

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

January 2013  
Volume 45 No. 1  
¥400



# SNAKES ALIVE!

CORRESPONDENTS WEIGH IN  
WITH PREDICTIONS FOR  
THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

+

Hacks-n-Flacks   Children of the Australian occupation forces   Japan's gender gap

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### Heard at the Club

## "The momentum is here."



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founder of the World Economic Forum's  
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gaping gender gap,  
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# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

Volume 45, Number 1 January 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 photograph: Dreamstime

## President's message



Dec. 17 - TODAY WE RECEIVED THE result of the month-long referendum on proposed new FCCJ Articles of Association to meet the requirements of revised legislation on non-profit organizations.

To pass, a "yes" vote was required by two-thirds of 311 Regular Members in good standing – a very high hurdle that was not achieved last time it was tried, 30 years ago. So this result can be read as significant:

Total votes cast: **273** (87%). Yes: **242** (77.8% of eligible voters). No: **27** (8.7%). Did not vote: **38** (12.3%). Undetermined: **1**.

As a result, the new Articles will be submitted to the Cabinet Office for approval. Thanks to all those who took the time to vote.

This was not a referendum on the current Board of Directors and it was not even about choosing *koeki* (public-interest) non-profit status over *ippan* (general). With the new Articles we can still choose either as the differences in language required for *koeki* vs. *ippan* are minimal. But had this not passed we would have been obliged to immediately go through the huge effort of another referendum because the current Articles will be invalid from November.

Despite knowing all this, the clique that opposes everything done by our Board tried to defeat the motion, and to make this into a referendum on the Board, outsourcing of our food & beverage operations and *koeki* status. Clearly, they have failed abjectly.

Even if you assign every abstention and the one spoiled ballot to the "no" side (which stretches belief), only 66 Regular Members (21.2%) did anything other than vote "yes." More likely, the "no" is no more than the same 45 to 50 people who have supported this clique in the past three FCCJ elections.

Bizarrely, though, the "no" clique does not accept the verdict of our democratic process. Today, they challenged the integrity of the referendum process. And the results of the past three elections they have variously attributed to "a very efficient marshaling of votes," the use of "minibuses" to herd Members to the poll, and a misinformed electorate.

The suggestion that our Members can be herded like sheep, or that professional journalists are unable to grasp the affairs of their own Club, is beyond insulting. But worse than insult is the injury resulting to the Club from repeated lawsuits by this cohort. This year, much of the ¥2 million-plus the FCCJ spent on legal fees has gone to defending against their suits. Now, as you will read on the right, the clique intends to sue again.

If today's referendum result signals anything more than overwhelming acceptance of new Articles that do not presuppose *koeki* or *ippan*, it says clearly to the "no" clique: withdraw your frivolous lawsuit and devote yourselves to winning votes in the June 2013 FCCJ election. The democratic process must be respected.

– Georges Baumgartner

## Letter to the Editor

WE, THE THREE UNDERSIGNED PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE FCCJ, URGE ALL members to pause and consider what has happened to this 67-year old institution – to which we have devoted much of our life and energies.

We believe that the FCCJ has seriously deteriorated as a social club through the Board's decision to relinquish control over our food and beverage operations and to dispense with the services of many long-serving staff. We were angered at seeing this action justified on the ground that the FCCJ was on the verge of bankruptcy, and genuinely shocked when the President gave interviews to local media spreading this damaging untruth.

We were angered by the Board's argument that outsourcing was necessary in order for the Club to qualify as a public interest association under the new Shadan Hojin law. Even if this *koeki* status were advantageous to us – and we can only see disadvantages – the case could have been argued, as the Yokohama Club did, that just about all the staff and other expenses related to performing public interest activities are allowable as *koeki*-related expenditures. We know from personal experience and expert advice that Japanese authorities are flexible in interpreting such things.

We were angry at the way in which the outsourcing case was misrepresented to the membership with false assurances being offered that staff would be protected to the maximum when in fact opposite assurances were being given to candidate outsourcing companies that their obligations in retaining staff were minimal.

We could hardly believe that the Board pushed ahead with its plans in as relentless and ruthless a manner as was done, ignoring our pleas and arguments for caution, and rejecting a thorough discussion among a better informed membership. The President even walked out of the room, refusing to answer a question by Sam Jameson at an election debate he himself had scheduled. The question, moreover, was based on the statement the President submitted in writing to the debate participants. The debate was then declared closed.

We constantly hear that the crucial decisions were taken with a mandate that resulted from a democratic process. But we cannot stretch our imagination to a point where a decision critically affecting all 340 regular members and some 1,600 Associate members was taken by just 47 members present at the March GMM with the aid of 38 proxy votes (4.2% of total membership) is regarded as democratic. As journalists reporting on political developments all over the world know very well, a first requirement for democracy is an understanding among voters of what they are voting for.

We were not allowed access to the Club's email list through which we could have informed the membership of our doubts and the knowledge we had gained by studying relevant aspects of the matter. Instead we are regularly characterized as opponents who do not know what they are talking about.

Had a truly "democratic" process been pursued, and a genuine discussion taken place, we are sure that outsourcing would not have been approved, or such unprincipled treatment of staff been allowed.

We are under the almost inescapable impression that dispensing with FCCJ staff was the primary aim of the President, and that the fiction that the Club faced ultimate financial difficulties and the (equally untrue) assertion that the law demanded outsourcing were used as a cover to achieve this aim. Plans for outsourcing existed before the supposed conditions for *koeki* status were revealed.

We saw no alternative but to seek fair and true representation of the full facts by resort to the law. The law of the land takes precedence over other rules and regulations and everyone has the right to seek its protection; in this case protection of the FCCJ against undemocratic measures that severely undermine its character as a social club.

– Anthony Rowley  
Sam Jameson  
Karel van Wolferen

CLICK ON THIS

**Steve McClure** finds a divergence in tone in two blogs that target truth, justice and the Japanese way

IT'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN BLOGGING and bloviating. One person who often crosses the line into the latter category is Arudou Debito, aka David Aldwinkle. A high-profile advocate of foreigners' rights in Japan, Arudou wages a relentless one-man war against discrimination, xenophobia and racism on his www.debito.org blog.

Many non-Japanese (or "NJ" – Arudou's preferred term for foreign residents of Japan) find him something of an embarrassment, because of what they consider his shrill, paranoid tone. Here's one example, from his blog of Aug. 5, 2012: "... once the Japanese police get your hands on you as a NJ, you don't stand a Chinaman's Chance, be it in Japan's criminal investigations, incarceration systems, jurisprudence and standards of evidence, criminal court, or civil court afterwards."

Odd that a self-proclaimed opponent of discrimination should use a vaguely racist term like "Chinaman's Chance" – but we will let that pass.

Arudou's in-your-face approach is the polar opposite of the more measured style favored by Philip Brasor, another leading Japan-based blogger/columnist. Here's Brasor on capital punishment in the May 28, 2012, online edition of *The Asia-Pacific Journal*: "However one feels about the death penalty, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that its application in Japan is arbitrary."

Brasor again, on Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara in the "Media Mix" column he writes for the *The Japan Times*: "People who admire Ishihara for his honesty mistake

his lack of calculation for forthrightness. ... He doesn't so much hold positions as succumb to whims." Arudou's take on Ishihara is somewhat less nuanced: "A hate-mongering racist bigot" (from Arudou's controversial and widely read "Just Be Cause" column in the Nov. 6 edition of the JT).

Brasor's "Media Mix" column appears in the JT on Sundays and is also available online. It's a must-read for anyone who wants to get the real story behind what the mainstream Japanese media report. The JT also publishes the highly practical and informative "Yen for Living" blog about daily life in Japan that Brasor writes with Masako Tsubuku. "Media Mix" and "Yen for Living" both benefit from Brasor's unflashy but articulate style and keen attention to detail.

