



NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

March 2015, Volume 47 No. 3, ¥400

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY

**Building bridges
in Onagawa**

**Radiation
at a glance**

**Progress at
the nuclear plant?**

**“I was an instant
news media star”**





> THEME. 10
> WIND TURBINE

Twenty years before the wind

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The cover photo is of the Seaside Palace Hotel, Kesennuma, which was some distance from the sea prior to the disaster.



Now, four years later, it is scheduled for demolition – and a controversial seawall is to be built in the bay.

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Andrew Potheary



From the President

FOUR YEARS HAVE ALREADY passed since the March 11, 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima disaster. The high school boy I profiled in my book on the disaster will be graduating from university this month. While his upcoming career offers much promise, thousands remain in the hard hit areas still struggling to recover from that fateful day.

We hear much about a “new fatalism” afflicting Japanese youth. “In violent times young Japanese just shrug,” reads a Japan Times article. Yet the young participants in journalism talks I’ve attended are filled with curiosity and questions. Interestingly, we saw a spike of applications for student memberships in January, thanks to introductions from our members, and our Dateline Tokyo program brought a similar number of interns into the Club last fall. We’re hoping to expand this program in coordination with Temple University Japan.

On March 18 (19:00-20:00) we’ll have our first, monthly Happy Hour for young journalists in the Main Bar. Of course it’s open to journalists of any age as well as nonmembers, so bring your journalist friends.

In addition, we’ve had a flood of inquiries about our program for Japanese elementary, junior high and high school students. It’s part of our public service

efforts, and features a talk by one of our journalist members about their work experience and news issues. So far we’ve booked 15 high school groups from 30 to 180 students each, from all over Japan over the next year.

Please also spread the word about our annual Swadesh DeRoy Scholarship awards targeting university undergraduate and graduate students, which is organized by the Scholarship Committee. The deadline for entries is March 27, and there’s more information on our website at: www.fccj.or.jp/images/PDFs/2015Swadeshscholarship.pdf

Last but not least, the Freedom of the Press Committee has officially announced the Club’s inaugural “Japan Investigative Journalism Awards” for published articles and “Freedom of the Press Awards” with four categories. Judges will include well-known news media figures. Nominations will be accepted from FCCJ members and specified press and media organizations until March 31. Award winners will be announced on Sun. May 3, World Press Freedom Day. The awards ceremony and dinner will be Fri. May 22. Check the Club website for details.

Wishing you a March free of pollen sniffles and full of newly bursting cherry blossoms.
— Lucy Birmingham

Gina Lollobrigida graced us with her presence on May 1, 1974. An Italian actress who became the world’s leading “sex symbol” in the 1950s and 1960s, she became a photojournalist in the mid-1970s and also a sculptor. Seated to her right is Bill Shinn (Sisa News Agency) and to her immediate left is then-president of the FCCJ Sam Jameson (Los Angeles Times), Al Cullison (New York Journal of Commerce), and Sam Jones (AP). Al Cullison served as Club president in 1975-76 and was followed by Bill Shinn in the 1976-77 administrative year.



From now until our 70th anniversary in November 2015, we will turn these pages over to the history of the Club, both of the many esteemed and important guests who faced us – and the world – from the FCCJ dais and of the many Members who have made the Club such a fascinating place to be.

ITALIAN ACTRESS GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA had a long and storied career, appearing in over 60 films, including the role of Sheba in 1959’s *Solomon and Sheba*, alongside Yul Brynner.

She retired from films in the early 1970s to focus on a career as a photojournalist, turning her lens on subjects ranging from Paul Newman and Henry Kissinger to Ella Fitzgerald. But Lollobrigida’s biggest scoop came in mid-1974, shortly after her appearance at the FCCJ, when she arranged an exclusive interview with Fidel Castro through the Cuban Embassy in Moscow (which she had visited to photograph poet Yevgenni Yevtushenko). Published first in Italy and then in other publications around the world, her Castro interview became part of a documentary released in January of 1975.

Her interests were wide-ranging. She created sculptures that were well received and contributed to philanthropic causes, including UNICEF, and unsuccessfully ran for the European Parliament in 1999.

In 2013, she sold her jewelry collection, and donated the nearly \$5 million from the sale to support research on stem cell therapy. Now fully retired, she lives in Sicily.
— Charles Pomeroy

TALES FROM THE ROUND TABLES



THE NEWSMAN NOVELIST

OVER THE YEARS, MANY talented FCCJ journalists have enjoyed fame and fortune through their books’ translations into Japanese. Pulitzer-winner James Michener’s books sold in the millions here. And today, Karel Van Wolferen, Robert Whiting and Bill Emmott’s works make them perennial favorites on the local lecture circuit.

But it’s very likely that the most impressive career in this vein is the one of Ernest Hoberecht (1918-1999), best known to FCCJ members

as the colorful UP bureau chief and former Club president.

Hoberecht started earning “a nice bit of change” producing swashbuckling western pulp in his student days at the University of Oklahoma. His big break as a novelist came after he landed in 1945 as “the first foreign correspondent in Japan” to start work at the UP office. Opportunity came knocking when the U.S. Occupation forces banned the translation of all American books in a bid to control the quality and content of American literature entering Japan,

creating a vacuum in a country hungering for any sliver of Americana.

Hoberecht and his publisher found their way around the restriction by taking a rough manuscript – which Hoberecht dictated to a secretary – directly to translation, in effect making their first effort, *Tokyo Diary*, a Japanese book. The story of an American correspondent’s experience exploring the mysteries of Tokyo, it was an instant bestseller. The novel was graced with the exceptional skills of famed translator Yasuo Okubo, who had first established his reputation with the Japanese edition of *Gone with the Wind* in 1938, even before the movie’s U.S. release.

