

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

May 2013  
Volume 45 No. 5  
¥400



**SAM  
JAMESON**  
IN MEMORIAM



**IS THE COUNTRY BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH?**  
**The Times (Japan and New York) join forces against**  
**the Yomiuri's Daily News**

+

**Successful South Asian newspapers**  
**Japan's Iron Lady Seiko Noda**  
**The Swadesh Deroy Scholarship Winner**  
**and more...**




# Charting a course to success

Reprinted from *Resilience: A journal of strategy and risk*


## Resilience

### Winning with risk



**Bouncing back: Two Japanese corporations' road to resilience**  
By David Jansen and William Macmillan

World Economic Forum  
Annual Meeting 2013  
Davos-Klosters, Switzerland



www.pwc.com/resilience

*Building resilient organizations requires transforming to meet new market challenges.*

*Learn how two Japanese companies embraced the spirit of risk taking to regain a position of market leadership.*



PwC helps organisations and individuals create the value they're looking for. We're a network of firms in 158 countries with close to 169,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, tax and advisory services. PwC's clients range from some of the world's largest and most international organisations to local entrepreneurs. In 2012 we provided services to 419 of the Fortune Global 500 companies and 443 companies in the FT Global 500. Tell us what matters to you and find out more by visiting us at [www.pwc.com](http://www.pwc.com).

© 2013 PwC. All rights reserved. Not for further distribution without the permission of PwC. "PwC" refers to the network of member firms of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PwCIL), or, as the context requires, individual member firms of the PwC network. Each member firm is a separate legal entity and does not act as agent of PwCIL or any other member firm. PwCIL does not provide any services to clients. PwCIL is not responsible or liable for the acts or omissions of any of its member firms nor can it control the exercise of their professional judgment or bind them in any way. No member firm is responsible or liable for the acts or omissions of any other member firm nor can it control the exercise of another member firm's professional judgment or bind another member firm or PwCIL in any way.

## In this issue

<b>The Front Page</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>President's message</b>	Georges Baumgartner	
<b>Room at the inn for FCCJ members</b>	John R. Harris	
<b>Click on this</b>	Steve McClure	
<hr/>		
<b>Race to the bottom</b>	David McNeill	<b>6</b>
<b>Profile Lucy Birmingham</b>	Bob Neff	<b>8</b>
<b>Remembering Sam</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Swadesh Deroy Scholarship award winner</b>		
<b>Shinchimachi Story</b>	Alison Kwesell	<b>12</b>
<b>FCCJ exhibition The Japonism of Paper</b>	Shu Kubo	<b>13</b>
<b>Seiko Noda: Japan's Iron Lady?</b>	Suvendrini Kakuchi	<b>14</b>
<b>Defense report targets China and North Korea</b>	Julian Ryall	<b>15</b>
<b>Boomtime for South Asian newspapers</b>	Monzurul Huq	<b>16</b>
<b>Goodbye Nakayama-san</b>	Haruko Watanabe	<b>17</b>
<hr/>		
<b>New members</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>New in the library</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>FCCJ Sayonara Party for Nakamura-san and Nakayama-san</b>		<b>18</b>

## Heard at the Club

“For China, the top priority is the stability of the region ... so they are being very careful.”

*Eiichi Katahara,  
director of the Regional Studies Department  
of The National Institute for Defense Studies,  
on North Korea  
page 15*



## NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

Volume 45, Number 5 May 2013

contact the editors  
[no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp](mailto:no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp)

**Editor** Gregory Starr  
**Publisher** John R. Harris  
**Art Director** Andrew Potheary  
[www.forbiddencolour.com](http://www.forbiddencolour.com)  
**Assistant Editor** Geoff Tudor  
**Editorial Assistants** Naomichi Iwamura, Angela Erika Kubo, Elena Omura, Tyler Rothmar, Albert Siegel  
**Photo Coordinator** Akiko Miyake

### FCCJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** Georges Baumgartner, Swiss Radio and Television  
**1st Vice President** Martin Koelling, Handelsblatt  
**2nd Vice President** Masaaki Fukunaga, The Sanmag  
**Secretary** Suvendrini Kakuchi, Inter Press Service  
**Treasurer** Jonathan Soble, Financial Times  
**Directors at Large** Lucy Birmingham, freelance  
Yoshio Murakami, IHT  
Yozo Hasegawa, BS Japan and Radio Nikkei News  
Tetsuo Jimbo, Video News Network, Inc  
**Kanji** Charles Pomeroy

### FCCJ COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Associate Members Liaison** Joan Anderson  
**DeRoy Memorial Scholarship + Professional Development** Masaaki Fukunaga  
**Entertainment** Sandra Mori  
**Exhibitions** Bruce Osborn  
**Finance** Jonathan Soble  
**Food & Beverage** Michael Penn  
**Freedom of the Press** Khaldon Azhari  
**House & Property** Martin Koelling  
**Human Resources** Masaaki Fukunaga  
**Improvement** Mary Corbett, Ed Merner  
**Information, Technology Policy Council** Tetsuo Jimbo, Video News Network, Inc  
**Koeki** Yoshio Murakami  
**Library/Workroom** Suvendrini Kakuchi, Koichi Ishiyama  
**Membership** Monzurul Huq  
**Marketing Advisory** Mary Corbett  
**Movie** Edwin Karmiol, Karen Severns  
**Professional Activities** Beryl Tung, Rick Wallace  
**Photo Archive** Lucy Birmingham  
**Publications** John R. Harris  
**Shadan Hojin** Kaz Abiko, Yoshisuke Iinuma  
**Special Project** Haruko Watanabe  
**Sports** Duke Ishikawa  
**Kanji Advisory Panel** Charles Pomeroy

### Foreign Press in Japan

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

### 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 photo: Dreamstime

## President's message



THAT TIME IS ALMOST upon us again. June, the onset of rainy season and the FCCJ elections. It is time to ask who will step forward to take the baton.

Several of us on the Board have been in the same positions for three years now. We have made some tough decisions and enacted a number of long-overdue reforms. As a result, the Club is now on a much more sound financial footing.

And we are on the way to securing public-interest non-profit status that will give us a solid legal footing in Japanese society.

We have made progress because, unlike the Boards in years past, we have shared a common purpose; we have not been wracked by continual disagreements. And I think I can speak for my fellow Board members in saying that we are proud of what we have achieved.

However, we are more than a bit weary from our efforts. So we are eager to find responsible, clear-headed Regular Members who are prepared to step up and carry on the work of securing the FCCJ's future.

Personally, I would like nothing better than to hand this job over to someone who could build on what we have done. So I have been asking everyone who might be appropriate to run. Unfortunately, it seems those who have the right credentials don't have the time and those who have the time don't have the credentials.

When you have a pool of just 300 journalists from which to draw, it is a struggle to find 10 people who have the time, the competence and the willingness to serve. The toughest seats to fill are Treasurer (since journalists are usually more literate than numerate) and President (given that the job demands a measure of seniority).

Fortunately, from next year it will be easier once we can draw on the skills and experience of Associate Members who will be given seats on the Board. But we have one last election under the old rules.

Of course, we can expect candidates who will run with the intention of undoing all our work over the past three years. In that event, if there is no one willing to stay the course, what am I to do? I have no wish to be "president for life."

If necessary, though, reluctantly I will run again.

– Georges Baumgartner

## Room at the inn for FCCJ Members

FOR 'COUNTRY MICE' VENTURING, IT'S ALWAYS A DILEMMA. DO WE miss the last train or miss out on the fun? It's even worse to ride the late train knowing that come dawn you have to ride two hours back the way you came. Injury adds to insult for those of us who pay JR ¥5,000 return.

The good news, I recently discovered, is that someone who can help now cares. A sayonara party I didn't want to miss didn't start till nine and the place I usually stay was full. So on a whim I decided to seek help from the Tokyu people who now run the Club's restaurants.

"We'd be delighted," was the immediate response from Kenji Itakura, manager of international sales & marketing at Tokyu Hotels. "We want to introduce FCCJ Members to all our properties, so where would you like to stay?"