Arudou and Brasor are the yin and yang of foreign bloggers on Japan – their approaches complement each other. Arudou, who seems to be permanently perched atop his soapbox, goes for the full frontal assault on injustice. Brasor employs guerilla tactics by letting the facts speak for themselves, and uses his finely honed logical skills to deconstruct the absurdities put forth by the powers that be.

What Arudou and Brasor share is an admirable attention to detail and a commitment to ferreting out the truth. They play a vital role in the Greater East Asia blogosphere. ①

**Steve McClure** has lived in Tokyo since 1985. Formerly *Billboard* magazine's Asia Bureau Chief, he now publishes the online music-industry newsletter *McClureMusic.com*.



Debito.org, left, and one of Philip Brasor's blogs, Yen For Living



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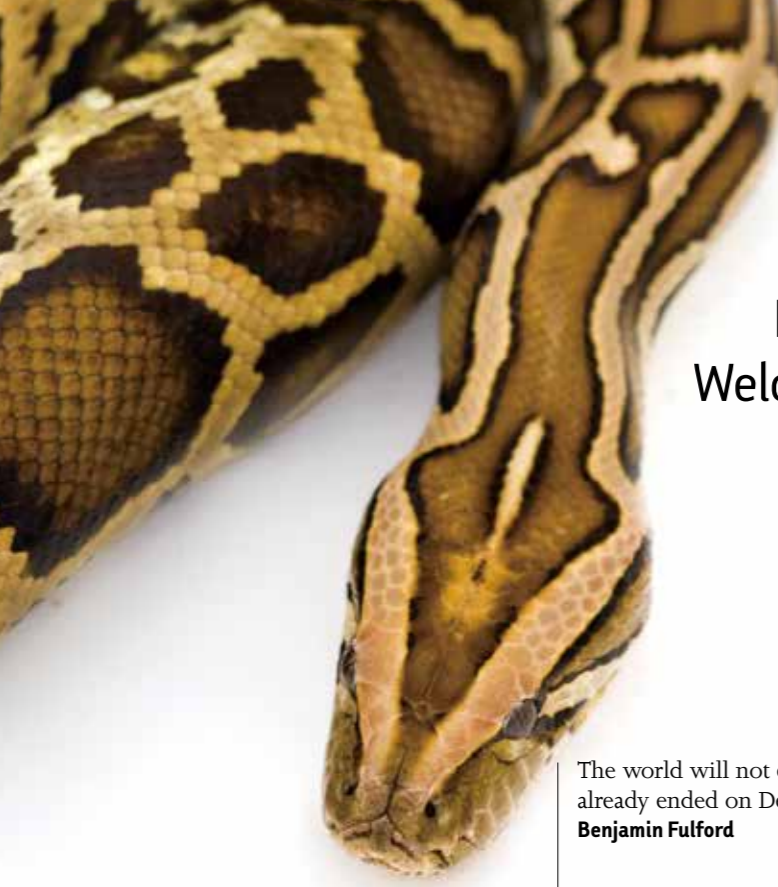
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**For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.**



CLUB MEMBERS MAKE PREDICTIONS FOR A HAPPY – OR NOT – NEW YEAR

### From victories to venom: Welcome to the year of the snake



The world will not end in 2013 because it already ended on December 21st, 2012. **Benjamin Fulford**

The Rupert Murdoch of Japan, Tsuneo Watanabe, will either "step down" as Editor-in-Chief of the Yomiuri Shimbun or be forced out. The Yomiuri won't change very much. **Jake Adelstein, The Atlantic Wire**

### Barring the discovery of life on a distant planet or a collision with an asteroid, 2013 will bring more of the same shit that's been going on for centuries.

**Richard Pyle, former AP Asia news editor**

After the "Arab Spring" turns out to be a false democratic transition, Arabs hit the streets again demanding the return of the former regimes! Mubarak of Egypt, who is over 80, is said to be dyeing his hair again. **Fadi Salameh, Al Jazeera**

The Japanese will get so fed up with one-year prime ministers that Fanuc will invent a robot prime minister that resembles Junichiro Koizumi, including the Lion King hairdo, but with an unlimited battery life. **Martin Fackler, the New York Times**



Team Japan will win a 3rd consecutive World Baseball Classic title, maintaining its status as the only country to win the WBC since its inception in 2006. **Wayne Graczyk**

After the LDP wins, it surprises pundits by joining TPP, but reconnects with its base with a plan for concrete bridges linking the five Senkaku Islands. **Rick Wallace, The Australian**

Shintaro Ishihara will die and Toru Hashimoto will fall to scandal, blowing Nippon Ishin no Kai apart. Party survivors, led by Taiichi Sakaiya, old Reagan/Thatcherites, and young management consultants will roam the wastelands of south Osaka and journey through the void of Japanese television talent agencies, seeking a new Messiah. **Eric Johnston, The Japan Times**

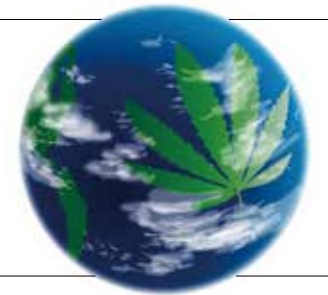
2013 will not be complete without yet another change of Japanese prime minister! **Kwan Weng Kin, The Straits Times Press**

Ludwig Erhard, the first West German Minister for economy after the war, once said that psychology makes at least 50 percent of the economy. The structural pessimism in this country more and more becomes a serious problem for Japan's economic growth. In 2013, the primary task of the prime minister will be to raise confidence. **Carstem Germis, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung**

A political swing to the right and another short-lived govt. led by Shinzo Abe, who will ban Chinese restaurants, say that Japan "liberated" Nanjing in 1937 and recommend Emperor Hirohito for a posthumous Nobel peace prize before retiring to a country house with lots of toilets. **David McNeill**

### I predict that efforts to legalize pot-smoking will sweep the world in 2013, as people realize the war on drugs is unwinnable.

**Henry Tricks, The Economist**



Toyota Motor Corp. will sell more than 10 million vehicles worldwide, becoming the first automaker to pass the 10 million milestone and setting a new standard for success in an increasingly globalized industry in which mega-volume players are king and niche players struggle for survival. **Hans Greimel, Automotive News**

One sure-fire prediction is that more cases of scientific misconduct will come to light. In 2012, one Japanese researcher set a worldwide record for retracting scientific reports because of fabrications and another admitted in front of TV cameras that he had lied about developing a new medical therapy. 2013 promises more of the same. **Dennis Normile, Science**

Prosecutors and police will continue to get away with the existing, flawed criminal justice system, in which they enjoy more power than their counterparts in other democracies. The last national election was the first after a series of major false charge incidents and revelations of illegal criminal investigations, yet no political party called for reform. The biggest winners were the prosecutors and police. **Tetsuo Jimbo, Video News Network**

Sino-Japan relations dramatically improve after the new prime minister and his new coalition government take power. The ultra-conservative prime minister unexpectedly chooses a realistic approach toward China and avoids visiting the war shrine. China softens its attitude and bilateral cooperation resumes. **Yosuke Watanabe, Kyodo News**

In the aftermath of the USA military generals' ordeal, the 2013 FCCJ regulations result in convicting me for gender harassment, for in my e-mail communications with gentle women, I routinely use three four-letter words: starting with "Dear," followed by the lady's first name, and ending with "Love & Hugs." **Edwin Karmioli**

The unstable planet's situation will continue to bring more natural shake-ups (that some call "disasters"); the Yen will have 10 percent less resistance to gravity, three heads of monarch states and dictatorships will fall for one reason or another and the limited war in the Middle East and the "Arab Spring" will spread. Oh yes, and big changes at the FCCJ will have a serious impact. **Khaldon Azhari, PanOrient News**

### ... AND BACKBITING AT THE CLUB

Kim Jong Un proves to be no reformer. Georges Baumgartner declines to run for another term as president at FCCJ after answering summons to replace Kim in Pyongyang and outsource the DPRK government to Mali. **Bradley Martin**

I see the demise of the FCCJ as a social club through delusion, untruth, arrogance and No. 1 Shimbun censorship. **Karel Van Wolferen**



Good throw!