Hoberecht and Masunaga positioned themselves as Japan’s new literary “brain trust,” and moved

quickly to exploit the momentum with *Tokyo Romance*, Japan’s biggest post-war blockbuster. The book once again starred an American correspondent, this time finding himself in love with Japan’s biggest film star. Most of the story took place at No. 1 Shimbun Alley. In what *Time* magazine described as a “richly corned-up novel” with “faint hints of Madame Butterfly” but “with a happy ending,” it featured the added allure of “sensuous illustrations by Tsuguharu Fujita, billed as the first kissing scenes ever to adorn a Japanese novel.”

Suddenly, Hoberecht was as famous in Japan as his good friend General MacArthur, and 300,000 members of the Ernest Hoberecht fan club collectively swooned at

his eloquence – albeit in the far more gifted Okubo’s Japanese. With Hemingway, Faulkner, and Fitzgerald all shut out of the market, Ernie alone shouldered the “intellectual burden,” as he would call it, of upholding America’s literary legacy against European rivals such as Dostoevsky, Hugo and Bronte, which remained available in Japanese.

“How do you compare the literary accomplishments of Jean Paul Sartre and Ernest Hoberecht?” James Michener was once asked from the floor after a lecture at Waseda University. His Japanese audience was dumbfounded when Michener admitted he not only had never read Hoberecht, but had never heard of the author.

Soon after, *Tokyo Romance* was published in its original, rather

unpolished form, for a U.S. public curious about its impact on modern Japanese thought. *Life* followed with a five-page story, declaring *Tokyo Romance* “the worst novel of modern times” – a review rejected by Hoberecht as “near libelous seeing as I have written worse myself.”

Robust in ego and humor alike, he relished his status as the most popular American author in Japan, without any illusions about his literary talents. Until his departure in 1966 his greatest passion remained his day job at UP, though James Michener guessed his royalties in those heady post-war days may have well been the biggest earnings of any writer in the world.

— The Shimbun Alley Whisperers



Onagawa also rises

*From enemy combatants to saints,
architects and celebrities, this small Tohoku city seems
to have stumbled upon a magic formula for survival in a time of need.*

SHIGERU BAN ARCHITECTS

Deep suffering can never be measured or compared, particularly in regard to tragedies of the dimensions that struck

by **MARY CORBETT**

Tohoku on March 11, 2011. But it's hard to ignore the fact that the notoriously unruly gods of the region spared little that day, and the town of Onagawa's suffering was conspicuous in its scope. Its core was snuggled tightly in a narrow corridor between sea and hills, so when the 14.8 meter wall of water (some witnesses believe it hit nearly 20 meters at its peak) swept over the town, it leveled 70 percent of its buildings, stripped the town of its railway and took the lives of nearly 10 percent of the population in one fleeting sweep.

That the gods targeted Onagawa at all seems cruel. The proud, ancient enclave was already in the throes of both an economic and population freefall. Voting down a 2005 initiative to join six other towns in a merger that would make Ishinomaki city the second largest in Miyagi Prefecture along the way, Onagawa's population had dropped from 16,000 in 1980 to 10,000 in 2010.

Neitzsche could well have been looking at Onagawa when he famously observed "that which does not kill us, makes us stronger." Onagawans appear to have an abundance of that stubborn and resilient DNA which gives some trauma survivors the positive boost that psychologists call "post trauma growth."

Soon after the disaster, the members of the "Town Building Study Group," formed only the year before by the town's businesses and young entrepreneurs to take urgent economy-boosting action, were promptly out on reconnaissance, vigorously mapping the still operational components of the town.

The results were immediate – and dramatic. One week later, construction hands in Onagawa had cleared enough to open a narrow path for supply deliveries and SDF access while volunteers and rescue workers were reporting from Ishinomaki that debris-clogged roads made that town largely

impenetrable. "Let no crane or standing facility be left idle" became the town's battle cry.

"The earthquake may well have been the jolt which snapped us out of the old complacency and mindset that were killing our town," says Yoshihide Abe, CEO of Umemaru Newspapers, a delivery service. Abe resumed newspaper delivery in just three days, and his extensive dealings with local businesses helped gather leaders to form an action group focused on reconstruction.

The president of a fish products manufacturer, Masanori Takahashi, provided his still-intact facilities for meetings, and on his premises promptly built offices for the chamber of commerce, tourist association and fish processing associations to resume the much-needed operations of the town's core businesses. By mid-April, the Reconstruction Coordination Association was up and running to work with the not-yet fully operational municipal government.

The flyboy . . .

In the midst of the frenetic aftermath, mysterious funds started to appear – and not just vague offers of assistance, or promises languishing in the corridors of Japanese aid agencies awaiting distribution. The funds were, for the most part, free from the clutches of the disaster relief Black Hole because they were earmarked specifically for the "The People of Onagawa."

The town was moved and thoroughly perplexed by the gifts, arriving – in large part – from Canada. Only a few elders had any inkling as to the possible roots of such generosity.

The funds were followed by the tread of Canadian feet on the ground, in the form of droves of volunteers with dollops of cash in hand from family and friends, and the reason was quickly apparent. It seemed that a city of 10,000 in British Columbia called Nelson had a particularly strong resonance with the tragedy, a feeling that was reinforced after the

Out of destruction Left, the new Onagawa station building, designed by architect Shigeru Ban, under construction; below, Canadian Robert Hampton Gray, who died attacking a ship in Onagawa bay in the last week of WWII.

local Canadian children folded thousands of origami cranes to raise funds, matched by the city. Their generosity soon arrived in Onagawa as a \$40,000 gift.

What the citizens of Nelson recalled, though largely forgotten in the mist of Japan's collective WWII amnesia, was the memory of one Hampton Gray that echoed from deep beneath the waters of Onagawa Bay.

Hampton (or "Hammy," as he was known to family and friends in his hometown of Nelson) was the most decorated Canadian pilot of WWII. He had joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and fought throughout the rest of the war in such locations as Africa and Norway before joining the attack on Okinawa – and mainland Japan.

