

NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

February 2014
Volume 46 No. 2
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The Foreign
Correspondents' Club
of Japan

BEAUTY & THE (stalking) BEASTS

Jake Adelstein
on the aftermath of
Miss International's
defiant stance

+ Breakfast with William Pesek Lunch with Amy Goodman The Asahi's news for kids



Fit for the future

17th Annual Global CEO Survey
The glass half full¹ / The global rebalancing act² / Three trends that will transform business³ / Creating value in totally new ways⁴ / Developing tomorrow's workforce⁵ / Serving the new consumers⁶ / The need for hybrid leadership⁷

Fit for the future
Capitalising on global trends

1,344
CEOs in 60 countries

39%
of CEOs are very confident about their company's growth prospects
See page 5

86%
of CEOs recognize the need to change R&D and innovation capacity
See page 14



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The number of CEOs who believe that the global economy will improve over the next 12 months has doubled to 44%, compared to the previous year.

CEOs are also feeling better about their own companies' prospects, with 39% now very confident of revenue growth in 2014.



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From the President



WE GOT OFF TO AN EXCITING START IN January after the New Year holiday. I can't tell you how happy I was to greet our new general manager Tomohiko (Tom) Yanagi on his first day. After just one week I could sense enthusiasm and fresh energy among our staff. In week two, amid a schedule packed with meetings, Yanagi-san began training our sales staff in marketing techniques during visits to related organizations. At the start of week three

he was looking a bit pale. The enormity of his job was sinking in. But he has now found his footing and has firmly taken the reins. Please introduce yourself to him if you haven't already. He's hoping to quickly meet all our members.

Attending *shinnenkai* can sometimes be a chore but I really enjoyed my first invite as FCCJ president to the *Keidanren shinnenkai* on Jan. 7. What struck me most about the many wheelers and dealers and powerbrokers was the very small number of female guests. A small voice repeating "Japan needs Womenomics!" kept buzzing in my ear. As the huge crowd began to thin out, I suddenly turned to face Masako Mori, the Minister in charge of the controversial Bill on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets. I knew she is also overseeing policies on gender equality, women's empowerment and the declining birthrate so it was, shall we say, a rather conflicted moment for me. We briefly spoke about her FCCJ press luncheon that was coming up on Jan. 21. She said she really wanted to speak with the foreign press. I thought to myself, "this is one remarkable woman."

I had the opportunity to meet another remarkable woman, Amy Goodman, when she spoke at a Club press luncheon on Jan. 20. A fearless investigative journalist and fierce defender of freedom of the press, she is executive director of the award-winning news program "Democracy Now!" Ms. Goodman couldn't be more opposite on the political spectrum from Minister Mori. And yet I could see great common ground between them as powerful, inspiring women.

The next day, I had a meeting at the Club with another powerful and inspiring woman – Margaret Kelly, CEO of real estate giant Re/Max, who was in Tokyo to launch their Japan franchise. She is one of very few women CEOs in the U.S. real estate industry. As a breast cancer survivor, she also heads efforts to support cancer patients and cures. Smart, elegant and probably over 180 cm tall, she brightened the Club with her presence.

Minister Mori's press luncheon was well attended. As expected, she spoke at length about the secrets law and fielded tough questions. Then with just a few minutes remaining she switched gears and turned to Womenomics. Her face lighted up as she spoke about the role women can play in bolstering Japan's economy, a popular policy in Prime Minister Abe's third-arrow strategy. Her talk reminded me of one of the Club's most important policies and greatest strengths – offering a platform to all speakers, regardless of political affiliation, ethnicity or controversial stance.

On Club business: At the special GMM on Jan. 22, the members voted overwhelmingly to go forward with negotiations on our move with Mitsubishi Estate. We will keep you up to date on our progress. Moving is an enormous undertaking but can offer us many advantages.

– Lucy Birmingham



Welcome to the Club, Yanagi-san

by Julian Ryall

TOMOHIKO YANAGI SAYS HE HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT out and enjoyed a new challenge – which is a good thing. As the new general manager of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan he is sure to face one or two.

Just 12 working days into his new post, the 45-year-old Yanagi emphasized that the Club has many things going for it – not least a long and respected history and a place in the national consciousness. But there are areas, he says, that can be improved to offer a better experience for existing members and serve to attract a new generation of journalists.

"The Club is a famous landmark and one that, I believe, has to be sustained forever," Yanagi said. "I know that members are talking about the upcoming 70th anniversary of the founding of the FCCJ, and that's obviously a very important date, but I'm keen to look beyond that and to make sure that we can sustain this institution to its 100th anniversary and beyond.

"To do that, the Club will need to go through a process of transformation to meet the circumstances that it finds itself in today," he added.

Originally from Yokohama, Yanagi now lives within walking distance of the Club, in the Harumi waterfront district, with his wife and their two young children. And while managing the day-to-day operations of a private members' club is quite different from his previous positions at Sony Corp., Yanagi says there are lessons that he learned in 20-plus years with the corporation that will stand him in good stead here.

"I joined Sony straight out of university because I wanted to work overseas and I went directly into the international sales and marketing division," he said. That ambition was swiftly realized. After four years learning the ropes in Japan, Yanagi was transferred to Hawaii in

Tomohiko Yanagi photographed in the Club's library

1996 to establish a new sales operation to meet the needs of the U.S. military on the island.

Three years later, he was transferred to Budapest – "It was a bit cruel of my company to make me move in January, when the temperature difference was 30 degrees" – where he took on responsibility for the sales and marketing of consumer electronics products in 11 countries in eastern

Europe, as well as Israel.

Offered a move to another overseas post in 2002, Yanagi says he instead opted for a dramatic change in his career within the company and moved to Sony's corporate public relations department. "It was a completely different world," he admits. "Up until then, I was in sales where I had to be talking all the time. Suddenly, in the PR department, there were limits on what I could say."

Yanagi returned to sales in 2004 with the responsibility for 17 southeast Asian countries from Sony's regional base in Singapore. Then he returned to Tokyo once again in 2007, with the task

of developing new business sectors and products, primarily for the U.S. market. He recently decided to leave the company.

"I needed a new challenge," Yanagi said. "This industry is different in many ways to what I have done before, but I have always enjoyed organizing and taking part in corporate events, so there is some crossover there. It's not too much of a leap from marketing to entertainment and, in that sense, I believe I will be able to utilize my background and experience.

"I've lived and worked in many countries in the past and I always looked at that as setting out on a new adventure," he added. "This can be a new adventure for me as well."

One of Yanagi's key ambitions is to attract a fresh generation of foreign journalists to the Club. "This place can be the focus of the latest information being sent out from Japan to media all over the world," he said. "I really believe we can do that and I feel the people of Japan expect the Club to be able to do that.

"We must not be hesitant about bringing about change," he added. "We have to enjoy positive change and if we see it as a chemical reaction between our current members and a new generation of young journalists, then I believe that chemical reaction will bring good momentum to what we are trying to do." ■

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

Letter to the Editor

IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE NO. 1 THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COMMITTEE announced ambitious plans to vitalize the mission of this Club staple.

The one caution I offer after reading the message stems from mention that a Subcommittee will release statements in relation to international and national events affecting press freedom; this is not a right or honor bestowed to any individual or Committee in the Club, except for the President, or Board acting in unison on behalf of the FCCJ. Rather, the group can make recommendations to the Board or President, but unilateral action or public comment is not their remit.

The history behind such a single voice stems from the possibility that a group or individuals speaking for the organization would not properly represent all the Club's diverse membership and voices, potentially entangling the FCCJ into private agendas.

Moreover, such founding guidelines were not intended to mute the need to promote Freedom of the Press, instead, to keep that clarion call clear and without cacophony.