In 2013, I predict all FCCJ General Membership Meetings will be rancorous, and that the initial under-salting by our new cooks later over-compensated by excessive salting will hit a happy medium. Also, the Club will become a favorite hangout for lawyers. **Charles Pomeroy**



Conventional prediction no longer works in Japan, where events which elsewhere in the world would be transforming seem to come and go without bringing any fundamental change. So: in 2013, Japan will continue to sleep an uneasy, dream-filled sleep, waiting for the person or surprise which will one day wake it up.

**Richard Lloyd Parry, The Times**



Another  
in our series  
of Club Member  
profiles

## Vasily Golovnin of Itar-Tass

by Justin McCurry

You could say that Vasily Golovnin was destined to build a life and career in Japan. His father was a Japanese language professor at Moscow State University, but it was an account of the Kuril Islands by an early 19th-century Russian naval commander that convinced the Russian journalist to venture east. The commander's name: Vasily Golovnin.

"I was absolutely fascinated by him," Golovnin says of his namesake, who was lured ashore while exploring Kunashiri Island in 1911, then held captive on the

"We had to write about working-class battles against Japanese capitalism, the 'militarist class' of politicians such as Yasuhiro Nakasone and Japan's role as the Pentagon's 'unsinkable aircraft carrier,'" Golovnin says.

"We couldn't resist the editorial agenda, but we did try to avoid using too many clichés. It was very difficult to write in neutral language."

Golovnin says he was never a supporter of the Soviet system but, like many of his journalistic contemporaries, he resigned

In Japanese newspapers of the time, Golovnin found signs of groupthink that reminded him of home. "They were almost Soviet in their lack of individuality. Their editorials were uniformly vague, but they have changed significantly for the better."

Appropriately enough, the dispute over the Northern Territories that led to his namesake's incarceration two centuries ago continues to cast a shadow over Japan's ties with Russia. But Golovnin does not believe that the issue will affect bilateral relations in the same way as the Senkakus have blighted those between Japan and China.

"It is impossible to strike a deal over the Northern Territories, but then again the Japanese and Russian leaderships don't feel the urgent need to do so," he

'SOVIET COMMUNISM WAS A KIND OF LIFESTYLE GOVERNED BY DOUBLETHINK. YOU KNEW WHAT REALITY WAS, AND AT THE SAME TIME YOU KNEW WHAT WAS UNBELIEVABLE.'

main island of Hokkaido for more than two years. After one failed escape attempt, Golovnin used his incarceration to learn Japanese and gain a better – and eventually affectionate – understanding of his captors. His book was an instant hit and has been credited with defining attitudes towards Japan among generations of Russians.

They include Golovnin, who arrived here in rather less dramatic circumstances in 1982, having spent several years in Delhi working for the Soviet news agency Tass after graduating from university.

"It was the year Leonid Brezhnev died and the Cold War was at its height," says Golovnin, now chief of Itar-Tass's regional bureau for Asia and the Pacific, which is based in Tokyo but covers a huge slice of the region, from Seoul to Sydney.

"I travel a lot, and I love working in places like Thailand and Indonesia," he says. "My focus has always been on this part of the world. Believe it or not, I've never been to the United States or Western Europe."

The bureau, comprising four Russian and one Japanese staff, covers everything from politics and economics to popular culture, technology and slice-of-life stories. It produces as many as 15 print stories a day for sale in a huge market encompassing Russia, Russian-speaking China, Mongolia and Eastern Europe.

These days, the 57-year-old Muscovite enjoys the freedom to decide what and how he writes about Japan, in stark contrast to his time here in the early 1980s, when the Soviet press corps included several KGB spies.

himself to playing along. "In a sense, Soviet communism was a kind of lifestyle governed by doublethink. You knew what reality was, and at the same time you knew what was unbelievable."

"That experience has helped me understand what is happening in North Korea, although the situation there is different. There's no intelligentsia living a kind of internal exile of the kind we had in the Soviet Union, which is why I don't think there have been significant changes in North Korean society."

Golovnin did not feel like he was able to exert real control over his content until Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policy of more openness and transparency in the second half of the 1980s. "My job became much easier," he said. "For me, proper reporting began in about 1988. Only then did we start writing objectively about Japanese politics."

Despite hailing from what was then a totalitarian state, Golovnin was surprised by the discipline he encountered on the streets of Tokyo. "I was shocked to see people waiting patiently for the green light at pedestrian crossings, even though there were no cars in sight. That would have been unthinkable even in communist Moscow."

"Since then the Japanese have become more individualistic, less disciplined and, I suppose, a little freer."

Justin McCurry is Tokyo correspondent for the *Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers in London and principal Japan and Korea correspondent for *Global Post*.

says. "No one in Russia believes Japan has bad intentions over this. There is caution in Asia about Shinzo Abe, but not in Moscow. If anything, the trouble between China and Japan is a diplomatic opportunity for Russia."

Golovnin notes, too, that the closure of almost all of Japan's nuclear reactors in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear crisis has made it an even more attractive market for Russian oil and gas.

Like many other regular members of the FCCJ, Golovnin has devoted much of the past two years to reporting on the aftermath of Fukushima, picking up an award from a Russian journalists' union along the way.

Golovnin has spent almost his entire career in Japan and has no plans to move. He is a familiar face at the Club, often in the company of his wife, Natalia. The couple's daughter, Maria, is a London-based Reuters journalist who has covered the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

While his official title suggests he spends long hours in the office, Golovnin says he is still a reporter at heart. "I don't really like editorial work, I much prefer being out in the field and writing. I'm in a privileged position in that I also write for Russian newspapers. There's a huge appetite at home for stories about the territorial disputes, but also for articles on culture, food, technology and other 'soft' subjects."

"I love writing about social issues – problems that have an aroma. Every day there's a real story out there that captures the interest of our clients." ■

ANDREW POTHECARY

## The children left behind

by Walter Hamilton

▶ THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF AUSTRALIAN OCCUPATION FORCES TELL THEIR STORIES OF ABANDONMENT IN A RECENT BOOK



Not far from Yamate Station in the suburbs of Yokohama lies the small, neglected, almost anonymous Negishi Foreigners' Cemetery. Unlike the more famous foreigners' cemetery on the bluff overlooking this port city, Negishi was the last resting place of the poor, the sailors, the indigent and the diseased. Among the headstones, there is a monument to the unnamed

dead also buried there – including, it is said, more than 800 mixed-race children abandoned during the postwar Occupation, whose fathers were foreign servicemen.

Between 1945 and 1952, the MacArthur whirlwind left little in Japanese society untouched. But nowhere did the Occupation have more of an impact than on relations between the sexes. Women obtained the vote, could stand for public office for the first time and gained legal equality within the family.

But it wasn't the whole story.

In the shattered economy, fewer salaried jobs were available for women than before the war. Thousands of widows and homeless or displaced women and girls turned to the occupation servicemen as sources of food and shelter. The resulting mixed-race children – especially those of African-American fathers – sent shivers through society. A Japanese professor of medicine wrote in 1952: "The inundation of future *konketsuji* [literally 'mixed-blood child,' and a word rarely used today because of its association with prejudice] could be more significant for Japan's racial history than the atomic bomb."

During my time as a correspondent in Japan in the 1980s and '90s, I found the subject hard to penetrate: the *konketsuji* had either made themselves invisible or refused to discuss their experiences. In 2005, I tried again and, with the help of a social worker who had run a welfare program for the children, managed to get behind the veil of secrecy. The documentary I made for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation led to new encounters and a realization that much of the received wisdom on the subject was dead wrong. I decided to write a book.