On August 9, 1945, less than a week prior to Japan's surrender, Gray was leading an air attack on the escort ship *Amakusa*, part of the naval fleet in Onagawa harbor. Though he sunk the ship, he took fire from five naval batteries as well as from the shore, and was last witnessed by his fellow flight members rolling right in a ball of fire and smoke, and exploding into the waves of the bay. For his heroics, he posthumously received the Victoria Cross, one of only two members of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm to be so decorated.

It was hardly an event, one would think, that would inspire great friendship between nations, particularly as there was also considerable collateral damage to civilians on shore. But, after the war, Canada persevered in delicate negotiations to convince Onagawa to help locate their favorite son's Corsair and remains. When joint recovery operations proved futile due to mines left from the war, Canada then asked the people of Onagawa to permit the construction of a memorial to their fallen hero. Preferably with a view, no less.

Quite understandably, this was cause for considerable discussion and division in the town, but when the memorial was eventually erected in 1989, its opening was attended by international media and Canadian dignitaries – and even some survivors of *Amakusa*. A local Lion's Club pledged to maintain it in perpetuity as a symbol of enduring friendship. One current executive of the Club, Tadao Kato, remains humbled by the enormity of the responsibility entrusted in his generation, particularly as the fate of their chapter was much in the doubt on the day of the earthquake and tidal wave.

That pledge has since blossomed into a formidable bridge linking the small town with the outside world. Perhaps it is a symbolic one, but it comes with enormous practical ramifications for recovery that the town would be ill-advised to ignore. The channel of communications with the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo and Navy remain particularly strong. And though the memorial stone toppled and broke on that day in March, 2011, it has since found a new home by a hospital on a hill with, of course, a view.

The thespian . . .

"We knew about the memorial as children," recalls Masatoshi Nakamura, the renowned actor and singer who hails from Onagawa. "Older people in town used to talk about an air raid in

WWII, but my post-war generation knew little about the story behind the Gray memorial. So the way Canada reached out to us certainly fills us all with gratitude and hope."

Onagawa is lucky to have a celebrity spokesman like Nakamura, who himself lost three cousins and his childhood home to the tsunami. He campaigns tirelessly at schools and charity events to keep Onagawa in the thoughts of people, lest anyone forget that Tohoku's struggles continue.

He also is a sort of bridge, thanks to his starring role in *American Pastime*, a 2007 U.S. film about baseball in a Japanese internment camp. Nakamura was surprised by the unexpected speed and generosity with which former crew and cast members orchestrated donations that he says "just kept coming!"

Onagawa's international bonds were once more on prominent display after stories began to circulate about how the local fish-processing company executive Mitsuru Sato was swept away by the tsunami after leading the Chinese trainees working at his firm to safe ground. Sato instantly became a virtual patron saint to millions in China and Hong Kong, prompting visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the time to request a pilgrimage to Tohoku in honor of the "brave man who transcended nationality" to save his countrymen. Sato's portrait can still be seen proudly displayed in Dalian, from where the majority of trainees living in Onagawa at the time hailed.

The architect

Now, as the town prepares to celebrate a recovery milestone with the completion of the Ishinomaki Line's last few miles into the center of town on March 21, Mayor Yoshiaki Suda gleefully senses a great buzz around Pritzker-winning architect Shigeru Ban's new station building. Ban, who is as well known as a humanitarian visionary as a pioneering architect possessing a magic touch with unusual materials, was much feted for the many emergency structures he created for Tohoku as well as for the ergonomic paper partitions his Voluntary Architects' Network installed pro bono to give Onagawa and other towns' evacuees a modicum of much appreciated privacy in the crowded evacuation centers.

"A friendship nurtured in such calamity is important and of deep value"

The station building is a commission that the mayor – himself a happy resident of Ban's pro bono temporary housing since the tsunami – feels "is not only a reflection of Ban's exceptional talent, but one which brings his stature and international interest to the town." He goes

on to add, "The publicity certainly won't hurt."

"I'm happy and honored to be a part of the station reopening," says Ban, "and I hope it provides a little respite for tired travelers, even though they may not come in large numbers at first."

Modest projections all around, but everywhere the excitement is palpable. The town is already looking forward to the next phase of Onagawa Station construction that will include a new shopping promenade and a park. Kato, the keeper of the flame from the Lions Club, is already contemplating the possibility that Hampton Gray's memorial may one day find a more visible resting place in the new plaza, so that many more can pay their respects.

"A friendship nurtured in such calamity is important and of deep value," said Premier Wen Jiabao that fateful year when all seemed lost. He could have been speaking for the entire world, which luckily for Onagawa, continues to watch . . . and care. ●



Mary Corbett is a writer and documentary producer based in Tokyo.

MARCH 11, 2011 – 2015



AP PHOTO/SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI

Update on “Ground Zero”

The litany of steady progress and stubborn obstacles at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant may not claim headlines four years after the fact, but there are plenty of stories to go around.

After four years and six visits (the most recent late last year) to the site of the worst nuclear accident in a quarter of a century, I find myself in the unfamiliar position of struggling to come up with a strong, news-led way to report the situation. The problems confronting its operator, Tokyo Electric Power, are familiar to anyone who has followed the crisis since it began on the afternoon of March 11, 2011.

We know that Tepco is battling to cope with the build-up of contaminated water; that some among the site's 6,000 workers are unhappy about pay and conditions; and that the removal of melted fuel from three badly damaged reactors looks as distant a possibility as it did during the deeply unsettling aftermath of the disaster.

The near-elusive news peg reflects another fact about Fukushima that some in the anti-nuclear community will find unpalatable: that for all the public opprobrium heaped on Tepco, the utility and its vast network of contractors have made demonstrable progress since the disaster last featured prominently in the pages of the *Number 1 Shimbun*.

