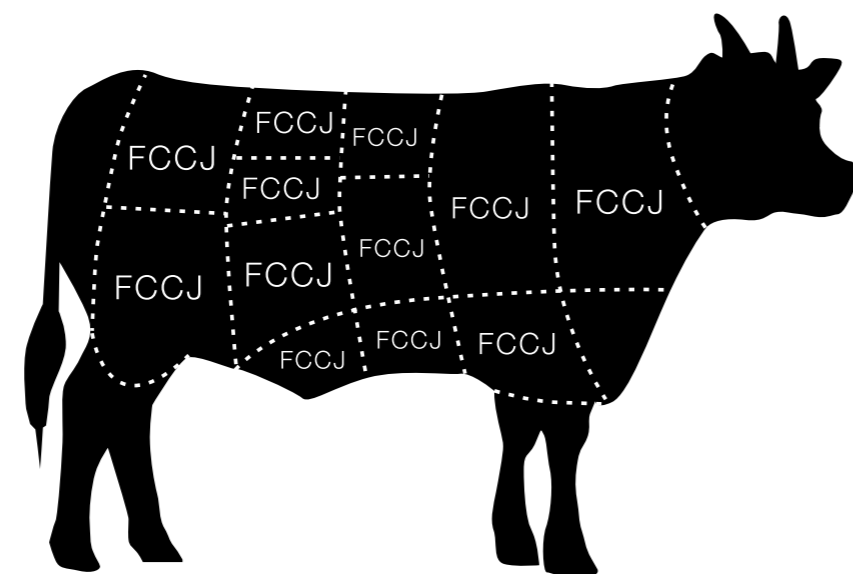
... at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 17 for the hard-hitting thriller *Court of Zeus*, followed by a Q&A with director Gen Takahashi, star Hijiri Kojima and whistleblower Toshiro Semba. Japan's cinematic crusader for truth and transparency, Takahashi returns to FCCJ with another bold exposé, this time revealing the pervasive corruption in Japan's court system. Not quite as intense as his superb *Confessions of a Dog*, which depicted shockingly illicit activities by the police ("the largest organized crime ring in Japan," according to the director), this new film wraps its condemnations around a love story between an overworked young judge and his fiancée (Kojima), who suddenly finds herself on the wrong side of the law ... and in her lover's courtroom, where he presides like the mighty Zeus.

— Karen Severns

(Japan, 2013; 136 min.; in Japanese with English subtitles).

HAVE A COW

In response to the overwhelming response received during our *Niku-no-hi* specials this summer, and the ensuing Pen and Quill special menu, Tokyu IRS has purchased an entire cow for the FCCJ! This has been arranged for all of you beef lovers, with the cooperation of Tottori Prefecture. Our menu will feature *Olein 55* roast beef, which is an extremely rare beef that contains oleic acid (the same found in olive oil). In fact, only 0.8% of the beef qualifies for this special category, and it is rare to get it outside of the most exclusive high end restaurants. It will melt in your mouth.



NEW MEMBERS



**LI HAI**, from China's Sichuan province, studied Japanese at a university in Chengdu for a year before coming to Japan to continue his studies. He later studied law at Kagawa University before enrolling at the graduate school of international language culture of Nagoya University to research Liang Qi-chao, a journalist who came to Japan as a political refugee. He is now working as a journalist at the Tokyo branch office of Hong Kong Satellite TV.



**STEFANO CARRER** is the Tokyo bureau chief of *Il Sole 24 Ore*, the leading Italian economic, financial and political daily newspaper. He got a degree in law at the University of Milan and a Masters in Journalism from the Istituto per la Formazione al Giornalismo in Milan. He worked for *Il Sole 24 Ore* in 1989 as a stringer from New York before formally joining the newspaper as staff reporter in 1993, and spending extensive periods of work abroad, especially in New York and London. He was on vacation in Tokyo on March 11, 2011 when the earthquake changed his focus: the Italy-Japan Foundation later gave him an award for his reporting about the post-tsunami events. Abenomics brought him back to Japan on a permanent basis, where he's trying to cope with new multimedia tasks, switching toward radio and video reporting for Web TV.

REGULAR MEMBER

Li Hai, Hong Kong Satellite TV International Media Group

REINSTATEMENT (REGULAR)

Stefano Carrer, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Yuko Inoue, Freelance

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