The misconceptions were many, I found. When the Occupation ended in 1952, it was believed upwards of 200,000 children of mixed blood had been left behind in Japan. The true number was nearer 10,000.

The children were portrayed as "waifs." In fact, only around five to 10 percent were ever placed in care. Most were raised by their mothers or relations and attended school alongside other Japanese.

Publications claimed many children were sent to Brazil as farmers. In fact, only a couple of dozen boys took that route. More than 2,000, however, were placed for adoption with families in the United States.

Although it was assumed the mothers were mainly prostitutes, many, in fact, had worked for the Occupation forces as waitresses, typists, cleaners, and so forth. Possibly no more than 10 percent were prostitutes, in the strict sense.

Commentators predicted the children would show low intelligence and a tendency to antisocial behavior. In fact,

the IQ scores of those in family situations were on a par with the average Japanese, and delinquency was the result of social prejudice and socioeconomic disadvantage, not genetics.

My story began in 1946, when the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF), 40,000 strong, marched into the bomb-scarred port city of Kure, near Hiroshima. The largest contingent was from Australia; due to the Korean War, troops from the country would still be there a full decade later.

Unlike the American military, the Australians were told to keep their dealings with the "defeated enemy" to a minimum, under a non-fraternization policy. But the Occupation was Kure's biggest employer, and daily contacts in the workplace – as well as at places of entertainment – led to clandestine romances. Early on, in fact, food was so short that a soldier could buy female companionship for as little as a can of condensed milk or a packet of sugar.

If a soldier formed a de facto relationship and fathered a child, he had no way of protecting them once his deployment came to an end. It wasn't until 1952 that a serviceman was granted permission to marry a Japanese. Even after the marriage ban was lifted, no Australian senior officer dared seek permission to take home a Japanese bride.

So it happened that scores of women, and the children they had conceived with their Australian lovers, were left behind.

It took years for the plight of the abandoned children to come to the attention of the Australian public. In 1956, Corporal George Budworth applied from Japan to the Immigration Department to bring in to Australia a mixed-blood child he had already adopted. His application and a couple of others were the first to be considered by the department, and it realized it needed a policy.

It was decided that to allow "any considerable number" of these mixed-race children into the country would be contrary to the White Australia policy.

An exception was made for Budworth and one or two others to bring their adopted children with them to Australia, but, in the future, any couple wishing to adopt would have to go to Japan and spend 6-9 months there looking after a child before it would be eligible for admission.

As an alternative to adoption, the Menzies Cabinet agreed in 1962 to make an annual grant to the welfare agency, International Social Service, which had opened an office

in Kure to help the families. The money was offered on condition it was used to assist "all mixed-bloods," not just those with Australian fathers – in this way the government could continue to deny direct responsibility. Canberra went on to contribute the equivalent of almost \$1 million (at today's values) over the next decade, a sum that was matched by private donations.

My contacts led to a number of stories told by those who were abandoned.

Toshie Fukuhara and her two children,



**The child George Budworth rescued was aged only two when he landed in Australia. Some said a "half-caste" had little hope of assimilating into society. They could not imagine that one day, Detective Superintendent Peter (Hideki) Budworth would be decorated for distinguished service in the Australian Federal Police. He located his mother back in Kure, and they remain in contact.**

fathered by an Army major, stayed behind in Kure when he left in 1956. Faithful, if irresolute, he sent cards on the children's birthdays and a regular sum of money to Toshie for the housekeeping. Daughter Junko remembers the cakes her mother would buy as a special treat when the money arrived. "So, for me, 'cake' equals 'father,'" she says, forcing a smile.

Private Joe Ritchie and Sachiko Tsutsumi were secretly married in 1949. Their son, George, was less a year old when his father departed with the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment for the Korean War, where he died in the first winter of the fighting.

With no means of support – certainly no war widow's pension – George's mother took off in search of work, leaving her infant son behind. He grew up among strangers, lonely and desperately poor. Despite the best efforts of the ISS social workers, he turned delinquent in his teenage years and quit school early.

As he explains, social prejudice against the children was so strong there seemed little point in trying to do better: "The [mixed-race] children's faces were the faces of those who, not so long ago, were dropping bombs. The faces, by themselves, provoked animosity. For those who had been educated to hate, I guess it was natural to feel hatred when they saw the miniatures of their enemy hanging around. . . . I understand this now, but at the time, I wondered

why I was singled out for bullying."

Some of the children excelled at sport or found jobs as models or performers because of their good looks. They could win respect that way. George's good fortune was to marry young. Responsibility forced him to take control of his life – especially after the birth of the first of his three sons.

Recently retired after 40 years of working on the Nagoya docks, and a grandfather several times over, he still feels bitter that Australia would not receive him as a child.

Kazumi Yoshida's mother, Mitsuko, was working as a waitress at a BCOF sergeant's mess when she met Kazumi's father. He left before his daughter was born, in November 1947, and made no further contact.

Life was tough. At one point, when the rent money was overdue, and the future seemed bleak, young Kazumi found herself having to talk her mother out of committing suicide.

In 1965, Mitsuko accepted a marriage proposal from an Australian ex-serviceman, and the family packed up and left Japan. But Kazumi could never stop wondering about her natural father: what hap-

pened to him, and why he had not come looking for her.

Recently she fulfilled a lifelong dream by identifying him from Army records. Though he had passed away, she discovered that he was already married when he went to Japan, and that she had four half-siblings. DNA tests were done, and Kazumi felt overjoyed to be received into her new extended family.

The Kure Project wound up in 1977. Its greatest achievement was in education: around a third of its 130 children completed senior high, and one in eight obtained a university or college degree. (Among Occupation-era children in Japan as a whole, only around 10 percent advanced beyond junior high school.)

Though better educational outcomes led to better jobs and better marriage prospects for the Kure Kids, in both respects they remained at a disadvantage in society. Many still carry the emotional scars of a troubled childhood and would not want their struggles underestimated. And yet, thankfully, the facile prediction often aired at the time of the Occupation – that the boys would all finish as gangsters and the girls all prostitutes – has proven to be well wide of the mark. ●

Walter Hamilton reported from Japan for 11 years for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. His book, *Children of the Occupation: Japan's Untold Story*, was published in 2012.

Dateline: London. Final Edition.

The year of James Bond and the jumping queen saw endless scandals – and the news media was up to its neck in all of them

# PRESS GANGGED

by Peter McGill

Londoners call it “storm sewage.” Heavy rain causes hundreds of thousands of tons of the stuff to spill into the majestic River Thames. Fish suffocate, and a stink hangs over some very pricey riverside residences just a few miles from the Houses of Parliament. A 20-mile-long “super sewer” is being built to end this disgrace, in the teeth of protests from those opposed to a concrete monster in their own backyards.

Something similar has been happening to British public life. Last summer, the world came to London for an Olympic Games that, for a while, seemed to reattach the “Great” to Britain. It was the perfect patriotic climax to a year that includ-

Sun had then reported as fact, including the disgusting lie that Liverpool supporters had picked the pockets of dead victims. “The people of Liverpool may never forgive us for the injustice we did them,” *The Sun* lamented.

This turned out to be a prelude to a whole cascade of filth.

In October, the main commercial television channel broadcast a documentary about one of the BBC’s biggest stars of light entertainment, Jimmy Savile, who died last year at the age of 84.

For decades, Savile had been one of the UK’s top celebrities, knighted by the Queen for his charitable work with hospitals and young people. The documentary alleged

former Conservative treasurer, was then falsely named online as the subject of the claim, which the accuser later retracted.

Publicity about Savile’s pedophilia persuaded victims to come forth, and allegations made to police against Savile, for abuse between 1959 and 2006, now total 450. Some of the assaults are alleged to have taken place in Savile’s BBC dressing room; others were in hospital wards to which he had privileged access.

For Lord Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong, and the head of the BBC’s governing body, it was “a cesspit.”