Tepco deserves credit, for instance, for reaching an important milestone last November when it completed the safe removal of 1,331 spent fuel assemblies in reactor No. 4. By the end of the year, a much smaller number of unused assemblies had also been removed from the reactor's elevated storage pool and transported to a safer location on site.

As critics warned of catastrophe – Japan's former ambassador to Switzerland, Mitsuhei Murata, went as far as claiming that “the fate of Japan and the whole world” was at stake – engineers approached the task with a sagacity that struck many of the foreign correspondents who toured the reactor just before removal work began in late 2014. “This was a risky

by JUSTIN MCCURRY

job, so when we removed the last fuel assembly we were delighted,” Yuichi Kagami, who oversaw the fuel removal, said. “This was a big step

forward in the decommissioning process.”

Dale Klein, the former chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission who heads Tepco's nuclear reform monitoring committee, believes that a corner has been turned. The safe removal of the fuel assemblies, he said, “deserves recognition as a major technical achievement, as an advance in creating a safer environment, and as an example of how careful planning and an embrace of a safety-first culture can produce excellent results.”

No cure for the headache: What to do with the water?

Tepco has made slower progress in addressing the perennial problem of containing and treating huge quantities of contaminated water that have built up on the site. Until they do that, proper decommissioning – an unprecedented technical challenge that is expected to take at least 40 years and cost tens of billions of dollars – will be practically impossible, Akira Ono, Fukushima Daiichi's manager, told foreign media organisations recently.

“The contaminated water is the most pressing issue – there is no doubt about that,” Ono said. “Our efforts to address the problem are at their peak now. Though I cannot say exactly when, I hope things start getting better when the measures start taking effect.”

Officials estimate that about 400 tons of groundwater flow from the surrounding mountains and into the basements of three stricken reactors, where it mixes with a similar quantity of water that's used to prevent melted fuel from overheating and triggering another major accident. By late last year, well

Sending arms into battle In this 2015 photo, a remote-controlled, snake-like robot is lowered through the mock-up of a containment chamber in Ibaraki.

over 200,000 tons of water were being stored in about 1,000 giant tanks that occupy land formerly blanketed by woods. Tepco officials say a new tank must be built roughly every two-and-a-half days.

The firm is pinning its hopes on a multifaceted approach to water containment, although it recently conceded that it will miss by several months its self-imposed March deadline for completing the treatment of toxic water. The measures include a steel barrier that will prevent contaminated water from flowing into the open sea; pumping groundwater to the surface before it becomes contaminated and the construction of a 1.4-kilometer-long “ice wall” around the four damaged reactors. Tepco is also working on ways to cover the ground with concrete and asphalt to stop rainwater from soaking into the ground.

In tandem with the ¥32 billion ice wall, the utility says it is almost ready to launch a new, improved version of its ALPS [advanced liquid processing system] water-treatment apparatus that can remove more than 60 radioactive elements. Recent “hot testing” of the apparatus has been successful, Shinichi Kawamura, head of risk communication at Fukushima Daiichi, told visiting reporters last November.

“This is a high-performance system because it uses only filters and absorbents to remove the contaminants,” Kawamura said. “The old system depended on chemical agents, which caused problems and created a lot more waste. We have confidence in this machinery.”

The progress Tepco and its partners have made in recent months can't conceal the fact that radiation levels inside the damaged reactor buildings remain dangerously high four years after the triple meltdown. Earlier this year, the utility showcased some of the remote-controlled robots that have been specially designed for tasks that no human can safely perform. One newly unveiled device uses muons, a type of cosmic ray, that easily permeate light objects but are blocked by heavy substances such as uranium. Those properties should allow experts to create an image of melted fuel resting deep inside reactors Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

“This is a great example of how the innovation and cooperation from external experts is helping us overcome challenges and make progress toward decommissioning,” said Naohiro Masuda, Tepco's chief decommissioning officer.

The human cost: plant workers and the community

Technology aside, the success of the decommissioning operation depends on the ability of the thousands of people on-site to do their jobs in safe conditions. The dangers facing the estimated 7,000 men involved in cleaning up the Daiichi plant were highlighted in January when a worker fell to his death inside an empty water storage tank. The same week, another died after equipment fell on him at the neighboring Daini plant.

The number of injuries at Daiichi, excluding cases of heat-stroke, has almost doubled in the past two years. In fiscal 2013, Tepco recorded 23 injuries, while the number between April and November last year had already reached 40. The firm attributed the rise to an increase in the average number of workers at the site during weekdays, from

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

3,000 in early 2014 to almost 7,000 today.

In response to concerns that lack of proper rest was making Fukushima Daiichi workers more susceptible to lapses in concentration, Tepco will open a new facility in March where up to 1,200 workers at a time can rest and have meals. A new venture will provide nutritious meals for about 3,000 workers a day from April.

The utility is also under fire for failing to ensure that its contractors treat their employees fairly. Amid revelations by journalists at Reuters that some unscrupulous firms were withholding mandatory allowances, four former and current workers last autumn took Tepco and several of its partner firms to court seeking millions of yen in unpaid wages.

Many Daiichi workers hail from the communities that were rendered uninhabitable by the plant's toxic discharge. Even in villages where evacuees have been given the all clear to return, optimism is tempered by the realisation that many will never be tempted back.

The village of Kawauchi is on the edge of the original 20-kilometer no-go zone where radiation levels have been deemed low enough for residents to return, and is one of several villages I've revisited to monitor attempts to resettle evacuees. Dur-

ing my last visit, in October, its tireless mayor, Yuko Endo, had mixed feelings about the recent lifting of the evacuation order there. “There are some of us for whom the situation has improved a little,” he said, “but there are others who have been completely unable to resume a normal life.”