My sensible intent had been the Atagoyama Tokyu Inn, the better-than-average business hotel handily located near Kamiyacho Stn. Or perhaps the



The lobby of the Capitol Tokyu

mid-market Akasaka Excel Hotel Tokyu, conveniently on top of Akasaka-mitsuke Stn. But caught up in the moment, I blurted out, "Why not the Capitol Tokyu?" The ¥22,000 special offer for FCCJ Members was a bit beyond my budget, but I thought, what the hell?

Checking in, I was charmed to find myself upgraded to the nicest hotel room I've ever stayed in, with huge windows that

offered a stunning view of the Kantei, Diet and Imperial Palace with Mount Tsukuba in the distance. With work still to do I was glad to find an ample desk and (unlike the nickel-and-diming Westin) free high-speed internet. Even better was the spacious shower with nozzles coming from all directions.

The old and much-loved Capitol Tokyu – with windows that opened and Beatles-slept-here cachet – was a hard act to beat. With its confusing lobbies, the new Capitol may not inspire love at first sight but the garden view from my table and the best-ever Western breakfast in Japan won my heart.

Okay, so not everyone can expect such an upgrade. But Itakura-san and his team are working on ways to make a wide range of benefits accessible to FCCJ Members. In a nutshell, we are entitled to two streams of preferential treatment: one individual, the other corporate.

Individuals can get the Tokyu Comfort Member card. And where mere mortals pay to join, FCCJ Members get it free, along ¥500 worth of points just for filling out the form available at the Club's Front Desk. When reserving online or by phone, your Comfort Member number will get you lowest rates on all Tokyu Hotel properties, plus points for your spending.

The FCCJ's membership in Tokyu's corporate program is accessed through an online password entrusted to our Front Desk staff. Along with rates comparable to the individual program, booking via the corporate channel gets you preferential booking when everything is fully booked – a definite plus when visiting Kyoto in high season. What's more, you don't have to enroll. The Front Desk staff can reserve for anyone they deem part of the FCCJ family. Ask them for further info.

For Members who live out of town, for those traveling around the country or for alumni returning to visit Tokyo, our new Tokyu privileges probably represent good value. So consider picking up a Comfort Member application next time you pass the Front Desk.

– John R. Harris

CLICK ON THIS

Steve McClure bites into Bento.com and finds a tasty treat

PERUSING ONLINE restaurant guide **Bento.com**, I became aware of a nagging, gnawing sensation: hunger.

You can read only so many restaurant reviews describing the gastronomic pleasures on offer at the many

fine eateries in Tokyo and other major Japanese cities before the gastric juices start flowing and the need to nosh becomes uncontrollable.

**Bento.com** is aimed at people hungry for information about dining in Japan, and the info it serves up scores high marks in terms of fairness and reliability. It is without question the best English-language site of its kind (it also publishes reviews in Japanese).

It is selective and subjective by definition, but for the most part the restaurants reviewed on **bento.com** are well-chosen and fairly assessed. The site's been going since 1994 and now lists more than 2,000 restaurants, izakaya and bars in Tokyo and Yokohama, as well as 500 establishments in Kansai.

**Bento.com** says its reviewers rate restaurants "anonymously and impartially" and that the site doesn't accept advertising from restaurants. So high marks for credibility.

**Bento.com** editor Robb Satterwhite and his team of food critics write in a simple, accessible style. There's none of the pretentious gastro-snobbery that food writers all too often indulge in. Instead, they deliver the straight goods when you're weighing dining options – giving praise when praise is due and not mincing words when they find fault with a restaurant or bar. The site is a cornucopia of information not just about restaurants, but all aspects of eating and drinking in Japan, including recipes for the culinarily adventurous.

**Bento.com** appears to have been patched together over the years and can be a bit of a labyrinth to navigate. The site could do with a makeover to make it more user-friendly, but that's a relatively minor quibble considering the wealth of useful info available on the **Bento.com** menu. There's an abundance of search options,



which is very helpful. Cross-links between the English and Japanese reviews of the same restaurants on the PC version of the site would also help (there are such links on the mobile version, however).

A site like **Bento.com** obviously can't hope to rate every single dining or drinking establishment in Tokyo or other Japanese cities, where the dedicated trencherman (or woman) is spoiled for choice several times over. But why does Carmine, one of Tokyo's best Italian restaurants (in my semi-informed opinion) get just a one-sentence description informing us that it is "the home base and launching pad of one of Tokyo's most famous Italian chefs?"

And why isn't Popeye – offering the most extensive selection of Japanese craft beers of any Tokyo beer bar – not included in the section on brewpubs and beer bars, along with the many other more mediocre establishments? (There is, however, a review and news about Popeye in **Bento.com**'s "Brews News" section.) I was surprised to see just how many Belgian beer bars there are, by the way. No fewer than seven "Brussels" bars have now sprouted up in Tokyo, for example.

The "Special Features" section lists various restaurants and bars according to criteria such as the view they offer, late-night opening hours, Wi-Fi accessibility, pet-friendliness and non-smoking environments. Information on wheelchair access would also be a good idea. Each review has a Google Map feature showing how to find the establishment being rated, which is extremely useful. Also cool are the glossaries of Japanese food terms, such as this guide to yakitori: [http://bento.com/rf\\_yaki.html](http://bento.com/rf_yaki.html). Photos of the food sampled by **bento.com**'s intrepid reviewers would be helpful as well, but that could blow their cover, I suppose.

So kudos to **bento.com** for providing a great public service. It's a site to dine for. 🍴

Steve McClure publishes the online music-industry newsletter *McClureMusic.com*. He has lived in Tokyo since 1985.



LexisNexis®

Discount LexisNexis Subscriptions for FCCJ Members

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

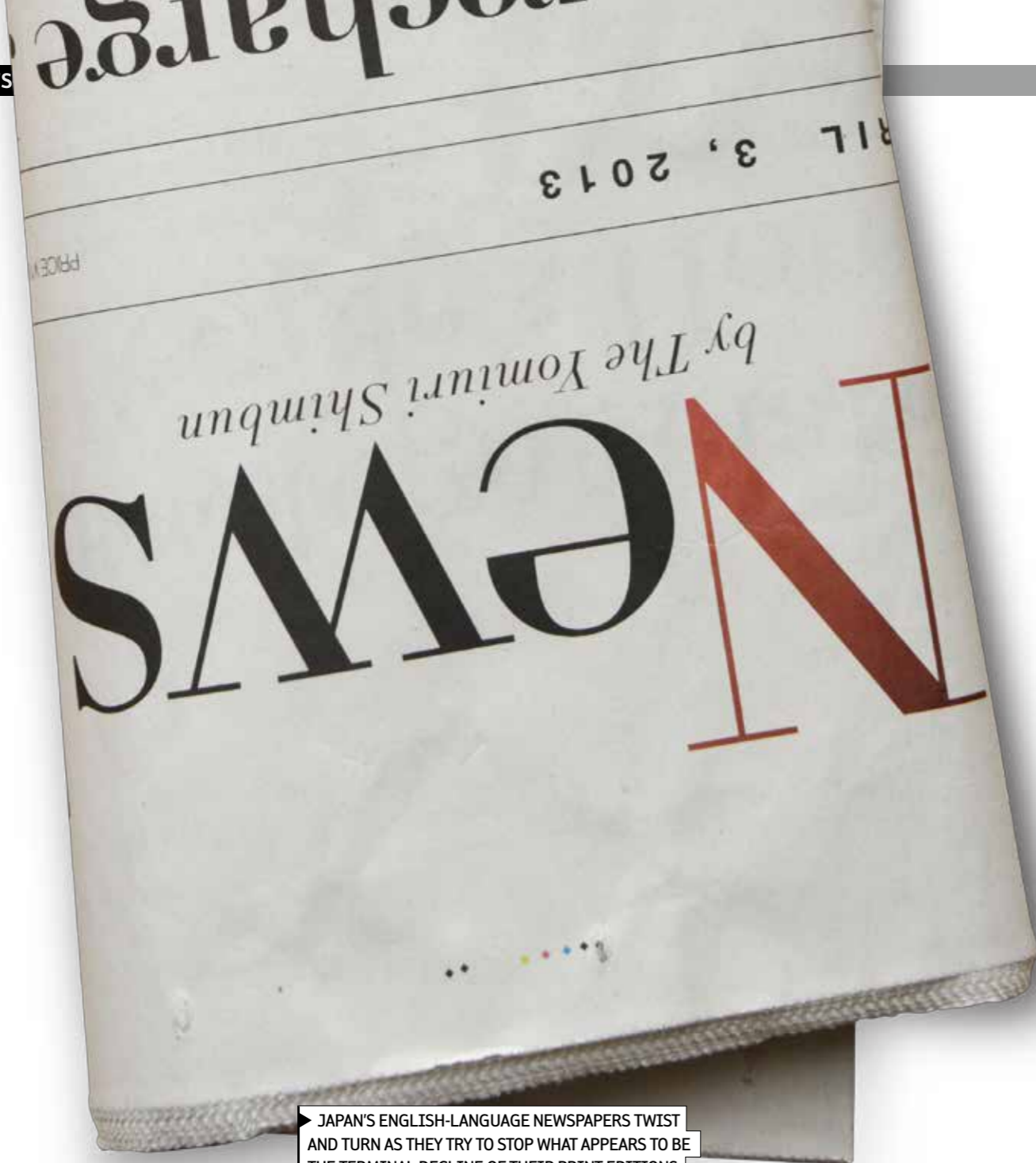
The Members-only deal allows for flat-rate access at **¥7,900 per month** - offering big savings on a service that normally costs **¥126,000 per month**