Rumbling away in the background was the multiplying scandal over illegal phone hacking and corruption of public offi-

later received substantial libel damages from eight British newspapers that had portrayed him as some kind of monster; Harry Potter author JK Rowling, stalked by paparazzi outside her home, one of whom slipped a note into her daughter’s school bag; Margaret and James Watson, whose daughter was stabbed to death in a playground attack, and who visited the offices of the *Glasgow Herald* to complain about its reporting of her as a bully, only to be told to wait inside a store room used by cleaning staff. The Watson’s son later committed suicide.

Another, more exotic, victim was motor racing executive Max Mosley, son of the British fascist politician Oswald Mosley. The following account comes from the book *Dial M for Murdoch: News Corporation and The Corruption of Britain* by Tom Watson and Martin Hickman.

*In his own time, Mosley occasionally participated in sado-masochistic orgies. Although not ashamed of this activity, he was aware that many people would disapprove of it and kept it from his wife, family and colleagues. . . . [A] forthcoming participant at one of Mosley’s parties, known as ‘Michelle’, had mentioned his name to her husband, an MI5 agent, who realized Mosley might make a valuable story and contacted the News of the World. [Reporter Neville] Thurlbeck offered ‘Michelle’ £25,000 and coached her how to record Mosley performing a Sieg Heil salute.*

Perhaps most surprising of all was the transformation of romantic comedy actor Hugh Grant, whose many fans in Asia have turned the location of his best-known film, *Notting Hill*, into a London pilgrimage site. Grant’s sexual indiscretions and numerous affairs made him a favorite target of tabloid black arts, from phone-hacking to paparazzi stalking.

This turned Grant from a self-deprecating, tousle-haired heart-throb into a

highly articulate, armour-plated and pugnacious scourge of the British press. As the public face of the “Hacked Off” campaign by phone-hacking victims, Grant became a hate figure of tabloid wolverines like Amanda Platell, another former press secretary to a Conservative Party leader, who described him as an “oleaginous, womanising lounge lizard.”

In December, Leveson released his 1,987-page report. At a London press conference, he blasted newspapers for “wreaking havoc with the lives of innocent people,” and called for legislation to underpin “a genuinely independent and effective system of self-regulation” by the press. He then promptly boarded a flight to Australia as a political storm erupted over whether this would compromise press freedom.

As of this writing, nothing has been

decided on Leveson’s recommendations. Instead, as the year ended, yet more noxious scandals bubbled to the surface.

HSBC, Britain’s biggest bank, was fined a record \$1.9 billion by U.S. authorities for laundering money from Mexican drug cartels and Russian mafia and violating sanctions against Iran and North Korea.

Then came another report into a cover up, that of the 1989 terrorist murder of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane. In a statement to Parliament, Prime Minister Cameron acknowledged “shocking levels of collusion” between state security forces in Northern Ireland and Finucane’s murderers.

A year to remember, indeed. ●

Peter McGill is a former Tokyo correspondent of *The Observer* and FCCJ president.

## A STENCH WAS SEEPING OUT FROM AN UNDERGROUND RIVER OF CRIMINALITY...

ed a royal wedding and Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee. Meanwhile, a stench was seeping out from an underground river of criminality, perversion and corruption. Barely a month after the closing ceremony of the Olympiad, the build-up of noxious fumes caused the first man-hole covers to blow.

An enquiry headed by the Bishop of Liverpool into the 1989 disaster at Hillsborough football stadium in which 96 fans died exposed a scandalous cover-up by police. *The Sun*, the Rupert Murdoch-owned, top-selling newspaper, was forced to apologize for its own part in this. In an editorial headlined “We are sorry for our gravest error,” the tabloid said senior police officers had “fabricated lurid allegations about Liverpool fans” which *The*

that for decades Savile had also been sexually abusing vulnerable young girls.

What made this even more controversial was that the BBC, the best known and most trusted media brand in the world, had previously commissioned its own exposé about Savile, but had decided not to air it.

This folly was then compounded.

In a bid to restore its honor, the BBC’s flagship current affairs program, *Newsnight*, commissioned the Bureau of Investigative Journalism to help it report into separate child abuse allegations in Wales. One of the male victims told *Newsnight* that a senior member of the ruling Conservative Party was among the abusers. *Newsnight* made no attempt to check this before broadcast on Nov. 2. Lord McAlpine, a

cial by the British tabloids, chiefly those owned by Murdoch. This had already led to the closure of Murdoch’s *News of the World*, and the arrest of several of his current and former employees, including a former press secretary to Prime Minister David Cameron.

Lord Justice Leveson’s 17-month enquiry into the “Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press” will best be remembered for the victims of press persecution who testified: the parents of Milly Dowler, whose voicemail was hacked by the *News of the World* after she had been murdered; the smeared parents of Madeleine McCann, branded as suspects in her disappearance a few days before her fourth birthday; Chris Jefferies, wrongly arrested for murder in 2011, and who

## THE WALK OF SHAME

THE EDITORS IN CHIEF OF THE UK’S NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ARE RARELY SEEN together in public, so when they meekly trooped along Downing Street on Dec. 4 to receive a dressing down by the prime minister, Channel Four TV news could not resist comparing the scene to a meeting of the Mafia Five Families in New York, and cheekily played the theme tune from *The Godfather*.

What brought them together was the threat of official sanction if they failed to put their own house in order. A history of backsliding on past commitments had convinced Lord Justice Leveson that the media could not be relied upon to police itself without some form of legal oversight.

Newspapers reacted with horror and a deluge of cant about precious freedoms in peril, and the spluttering torch of truth and justice. Still, there was no way of avoiding a display of public humility. David Cameron impressed upon the editors seated around the cabinet table at No. 10 Downing Street that their only hope of avoiding statute lay in serious self-reform.

Cooperation does not come easily to the British press. The sacrifice of moral standards to the all-consuming goal of scooping the competition and boosting circulation lay at the heart of the serial offences catalogued by Leveson.

In the absence of any legal restraint, the temptation to bend and break ethical rules may prove overwhelming in the heat of battle.

— PM



HOTDOGGING OR TRUTH-TELLING? THIS FORMER SUSHI CHEF TO THE HERMIT KINGDOM RULERS MAY BE DOING A BIT OF BOTH

## A hired knife for the Kim regime

by Lucy Birmingham

Did the Japanese government purposefully sever a key diplomatic “pipeline” with North Korea’s long-ruling Kim family? Or is Kenji Fujimoto’s claim in his newest memoir about the Kim regime just a fishy tale reeking with personal propaganda? In *Hikisakareta Yakusoku* (“The Promise Torn Apart”), the sushi chef to former leader Kim Jong Il blames former Prime Minister Noda for “tearing asunder” his friendship with current leader Kim Jong-Un and destroying potential insights he could offer, including help in finding Japanese abductees.

“When I left North Korea in August, I promised Kim Jong-Un that I would return on Sept. 1,” said Fujimoto, during his recent press conference at the FCCJ. After considerable “begging” from Jin Matsumura, the state minister then in charge of the abduction issue, Fujimoto agreed to delay his trip for one week until Noda could prepare a formal letter to present to the North Korean leader. The letter, however, was never written. When Fujimoto went to Beijing on Sept. 7, on his way to North Korea – with no letter in hand – his visa to the North was denied. “It’s because I broke my promise to [Kim Jong-Un],” he said. “People must be saying, ‘It’s as we predicted. Fujimoto is a liar.’”

Matsubara, in the meantime, wrote a rebuttal on his website saying that he did meet secretly with Fujimoto, but that it is not a “fact that I asked him to postpone his revisit to North Korea, and there was no option under any circumstances whatsoever

of entrusting a public document to him.”

Government conspiracy, backroom bungling or a self-appointed go-between out of sync – for Fujimoto the rejection is a major blow. Is it a blow for Japan? Maybe so. With the new Abe administration’s hawkish stance on North Korea’s “ballistic missile” program, the abduction issue and islands disputes, we may be seeing an atrophy of diplomatic channels. An unofficial spokesman like Fujimoto could be the best alternative, despite his eccentricities and high praise for North Korea. Simply put, he may be better than nothing.