Like many other places that were turned into ghost towns by radiation, Kawauchi has divided largely along generational lines. “Among elderly residents there were those who were desperate go back to their own

homes and restart their normal lives,” Endo said. “They feel that they want to spend their twilight years in their own homes in their own village. On the other hand, young families with children are worried about radiation and feel unable to come back.”

Many experts accept that the official policy of reducing radiation levels to just one millisievert a year is unrealistic. What started as a non-negotiable target has now become a long-term “aspiration” amid delays in the faltering mission to decontaminate areas around homes, schools, hospitals and other public buildings.

Iitate village is one municipality that the government plans to encourage people to return to in March 2016, when they hope to win approval to lift the evacuation order. But post-disaster Iitate little resembles the village once celebrated as one of Japan's most picturesque.

Hanako Hasegawa, a displaced resident from Iitate, says most of her 6,000 former neighbors now live in other parts of Fukushima Prefecture, with the remainder scattered across Japan. “People who visit say it's a sad place to be now,” says Hasegawa, who works at a drop-in advice center for villagers at a temporary housing complex just outside Fukushima city. “Yet they still go back to weed the garden and tidy homes they will probably never live in.”

Hasegawa's story, and those of tens of thousands of other Fukushima evacuees, no longer makes the headlines. There is a real risk that, as each anniversary passes, the coverage will abate and their plight will be forgotten, in Japan and around the world. As foreign correspondents, we owe it to them to make sure that doesn't happen. ●

MARCH 11, 2011 - 2015

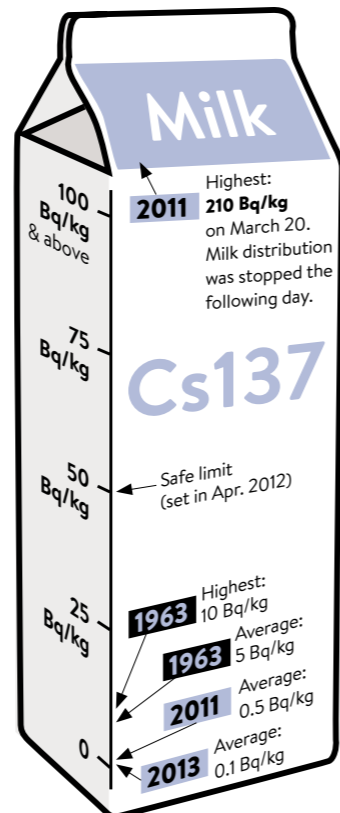
FOUR YEARS AFTER: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

2012 Percentage of Fukushima rice that tested above 100Bq/kg limit

10,246,086 bags measured, 71 over 100Bq/kg



2014
0% 10,870,963 bags measured, 0 over 100Bq/kg



Contamination in milk compared to 1963

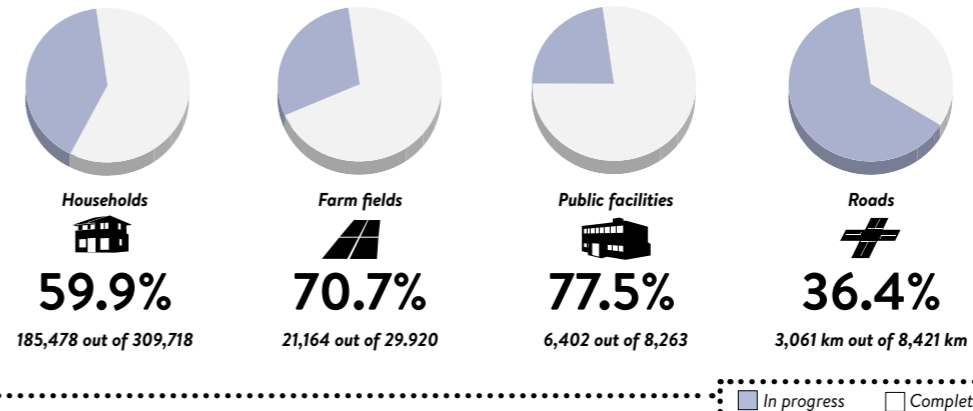
Strontium: Only 66 samples of milk have been measured for Sr90 since 2011.
• 1963: avg: about 1 Bq/l highest: about 3 Bq/kg
• 2011: avg: 0.03 Bq/kg highest: about 0.5 Bq/kg

15 samples were over the limit in Fukushima, all in March 2011, most for Iodine - 1131 - (up to 5300 Bq/kg)

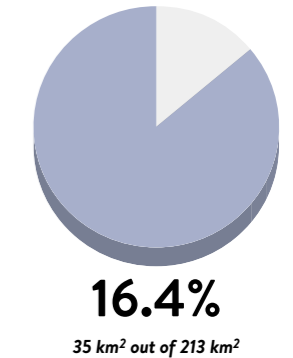
Jan. 2015 Contamination in wild boar above 100Bq/kg in Fukushima

24 out of **29** samples Highest found **10,000** Bq/kg

As of Nov. 2014 Decontamination (undertaken at least once) in Fukushima

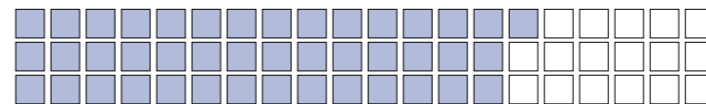


Decontamination completed vs that in progress in the Special Decontamination Area (original evacuation zone)



Completed: Tamura, Kawauchi, Naraha, Okuma
In progress: Katsurao, Kawamata, Minamisoma, Iitate, Namie, Tomioka, Futaba

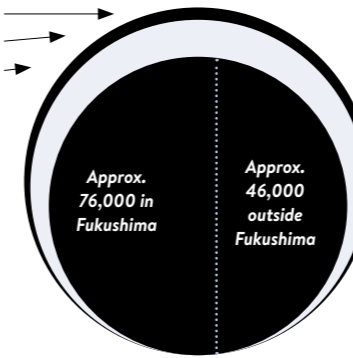
2014 "Hot spot" decontamination in municipalities outside of Fukushima