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

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

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





JAPAN'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS TWIST AND TURN AS THEY TRY TO STOP WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE TERMINAL DECLINE OF THEIR PRINT EDITIONS

## Race to the bottom

by David McNeill

Later this year, Japan's oldest and best English-language daily will drop through letterboxes with the added heft of the most prestigious name in American journalism.

The *Japan Times/International New York Times* will have two combined sections, one edited here in Tokyo, the other in the global offices of the *International New York Times* (the new name for the *International Herald Tribune*). Despite the apparently mismatched pairing, the JT will remain "proudly independent" said its president,

Takeharu Tsutsumi, in a press release, calling it an "important step" in the newspaper's 116-year-old history. (Full disclosure: I am a contributor to *The Japan Times*.)

But wait, haven't we been here before? Twelve years ago, *Asahi Shimbun* shut down the *Asahi Evening News* and launched a loudly ballyhooed joint venture with the IHT, also "uniting some of the finest names and the highest standards of journalism," said the glossy press kit.

The result was a sort of frankenpaper,

inelegantly bolting two separate publications together, complete with overlapping stories and editorials. It juddered to a halt, unloved in 2011, and the *Asahi* went online.

The new publication will be different, insists President Tsutsumi. For one thing, the name is the *New York Times*, not the IHT, he says. And instead of the single-section *Asahi/IHT* paper, with the *Asahi* in the back, "we will be publishing a two-section newspaper, with our section being in the front and the INYT section in the

back." Readers will still be picking up *The Japan Times* from kiosks. "We are very confident," he says, that the venture will be "beneficial" to readers of both papers.

The stakes are high. Like all English-language publications in Japan, and indeed most print ventures, readers have been deserting *The Japan Times* print version for years. Circulation peaked in 1991 at 71,000 and had fallen to 40,000 when No.1 Shimbun interviewed then President Yukiko Ogasawara in 2007.

"We are pretty much plateauing on the bottom," she said at the time. "Hopefully we won't go down any more than this. Six years later, her successor says circulation is holding at "around 28,000" copies a day. Ogasawara was replaced last year.

"The market for print newspapers is very clearly contracting," accepts Tsutsumi. "We had to respond to these circumstances and decided that the *International New York Times* would complement the kind of content we provide in *The Japan Times*. Our readers will continue to enjoy our coverage of Japan and they will also get the rebranded

years ago, after being swelled by thousands of free giveaways to airlines – and despite being cheaper than *The Japan Times*.

In an effort to get some traction in a market that has slipped relentlessly south for over a decade, *The Daily Yomiuri* was reborn on April 1 as *The Japan News*.

The makeover was accompanied by a typically portentous announcement that Japan faced a "challenge" over its ability to "communicate about itself to the world." The newspaper promised to be "more active than before" in "our pursuit of enhancing knowledge and understanding of Japan. We consider this to be a social mission of *The Japan News*." A new website – <http://the-japan-news.com> – dropped the *Yomiuri* title altogether.

If bets were placed on which newspaper would survive, the odds would surely favor the *Yomiuri's Japan News*, partly because of its quasi-official role as the voice of Japan in a region where China is producing increasingly slick English-language publications – but mostly because of its deep pockets. One indication of the com-

*Mainichi* newspaper went online in 2001, gutting its editorial division and leaving behind the skeleton-staffed <http://mainichi.jp/english/>. The *Nikkei* still publishes an English-language tabloid weekly, but long ago abandoned plans for a daily and is represented globally by the subscriber-only *Nikkei.com*.

The *Japan Times*, although still stubbornly broadsheet, also maintains a free website that averages 900,000 unique users per month. The site was completely rebuilt this year, partly to make it more responsive to the growing number of smart devices now used to access it. But online advertising revenue is still a fraction of its hardcopy equivalent.

Still, Tsutsumi says the company will stick with paper, for now. "We...think there is still scope to try new things in the print realm and, hopefully, to increase print circulation. That is the reason we have tied up with INYT." The newspaper's team says it has not yet settled on a cover price, but is keen to not stray too far from the current ¥180.

## MORALE AMONG STAFF AT THE NEWSPAPER TODAY IS REPORTEDLY LOW, THOUGH THE INYT PARTNERSHIP HAS GIVEN JOURNALISTS A LIFT

international edition of one of the most respected newspapers in the world."

Observers have long wondered when his newspaper's parent company Nifco Inc., a manufacturer of plastic parts and components, might cut its losses and run, an option Ogasawara (daughter of Nifco Chairman Toshiaki) insisted was not on the table. "We are very passionate about this project," she said. "What *The Japan Times* allows for Nifco is a certain exposure and connection to the society of Japan."

Morale among staff at the newspaper today is reportedly low, though the INYT partnership has given journalists a lift, said one source, who spoke anonymously. "There is a sense that there might be some impact from a professional organization and that some of it might rub off on us. The big worry is repeating news – if we're covering the same stuff people are not sure how that's going to work."

Not that the situation over at the newspaper's main competitor in Ginza is much better. *The Yomiuri Shimbun's* English-language daily is bleeding about \$3 million a year, according to insiders, though that's half its losses in 2010, before it launched a cull of editors and writers. Official circulation fell below 30,000 about three

pany's financial health is the construction of a new headquarters in Otemachi, at a reported cost of around \$600 million.

For all its resources, however, *The Yomiuri* is saddled with a major handicap, points out Mark Austin, an editor and journalist who left the paper in 2010. "The main problem, as was the case for the last several years of *The Daily Yomiuri's* life, is that virtually all domestic news is translated from the parent paper," he says. "No matter how talented the translators and copy editors are, this means that *The Japan News*, like its predecessor, has no soul."

As for the *Asahi Shimbun*, its evolution may prove to be the most intriguing of all. This month the company formed a digital joint venture with *The Huffington Post*, bringing together one of the most staid if venerated names in print news with perhaps the most successful modern online upstart. *Huffington* claims 46 million visitors a month with a controversial formula that relies heavily on cannibalized content and views rather than the costly, gumshoe reporting of old. The venture will launch its first edition, in Japanese, on May 7.

With the under-30s now seldom inclined to buy a newspaper, the march to cyberspace seems unstoppable. The

The newspaper is partly resting its hopes on a rise in subscription sales, tied to the NYT. "We intend to start accepting the kind of long-term subscriptions that IHT currently accepts," says Tsutsumi – six- and twelve-months, in addition to one month. Subscribers will have free access to the NYT.com and the Times' applications. "We think those will greatly enhance the value of our product, too."