In fact, Fujimoto’s access to the regime’s highest figures has scored him major attention for accuracy. He rightly predicted the choice of Kim Jong Un as supreme leader, following in his father’s footsteps – though many thought he was too young for the job. At the FCCJ, Fujimoto revealed that Kim Jong Un turned 30 years old this Jan. 8, confirming that he is indeed the youngest living leader of a nation.

Fujimoto also rightly predicted North Korea’s rocket launch in December. Interestingly, he indicated that Kim Jong Un is not necessarily enthusiastic about the country’s rocket program. “It’s not a matter of whether he is in favor or against it. He is trying to keep dialogue with the military leaders.” He said Kim Jong Un believes the launch is a way to pay respect to his father, who died the year before on Dec. 17.

Revelations about Kim Sr.’s lavish lifestyle are also credited to Fujimoto. His first 2003 tell-all book, *I was Kim Jong Il’s*

*Cook* – a bestseller in Japan – details the debauchery and exotic tastes of the reclusive leader during his 13 years as sushi chef from 1988 to 2001. He writes about the family’s luxurious villas, imported cars, lavish banquets and pleasure parties where guests were told to dance with, but not touch, the troupe of female strippers dubbed, “Kim’s Joy Division.”

The former chef also tells of his all-expenses-paid worldwide travels in search of Kim’s favorite foods, with little reference to the country’s abject poverty and rampant starvation. Neither does the younger Kim, Fujimoto explained, question his own lavish lifestyle. “Like every country in the world, there are poor people and wealthy people who eat well. . . . There is no exception.”

Can Kim Jong Un become an exception in the repressive Kim dynasty? Fujimoto first met Kim junior when he was a boy of seven, and at their reunion last summer he was impressed with how the young leader had matured. “I believe this young man has the ability to change North Korea little by little,” said Fujimoto, adding that he has great will and wants to tackle the country’s mountain of challenges. In the capital of Pyongyang, he said, people seemed happier. “Before people were looking down. . . . Now they’re looking up or at least looking forward.”

Fujimoto’s July-to-August trip to North Korea was his first since he fled the country in 2001 following rumors that he might be killed. His recount of his reunion with Kim Jong Un could rival a B-grade Hollywood script: “I ran into his arms and shouted ‘Comrade!’ I wanted to hug him forever. Then I said, ‘Fujimoto the betrayer has returned at last. Please forgive me’ . . . I was weeping a waterfall of tears.”

With the invitation from Kim Jong-Un came exoneration, and presumably protection from wayward assassins. But now that he’s banned from returning to the Hermit Kingdom, his future is far from free of fear. He continues to use his Fujimoto pseudonym, and at media events the 65-year-old still disguises himself with mirrored sunglasses and a bandanna. Even worse, the media sensation may soon be facing unwanted anonymity as his tales turn old. He may have to reconsider his interview fees, at last count ¥50,000 for radio and ¥100,000 for TV. He may even have to help the abductee families . . . for free. ❶

Lucy Birmingham is a long-time, Tokyo-based journalist, scriptwriter and editor. She writes regularly for *TIME* and her articles have appeared in, among others, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Bloomberg News* and *Architectural Digest*.

JAPAN'S RANKING IN GENDER DISPARITY IS NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF, SAYS A NEW REPORT

## It's the women, stupid!

by Suvendrini Kakuchi

It should be a bitter pill for Japan to swallow: the second-richest economy in Asia, with its modern society and state-of-the-art technology, ranked far below lower income countries such as the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

But that is exactly where Japan has been placed – when it comes to women’s access to national resources and opportunities – in a prestigious global ranking index. The latest Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum (WEF), which determines a country’s global competitiveness by its ability to tap into half of its human capital, placed Japan 101 among 130 countries. (The Philippines, Japan’s Asian neighbor, was ranked at number 8 and particularly recognized for dramatically narrowing the gap between men and women, especially in access to health and education.)

Since 2005, the Geneva-based forum’s report has been analyzing data compiled by leading economic and development organizations such as the World Bank, providing evidence that closing the gender gap is not only a matter of human rights and equity, it is also one of economic efficiency.

Saadia Zahidi, Pakistan-born economist and founder of the report, was in Tokyo last November to present the latest findings and explain why Japan is doing so badly in two of the four main categories – female access to economic opportunity and political empowerment – while taking major strides in access to higher education and health. Ironically, it seems Japan has been doing a great job at creating a pool of talented female workers that never seem to get join their male counterparts at the top.

In 2012, WEF began attempting to narrow global gender gaps, with Zahidi proposing badly needed reform in countries that are particularly lagging. Japan, Mexico and Turkey were picked as regional showcases, with a 10 percent reduction in national gender disparity rates over three years set as a target. If Zahidi succeeds, then will long-suffering gender equality advocates in Japan be finally getting a voice?

“A 10 percent target to narrow gen-



Saadia Zahidi at the FCCJ

der disparity is an ambitious task,” she acknowledged at an FCCJ press event. A key step in this direction was the launch of a “task force” to guide and work for concrete results on home ground. Tokyo’s task force is comprised of respected gender equality economic and social experts from the public and private sector as well as grass-roots organizations and the media.

A key strategy of the appointed panel is to create leadership groups that will be in charge of reversing gender gaps in the most crucial areas that threaten national economic growth – ageing, industrial decline and political representation

According to Zahidi, leveraging the talents of women, who now comprise half of all college graduates and take up half of the global entry-level positions in some major industries, has proven to be crucial to development. The report states that companies benefit by successfully integrating the female half of the available talent pool across their internal leadership structures, and refers to indicators that prove women may have a propensity for making more inclusive, informed decisions and for engaging in less risky behavior; therefore making them valuable contributors to national growth.

The WEF message arrives at a crucial time in Japan. “The momentum is here,” said Zahidi. Grappling with years of GDP figures below two percent, slowed by a lack of innovative ideas, with pessimism exacerbated by a rapidly dwindling work-

ing-age population, industry has belatedly begun tapping into its long sidelined female labor force, even though this may mean drastic changes in the deeply ingrained male dominated employment systems and policy-making.

One glaring number that underscores the desperate need for reform is Japan’s startlingly low birth rates – 1.3 children per woman, conspicuous even in the industrialized world. Japanese women, faced with few career opportunities and a lack of affordable childcare, are increasingly marrying late and having fewer children. The report highlights this issue: a case in point is the frustratingly weak impact of Japan’s Paternity Leave regulation that has failed to encourage more men to take time off.

So who should Japan look at as role models? Iceland holds the top position, boosted by its high grades in education and health. In fact, Nordic countries, including Sweden and Norway, have shown that closing the gap in economic participation have led to higher and rising birth rates, fewer problems with ageing in the future and higher labor activity leading to a more robust economy.

Japan’s rank is 81 in education attainment – and even higher, at 34, in the health and survival section. But what dragged it down to its 101 overall ranking was its 110th place in the area of economic participation and opportunity, based on the huge difference – women get paid at 0.6 the salary of men – in earned income.