60 municipalities (in Iwate, Miyagi, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, and Chiba)
17 complete (in Ibaraki and Gunma)

June 2012 164,218
June 2013 150,488
Dec. 2014 121,585

Number of evacuees



Dec. 2014

Number of Fukushima residents screened for internal contamination

238,527

Number meeting government goal of less than 1mSv/yr

238,501
(99.9%)

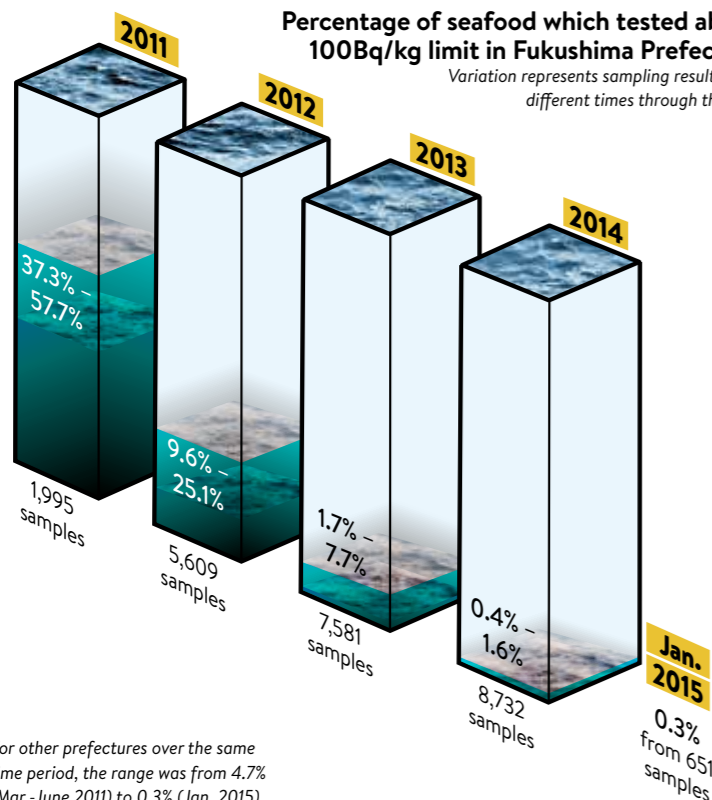
Comparison of internal contamination data provided

	dose/yr	Bq/body	Bq/kg	repeated tests	identify high risk groups	test food
Municipalities*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fukushima Pref.	✓	X	X	X	X	X

* includes Minamisoma, Hirata, Kawachimura, Miharu and Iwaki

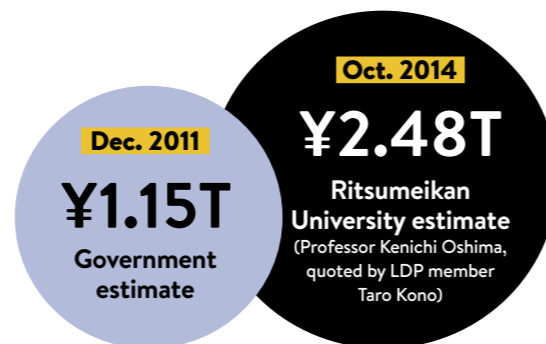
Percentage of seafood which tested above 100Bq/kg limit in Fukushima Prefecture

Variation represents sampling results from different times through the year

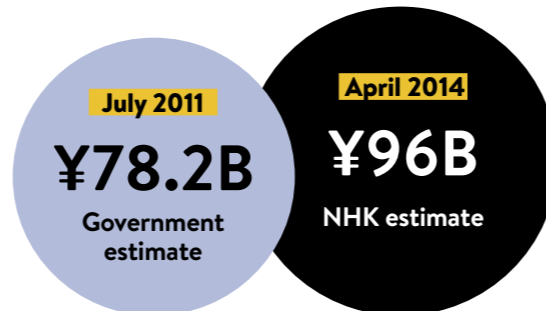


For other prefectures over the same time period, the range was from 4.7% (Mar.-June 2011) to 0.3% (Jan. 2015)

Total decontamination cost

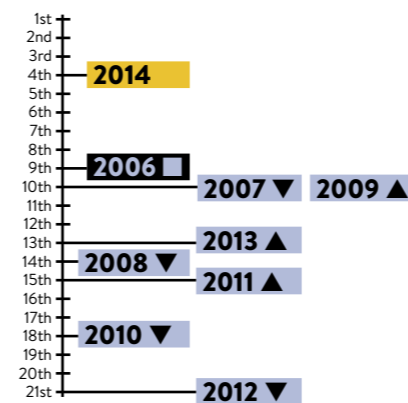


Total cost of the Fukushima health survey



Mental health (suicide)

Fukushima's ranking in the suicide rate in Japan, 2006-2014



Sharp increase noticed in those aged 80 and over in 2012, and in females aged 20-29 in 2013.

Overall national suicide rates have been declining since 1997.

Iwate has always been in the top 6 in this period, and remains higher than Fukushima.

All data from official sources: details can be found at www.fccj.or.jp/number-1-shimbun.html (March 2015 issue).

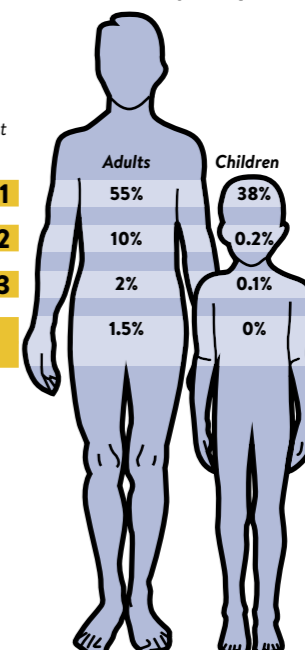
Official data relating to Fukushima is made available online by several different government agencies, but only a few categories, such as environmental radiation levels and food contamination, can be adequately cross-checked against independent sources.