Avoiding the same fate as *The Asahi*, however, will not be easy. Sources at the *Japan Times* say they are expecting a raft of changes in the coming months as they prepare for the tie-up. The changes are mainly thought to involve more focus on domestic material and more freelance commissions, and a shift away from foreign coverage where the paper cannot hope to compete with its U.S. partner.

One source said the paper's staff is moving ahead with their heads held high but under no illusions about what might lie ahead. "It's a delicate time. There are mixed feelings about what is going on." ●

David McNeill writes for *The Independent*, *The Economist*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and other publications. He has been based in Tokyo since 2000.



Another  
in our series  
of Club Member  
profiles

## Lucy Birmingham

by Bob Neff

Spend an hour speaking with Club Director-at-Large Lucy Birmingham, Time magazine's Tokyo reporter, and you're bound to hear the word "serendipity" several times. That's because Lucy thinks this is how she became one of the Club's most successful freelancers, forget about her talent and determination. Her story should serve as inspiration and direction for many of our members.



Lucy was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and is a graduate in communications from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. In 1980 she went to Kyoto to briefly visit a friend, but liked it so much she decided to stay. She found work as an English teacher and hostess. (Her blonde hair didn't hurt). But she also drew upon her childhood fascination with photos and her minor in photography at college to venture into writing and picture-taking.

After more than two years in Kyoto she took off for a year-long trip around Asia as a backpacker. "That's probably the best thing I've ever done," she reflects. "I learned about life. It was a much better education than going to graduate school."

It was in 1984 that she went back to the States and reconnected with her family. But she couldn't shake Japan. So after a year she found herself in Tokyo and "serendipitously" landed a freelance string in the mid-'80s with the global photo agency Gamma Presse through its veteran Japan rep and Club member Kaku Kurita.

"I learned on the job," Lucy recalls. "It was very tough. Lots of heavy equipment and on-the-spot shooting." But royalties from Gamma were not enough to pay the rent, so she pursued other opportunities such as the New York Times and the classic photo album *A Day in the Life of Japan*. Still, there were days she couldn't afford to eat. "I was always broke, eating donuts and Cup Noodle to survive. One

night I had to borrow 100 yen from a friend to get home."

In the late 1980s she heard that *Business Week's* photo editor was visiting Japan in search of photographers. So she went out and bought some Japanese magazines to show him what photos of Japan looked like. "That got my toe in the water ahead of other competitors," she says. They hired her as their main photographer and

Then serendipity struck again – the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Time magazine had closed its Tokyo bureau, along with many media outlets. Lucy had begun writing for Time.com as a stringer in January 2011, and leapt at the chance to help them cover the disaster. That led to her co-authoring a book with Club colleague David McNeill, the critically acclaimed *Strong in the Rain*, about the disas-

**'I WAS ALWAYS BROKE, EATING DONUTS AND CUP NOODLE TO SURVIVE. ONE NIGHT I HAD TO BORROW 100 YEN FROM A FRIEND TO GET HOME.'**

helped get her a working visa. "Business Week was the savior of my photographic career. It launched me to a higher level."

Soon thereafter she married a Japanese Harvard MBA who had high-flying jobs with Western companies in Tokyo. They had three children. "That thrust me into a totally different scene," she reflects. "After ten years of scraping by as a photographer it was a culture shock. I became the ultimate corporate wife." She had to concentrate on being a homemaker and mother but desperately wanted to continue links to her former life. Throughout the 1990s she was too busy with her young children to visit the Club. Then one day she got a call from an FCCJ staffer asking if she was still a journalist. Although she had only managed to continue with small writing jobs, she said yes.

That led her to start frequenting the Club again. One day former FCCJ vice president Brad Martin, then a senior writer for Bloomberg, "serendipitously" suggested she contact Bloomberg headquarters in New York. They were starting a new arts and culture section called "Muse." She soon became a regular Bloomberg contributor. One of her art stories was about the late Donald Richie. She learned that not only was he a great writer but also a very talented painter. After the Lehman shock of 2008, Bloomberg throttled back on its use of freelancers.

Bob Neff is a former FCCJ president

ter aftermath, and to a continuing gig with Time.

Meanwhile, Lucy continues to write for a variety of publications such as the *Financial Times* for their Japan business specials. She also continues to write for NHK, where she recently began co-anchoring a business program. Her perseverance, talent, and serendipity shine a path for other resourceful journalists. ❶

### Previous profilee Pulitzered

*One of a team of ten reporters – the others were David Barboza, Keith Bradsher, Charles DuHigg, David Kocieniewski, Steve Lohr, John Markoff, David Segal, David Streitfeld, and Bill Vlasic – Hiroko Tabuchi was among the winners of the staff of The New York Times for EXPLANATORY REPORTING.*

*“The Pulitzer board honored a series of 10 articles about the business practices of Apple and other technology companies. The series, titled “The iEconomy,” included articles on how American manufacturers lost out on iPhone work to cheaper factories in China as well as on the surprisingly meager pay of Apple’s 30,000 retail workers in the United States. Keith Bradsher, 48, one of the reporters, said the series was not just about working conditions in China but also about ‘whether the U.S. could be a competitive place to make things.’”*

ANDREW POTHECARY

**S**am Jameson, former president of the FCCJ and life member of the Club, died on April 19 in Tokyo of a stroke. He was 76.

Sam first joined the Club in 1963 when he arrived here as the first Tokyo bureau chief of the *Chicago Tribune*. He then moved to the *Los Angeles Times* as Tokyo bureau chief in 1971. Before getting elected as Club president in 1973 he served on several committees and spent two terms as Secretary and one term as chairman of the FPIJ. One of his proudest achievements was helping to arrange the first-ever formal press conference of the Showa Emperor with the foreign press in 1971. Since leaving the *L.A. Times* in 1996 he worked as a freelancer until his stroke.

Sam was born in Pittsburgh, PA., on Aug. 9, 1936, and graduated from Northwestern University's school of journalism. He worked at the head office of the *Chicago Tribune* for one year before being drafted into the U.S. Army. That brought him to Tokyo, where he worked for *Pacific Stars and Stripes* from November 1960. He served as everything from copy editor to news editor until his discharge from the army in 1962, then received an extended leave of absence to remain in Japan and continue studying Japanese. After about a year as a special student at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, he was recalled to Chicago for consultations at the *Tribune's* head office before coming to Tokyo as the paper's bureau chief in August, 1963. He lived here ever since.

■ Bob Neff



## Remembering Sam

SAM WAS ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS. I first met him when we were neophyte journo in Chicago in 1960, and succeeded him – at his kind recommendation – as Far East correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune* when he moved to the *LA Times* in 1971. I maintained close contact with him over the decades since. As a correspondent, Sam focused on Japan but also visited Korea quite often and ranged to SE Asia, including Vietnam before “the fall” of Saigon in 1975. He gave me invaluable material re: the overthrow of Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk for a book I did in 1971 and was generous with other insights, opinions as well.

■ Don Kirk, *Christian Science Monitor*, Seoul

SAM MESMERIZED ME WITH HIS knowledge of Japan and the Japanese language. We officed next door to each other in the Yomiuri Shimbun building and, through clouds of Golden Bat smoke, I heard his views on every issue of the day. My life as both a reporter and a man was enriched by Sam's com-

panionship and collegiality. Some sort of award for committing journalism in Japan should be named after him.

■ Mike “Buck” Tharp, FCCJ president, 1989-90

ONCE THERE WAS A BRIEFING FOR A dozen reporters by either a senior LDP or gaimusho official. Taizo Watanabe, (later the consul general in Los Angeles), was translating. At one point he uncertainly looked to Sam after translating and said, “Was that right, Jameson-san?”

■ John Needham, former UPI, Tokyo

SAM WAS SINGLEHANDEDLY GRILLING a defense agency official at a fancy bistro near the U.S. embassy one day when he suddenly paused, aghast, to ask why no one else was asking any questions. The truth of it was that Sam had prepped so prodigiously he'd exhausted all the obvious questions the rest of us had in minutes flat, and was moving boldly on his own into terra incognita. Thanks Sam, for teaching me the value

of homework, whether for a press conference or the courtly grilling of fresh bureaucrat over an elegant meal.