– Dan Sloan

The Freedom of the Press Committee addresses this subject in their column on page 15



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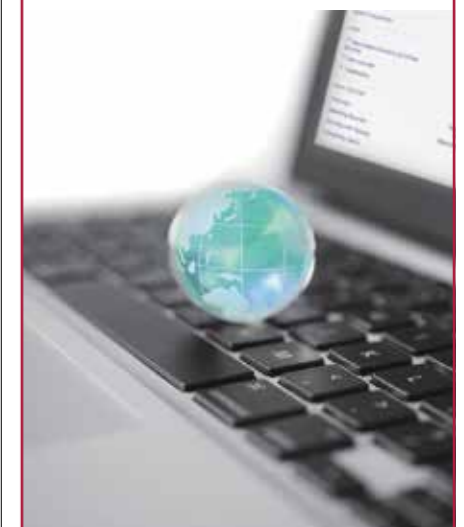
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For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.



In December 2012, when Ikumi Yoshimatsu crossed the stage to be crowned Miss International – the first Japanese to ever receive the honor – no one would have imagined that she would become a feminist icon of resistance to stalkers and the yakuza. Yet the 26-year-old now finds herself facing polar-opposite reactions: beloved by millions of fans and supporters and ignored by the mainstream Japanese media.

Last December, Ms. Yoshimatsu announced that she had filed criminal charges against one of Japan's most powerful talent agency executives, Genichi Taniguchi, for allegedly stalking and harassing her. It was a decision made, she says, after the management of the pageant, The International Culture Association, ordered her to skip the succession ceremony for 2013 and "play sick and shut up" out of fear of scandal.

After *The Japan Times* and the *Shukan Bunshun* weekly magazine reported her allegations on Dec. 11, she received an outpouring of international sympathy and support. Over three million readers have read her blog since then; her account has been reported all over the world. Her blog and website have been deluged with comments expressing support, including many from stalking victims and even other beauty pageant contestants.

However, almost no coverage has appeared in the mainstream Japanese media. Those who did later appeared to backtrack. The tabloid *Sports Nippon* wrote an article on Dec. 11 but then deleted it within hours. *Yahoo News Japan* had a section on the Miss International Contest problems but took it down in a day. One website, *Girls Channel* removed posts about her from the most popular rankings. Cyber Agent, the provider for her blog, even took down some of Ikumi's postings without notice, only to restore them hours later after massive protests from her readers.

On Dec. 13, Ms. Ikumi held a press conference at the Tokyo Court Press Club where she spoke to reporters from all the major newspapers in Japan. The only newspaper to report on the event, however, was her hometown newspaper, *Saga Shimbun*.

Then, on Dec. 16, she spoke at the FCCJ at a press conference (in the interest of transparency, I was the moderator). Without mincing words, she stated exactly why she was claiming to have been ostracized by the Japanese media and explicitly discussed the Japanese entertainment industry's yakuza ties.

According to Ms. Yoshimatsu, trouble started last spring, before she was crowned Miss International. She was working as an actress and model when, she says, she was introduced to Ikuro Suo,



Ikumi Yoshimatsu joins forces with the prime minister's wife Akie Abe

► The reactions to a beauty queen's claims of being stalked were instant and viral – except in the mainstream media

Beauty takes on the beasts

by Jake Adelstein

the chairman of Japan's most powerful talent agency, Burning Productions, who expressed an interest in having one of their associates represent her. Yoshimatsu told the press that she later refused the offer after learning of the alleged ties the agency has with the powerful Yamaguchi-gumi crime group.

"Morally and ethically, I cannot work with such people or their associates, nor do I want to," Yoshimatsu said at the FCCJ press conference. She claimed that Genichi Taniguchi, an executive at K-Dash and allegedly the agent that Burning Productions wanted to represent her, began harassing her by first showing up unannounced at her television shooting at Nihon Television, then later calling her family members, and hiring private detectives to follow her. In his phone calls to her family, Taniguchi allegedly mentioned the name of one of his former clients, freelance television announcer, Ako Kawada, who died under mysterious circumstances in 2008.

Mr. Taniguchi has denied stalking Ms. Yoshimatsu or intending to scare her by referring to the death of Ako Kawada in phone conversations with her family. He also denied hiring private detectives to follow her. His lawyer, however, contradicted the latter statement in an interview I conducted with him on Dec. 16, stating, "Mr. Taniguchi hired the private detectives and gave me their report."

The FCCJ press conference video, uploaded onto YouTube, has now been viewed over 76,000 times. The *Independent Web Journal* digest version of the press conference has been viewed over 100,000 times. Following the press conference, AP, France 24, *The Independent*, and the Spanish, Korean, and Israeli media reported the story, many explicitly mentioning the alleged ties between Burning Productions and K-Dash to the Japanese underworld. And once again, the mainstream Japanese media kept quiet.

It's not a surprise that the Japanese media shuns any mention of Burning Productions or their alleged ties to orga-

nized crime. In May of 2001, when shots were fired into Burning's office, the media didn't touch upon the reasons behind it. In the summer of 2007, when a Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Organized Crime Control detective accidentally uploaded 3 gigabytes of data on the Yamaguchi-gumi to a file sharing network, major media reported that a famous actress was listed in the materials as the mistress of a Yamaguchi-gumi boss. None of the papers reported that Burning Productions was listed in those same files as a "client company" of the Yamaguchi-gumi Goto-gumi. This reporter was given downloaded copies of the files in 2007 and confirmed their authenticity with the authorities the same year.

A reporter for one of Japan's largest newspapers, after the Tokyo Court press conference, told this reporter on background: "There's no plus side to taking sides with Ms. Yoshimatsu, so unless the police move on it we're not touching it."

As the web magazine *Daily Cyzo* reported on Dec. 19, Burning Productions and K-Dash supply much of the major talent in Japan and are extremely powerful. An independent film producer in Tokyo, who has asked to remain anonymous, notes, "Any media outlet that raises the ire of the group knows their entertainment reporters will be banned from access to related celebrities. TV networks affiliated with newspapers wouldn't be able to get talent for their variety shows." And there is always the possibility that the organized crime groups allegedly connected to the companies would resort to violence.

However, it is getting difficult for the press to ignore Ms. Yoshimatsu. She has an unlikely ally: Akie Abe, the wife of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Ms. Abe was one of the judges for the 2013 Miss International contest. When she wrote on her Facebook page after the event, she was inundated with comments asking why she did not do anything to help Yoshimatsu. She replied on Dec. 17: "I was unaware of what happened to (her). I would like to find out the truth."

It's not surprising that she was unaware: If Ms. Abe hadn't seen the huge outpouring of comments on her blog, she would have likely never known that there were problems.

On Dec. 18, Akie Abe commented again on Facebook: "Thank you for all the various information. I want to take the proper measures. Please give me a little time." Shortly afterward, she contacted Yoshimatsu and on Christmas Day she met with her for over an hour and heard the details of what happened.

Yoshimatsu stated: "I was very pleased that Mrs. Abe showed concern not only for me but for the rights of all women in Japan. We need real laws that stop stalkers and prevent needless deaths and injuries before they happen. We need a society where the stalking of women is not tolerated – even if the stalker is a powerful and important man."

Together Mrs. Abe and Ms. Yoshimatsu launched a campaign to target stalking on change.org: Stalker Zero – End the Japanese "Culture of Silence" toward crimes against women!

The website discusses the details of Yoshimatsu's travails in depth, and Mrs. Abe petitions her own husband (the Prime Minister) to take care of the stalking problem in Japan. The petition states: Japan is plagued by a "culture of silence" toward crimes against women that has been the standard for centuries. Mr. Abe, as prime minister you have been a strong and vocal supporter of women's rights. You have called time and time again for a "society in which women shine." As a first step, I ask that you establish a task force to investigate stalking and violence against women with the objective of laying out an immediate national strategy to address these issues and offer real protection for women.