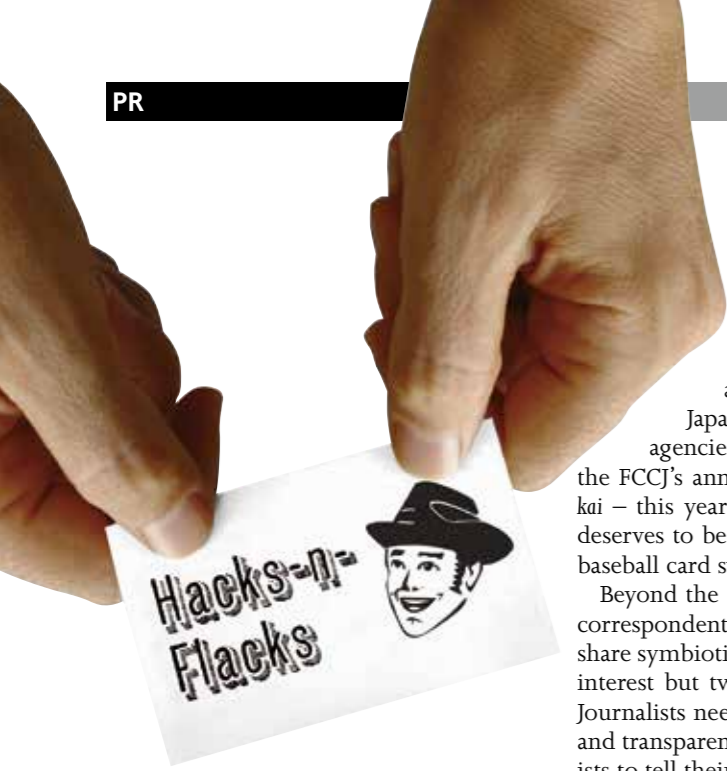
That’s not all. Japan has been identified as one of the Asia Pacific region’s 10 lowest performing countries in gender disparity in decision-making positions, based on the ratio of female to male legislators, senior officials and managers – a terrifying 9:91.

This is where Japan has been left in the dust when compared to Sri Lanka, a country with a per capita income less than one quarter of Japan, that not only boasts two strong female heads of state, but whose gap in the same category is 24:76, according to the WEF.

But if the shame of lagging so far behind isn’t enough of a wake-up call, there’s another figure that should get Japan’s male leaders’ attention: according to the data compiled by WEF, closing the gender gap in employment in would boost Japan’s stagnant GDP by as much as 16 percent. ❶

Suvendrini Kakuchi is a Sri Lankan reporter for Inter Press Service, an international wire service, and a regular commentator on Asian issues for Japanese publications and television.





## What do FCCJ journalists think of PR in Japan?

by John R. Harris

Foreign correspondents in other global capitals are to be envied. Although the world's newspaper readers take keen interest in the political doings of Athens, Beijing and Cairo, not even the Japanese care much about what goes on in Nagatacho. So barring the occasional disaster and bizarre antics of the natives, all that FCCJ hacks have to write home about is business: the fluctuating fortunes of Japan's global corporations. And heaven knows the stories don't write themselves.

In English, when left to their own devices, Japanese companies tend to sound like the Klingon aliens in *Star Trek*: "We come from a planet of abundant greenery and four unique seasons wishing to deepen relations with your civilization."

This makes it a stiff challenge just to decipher the average Japanese press release – to say nothing of rendering the kind of copy that editors overseas expect, replete with pithy quotes and apples-to-apples stats. Nor does the job get any easier when our hacks contact the relevant flacks for clarification. All too often, those on the other end of the phone (when they even bother to answer) don't understand how foreign media differ from the domestic "mass-comi" with its kisha clubs, its kowtowing to major advertisers and

its penchant for running platitudes verbatim.

In a composite nutshell, this is the moan that emanates from FCCJ journalists when asked what they think of Japan's PR departments and agencies. And it's one reason why the FCCJ's annual Hacks-n-Flacks *shinnenkai* – this year on Friday January 25th – deserves to be more than a booze-fueled baseball card swap meet. We need to talk.

Beyond the "dark side" meme, foreign correspondents and the PR community share symbiotic interests – not a common interest but two sides of the same coin. Journalists need PR to tell more coherent and transparent stories. PR needs journalists to tell their take on the stories far and wide, critically but fairly.

So where would PRs be if Japan-based foreign correspondents became extinct? And what would they do without the FCCJ as a single point of contact with the global media? Given a steady dwindling of the species, a gradual shift to China, and an uncertain future for the Club, these are not idle questions.

In fact, these are questions PR professionals might well ponder as they attend – or consider whether to attend – Hacks-n-Flacks.

How might the PR community support the continued existence of foreign correspondents and their Club in Japan? Without any illusions that journalistic affection can be bought, Associate Membership can be seen as a must. Club facilities can be used frequently to entertain guests and as a venue for corporate events. And wait for it... because here comes the pitch.

Advertising in *No.1 Shimbun* is not only an excellent, affordable way for any PR entity to demonstrate its support for the Club, our advertisers (bless them) see this magazine as a useful way to get key messages across to working journalists here – plus FCCJ alumni in senior editorial positions around the world. And it's arguably more effective than press releases that get deleted with a keystroke. Still, it's a tough proposition for PR people to get their heads around: display advertising is a Marketing thing, not PR. Ask us for details.

But enough spin from this quarter. The bottom line is that all hacks and all flacks should turn out for what is surely Tokyo's most important media/PR networking event of the year. And flacks, feel free to fire back. ❶

**John R. Harris** is a speechwriter and freelance journalist based in Onjuku on Chiba's Pacific coast.

## PR BOSS CARDS: collect the full set!

IS THERE A PR AGENCY IN TOKYO THAT won't claim to have close contacts with FCCJ journalists? One way to tell who's bluffing is to count which agency bosses turn out for the Club's Hacks-n-Flacks *shinnenkai* on Jan. 25. See if you can collect the full set of boss *meishi* from this list of notable PR agencies.

**Ashton Consulting** ([www.ashton.jp](http://www.ashton.jp))  
Boss: John Sunley

**Burson-Marsteller Japan**  
([www.b-m.co.jp](http://www.b-m.co.jp))  
Boss: Shuri Fukunaga

**Cosmo PR** ([cosmopr.co.jp](http://cosmopr.co.jp))  
Boss: Kumi Sato

**Dentsu PR** ([www.dentsu-pr.com](http://www.dentsu-pr.com))  
Boss: Takehiko Chikami

**Edelman Japan** ([www.edelman.jp](http://www.edelman.jp))  
Boss: Ross Rowbury

**Fleishman-Hillard** ([fleishman.co.jp](http://fleishman.co.jp))  
Boss: Shin Tanaka

**Hill & Knowlton**  
([www.hillandknowlton.co.jp/en/](http://www.hillandknowlton.co.jp/en/))  
Boss: Shoichi Yoshikawa

**OZMA PR (Hakuhodo)**  
([www.ozma.co.jp](http://www.ozma.co.jp))  
Boss: Nobuyuki Sakai

**Kreab Gavin Anderson**  
([www.kreabgavinanderson.com](http://www.kreabgavinanderson.com))  
Boss: Jonathan Kushner

**Kyodo PR** ([www.kyodo-pr.co.jp/en/](http://www.kyodo-pr.co.jp/en/))  
Boss: Takashi Kamimura

**MSL Japan** (<http://msljapan.com/en/>)  
Boss: Eric Hess

**Ogilvy PR Japan** ([www.ogilvy.co.jp](http://www.ogilvy.co.jp))  
Boss: Hiromitsu Sakuma

**PRAP Japan** ([www.prap.co.jp/english/](http://www.prap.co.jp/english/))  
Boss: Hisashi Yajima

**Weber Shandwick Worldwide**  
([japan.webershandwick.com/english](http://japan.webershandwick.com/english))  
Boss: Takeo Nishitani

Research: Elena Omura and Geoff Tudor

## FCCJ EXHIBITION

### Thirty-Six New Views of Mount Fuji

Photos by Seisai



These images take as their starting point Hokusai's classic "Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji." Seisai uses lithograph printing, offset printing, hand painting, and gold leaf applied by hand in his prints, drawing upon Hokusai's motifs as well as those of other Japanese and Western artists. Further inspiring this series was Seisai's recent translation of a book on Mount Fuji in literature. This text piqued his interest in juxtaposing an idealized historical view of Mount Fuji and Japanese culture, with the reality of contemporary society.