The data presented here was collated by AZBY BROWN, a Safecast volunteer and director of the KIT Future Design Institute, and ANTONIO PORTELA, an independent researcher and translator. All graphics by ANDREW POTHECARY.

Percentage of people with detectable internal contamination (300 Bq/body)

Data from Minamisoma municipality. Fukushima Prefecture data does not provide this information

Sept.-Dec. 2011 55%
Apr.-Sept. 2012 10%
Apr.-Sept. 2013 2%
Oct. 2013-Mar. 2014 1.5%



Number of Fukushima children (under 18) diagnosed with thyroid cancer

Feb. 2015
Preliminary screening
367,687 eligible
298,577 screened
297,046 results
109 cancer cases

Data suggests a normal prevalence rate in children of about 36 cases per 100,000 people.

Full-scale screening began in 2014, to be conducted every 2 years until age 20 and every 5 years after 20.

For 2014: 1/5 screened, 8 cancer cases

Inching back to life

Despite the continued suffering of many thousands of residents, the rebuilding of Japan's devastated northeast is agonizingly slow.

by DAVID MCNEILL



On March 13, 2011, I walked through Minamisanriku with colleagues Julian Ryall and Rob Gilhooly, scarcely able to take in what we were seeing. A community of over 17,000 people had been washed away in a giant muddy deluge. Under the crunch of our feet, the town was almost completely silent save for the caw of crows and the distant hiss of a sea that had erupted with such terrible, unexpected violence.

Four years after the tsunami that pummeled Japan's northeast, turning communities like this into watery morgues, the mantra from Tokyo is that the area's recovery, the economy and the state of the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, which suffered a triple meltdown after its cooling system failed, are under control. The reality, of course, is very different.

To be fair, the task was always going to be enormous. Across the worst hit areas of Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima prefectures, over a million buildings were damaged or destroyed and nearly 19,000 people left dead or missing. An early damage estimate by the World Bank of US\$235 billion is now considered too low, rendered obsolete by inflation and the ballooning price tag for cleaning up the nuclear mess.

"Every recovery from natural disaster is struck by criticism of the speed of reconstruction, and of the tension between local and central governments about who is in charge," points out Margareta Wahlstrom, the UN's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction. Wahlstrom is in Japan to prepare for a disaster-risk conference this month in Sendai, Tohoku's largest city.

Nevertheless, the Sendai conference-goers will surely be struck by views of the agonizingly slow pace of recovery around them. Swathes of the northeast coast are still wastelands. Less than 10 percent of the 29,000 housing units planned for the tsunami zone had been completed by the end of last year. Over 170,000 people still live in temporary housing in the region. Tens of thousands have left, perhaps permanently. Minamisanriku has lost 20 percent of its population to death and displacement, according to state broadcaster NHK.

The breaking up of local communities

The tsunami has accelerated pre-2011 demographic shifts. Older people with generational ties to coastal areas and family graves have stayed, but the young are drifting away, pulled by work and nudged by the fear that their communities will never

be rebuilt. Nearly 46,000 people have left the coastal areas of Iwate. About a third of Minamisoma's 71,000 people, mostly the young, have never returned from the exodus of March 2011.

Despite the public rhetoric that the towns and villages around the Daiichi plant are becoming livable again, the population figures say otherwise. Many households have used nuclear compensation packages of about ¥15 million per person to relocate. By autumn last year, about 300 out of the 1,800 households in the irradiated mountain village of Iitate had bought houses elsewhere, according to anthropologist Tom Gill.

In a book on the impact of the disaster, *Japan Copes With Calamity: Ethnographies of the Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disasters of March 2011*, Gill and the editors say: "What is true of Iitate is even more true for the communities closer to the nuclear power plant, such as Namie, Tomioka, and of course, Futaba and Okuma." They conclude: "It is safe to say that these communities have been dispersed permanently."

Around the disaster zone, Japan's construction army has been

Namie, Tomioka, Futaba and Okuma: "It is safe to say that these communities have been dispersed permanently."

pressed into action. The rubble-mountains of twisted metal and splintered wood that scarred the outskirts of most coastal towns and cities are gone. The construction boom has sent the cost of building plots, materials and labor soaring. Areas of high ground in the tsunami zone have seen three years of record land-price increases; Shirasagidai, a district of Ishinomaki, has seen a cumulative increase of 129 percent, according to Gill.

That boom is pricing the poor out of many areas even as much of the wider rebuilding crawls along. Futoshi Toba, the mayor of Rikuzentakata, which lost most of its city center and nearly a tenth of its population, is among several local leaders to vent his frustration. He has repeatedly criticized Japan's labyrinthine bureaucracy and disputes over levees and where to relocate houses and businesses.

Toba has cited a slow-moving plan to relocate hundreds of homeless families to hills overlooking the city, bringing him into collision with multiple bureaucracies. Clearing the hillside forest, leveling and rezoning land and reconstructing large buildings must receive permission from overlapping government agencies, eating up precious time as the life ebbs out of his city. The danger for communities like Rikuzentakata

and Minamisanriku is that the longer plans for revival stay parked in bureaucratic limbo, the more their residents lose faith in the future.

Where have all the funds gone?

The problem is not a lack of money. By autumn last year, about ¥5.5 trillion in reconstruction funds had been transferred from the central government to the three worst-hit prefectures. But 60 percent is still parked in local bank accounts, according to a landmark Reuters report. The money sits unused as towns and villages debate whether to move back from the sea and abandon whole communities that have stood for hundreds of years, or build enormous walls to keep it out.

The central government says these walls must be built. A few months after the disaster, it pledged to build hundreds of seawalls and breakers in Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate, at a total cost of about one trillion yen. Many more are planned. A joint 2012 report by the ministries of agriculture and land

said that 14,000 kilometers of Japan's 35,000-kilometer coastline requires tsunami protection.