Mrs. Abe is listed as her co-petitioner.

They now have over 100,000 signatures. Ms. Yoshimatsu has become an icon of resistance – resistance to Japan's deeply

Miss International and the first lady of Japan called into question the courage and fairness of Japan's media.

embedded organized crime, the culture of sexual harassment and intimidation that permeate Japan's entertainment industry, and the rampant stalking of women by predatory and powerful males.

The kind of stalking that Yoshimatsu has endured is commonplace, and weak laws often result in police action far too late. A 33-year-old housewife was stabbed to death by an ex-boyfriend turned stalker in November 2012, after she spoke with police. Her stalker hired a private detective to find her. Last October a high school student and budding actress was also stabbed

to death after alerting police to her stalker.

The former Miss International and the first lady of Japan have also called into question the courage and fairness of Japan's media. The ability of the major networks to ignore her story is mind-boggling. TBS, on Jan. 11, ran a special feature about the Miss International pageant. Even though Ikumi Yoshimatsu was the first Japanese woman to ever win the title – her name was not even mentioned by host Norika Fujiwara. The glaring omission did not go unnoticed by the public and TBS was flooded with protest calls; the internet went wild.

Mrs. Abe and Ms. Yoshimatsu are taking their case to a wider audience, with an exclusive interview in *Shukan Bunshun* last Jan. 29. Mrs. Abe has said publicly in December at a symposium that she was willing to take on stalkers and yakuza.

When Mrs. Abe wrote on her Facebook page that, "The media makes a big outcry about the Designated State Secrets Law but then is afraid to report on anything controversial or Ikumi's story," she had a point.

Still, the FCCJ press conference has had repercussions that probably no one anticipated. The alleged yakuza connections between Japan's talent agencies, who have overseas offices and business deals, has caught the attention of the U.S. government, which forbids interaction or profit sharing with yakuza associates. U.S. government officials would not comment on the record but said on background, "It's a subject of concern and we are discussing it on several levels."

The Japanese police haven't ignored the circumstances either. The Shibuya Police are investigating Mr. Taniguchi on charges of obstruction of business, according to police sources. However, they have been having trouble contacting Mr. Taniguchi as of Jan. 24 and are not sure of his location. Meanwhile, according to Yukun Fuji, The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Organized Crime Control Division has revived the investigative unit that was tackling Japan's entertainment industry and are taking a long hard look at Burning Productions and K-Dash.

In the meantime, it remains to be seen at what point the Japanese mainstream media will find the courage to report what they surely have known for a very long time about the shady state of Japan's entertainment complex. Or about this campaign against Japan's stalking laws by a most unusual partnership. ❶

Jake Adelstein is an investigative reporter who writes for *The Daily Beast* and other publications. A film based on his book, *Tokyo Vice*, is scheduled for shooting this year.

Sonja Blaschke

by Lucy Alexander

"Abe ruined our Christmas holidays, didn't he?"

Sonja Blaschke, along with many of her fellow correspondents in Tokyo, spent Boxing Day reporting on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's controversial visit to the Yasukuni Shrine. Blaschke, one of a handful of German freelance correspondents in Japan, said, "It was big news in Germany. Even the German government said that Japan should rethink its attitude."

"Why can't Japan be more like Germany?" This is a question regularly asked of foreign correspondents in Japan by puzzled colleagues, friends and family back home. They refer, of course, to the perceived lack of remorse in Nagatacho for Japan's 20th-century war of aggression. The (debatable) point usually made is that no German leader would be caught dead pandering to a nationalist faction by visiting a memorial to war criminals, whereas successive Japanese prime ministers consider it to be a core duty.

Blaschke, 36, a deep admirer of modern Japan, observes carefully that "the way Germany and Japan have dealt with history is very different," and cites the contentious issue of school textbooks. "Here they are taught to feel like victims. That would be totally unthinkable in Germany."

Today, both Germany and Japan are world-leading manufacturing powerhouses with a reputation for technical expertise and economies built on hard-working family firms. However, Blaschke laments that German editors disdain informed analysis of the nations' common interests in favor of recycling semi-invented internet gossip about Japanese sexual perversions.

"I try to avoid Japan being pushed into this exotic corner," said Blaschke. "That's part of my understanding of my job, to provide a fuller picture of Japan." She cites an email received that day from an editor asking her to "write an article like this," linking to a Time magazine article from 2008 headlined "Japan's Booming Sex Niche: Elder Porn."

Nevertheless, Blaschke relishes her role as a freelance reporter for several German-language publications, including *Die Welt* and *Capital* magazine. Due to the "ridiculously bad" pay, she also works as a TV production coordinator for ZDF, the German public-service broadcaster, "finding

interesting topics, suitable interviewees and locations, getting permission to use the locations, sorting out hotels, transport and logistics, doing the interviews on camera and translating it all afterwards." This she performs in fluent Japanese, one of her nine languages.

Born and raised in a Bavarian village, Blaschke decided against joining the family business – manufacturing devices that extract harmful fumes from car exhausts ("my mother does the accounts and my sister does the sales"). Instead she got a degree in "international business and cultural studies with a focus on the Anglo-American area," incorporating "French, Spanish, the basics of business and economics, a bit of law, history, politics, music, geography. . ."

Clearly starved of variety, Blaschke also undertook 10 internships. The first

at first, but about halfway through, something happened, and I thought 'I want to come back here.'" She was selected for a second, longer scholarship sponsored by the German government, which aimed to "give young Germans work experience in Asia. So I came back to Japan in 2005. It was life changing – the best thing that could have happened to me."

After a six-month internship on the website of the bilingual radio station Inter FM, Blaschke worked for Berlitz teaching English in Tokyo before moving on to the Asia-Pacific marketing department of the *Financial Times Deutschland*. "Then I realized I was on the wrong side of the office," she said. "I was managing other people's creative work, and I wanted to work more creatively myself." When she was made redundant in 2009, she considered going home, but the prospect of becoming "one

'I WAS MANAGING OTHER PEOPLE'S CREATIVE WORK, AND I WANTED TO WORK MORE CREATIVELY MYSELF.'

one was to inspire her future journalistic career. She had applied for work in advertising sales, but an administrative mix-up propelled her into the editorial department of a special-interest magazine for transporters of dangerous goods. Blaschke found herself filing technical copy on the finer points of road haulage: "It was surprisingly exciting."

The idea of going to Japan first struck her after making Japanese friends during time spent in the U.S. as part of her degree. After graduating in 2002, Blaschke duly began studying for the JLPT and won a three-week scholarship to Kyoto. "I didn't really feel comfortable

of 100,000 freelancers in Germany writing about small-town hobby clubs" did not appeal.

She had begun to get some writing commissions and TV work, when she was offered the job of East Asia correspondent for the *Financial Times Deutschland* in January 2012. She recalls that the only time two different editorial sections competed over an article about Japan was when "the Japanese government announced that AKB48 would now be advertising government bonds." The job was to end abruptly a year later when the newspaper folded.

Blaschke returned to freelancing, and, like many correspondents, found her workload increased following the triple disaster of March 2011. That interest has since begun to subside, to be replaced by "women's issues and Abenomics." Editors are now bored by Fukushima, she says. "They also sometimes say 'that's too far away for our readers.' I think they should trust their readers a bit more – they are more intelligent and interested than they think. I hear from so many people I meet that they don't hear anything any more about the tsunami and the nuclear power plant. But the editors are the gatekeepers." ❶



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

ANDREW POTHECARY



In these dark days for the newspaper business, only a few dailies can boast sales of 100,000, and the number is shrinking. Remarkably, the *Asahi Shogakusei Shimbun* achieves that figure by targeting what we might call a niche readership – six to twelve-year-old Japanese kids. And while that might be a niche market, if we put it those figures in perspective, that's roughly twice the circulation of the London *Independent* and quadruple the daily sales of *The Japan Times*.