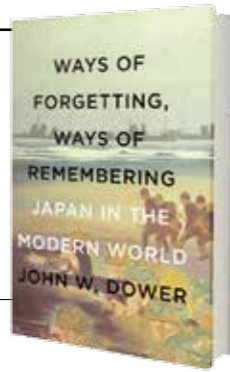
Edo-era Japan nurtured a formidable consumer society, but it was also one based on an impressive model of sustainability. By contrast, modern consumer society cares too little for sustainability and recklessly abuses the earth's resources. Seisai composes images of social critique that pose questions related to art history as well as to the possibility of satire in contemporary society.

Seisai's prints also incorporate ideas of *asobi* (play) – a notion important to traditional Japanese art. This series has already received wide recognition, and is being exhibited across Japan, in Paris, and in New York. ❶

**Seisai** was born in Ireland and has lived in Japan for more than 20 years. He is founder of the Japan Institute, which promotes Japanese culture, is a visiting professor at Kyorin University and teaches at Tokyo University.



**BOOK REVIEW**  
**WAYS OF FORGETTING,**  
**WAYS OF REMEMBERING:**  
**Japan in the Modern World**  
 By John W. Dower (New Press 2012)



by Miki Tanikawa

**W**ays of Forgetting, Ways of Remembering is appropriately titled. But perhaps any sharp historiographical accounts could share the same title; like the very point the author makes, a history book is about revealing what the writer wants to highlight while neglecting what he wants to hide – a willful choice between the “focused gaze” and the “averted gaze,” in the author’s lingo.

Dower is an MIT history professor and recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*. This latest book, a collection of essays published previously, may be an attempt to find a moment of resonance for them – since he is painfully aware that certain renditions of history don’t register when your approach goes against the prevailing winds.

In the 1960s, when Dower was embarking on an academic career, his approach to historical research was decidedly liberal (some would say “Marxist”) and unambiguously close to that of E.H. Norman, a Canadian diplomat and historian who tragically committed suicide after becoming a target of the McCarthyist witch-hunt in the 1950s. It found little resonance in an academic milieu that strongly favored a much more conservative “modernization theory,” which premised that all nations, when properly configured socially and economically, would follow the social development model of the west. The first chapter of this book, describing Norman’s contribution to the field of modern Japanese history, reads like a eulogy dedicated to this man whose work Dower so admires. He is deeply sorrowed by the tragic consequence of his life and the subsequent burial of Norman’s excellent work on Japanese history, at least for a time.

Dower’s ire against the conservative forces is on ample display as he vividly recalls the “Smithsonian incident” in the mid-’90s, when the museum’s planned exhibition of the B-52 bomber was abruptly canceled after meeting with harsh conservative opposition (though it was later revived in gelded form). He deplores how the “revisionist” label had

replaced the “communist” label that the liberals so feared being slapped with in the years after the war.

His greatest angst is reserved still for the Bush administration’s deliberate comparison of the U.S. experience with Japan after WWII and

the American invasion of Iraq – and how reshaping that country could be successfully brought to a close – an idea which Dower easily dismisses. The American Occupation in Japan had enormous moral as well as legal legitimacy in the eyes of the rest of the world, including in neighboring Asia that had been so recently savaged by the Japanese war machine, Dower argues. (He cites other technical reasons for the absurdity of the comparison.)

Aside from serving up a scathing critique of the American conservative’s view of history, this collection of essays is a gem of a book for both educational and recreational reading. His interpretations of the events and perceptions of the general Japanese public, something that requires a complex and layered understanding of Japanese society, are far more accurate and balanced than many other books on Japan written by non-Japanese authors which often trigger a negative gut reaction by Japanese readers. His judiciously chosen sources that include various Japanese public opinion polls and close examination of popular culture give him an edge that many Western journalists, often drawn to the voices of the “elite” politicians and commentators, miss out on.

Dower similarly exhibits a canny gift of digging deep into social and cultural workings, another result of his trait of peering

into the non-elite strata of the society. In one example, he examines the flourishing use of high art during the Pacific War in the effort to beautify the war. Woodblock prints portraying the valor of the Japanese navy, silk kimono featuring Japanese battleships, and a serialized comic featuring the feisty black stray dog “Norakuro,” which debuted in the ominous year of 1931 when Japan invaded Manchuria were all mobilized to romanticize the war effort, and all have parallels today. One only has to look at the way manga have been used to sanitize seemingly indigestible social dilemmas such as the use of nuclear power plants in a crowded, earthquake-prone nation.

His street-level views of history come in handy once again when he closely examines the use of *karuta* word games (the syllable cards) that came into vogue among the postwar Japanese as a vehicle for satire, mocking misery and playing to the newfound cynicism.

Dower’s incisive remarks about the Japanese reaction to the war include the vastly dodged topic here: the public responsibility of the Emperor for the war. He asks, “If he was deemed to have no responsibility whatsoever for the horrors and disasters that took place between his ascension to the throne in 1926 and the end of the war in 1945, why should ordinary Japanese even think of taking responsibility on themselves?”

As Japan turns the page of a new political chapter with the conservative LDP swinging back to power, is it not useful to rethink Japan’s prewar and postwar past with illuminating commentary and insight on the political and social events that transpired? Dower plays that guide to Japan’s recent past quite well. ①

Miki Tanikawa writes for the *International Herald Tribune* and teaches Japanese history and international relations at JICA and other universities in Japan.

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**Remembering Pierre Brisard**

by Shigemi Sato

**“I** shall return,” Pierre Brisard declared at a sayonara reception he hosted at the Imperial Hotel in 1982 upon his retirement from Agence France-Presse after 12 years managing its Tokyo and Seoul bureaus.



News of his death at a Paris hospital on November 24, aged 95, led longtime Tokyo bureau hands to recall the famous quote, originally uttered by General Douglas MacArthur upon his World War II retreat from the Philippines. In fact, he somewhat resembled the “Gaijin Shogun,” as he tried to instill dignity and discipline in the bureau.

Each morning, we stood at attention to shake hands with him as soon as he entered the office, then at the old *Asahi* Shimbun building in Yurakucho. And when he dressed down bureau staff for their mistakes, it was with a booming voice coming from on high (he stood above 1.9 meters), according to retiree Hisao Tachiki. “But he was straightforward. Once he trusted you, he would thoroughly back you,” said the one-time bureau union leader, now 80.

Brisard stayed on in Japan for several years after retirement, renting a big house

in Yokohama and hosting parties, according to bureau secretary Asako Ohtani-Shibata. “He was strict when we worked under him. But Brisard-san was so sociable otherwise,” she said, noting he was elected FCCJ president just months after his arrival.

She remembered an office dinner party at which a new Japanese reporter asked him if he could use chopsticks. “I have used chopsticks since before you were born,” he replied with

a resounding laugh.

Brisard later moved to Hawaii with his Japanese wife and their son, and in his eighties settled down in his hometown near Le Mans, in a huge stone house with a cellar stacked with bottles of homemade Calvados.

I still thank him for not firing me when he saw me coming late for a morning shift. He prodded me to dress neatly and encouraged me with the occasional pay raise. On a rare visit to the bureau after his retirement, he congratulated me with a big smile on being one of the “lucky survivors.” ①

Shigemi Sato has been a staff reporter and writer at the AFP Tokyo bureau since 1975.

**NEW MEMBERS**



**PATRICK ZOLL** is the political correspondent for the Swiss daily *Neue Zurcher Zeitung*. He covers Japan, the Korean peninsula and Taiwan from his Tokyo base.

Patrick studied international relations in Geneva and Moscow and corporate communications in Lucerne. He started his journalistic activities while still in high school working for various Swiss dailies and weeklies. During that time he also spent six months as a correspondent in Istanbul for NZZ. After several years as a freelance copywriter in marketing and PR, he spent two years with two UN agencies in East Jerusalem, occupied Palestinian territory.

Patrick was born in Taiwan. And that’s where he was, working on his long-term project to learn Chinese, when NZZ asked him to take up the position in Tokyo.

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