■ Tracy Dahlby, Prof. of Journalism, U. of Texas

AFTER HE LEFT THE POSITION AS THE *LA Times* Bureau Chief I was impressed that he continued to turn up at FCCJ lunches and, almost always, had a question; often a fairly simple and basic one – because, inevitably, he was not a specialist in many of the topics covered – but perhaps all the better for that.

■ Charles Smith, former Tokyo bureau chief, *Financial Times*

WHEN HIS *LA TIMES* CAREER CAME TO an end after a quarter century, I was proud to bring him over to *Asia Times* for his amakudari. His professional accomplishments – and friends in high places – are well known. Less well known is his after-hours conviviality. I doubt even Sam could count the number of hole-in-the-wall *nomiya* where he was enthusiastically welcomed. Whenever he said, “Let's go for drinks,” I never said no – and consequently never failed to learn about a new and delightful place. We'll miss Sam.

■ Bradley Martin, former *Newsweek* Tokyo Bureau Chief

TOWARDS THE END OF MY ASSIGNMENT in Tokyo, he took me to his favorite haunt. It was a bar that seated maybe five people. There, with a drink in one hand and a cigarette in the other, he finally seemed to truly relax. It's very sad to hear that he never had the time to complete the book he had been working on for so long. I can still picture the top shelf along the entire wall on one side of our office that was stacked high with files that he always said were for that book he would one day write. I imagine it must have felt impossible to Sam that all

## SAM WAS A PHENOMENAL HUMAN BEING.

Henry Scott Stokes, freelance, Tokyo

his years in Japan and all those rich memories of reporting on a country and people with whom he had gone through so much, could ever possibly fit into a single volume. Japan won't be the same without him.

■ Leslie Helm, former *LA Times* reporter, now editor, *Seattle Business Magazine*

I WORKED FOR SAM FROM 1990 TO 1996 at the *LA Times* Tokyo Bureau as a coordinator and assistant. During the years, I always admired his devotion to

grab news from Japanese sources first hand. On election night, he was glued to TV reports and meticulously followed the votes coming in for each candidate. We stayed up all night in the office analyzing the results. While he spent a lot of time at work, he also knew how to enjoy his life – he had a good singing voice and enjoyed singing at a Showa-era retro bar with friends.

■ Chiaki Kitada, *LA Times* bureau assistant, Tokyo

IT WAS SAID OF SAM JAMESON THAT HE knew more about the workings of Japanese politics than any of the office-holders and spoke better *Nihongo* than some of them.

■ Richard Pyle, former *Asia News* editor, AP

“GENTLEMAN JOURNALIST” IS THE phrase that comes to mind when I think of Sam. He was a “gentle” man in demeanor but that did not prevent him from asking searching questions and being unrelenting until he got answers. He would typically raise his hand to question a speaker at an FCCJ Professional Lunch, walk somewhat hesitantly to the microphone, disarm a speaker with an innocent smile and then deliver a question that would quickly cut the ground from beneath the feet of any dissembler. Toward the end of his life, Sam decided to join those FCCJ Regular members who were taking legal action to overturn Board actions which he saw as deeply damaging to an institution whose atmosphere and character he had helped to mold over half a century.

■ Anthony Rowley, Tokyo correspondent, *Business Times*

SAM JAMESON, GEBHARD HIELSCHER and I used to call ourselves “The Three Stooges” (*San Baka Taisho* in Japanese, which roughly means three big fools). This international trio of drinking buddies had one

thing in common – a love for izakaya where they serve good sake and yakitori, and Sam was an expert in finding such joints. I

remember him talking about Japanese politics over a glass of Kokuryu from Fukui, and it was like listening to Japan's postwar history. Sam, I will be drinking sake at one of the places where the three big fools spent an evening and think of you.

■ Hideko Takayama, former *Newsweek* reporter, Tokyo

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, SAM wrote me saying he knew I must have been disappointed in the Korean presi-

dential election result. I wrote back asking him why was it that at every critical moment of history, the evil side always won. He then asked me why Kim Dae-Jung and Roh Moo-Hyun didn't make anything of their chances. I was wondering how to make him to see that those ten years were only a fraction of our sixty-year modern history. . . . Now, I'll never finish that discussion, which I know Sam would have loved to pursue.

■ Jungnam Chi, former *LA Times* correspondent, Seoul.

SAM AND I HAD A SHARED INTEREST in Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, since we were both alumni of the school's graduate program at the Medill School of Journalism. Sam was always a serious and meticulous journalist, but he always had time for his other passion – softball. He was an enthusiastic member of the FCCJ Alleycats.

■ Mel Tsuji, prof. Seneca College, former CBC-TV writer/producer

AFTER THE FAMOUS OCT. 22, 1974 FCCJ luncheon for Tanaka Kakuei, I remember Sam rushing out after the luncheon to get his hands on the original Japanese text of the Bungei Shunju article which had fueled some rather rude and very direct questioning of Tanaka at the luncheon – and which led to his downfall two months later. I doubt if anyone else there that day had shown such zeal; most had been very happy just to go with the condensed English-language version they had before them. It epitomized not only Sam's ability to handle Japanese (though he spoke it with a rather daunting accent) but also his emphasis on getting the facts right before writing. Sam for me, as for quite a few others I suspect, was the gold standard for reportage out of Japan.

■ Greg Clark, former Tokyo bureau head, *The Australian*

SAM WAS SIX MONTHS YOUNGER THAN me, but my senior by six years as FCCJ member, and by many more years as a journalist. We became close through Club politics, and continued as close personal friends after retiring from Club politics (see Hideko Takayama's note above). When Sam was Club president, I was 2nd vice-president in charge of personnel. Together we transformed the Club's staff policy from post-occupation flavor to a more equitable relationship. We'll miss you, Sam!

■ Gebhard Hielscher, former Tokyo correspondent, *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*



## Shinchimachi Story

by Allison Kwesell

The winner of this year's Swadesh Derooy Scholarship is Allison Kwesell, a graduate student at the International Christian University, hailing from the U.S. Ms. Kwesell's entry was a photo documentary of the town of Shinchimachi, 50 km north of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Akira Nagakura, chief member of the selection committee, remarked on the high quality of the photographs and the precise captions that captured the life of a Fukushima town. He also said, "The pictures were taken over the course of several trips. This kind of hard work resulted in a report that was of higher quality than the others. It's the kind of on-the-spot report that journalists respect."

The annual scholarship, worth ¥300,000 for the First Prize, is given to support university students interested in a career in journalism. ❶

**Above:** Checking on strawberries grown at the temporary housing community. Shinmachi is known for its figs, flatfish, apples and strawberries.

**Facing page, clockwise from top:** Headlamps light the trail of Mt. Karou on New Years Day; Waiting for the New Year sun to rise on Mt. Karou; Rain boots line the shelves of Shinchimachi Preschool; A tear falls from a child's eye while wind gusts blow across her face at an AKB 48 charity concert. (The area is known for gusts of heavy wind, known as Karou Oroshi. It was this wind that blew radiation away from the town, just 50km north of the Fukushima Daiichi reactor; Children have morning exercise and a summer homework workshop from 6:30 to 7:00 am.

## FCCJ EXHIBITION: The Japonism of Paper



Shu Kubo dyes washi paper and creates his original "mixed media" works: a combination of materials such as pastel, acrylic paint, fabric, sand and western papers together with washi. His work becomes three-dimensional through the layering of multiple thin washi. His themes include "seasonal traditions" and "food in season."

In the spring of 2008, Kubo held a highly acclaimed New York exhibition. The following year, his kirie (cut paper) work brought him back to the city as a special advisor for Japan's Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Since 2010, through the Japan Foundation's cultural exchange program, his activities have expanded to Spain, Portugal, the Philippines, Malaysia, Ukraine and Russia. Last year, he was the principal artist for Japan-U.S. Cherry Blossom Centennial celebration and his work was shown in the Empire State Building lobby gallery. ❶

Shu Kubo was born in 1951, and held his first solo exhibition in Osaka in 1977.