The *Asahi* works hard not to patronize its pint-sized customers. Political stories regularly run on the front page. January splashes include Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's controversial visit to Yasukuni and the reelection of a local mayor who opposes U.S. military bases on Okinawa. The paper even comes in an old-fashioned broadsheet format because, well, that's what adults read, says chief editor Yasushi Matsumura.

"We want the children to feel like mom and dad when they pick up our paper," he explains. "The idea is to get them reading and interested in news early."

Japan, it turns out, has a vibrant market for newspapers targeting young readers. The *Yomiuri Kodomo Shimbun* claims a daily circulation of 200,000, though its rivals say those are not stand-alone sales but include those bundled with the parent paper. The *Mainichi*, *Chunichi* and about 30 other national and regional newspaper companies also publish dedicated titles for kids.

The practice makes sound commercial sense. Getting children into the newspaper-reading habit early helps build customers for life and encourages brand loyalty, points out Matsumura. And Japan can teach the world a thing or two about holding onto customers. While sales have gone into free fall throughout the developed world, around 90 percent of Japanese parents still subscribe to a hardcopy newspaper, delivered at the crack of dawn to their doors.

Some publications have taken the search for the next reading generation a step further. *Tokyo Shimbun* has developed a smartphone application that changes the contents of its newspaper into a more child-friendly version: hiragana reading aids and explanatory notes pop up in stories about politics and economics; cartoon characters appear on screen to help jog the reader along. (Search YouTube with "Tokyo Shimbun Children")

One reason why there are so many newspapers for kids, clearly, is Japan's declining population, which is forcing proprietors to think much harder about

If the newspaper business has any future, it may lie in the loyalty of today's young readers of newsprint

Soft copy

by David McNeill



A reader peruses the paper after breakfast.

where the next reader is going to come from. Matsumura also credits the education ministry, which three years ago revised its guidelines for school teaching materials to include newspapers. Like many educators, the ministry's bureaucrats blame the internet and video games for a national decline in reading ability.

One of the industry's unspoken secrets, however, is that old folk are also reading kids' publications. Many pensioners struggle with the kanji characters and stiff presentational style of adult newspapers and TV news programs. One telling sign that children's product sometimes misses its target demographic was the cancellation three years ago of NHK show *Shukan Kodomo no News* ("Weekly News for Children") after the producers found that most viewers were in fact elderly adults.

The original presenter of that program, Akira Ikegami, is also a famous proselytizer for early newspaper reading. His interventions, along with the education ministry's push, helped trigger a rush of new titles in 2011. After over 40 years leading the pack,

Asahi Shogakusei now finds itself in a crowded, hyper-competitive market. Circulation has fallen from 150,000 three years ago.

Still, the title is doing well, insists Matsumura, pulling in ¥500 million in profit a year. Unlike some of its competitors, his company is financially independent, though many of its writers and editors are loaned from the *Asahi* parent and it shares offices with the *Asahi's* headquarters in downtown Tokyo. The company also publishes other titles, including a twice-weekly newspaper for junior high school students.

The *Shogakusei* formula is simple. Content is divided into news – mostly sourced from the parent paper – study and entertainment. Editors make the text simpler to understand, adding hiragana, illustrations and diagrams, but trying not to let images overwhelm the all-important words. A small team of writers produces features that might appeal to the under-12s: Recent examples include a story about hot carbonated drinks and another about Japan's top dodge-ball team. Professors and educators are drafted in to explain complex issues in simple, direct language.

As for politics, Matsumura says the editor's strive for a studiously neutral, descriptive tone. The January Yasukuni story simply reports that Abe went, that China and South Korea were upset and that Washington, unusually, was "disappointed." A larger front-page story last August used a Q&A format to explain in some detail the background to the controversy, including the 1978 decision to enshrine Japan's World War II military and political leaders. But it ended with a shrug of the shoulders, concluding that the issue is "difficult" and won't be resolved soon. "We try not to impose views on young people who haven't formed their own yet," says Matsuyama.

Electronic delivery systems of course could all make this obsolete. Better-off kids are increasingly using e-tablets, shunning paper formats. But the *Asahi* is keeping its online plans close to its chest. "We are preparing for something but I shouldn't discuss it," says Matsumura. He says competition and the falling school-age population make optimism "difficult." Still, the newspaper business has survived radio, television, the Sony PlayStation and the smartphone and always manages to adapt. Even AKB48 has its own newspaper, though in that case pictures probably trump words. ①

David McNeill writes for *The Independent*, *The Economist*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and other publications.

At the end of her Japan tour, the candid journalist stopped at the Club to speak her mind on media and independence

Amy Goodman pulls no punches

by Julian Ryall

Amy Goodman, founder of the independent news program "Democracy Now!" and the host of a significant amount of its output on radio, television and the internet, has a reputation for being outspoken. She lived up to that reputation by declining to pull her punches on subjects far and wide at a luncheon at the FCCJ on Jan. 20.

Visiting Japan to do a series of live broadcasts, including looking at the U.S. military presence in Okinawa and the fate of evacuees from towns close to the Fukushima nuclear plant, Goodman also visited Hiroshima and spoke at universities in Tokyo and Kyoto.

A vocal critic of the mainstream media in the rest of the world, she was equally unimpressed by the performance of the Japanese media in covering issues that should be of critical importance to a domestic audience. "We met with anti-nuclear protestors outside the prime minister's residence and those who oppose nuclear power are in the majority here, but I don't see that being reported on the nightly news," she said.

"The media should be a great force that levels the playing field, not a megaphone for those in power," she said. "It should be apart from politics, not a part of them."

"The media should be the checks and balances on power, an essential function of a democratic society."

Born in Washington DC in 1957, Goodman joined Pacifica Radio station WBAI in New York City. Founded in 1949 by a conscientious objector who believed other radio stations were run by corporations "that have nothing to tell and everything to sell," one of Pacifica Radio's most proud achievements was setting up a station in the deeply conservative oil city of Houston.

The fact that the local Ku Klux Klan blew the station's transmitter up twice demonstrated the fear that free speech engenders, Goodman said.

"Democracy Now!" was set up in 1996 to serve as a force for peace and to give an alternative view to the "small number

of pundits who know so little but say so much in our media."

Goodman expressed a particular disdain for journalists being "embedded" with troops operating in places such as Iraq or Afghanistan. "I think the embedding process has brought the media to an all-time low," she said. "I'm not saying those reporters are not brave, but what do you get from that perspective? We need reporting from the target end," she said.

And that is not impossible, she pointed out, as Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett demonstrated as long ago as 1945. With Western media banned from travelling to Hiroshima to report on the aftermath of the world's first atomic bomb attack, Burchett circumnavigated General Douglas MacArthur's edict to get into the city.

He saw the shadows of people stained into walls and pavements by the detonation of the bomb, survivors horribly burned and others with their hair falling out. Nobody knew it at the time, but the people of Hiroshima were falling victim to radiation sickness. Burchett sat down in the rubble of the city and typed a dispatch in which he described the "atomic plague" and the devastation wrought on Hiroshima as a "warning to the world."

Burchett managed to evade the censors and the story shocked the world when it appeared in *The Daily Express*.

In retaliation, Gen. MacArthur ordered that Burchett be expelled from Japan. His camera mysteriously disappeared and his reporting was dismissed by U.S. authorities. In response, the *New York Times* science reporter William Laurence was among a group of journalists invited to the U.S. military's nuclear proving grounds in New Mexico and subsequently

wrote a series of articles refuting Burchett's experiences.

Awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage, it later emerged that Laurence was simultaneously on the payroll of the War Department and wrote press releases and statements defending America's atomic program.

Goodman has written to the organizers of the Pulitzer Prize to demand that Laurence be stripped of his award. "It is critical that we be independent of the state," she said, but admits the problem continues to this day. More recently, Goodman said, the media failed the public "miserably" before and during the Iraq war.

Six weeks before the fighting broke out, Noam Chomsky said the U.S. media was "manufacturing consent" for the war, when just two weeks before the first shot was fired, the four main television channels in the U.S. aired 393 interviews about the war. Of that total, Goodman points out, a mere three were with people opposed to the conflict. "That is no longer a mainstream media," she said. "It's an extremist media beating the drum for war."

The author of five books on the relationship between the media, government and big corporations, including *Static* and, most recently, *The Silenced Majority*, Goodman says the world needs a free and fair media.

"We need a media that covers power, not covers for the powers," she said.

"A media that covers the state, not covers for the state. That is the kind of media that will save us." ①

Amy Goodman speaking at the Club



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

▶ The noted journalist told some early risers at the Club's "Asa-kai" that while Abenomics shows promise, he's still waiting for the product

The good, the bad, the yet to materialize: William Pesek on Abenomics

by Daniel Leussink

Long-term Asia-watcher and journalist William Pesek played host to an early morning FCCJ crowd on Jan. 14, giving a stimulating briefing and answering questions at the second of the Club's "Asa-kai" breakfast gatherings. Pesek touched on a variety of subjects ranging from the entry into the global economy of three billion Asian consumers, to economic growth policies, nuclear power and nationalism.

Pesek's work for Bloomberg News is a must-read for the financial community on both sides of the Pacific, and he opened with some positive thoughts about "Abenomics," the economic revitalization program named after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "There is something in the air, not only in Japan but globally. If you put 'Japan' in a headline 14 months ago, no one really cared," he said. "Now, people can't get enough of it."

The first and second arrows of Abenomics, monetary and fiscal stimulus, have been impressive, according to Pesek, who found it fascinating to see Abe come back as someone who bears very little resemblance to the first-term Abe. "I've been impressed this far," he said. "The government has been on message and has talked big."

In many ways, Abenomics is a brilliant, splashy and fascinating marketing campaign, said Pesek. "But I'm waiting for something that I can see, touch, turn upside down and get a feel for," he added. "I'm still waiting for the product. In many ways, 2013 was a missed opportunity for Abenomics."

Before touching on Japan's growth potential, Pesek noted that for the first time in history, about three billion people in Asia are

stepping into the global economy at the same time. "What do Stuart Mill, John Maynard Keynes and Joseph Schumpeter – the economists we studied in school – have in common?" he asked. "One, they're all economists we studied in school. Two, they're all white men. Three, they're all dead. You have to feel bad for them, because they missed the most important story in world economics: the second rise of the Asian continent."

Pesek said that there are many things Abe must do to show the world that the third arrow is in flight. "I'm not sure that going to Turkey to sell nuclear power plants for Hitachi is the best use of his time. I'm not sure that going to Yasukuni Shrine is good use of his time. And I'm not sure that going to Mozambique at this time makes a lot of sense," he said, adding that one way for Abe to have gone about after introducing his growth strategy would've been by pitching a new, specific, big reform each month.

During the question and answer session, Pesek was queried about his view on the restart of nuclear power plants. He said that the only way Abenomics will work is if the nuclear power plants begin to hum very quickly. So if the

next governor of Tokyo is anti-nuclear, big problems lie ahead. "I don't think that [former Prime Minister Junichiro] Koizumi is trying to hurt Abe. He is looking at the calculus, he is very good at seeing what people want and giving it to them."

Koizumi is speaking for the average Japanese person, which is that energy is a growth industry for Japan," said Pesek. "I think that Koizumi is talking about a kind of Manhattan Project in reverse. (...) Japan's future is energy, energy, energy."

Pesek also touched upon nationalism and the disingenuous passage of the Secrecy Bill. "The whisper campaign for the Abe government was: 'Well, the U.S. is asking for this, so we're going to do it.' That's not exactly true," he said.

"The U.S. was asking that Japan plug up the fact that a lot of information doesn't get out. But the U.S. didn't ask Abe to set out jail terms for journalists who might ask the wrong question to the wrong person. The U.S. didn't ask Abe to put whistleblowers in prison for five or ten years. The U.S. didn't ask Abe to write a law that is so ambiguous that no one knows where the lines are," said Pesek. "I'm not sure the U.S. asked Abe, in many ways, to allow nameless, faceless bureaucrats out there to make these decisions."

"What worries me is the kind of Fukushima effect," he added. "If there is another big earthquake in the next year or two, will we know the state of nuclear reactors 135 miles away from Tokyo?"

Pesek took up the nuclear issue once more during the question and answer session when asked for Abe's legacy: "If we could jump ten years into the future, I don't think history is going to judge Abe on the economy. I think it's going to judge him on his legacy of Fukushima," he said. "It'll be really interesting when Germany comes out and says, 'We have doubts about participating in the 2020 Games because of radiation readings.' I think that Fukushima is a much bigger issue than anyone thinks." ❶

JOIN THE CLUB'S NEW MONTHLY "ASA-KAI"

What: Monthly breakfast with respected speakers

When: From 7.30 a.m. to 8.45 a.m.

Including: Light breakfast

Open to: Everyone – members and non-members

Next meetings: Feb. 4 and March 4.

On Feb. 4, the speaker is Sakie Fukushima (President, G&S Global Advisors and Vice-Chairman, Keizai Doyukai)

Daniel Leussink is a Dutch freelance journalist who has been based in Japan since 2007.

▶ The Journalist Information Service offers Regular Members an up-to-date list of key events

Be there when the news happens

by Patrick Zoll

January 6th, the first official working day of the New Year, saw the launch of the Journalist Information Service (JIS). While we just missed the opportunity to wrap it and put it under the Christmas tree, we hope that the latest product of the Freedom of Press Committee will nevertheless be a useful present to all of our Regular Members.

The goal of the JIS is simple: Keep journalists based in Tokyo up-to-date on relevant events. While news bureau have at least one person who checks on upcoming press conferences, events, etc., and keeps an agenda for the reporters to plan their work, many members today do not have a bureau with staff. Many are one-man or one-woman shows. The JIS is particularly helpful for these lonely fighters, but we believe it will also be useful for news bureaus to double check their own calendars.

Why is the Freedom of Press Committee launching this initiative? Many of us find access to events here in Japan less than ideal. But the first step to get access is to know what the heck is going on. We hope that those days when correspondents find out about a media event only when they open the papers the next day will now happen less often.

Before we become too excited, let's modestly admit that we are not there yet. In IT language, we are still in the beta phase. Over the past few months we have set up the system, while an FCCJ staff member has contacted a number of organizations and asked them for regular information about their press events. He

then feeds this information into a special calendar on our website, for access by FCCJ Regular Members who sign up for it.

We presently receive routine updates from the Nuclear Regulation Agency, Keidanren, Rengo and most of the political parties that are active on the national level. The notable exception is the Liberal Democratic Party. We have already visited them in person, exchanged *meishi* with their press people and explained to them what we are looking for, but since the LDP is the only party with its own press club, things are a bit more difficult. We will try to win over similar organizations by engaging with them proactively.

We will add organizations to our coverage to make the JIS more and more useful over time. While we are open to suggestions about who should be added, bear with us if not everything is possible immediately. We ask journalists who have contacts at a particular organization or knowledge of important events to share them so that we can get in touch and add them to the calendar.