▶ IF ANYONE CAN CRACK THE CEILING THAT STANDS BETWEEN A WOMAN AND JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER'S POST, IT MIGHT BE THIS LDP STALWART

## Seiko Noda: Japan's Iron Lady?

by Suvendrini Kakuchi

Liberal Democratic Party member Seiko Noda is Prime Minister Shinzō Abe's *kanban*, or "billboard," in his much-touted platform for reform. She is head of the influential LDP General Council, a top policy position. She is also charming, a veteran politician and a passionate speaker for rectifying Japan's gender malaise.

"The key to growth in Japan is diversity, and this means creating opportunities for women to become leaders," she said at a professional luncheon at the FCCJ recently. Then she went on to unveil a dramatic remedy – she wants to usher in a legally enforceable quota of 40 percent for women employees and a reward system for companies that meet the requirement.

The reasoning is plain and simple, she explained, pointing out how Japan's male-dominated corporations are led by revision resistant salarymen. "To get them to accept gender equality would become much easier if there was a law to follow," she said.

Noda, 53, who has been touted in the past as having the potential to become Japan's first female leader, is cleverly tying gender equality to national goals. The ruling LDP's *Abenomics* has implemented drastic changes to boost Japan's economic might now facing stiff competition from a richer and more confident Asia. Noda believes that this is a timely opportunity that must not be missed.

She believes the battle to revive growth is linked to the critical need to shore up the

country's dwindling population – and that means turning the spotlight on giving women fair and equal chances. "Providing women with lives they are comfortable with is a priority in population and economic recovery," she said.

Noda quoted some somber statistics: at today's rate of 1.3 babies per woman, Japan's population within the next 100 years could drop to just 30 million from the current 126 million. She believes that the logic clearly calls for finally dumping Japan's deeply entrenched gender bias.

She hasn't hesitated from facing up to even the most entrenched foes, and has even tackled the *Keidanren*. She does, however, have plenty of solidarity – Goldman Sachs reported last year that by better utilizing its population of working women, Japan could expand its gross domestic product by as much as 15 percent.

Noda, now in her seventh term, entered the world of grim politics as the daughter of a LDP politician from Gifu. She won her first seat in 1993. "I arrived in parliament at a time when women colleagues were extremely rare. The hardest part for me was that I just did not have a role model," she said.

Not that much has changed. When the LDP pushed aside the Social Democrats in last year's Lower House election, only 38 women were elected to the 480-seat chamber.

But Noda is doing her best to remedy the situation. Along with Sanae Takauchi, the

head of the LDP Research Council, they represent the first female appointments to these important political positions, a change she seizes to showcase reform in conservative LDP policies. "My position is an important indication of prime minister, Shinzō Abe's intentions to support women," she told the audience.

Noda's political career is characterized by some striking landmarks: her decision in 2005 to resign from the LDP to protest the privatization of the postal system, a ministry she headed at the age of 37, proved a severe career test. More so has been her advocacy to permit married couples to keep their maiden surnames, a proposal she clings to despite its repeated rejection by her own party.

Still, perhaps the most revolutionary of her actions while in office has been to publicize her fertility treatments documented in a book published in 2004, named *Watashi wa Umitai* ("I want to give birth"). This and the birth of her son at the age of 50, a process that required her to seek ova from a third party in the U.S., finally turned the spotlight on older women seeking reproductive assistance. Japanese laws do not permit surrogate mothers, another archaic law steeped in gender discrimination.

How has Noda managed in a country where women, even those who share her sharp intellect and personal charm, report bitter struggles? She offers no hard and fast answers. Rather, the woman who says she was inspired by Margaret Thatcher to enter politics, exudes personal courage, honesty and determination, traits that are essential tools for any woman who wants to get ahead.

Take, for instance, her story of being able to hold on to her seat in Gifu, located in the heart of central Japan and hardly a feminist paradise. "The secret to winning a Japanese election is not the party but your large association of supporters. It is crucial to raise the necessary funds, and this is a most daunting task for women who do not have the kind of financial network that is available to men," she explained.

Her success in competing on such a difficult stage has won her large numbers of female fans in Japan. A young Japanese journalist vigorously typing on her laptop that afternoon at the FCCJ, summed it all up: "Noda encourages women in Japan because she displays strength and clarity; she does not fall into the typical female image of coy and cute." ❶

Suvendrini Kakuchi is a Sri Lankan reporter for Inter Press Service, and a regular commentator for Japanese publications and television.

Seiko Noda speaking at the FCCJ



▶ THE INCREASING TENSION WITH JAPAN'S NEIGHBORS IS BEING EXAMINED FOR ITS POTENTIAL SECURITY IMPACT

## Defense report targets China and North Korea

by Julian Ryall

Over the past quarter-century, the defense and security situation across east Asia has been transformed by a worrying proliferation of advanced missile systems and nuclear weapons.

Since 1996, it has been the task of The National Institute for Defense Studies, a think-tank affiliated with Japan's Ministry of Defense, to monitor the changes in the nation's neighbors and to analyze their potential impact on this country. The institute's latest report, released on March 29, once again made sobering reading when it was unveiled to members of the Club at a press conference one day ahead of the official release.

The report, for the first time, examined the security and foreign policies of India and Australia as they increasingly become enmeshed in the military affairs of the region. But inevitably it is China and North Korea that attract the greatest attention and concern.

The study admits that current tensions between Tokyo and Beijing were triggered by last year's move by Shintaro Ishihara, then Tokyo governor, to purchase the Senkaku Islands. "China reacted furiously to [Ishihara's] announcement on April 16 of his prefecture's proposal to buy the islands and to the Japanese government's decision on Sept. 11 to purchase three of the islands," the report says.

But the NIDS analysts believe a diplomatic assault on the sovereignty of the islands was already being plotted. "The actions that China subsequently took clearly reveal that it was already meticulously planning measures for advancing its claim over the Senkakus from a very early stage," the study claims. "China has used the same approach with regard to the South China Sea and shows no hesitation in carrying out actions that cause friction with its neighbors."

Dr. Eiichi Katahara, director of the Regional Studies Department of the NIDS and editor-in-chief of the report, said that Japan's responses throughout the ongoing dispute have been measured and appro-

priate. "The Japanese government's stance is that long-term, strategically mutual relations will benefit both sides and they want to make sure that individual issues do not ruin the overall relationship," he said.

Dr. Katahara added that he believes dialogue between the leaders of the two nations could lead to a resolution of many of the problems that continue to bedevil the relationship. He pointed out that the efforts Prime Minister Shinzō Abe made to improve ties the last time he was leader of Japan, in 2007, mean that Beijing may very well be anticipating some sort of "breakthrough in bilateral relations."

While showing that he is happy to talk, however, Abe has already stated that he will revise the National Defense Program Guidelines drawn up by the previous Democratic Party of Japan administration. The report states that "the strengthening of Japan's defense posture in the southwestern islands will continue to be one of the most important issues."

In addition to improved intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations, "It has become imperative to strengthen seamless deterrence and response capabilities through improvement of the Self-Defense Forces' mobile deployment capabilities and in preparation for more intense conflicts."

Beyond that, the SDF requires improved amphibious capabilities and enhanced air defenses, at the same time as the "resiliency" of bases used by the SDF and US military is stepped up.

The report touched on suggestions that China is attempting to build closer relations with Russia and to access advanced technology, such as the recently reported deal to purchase Sukhoi-35 fighters, although a NIDS analyst suggested Moscow is actually becoming increasingly wary about China and its ambitions, and that there is a long way to go before Moscow agrees to the transaction taking place.

North Korea similarly took up a large part of the annual study, with Hiroyasu Akutsu, a North Korea analyst at the institute, expressing concern that while Beijing appears to be taking a "strict stance" with Pyongyang over its recent missile and nuclear tests, there is no guarantee that will last.

"China has acted strictly in the past, such as in 2009 when North Korea carried out a missile launch and its second nuclear test," he pointed out. "China at that time signed resolution 1874 in the United Nations Security Council, but five months later it was back supporting North Korea again."