If any journalists encounter problems gaining access to any events, please give us feedback. While we cannot guarantee success, our Access Subcommittee will try to engage with the relevant people to improve access over the long run.

As the information in the JIS is meant for the working press, access is limited to Regular Members. These members can sign up at the front desk in person or by phone and within days will receive an email confirming their addition to the

list. From then on, the JIS can be accessed from the members-only section of the FCCJ webpage. We ask that the information not be redistributed, as some of the organizations providing information insist that it only be available to working journalists. If anyone has a journalist friend who wants to access this information, kindly encourage them to become an FCCJ Regular Member.

As much as we hope otherwise, it is unreasonable to think that all doors will fly open to foreign journalists thanks to the JIS. But we are sure it can be a tool to help FCCJ journalists stay in tune with when and where the news happens.

One final point: When we announced the launch of the JIS in early January we were contacted by a member who feared the service would be used to release statements relating to press freedom. This is clearly not the case; there is, however, a subcommittee that deals with issues affecting press freedom. The Declaration Subcommittee monitors and may suggest that the President issue a statement, which is exactly what occurred with the release of the widely covered FCCJ presidential statement regarding the secrecy law. The subcommittee submitted a draft to the president, translated the final version and helped with the distribution of the presidential statement. In this way we ensure that the FCCJ speaks with one voice on these potentially delicate matters. ❶

Patrick Zoll is Chairman of the Information Subcommittee of the Freedom of Press Committee.



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“CAPTIVATING AS THIS STORYLINE MAY BE, IT IS MASSIVELY AT ODDS WITH THE FACTS. AND FCCJ MEMBERS ARE PROMINENT AMONG THE GUILTY”

Stop it already

by Paul Blustein

The third anniversary of the Great East Japan Disaster is looming, so no doubt many articles and broadcasts regurgitating the conventional storyline about the Fukushima nuclear accident are in the works. By conventional storyline, I'm referring to the oft-repeated claim that the accident came perilously close to irradiating the Tokyo metropolitan area.

The latest iteration of this storyline is an Al Jazeera broadcast describing Fukushima as “the disaster that could have turned Tokyo into a ghost town.” The report features former Prime Minister Naoto Kan recounting how experts told him that a severe deterioration of conditions at Fukushima Daiichi would necessitate the evacuation of all 50 million people living within 250 kilometers of the plant.

Captivating as this storyline may be, it is massively at odds with the facts. Propagating it is not just misinformation; it can now be fairly deemed an act of journalistic malpractice. And FCCJ members are prominent among the guilty.

It pains me to level such accusations at fellow journalists, especially members of the FCCJ, to which I was once honored to belong. I spent 27 years at major newspapers, and my half-decade as a correspondent in Tokyo is one of my proudest career achievements. I should add that I am in awe of the brilliant reporting FCCJ members did from Tohoku about the devastation caused by the tsunami.

But given my long experience in newsrooms, I understand the pressures that have generated overwrought and misleading coverage of Fukushima. I am writing to ensure that FCCJ members are aware of certain facts and insights about the accident, which I hope will help inform their future journalism and be considered worthy of sober reflection.

Hark back to the period just before

the first anniversary of 3/11. The media was going wild with the report by the “Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation.” Leading the pack was the *New York Times*, which carried a front-page story on Feb. 27, 2012 asserting that Kan and his fellow Japanese leaders “secretly considered the possibility of evacuating Tokyo, even as they tried to play down the risks in public.” Numerous stories in other media outlets echoed this account.

Less than two weeks later, an article in *Foreign Affairs* put this issue in an entirely different light. Titled “Inside the White House During Fukushima,” the article provided a first-hand account of how U.S. officials concluded that Tokyo – and U.S. military bases nearby – were in no danger, even if the worst case materialized. The author, Jeffrey Bader, who had served on President Obama's National Security Council, explained that modeling of radiation plumes and weather patterns by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – one of the government's premier scientific facilities – had shown there was no need to consider evacuating Americans from the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Despite the obvious importance of the revelations in *Foreign Affairs*, the media gave them absolutely no attention (a lone exception being *Kyodo News*, whose articles were carried in some local Japanese papers). I was appalled; I couldn't help deducing that I was witnessing a journalistic syndrome with which I am all too familiar – resistance by the media to running stories that contradict or undermine previous reporting.

I decided to write about the U.S. government's scenario myself, although I'm retired from newspapers. On trips to the U.S. I interviewed key participants and found fascinating additional revelations about the episode in documents released under the Freedom of Information Act. I also researched

the worst-case scenario conducted by experts at the Japan Atomic Energy Commission – the one on which Kan bases his claim that Tokyo nearly had to be evacuated. I discovered that Kan's interpretation of the scenario – which the media has parroted time and again – is a grotesque distortion. The scenario simply doesn't imply that an evacuation of Tokyo would have been necessary; in fact, its conclusions are consistent with Lawrence Livermore's work. In any event, the Lawrence Livermore modeling – which the media has all but ignored – is far more sophisticated.

My article on this research was published in August by *Newsweek Japan*, followed by an English version in *Slate*.

Perhaps journalists whose bylines have appeared on the conventional storyline about Fukushima can excuse their reporting on the grounds that neither they nor their editors ever saw the article in *Foreign Affairs*. I'm skeptical of this excuse, because *Foreign Affairs* is widely perused in newsrooms, especially in the United States.

Still, FCCJ members deserve the benefit of the doubt. I would like to believe that coverage presenting the conventional Fukushima storyline was prepared in blissful ignorance of evidence about the U.S. government scenario, rather than in willful disregard of it.

I just hope that such coverage will cease forthwith, that FCCJ members will generate some corrective journalism, and that some good old-fashioned *hansei* will ensue about the broader implications of the information presented above. ❶

Paul Blustein was an FCCJ member from 1990 to 1995, when he was with the *Washington Post*. Previously he reported for the *Wall Street Journal* in the U.S. Currently living in Kamakura, he is affiliated with the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Brookings Institution.

“WE ARE ASKED TO BELIEVE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS KNEW ALL ALONG THAT WE WERE WORRYING ABOUT NOTHING, AND THAT TO REPORT OTHERWISE IS 'MALPRACTICE'”

Counterpoint

I am not entirely clear about what Mr. Blustein is criticizing. The article of mine that he is citing is a daily news story about the findings of the investigation into the Fukushima accident and its aftermath by a private think tank called the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation, started by Funabashi Yoichi, former editor-in-chief of the *Asahi Shimbun*. Much of Mr. Blustein's criticism appears to be directed at the findings of Mr. Funabashi's group, not my article.

But if Mr. Blustein is suggesting that I should not have reported on the findings of this group, then I strongly disagree for several reasons.

First, I found this report to be newsworthy because it was one of the first times that a private-sector think tank in Japan had ever done an independent investigation of this depth and magnitude, and of such significance to public perceptions. In hindsight, I think the report lived up to its expectations: even today, I hear people frequently referring to it in discussing the events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

Also, the expanding role of non-governmental actors is something I was emphasizing in my coverage at the time. I believe this was a byproduct of the increasing public mistrust in the government and major news media's handling of the accident, which was also a major theme in my coverage. Mr. Funabashi's group, and the attention its report was getting, seemed a good example of this trend.

Second, I found highly newsworthy the group's finding (using meticulous sourcing) that Prime Minister Kan Naoto had considered evacuating Tokyo. This is an astounding fact, one that Mr. Kan himself later confirmed to me. The fact that such a step was even considered, even as a contingency plan, speaks volumes about the sense of urgency gripping the highest levels of power in Japan, and shaping the leadership's response to the nation's biggest crisis since World War II.

Moreover, the significance of Mr. Kan's contingency planning is not in any way nullified by Mr. Blustein's assertion that some U.S. officials “knew” that an evacuation was unnecessary. Were those the same U.S. officials who were warning after the accident that the No. 4 spent fuel pool was emptying of water, leaving the exposed fuel rods at risk of a larger explosion that could very well have forced Tokyo's evacuation?

There were many opinions flying around at the time, and information in both Tokyo and Washington was fragmentary and incomplete at best. Even today, we have yet to receive a full account of what happened at Fukushima. So I see no basis for accepting the claim that some group of American officials possessed an all-seeing, all-knowing perspective.

Even farther fetched, it seems to me, is the assertion that the existence of these all-knowing U.S. officials would somehow render trivial or unnewsworthy the decisions being made during those fateful, anguish-filled days by the leader of Japan. ❶

– Martin Fackler, *The New York Times*

Paul Blustein says Tokyo-based correspondents are guilty of spreading “misinformation” because some of us have reported claims that Japan's capital was in danger after the triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

He singles out a recent Al-Jazeera America documentary that I helped produce, in which former Prime Minister Kan described his fears that Tokyo might have been catastrophically affected by the fallout from the plant.

Specifically, Mr. Blustein chides us for not reporting that the U.S. authorities “knew” Tokyo was not in danger.

I'm puzzled by this criticism. It seems to suggest that we should outweigh or dismiss the views of Japan's sitting prime minister at the time of the disaster in favor of those of some U.S. officials in Washington. It also seems to ignore the growing body of evidence to the contrary.

To cite only the latest intervention into this debate that I know of, Kyle Cleveland of Temple University Japan has written a well-sourced essay this year revealing that U.S. officials in Japan were concerned enough in March 2011 about the possibility of evacuation to have destroyed thousands of documents at military and diplomatic facilities.

Mr. Blustein may also be aware that Kevin Maher, former director of the Office of Japan Affairs also said in his 2011 (Japanese) book, *The Japan That Can't Decide*, that U.S. officials in Japan planned to evacuate 90,000 citizens from Tokyo during the disaster.

We would also have to dismiss the first independent report into the disaster, led by Yoichi Funabashi and a team of lawyers, journalists and experts, which criticized Kan but concluded that not only was Tokyo under threat but that he had probably saved it.

Mr. Blustein may have missed a press conference last year at the FCCJ by the governor of Niigata, Hirohiko Izumida, who said TEPCO was extremely lucky to have just finished the onsite radiation-proof bunker at Fukushima Daiichi at the time of the accident. “Without that, we would not be sitting here today,” he said.

It may be that all these people are mistaken and that U.S. officials thousands of miles away knew better, in which case I hope Mr. Blustein will tell us why.

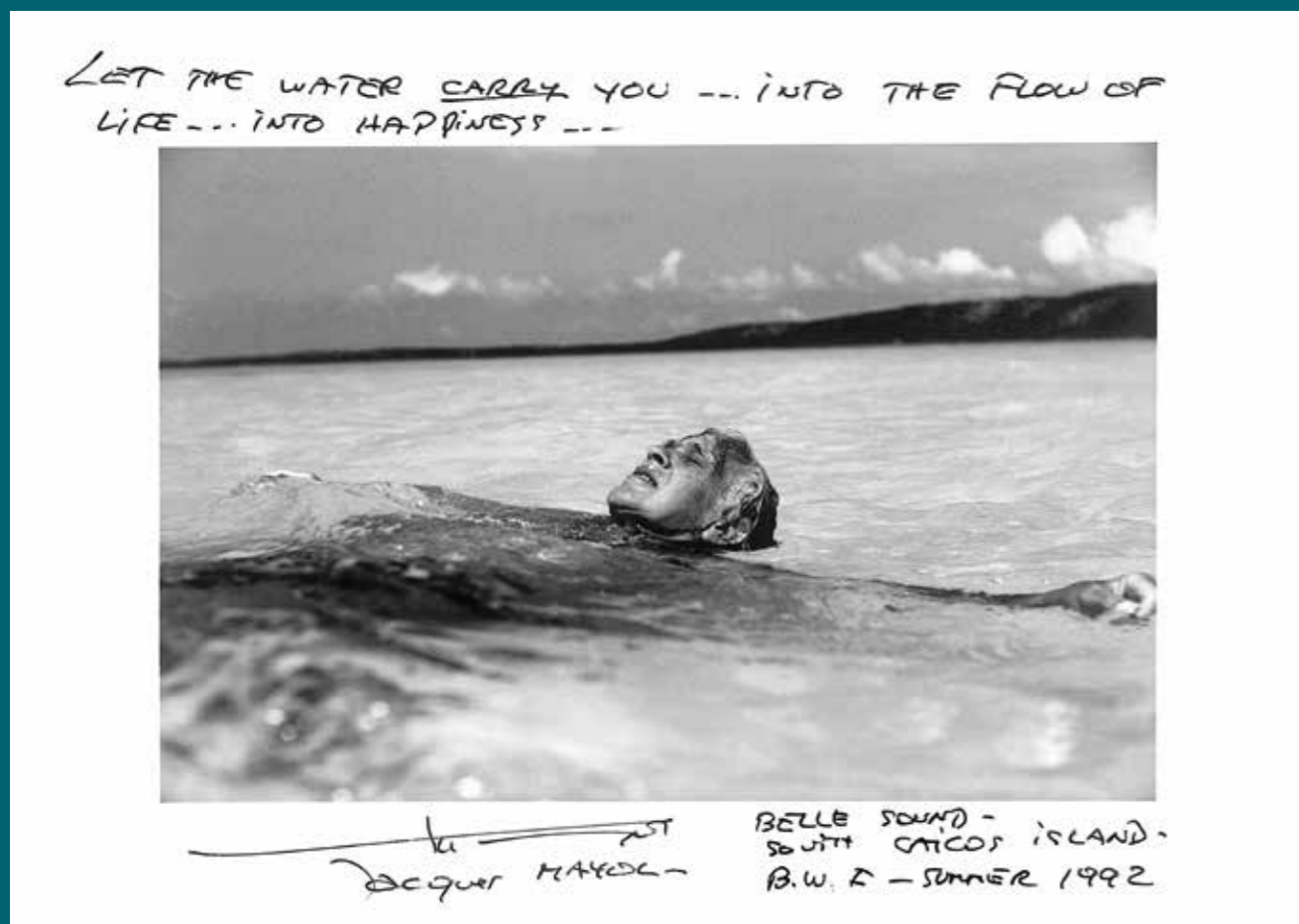
On the Al-Jazeera America program he mentions, I was one of the two Japan-based reporters who researched the show and suggested interviewees, though I had no control over final content. The producers interviewed Kan, but also METI, TEPCO, and a pro-nuclear academic. The program took pains to dismiss U.S. concerns over radiation. It was, in my view, a model of objectivity.

I was here in March 2011 and vividly remember the confusion, uncertainty and fear that permeated all levels of society in Tokyo, including the government. We are now asked to believe that somewhere in Washington a core of officials knew all along that we were worrying about nothing, and that to report otherwise is “malpractice.” I'll stick to reporting what I know. ❶

– David McNeill, *The Independent and Economist*

FCCJ EXHIBITION: DEDICATION TO TWO WATERMEN

Photographs of Jacques Mayol and Tiger Espere by Taisuke Yokoyama

**JACQUES MAYOL, free diver** (above)

THE FIRST TIME I MET JACQUES WAS ON A PHOTO SHOOT AT a place on the Izu Peninsula called Futo. Fishermen were herding dolphins into the bay for slaughter. Gazing at the dolphins, Jacques said to me, "It's nothing for the dolphins to jump over the nets the fishermen are using to herd them. It's almost like Gandhi in the natural world - the dolphins do nothing and get caught." That was when I realized that he was a very special man.