"For China, the top priority is the stability of the region and they do not want to take any actions that will lead to the collapse of North Korea, so they are being very careful," he suggested. ❶

Eiichi Katahara at the Club



Julian Ryall is Japan correspondent for The Daily Telegraph.



AS PAPERS SHRINK ELSEWHERE, TWO DECADES OF DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH HAVE INDIA PRINTING 330 MILLION NEWSPAPERS A DAY

## Boomtime for South Asian newspapers

by Monzurul Huq

It is a rare occasion these days for journalists in the mature economies to hear a newspaper boss boast of double-digit growth in circulation and advertising revenue. So it was an attentive audience that greeted Siddharth Varadarajan, editor of *The Hindu*, India's number-two English-language daily at a March 29 FCCJ lunch.

In Japan, daily newspaper circulation has fallen by seven million over the past dozen years to 47.7 million in 2012. But

decades. And that has boosted the fortunes of newspapers across the region.

A veteran of several Indian publications, including the *Times of India*, who was appointed editor of *The Hindu* two years ago, Varadarajan said although the region still lags by many measures, growth has brought benefits that are helping overcome obstacles that kept the region static for many years. Per capita income is on the rise everywhere in the region, both in real and nominal terms; more children are

### WHEN SUBSCRIBERS FINISH WITH THE PAPER THEY CAN NEARLY RECOVER THE FULL PRICE FROM A RECYCLER

decline at that pace seems modest compared with North America and Europe where long-established titles have ceased to publish or moved online. Overseas news bureaus being the first in line for budget cuts, FCCJ members have been particularly hard-hit.

In South Asia there is an entirely different reality, as Varadarajan explained. The world's most populous region with well over 1.5 billion people in six nations, most of the Subcontinent has enjoyed robust economic growth over the past two

going to school; and women are joining the workforce, thus raising their stature in the family. He cited all these among the factors helping papers in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and smaller regional nations to significantly expand circulation.

After a decade and a half of spectacular growth, *The Hindu*, with circulation at 1.3 million, is now number two among India's English dailies.

Fifteen years ago daily circulation was a mere 200,000 copies. First published in 1874, it is India's oldest surviving English daily, and Varadarajan is probably justified in claiming it is the nation's most

Siddharth Varadarajan at the Club

respected national newspaper. It contrast to most national media, which are based in Delhi or Mumbai, *The Hindu* is headquartered in Chennai, the southern city formerly known as Madras.

Its archrival *Times of India* recently passed 2 million to become the world's best-selling English-language newspaper, narrowly ahead of *USA Today*. Vernacular dailies are faring even better, with the largest Hindi paper moving almost 6 million copies. All told, more than 330 million newspapers circulate each day in India – more than in any other country.

Varadarajan said ad revenue has soared along with double-digit economic growth – a trend he does not see as entirely healthy since newspapers are increasingly vulnerable to pressure from the business community. Then again, subscription revenues cover only five percent of production costs. Each copy of *The Hindu* costs 25 rupees (about ¥45) to produce, but subscribers pay just 3.50.

Other South Asian nations are following the same trend with equal vigor. In Bangladesh, *Daily Prothom Alo* (the paper I represent in Japan) leads the pack in circulation with more than 600,000 copies daily. Given that the paper was only launched in 1998, its growth curve has been steep. In the early 1990s Bangladesh had only a single daily with circulation above 100,000. After two decades of phenomenal growth, six dailies now circulate more than 100,000 copies.

South Asia's circulation figures are even more significant considering that a single newspaper is often read by up to 100 people in tea shops that provide patrons with all the dailies. Home-delivered copies are similarly passed among many family members. And as Varadarajan pointed out, once subscribers are finished with the paper they can recover nearly the full subscription price by selling it to a recycler.

Varadarajan believes low subscription cost is one reason why the internet will not dislodge newspapers from the leading position they now enjoy. But he said the trend to watch is the gradual migration from simple mobile phones – which are now almost ubiquitous – to smartphones that make reading the news easier. He expects this will create a new generation of readers who bypass newsprint altogether, just as millions in India went straight to mobile phones without ever owning a landline. ❶

Monzurul Huq represents the largest-circulation Bangladeshi national daily, *Prothom Alo*. He was FCCJ president 2009-2010.

THE ENTIRE CLUB WILL SURELY MISS THE EFFERVESCENCE AND DETERMINATION OF OUR LONG-TERM LIBRARIAN AND FRIEND



ALBERT SIEGEL

## Goodbye Nakayama-san!

by Haruko Watanabe

Swimming a kilometer in her local sports club each day has been just one of the ways Kanako Nakayama has kept herself fit for the demanding job of FCCJ librarian for some 41 years. Nakayama-san, whom both journalists and associate members love and respect, will happily retire on May 31, at the age of 65.

Nakayama graduated from Hirosaki University's Faculty of Humanities in 1970, and was hired by Hitachi. But two years later, she found an ad in the *Asahi Shimbun* for the position of FCCJ librarian, and immediately applied for the position. "I love reading books, and communicating in English," she explained. She was hired by the Club in 1972, and she has worked in the library ever since.

The boundaries of her job stretch beyond the ordinary duties of a librarian. The Club librarian must be able to respond to inquiries, explain the use of databases and wire services. She also helps members get appointments with potential interview subjects, and provides the logistics for our Book Breaks and movie presentations.

One of her talents came in extremely handy for many journalists in the wake of the March 11, 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster – her professionally shrewd use of her Tohoku dialect in negotiating with local Fukushima officials.

"When I first made a call to the PTA president of the Okawa Elementary School to try to obtain the contacts of some of the victims, he just barked at me, "We're

too busy! Don't bother us anymore!" Nakayama said. "But after I spoke to him sympathetically, using my mild Aomori accent, he began to soften his attitude. He finally decided to release the names and addresses for the Club's journalists."

"For almost a year, my time was completely occupied assisting journalists with their Tohoku coverage. I made all kinds of phone calls, including to Onagawa officials, automotive parts manufacturers and nuclear power plant officials," she went on.

She admits, however, feeling somewhat guilty of taking advantage of her "mother tongue," since she left Aomori decades ago, and has made her living in Tokyo using standard Japanese *hyojungo*.

Helping supervise and support the Library and Movie Committees found her with the added responsibilities of arranging the Book Breaks and, until recently, the movie sneak previews and screenings of old, socially important films.

She cites the successful presentation of the controversial film, *The Cove*, as an example of the FCCJ's *raison d'être*: The FCCJ, where News is Made. The documentary of the killing of dolphins in the quiet cove of Taichi, Wakayama Prefecture, was presented at the Club in 2009, attracting a capacity audience of 230. Both foreign and Japanese media widely covered the killing of the dolphins and the controversial editing of the film. Nakayama stayed neutral and independent in her role as a library professional, despite being repeatedly requested

to divulge her personal thoughts.

She has two favorite Book Breaks. One was about *The Thames and I*, written by Prince Hironomiya, and translated and presented by Sir High Cortazzi in 2006. The audience numbered 140, including a number of British and Japanese diplomats. The other was by Donald Keene on his book in 2011, *Chronicles of My Life*, which was attended by 210.

Among the unforgettable subjects of searches that Nakayama remembers was the search for WWII veterans. "Most of the old soldiers were over ninety, so it was a race against time."

Another was the search for small auto parts manufacturers in the Toyota recall case. "The manufacturers insisted that if the interviews went wrong, that they would effectively be hanging themselves," she said. "But I never give up. I was determined to help the journalists and was finally able to persuade them to accept the interviews."

Nakayama believes there's plenty of work remaining in the FCCJ library. "We have very rare clippings, books and photos that have been inherited from our members," she said. "Some of our reference books on international relations between Asia and Japan date back over 100 years. These must be saved and digitalized for the use of present and future members."

She pointed out how the historian Manabu Yokohama dug out a document showing Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces of occupied Japan, paying a visit to the Shinto shrine, Kamakura Hachimangu in Sept. 1945 a month after he landed at the Atsugi Airfield as the conqueror of Japan.

Some things have changed, however. "Since member now do a lot of their own researching by internet, the librarians don't get as many inquiries as in the past," Nakayama said. "We should arrange to let members use our computers and other facilities. I'd like to even propose expanding the work spaces in the workroom and the library itself, by scrapping unused old books and bookshelves."