On land, Jacques was funny and engaging. But he turned into a completely different creature when he began preparing for a dive. He would do breathing exercises and run water through his nose, a thorough yoga exercise that would take an hour until he changed his character and became disciplined and well prepared.

There are so many things that humans have yet to fathom or elucidate. But in his own special way, using his own body, Jacques made many impossible things possible, showing us that humans also once lived in the sea. ❶

Born in Tokyo in 1948, **Taisuke Yokoyama**, has lived most of his life in Kamakura. A photograph he took of the sea at Inamuragasaki inspired him to become a photographer, with surfing and the sea as his main theme. He has published a number of books, including *Dedication to two watermen* and *Surfers*.

TIGER ESPERE, surfer (right)

IF TIGER FELT LIKE IT, ANYPLACE, ANY SITUATION COULD become dramatic. That's how powerful his aura was. He expressly went out of his way to take me to special dramatic places and allow me to take photos. Though there were numerous places to shoot, he'd pass them by until we'd be in a location where some amazing natural phenomenon would occur.

Once he took me to Waimea Falls. As we walked deeper and deeper into the protected valley where the falls are situated, the sun was going down and it was starting to become dusk. With no one else around, he offered a chant, and a flower, and then entered the water. The moment he entered the water, the sun's rays broke through the foliage and created a wonderful beam of light. I couldn't help but feel awed by the expression on his face.

To Tiger, this was a very special place where he had spent his childhood, and where Hawaiian warriors of the past were buried. The sunset brought out the beauty of the waterfall, and I felt that Tiger and the waterfall were counterparts. I shuddered as I took the photograph. ❶

The above are edited extracts from Taisuke's own essays.



FCCJ HACKS & FLACKS PARTY



OUR ANNUAL GATHERING OF JOURNALISTS AND PR representatives from corporations, government and embassies on Jan. 29 was a *dai hitto*, according to president Lucy Birmingham. "It seemed everyone enjoyed themselves," she said after the party, attended by a record 294 members and guests.

Giving a boost to the proceedings was this traditional *kagamiwari* sake barrel opening ceremony performed (left to right) by new GM Tomohiko Yanagi, 1st VP Martin Koelling, MC Steve McClure, president Lucy Birmingham and PAC Chair Abi Sekimitsu. The sake barrel was donated by Kato Kichibee Shoten.

ALSO LAST MONTH...



Nobuaki Koga: President, Japanese Trade Union Confederation, Jan. 17.



Shin Dong-hyuk: Former Inmate of North Korea's Notorious Camp 14, Jan. 27.

Heard at the Club

"Nuclear accident-related information will not be designated as state secrets. If you were to enter an area that was declared off limits by the government and reported on what you saw there, you would not be prosecuted under this law."

Masako Mori,
Minister in charge of the
Bill on the Protection of
Specially Designated Secrets.
(See "From the President,"
p4)



BUON APPETITO!

THE SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET STARTED OUT THE year with a bang, as the Jan. 26 version was a big hit. The tables of the main Pen & Quill restaurant were filled with members and their families and friends who turned out for the French cuisine and roast beef.

The next of these monthly events will be held on Feb. 23, from 11:30am to 2pm, and will feature

Italian cuisine (and, as always, the signature roast beef). The Buffet is a perfect situation for celebrating birthdays, as a bottle of wine or a cake is given to any member or family member with a birthday during the month.

Make reservations early, by phone or at the Front Desk. The price is a very reasonable ¥3,150 for adults, ¥1,890 for children 4 to 14.

NEW MEMBERS



Ran Sun is the Japan correspondent for China News Service. During her career in China, she covered a wide variety of events, from the Sichuan Earthquake of May, 2008, the Beijing Olympic Games, and the riots in Xinjiang in July, 2009. Since arriving in Japan, Sun has reported on such events as the 3/11 disasters, the islands dispute between China and Japan, the change in prime ministers and the visits of former Premier Wen Jiabao to Japan in 2010 and 2011. Sun has visited the Tohoku disaster zone more than ten times in order to report on the reconstruction efforts and the handling of the nuclear accident.



Akinori Hashimoto has been head of the NHK World Department since June, 2013. Hashimoto was born in Tokyo, and graduated from Hitotsubashi University with a degree in economics. He joined NHK in 1981, and was posted to Kagoshima. He spent a number of years with the Bangkok and Hanoi bureaus, and, later, in Beijing. He was made editor of the International News Division in 2004. After time in Fukuoka, from 2006, and as head of the China General Bureau, from 2008, he was made Head of the International News Division in 2010. In June, 2012, he was named head of the News Production Division of the NHK World Department, until his promotion last year.

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Tomohisa Saito, Nippon BS Broadcasting Corp.
Shiro Baba, Kitasato University

REINSTATEMENT (PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST ASSOCIATE)

Hiroataka Futatsuki,
Nippon BS Broadcasting Corp.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Seiji Yamazaki, Shojikiya Food Service Co., Ltd.
Nobuyuki Osawa, Exeno Yamamizu Corp.
Mariko Saito, Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd.
Seiji Kasashita, Rakuten Inc.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Kawaii!: Japan's Culture of Cute
Okazaki, Manami & Johnson,
Geoff Prestel

Things That Matter: Three Decades of Passions, Pastimes and Politics
Krauthammer, Charles
Crown Forum

Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific
Yano, Christine R.
Duke Univ. Press

Currents: More Essential Expressions for Understanding Japan
Japan Echo Inc. in cooperation with the Foreign Press Center/Japan
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The Tale of Genji (Two Volumes)
Murasaki Shikibu ; Tr. with an Introd by Edward G. Seidensticker
Charles E. Tuttle
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Karoshi
National Defense Counsel for Victims of Karoshi
Mado-sha
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From Marco Polo Bridge to Pearl Harbor: Who was responsible?
Foreword by editor-in-chief Tsuneo Watanabe; edited by James E. Auer
Yomiuri Shimbun
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The Professional Journalist: A Guide to the Practices and Principles of the News Media
Hohenberg, John
Holt, Rinehart Winston
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Chronicle: The Great Hanshin Earthquake
The Yomiuri Shimbunsha ed.
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Whaling in Japan: Power, Politics and Diplomacy
Morikawa, Jun
Hurst & Co.
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Pandanus Books
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Silent Thunder
Tasker, Peter
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Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The Physical, Medical, and Social Effects of the Atomic Bombings
The Committee for the Compilation of Materials on Damage Caused by the Atomic Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki; translated by Eisei Ishikawa and David L. Swain
Iwanami Shoten
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The Films of Akira Kurosawa
Richie, Donald; with additional material by Joan Mellen
University of California Press
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Furusato no Meitei - A Celebration of Japanese Gardens
Hibi, Sadao
Gurafikkusha
Gift from Mr. Rick Wallace

Kyodo Tsushin Nyusu Yotei: Kokunaigai no Nenkan Sukejuru o Ichinichi Ichipeji de Shuroku 2014
Kyodo Tsushinsha Henshukyoku
Yotei Senta ed.
Kyodo Tsushinsha
Gift from Kyodo Tsushinsha

Historical Novel of the Russo-Japanese War, Volume III
Shiba, Ryotaro; translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter and Paul McCarthy; edited by Phyllis Birnbaum Routledge
Gift from Mr. Sumio Saito

Clouds above the Hill : A Historical Novel of the Russo-Japanese War, Volume IV
Shiba, Ryotaro; translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter and Paul McCarthy; edited by Phyllis Birnbaum Routledge
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Love with a Western Woman: a Guide for Japanese Men
Pover, Caroline
Alexandra Press
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