Asking her to stop thinking about the Club library may be difficult. So how will she replace what has been on her agenda for 40 years?

"I would like to spend more time with my 92-year-old mother in Aomori," she said, smiling. "And I will concentrate on my leadership of the exercise walking group in Koto-ku, where I make my home." ❶

Haruko Watanabe is former Tokyo Bureau Chief of the Press Foundation of Asia and producer of the "Women Pioneers" video series

# FCCJ

Where the news is made...  
Be part of it.



The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan is a modern members' club for the ever-changing world of journalism and for associate members from all walks of life.

Located in the very heart of Tokyo on the edge of the legendary Ginza and the Marunouchi business district, the FCCJ is the ideal venue for networking, entertaining, dining and relaxing and...

### making the news

For more on the benefits of membership for yourself or a colleague, contact Naomichi Iwamura at iwamura@fccj.or.jp or 03-3211-4392 for further details



### NEW MEMBERS



Born in Tokyo in 1941, **SATORU MISHIMA** joined Nikkei Inc. in 1964 as a news photographer. There he covered a variety of news moments, domestic and international, including the Asama-Sanso incident and the JAL crash on Mt. Osutaka. In 1994 he transferred to Nikkei BP. While taking architectural and aerial photos for Nikkei Architecture, he broke new ground by daring to shoot people in his architectural shots, a style that is now widely accepted. For several years, he shot the cover photos of the Nikkei Business magazine, one of Japan's most influential and prestigious business magazines. Since 1989, he has photographed the Panasonic Corporation calendars, "Cities Bathed in Floodlight." His works were the subject of two exhibitions at the FCCJ, in Jan. 2004 and July 2011.

#### REGULAR MEMBER

Satoru Mishima, Satoru Mishima Photo Create

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Yoshiaki Miyajima, Tokyu Hotels Co., Ltd.  
Satoru Madono, Reitaku University  
Yoshihiro Nishimura, Ayato Inc.  
Masayuki Takaya, Misumi Group Inc.  
Kiyotaka Emori, Emori & Co., Ltd.

#### PROFESSIONAL/ JOURNALIST ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Peter O'Connor, Musashino University

### NEW IN THE LIBRARY

#### America Alone

Steyn, Mark  
Regnery Publishing, Inc.  
Gift from Mark Steyn

#### The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change

Gore, Al  
Random House

#### Asia for the Asians

Harrel, Paula S.,  
Merwin Asia

#### Bones of Contention

Ambros, Barbara R.  
University of Hawaii Press

#### From the Ruins of Empire

Mishra, Pankaj  
Allen Lane/Penguin Books

#### Watergate

Mallon, Thomas  
Pantheon Books  
Gift from Todd Crowell

#### Radiation: What it is, What You Need to Know

Gale, Robert Peter  
Alfred A. Knopf  
Gift from ShakaiHoken Shinryo  
Hoshu Shiharai Kikin

#### Curie Fujin no Tamatebako

Kissho, Mizue  
Tokyoshoseki  
Gift from Kyosuke Mori

#### Attacks on the Press

The Committee to Protect  
Journalists  
Gift from the Publisher

#### Tate no Ronri

Yoshikawa, Keiichi  
Tendensha  
Gift from the author

#### The Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan

The Asia Society of Japan  
Gift from the Publisher

### FCCJ Sayonara Party for Nakamura-san and Nakayama-san



More than 100 members joined the farewell party on April 26 for two of our longstanding staff members, Akira Nakamura (left) and Kanako Nakayama, both with some 40 years of service to the Club.

General Manager Akira Nakamura, started working in the Club in 1972 and served in a variety of positions during his time. He was promoted to the position of General Manager in 2011. He will act as a consultant in future.

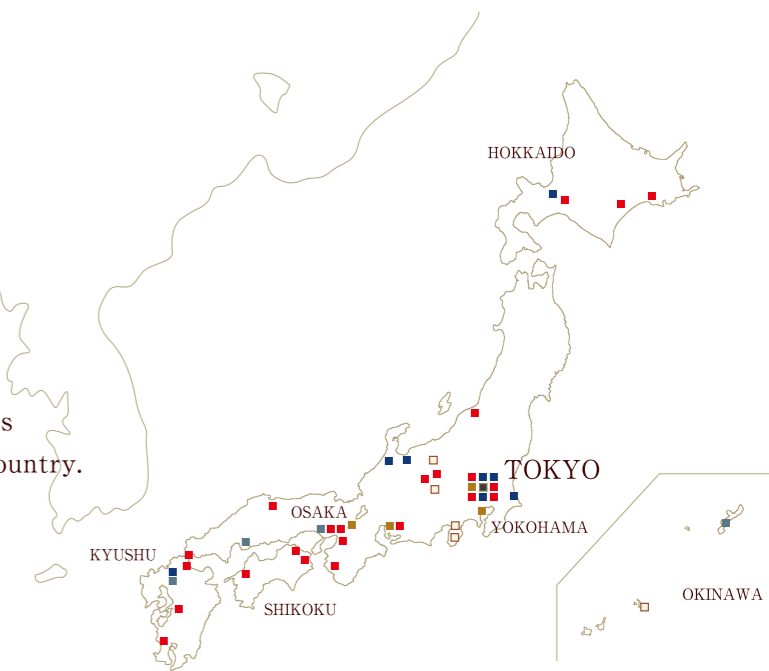


Library Manager, Kanako Nakayama, is leaving the FCCJ at the end of May after almost 41 years. She joined the club as a librarian, and was promoted to Library Manager in December 2001.



The best to you  
no matter where,  
no matter when.

Tokyu Hotels now offers you six Luxury, City, Resort, and Business hotel brands in major cities and tourist areas throughout the country.



**TOKYU HOTELS**  
www.tokyuhotels.com

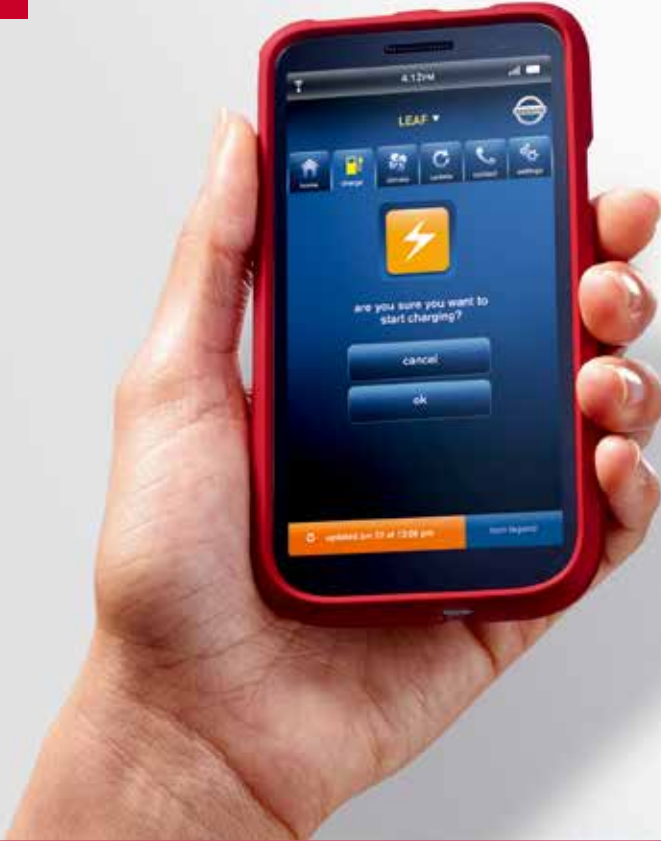




Innovation  
that excites

# WHAT IF YOUR PHONE COULD CHARGE YOUR CAR FOR A CHANGE?

## REMOTE CHARGE



SMARTPHONE CONTROL APP



100% ELECTRIC NISSAN LEAF

Remote charge is available using select Internet-enabled mobile phones.  
Model and license plate may vary by country.

[nissanwhatif.com](http://nissanwhatif.com)