The seawall solution is controversial, not least because the evidence for their effectiveness is, at very best, mixed. Fudai, a village sheltering behind a giant concrete shield once condemned as a costly boondoggle, escaped unscathed in 2011. But in the city of Kamaishi, a \$1.6 billion breakwater listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's largest, crumbled on impact with the tsunami.

Nearly 90 percent of the seawalls along the northeast coast suffered similar fates. Critics say they made the impact of the deluge in many places worse. "There is simply no guarantee that seawalls will stop every single tsunami," said Nobuo Shuto, a tsunami engineer at Tohoku University.

Last year, I travelled with *The Guardian's* Justin McCurry to view one of the most disputed seawalls, in the village of Koizumi, Miyagi Prefecture. The deluge had flattened Koizumi

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

2011: Opposite, a deserted street in Namie.

2014: Left, a refugee from Iitate – Eiko Kanno – still living in temporary housing just outside Fukushima.

and drowned 40 of its 1,800 residents. The government's response was to order a 14.7-meter wall, with a price tag of ¥230 million, all to shelter a community that is no longer there. The village has been moved 3km inland from the sea.

Even more puzzlingly, the land ministry admits the new structures are not designed to withstand the sort of seismic event that occurred in 2011. That quake is considered a once-in-a-thousand-year calamity and nothing could block the tsunami that followed. Koizumi's wall is less than half the size of the highest wave that hit the area in 2011. Yet the walls will save lives, and many residents demand them, insists the ministry.

Sea walls face opposition from residents

Hiroko Otsuka, who grew up near Koizumi, disagrees. She says coastal residents sheltering behind the walls are lulled into a sense of false security, and lose the ability to read the sea. The 2011 deluge killed her mother and her brother's two children. They could have been saved if they had fled 10 meters up a hill behind their house, she insists. They didn't run because they thought the village seawall would protect them.

While local communities wrestle with these dilemmas, reconstruction stalls. Few of the 460 planned levees along the northeast coast have been completed, according to NHK. Two-thirds had not even started by 2014. "Many prefectural governments have foregrounded the seawalls as a precondition of rebuilding," said Marieluise Jonas, a landscape architectural designer with RMIT University in Australia.

Given the uncertainties, the price tag for putting Tohoku back to rights is scientific guesswork. The biggest uncertainty of all is the nuclear cleanup. Decontamination costs depend on lowering annual radiation to one millisievert, a goal now

widely seen as unrealistic. Tepco says decommissioning the Daiichi's four damaged reactors (the plant has six) will cost ¥978.6 billion, but that does not include the cleanup, fuel storage or compensation.

The Japan Center for Economic Research, a private research institute, put the bill over the next decade at ¥5.7tn to ¥20tn, excluding compensation to the fisheries and farming industries. A broader calculation, by the same research institute, puts the entire cost of the disaster at ¥40-50tn. Remarkably, Tepco soldiers on. In December the company said it expects a pretax profit of ¥227 billion for the current business year. The good news for consumers is that means no rise in electricity bills – at least for now.

Around Tohoku, when you talk to people languishing in cramped two-room housing, above all a consistent fear emerges – they are being forgotten. This fear has deepened since Tokyo won the right to host the 2020 Olympics, drawing more firepower away from the northeast to the already rich, overstuffing capital. In a February interview with *The Economist*, Takuya Tasso, governor of Iwate, spoke for many when he said the government is losing interest in the region. ●

Confessions of an Instant! News! Celebrity!

● MATT ALT is in Tokyo ●

I am not a news correspondent. Yet there I was on March 11, 2011, describing the Tohoku earthquake on millions of American TV screens. I was among the very first on the ground in Japan to do so, just 45 minutes after the first tremors subsided. Already shocked by the earthquake and horrified by the first images of the tsunami slamming the Tohoku coastline, I remained utterly unaware of the media maelstrom I was about to be swept up in myself.

CNN was the first to call. At the time, my wife Hiroko served as the local editor for the Japanese-language edition of their now-defunct travel and lifestyle website. That she might get such a call at a moment of crisis had crossed our minds, though for a news media that “covers the world,” one would expect that we’d be farther down the go-to list. Hiroko’s English is borderline native, but she is more comfortable behind a screen than on one. And so it was that I found the phone thrust at me, listening to her editor tell me I’d be getting a call from Atlanta soon.

Within minutes, I did. Almost instantly, call waiting rang. This one was from CNN New York. A heated discussion ensued between the two cities over who had “dibs” on me and my story. What the hell did I know? I toggled back and forth trying to make heads or tails out of the situation as the dueling producers grew more and more agitated. Eventually the matter was settled when one began a countdown and suddenly I found myself untethered, floating on live television with nothing but anchorwoman Rosemary Church’s questions to guide me.

She had to ask surprisingly few. The sole direction her producer had given me was to “just keep talking.” This I did,



When an unsuspecting Tokyoite answered his phone on March 11, he stepped into the dazzling light of the 24/7 media machine.

staple: how did it feel? I would answer that question over and over and over again, over the next 72 hours.

Anderson Cooper was worried about me

The phone began ringing the moment CNN hung up. It wouldn’t let up until the first overseas journalists landed in Japan several days later. I’m not sure how the producers got my number so quickly. But they were hungry for content and had found someone who could give it. My sole qualifications were having endured a rough shake for approximately two minutes and the ability to speak English.

My Twitter feed exploded. I went from a handful of followers to thousands in the blink of an eye. My Facebook and email inboxes flooded with friend requests and letters from well-wishers, old friends and old teachers from college

and high school. Former neighbors phoned my parents after decades of having fallen out of touch. In the internet age it’s hip to run down “old-fashioned” media, but this response was a fascinating lesson in the incredible power and reach of mainstream television.

Interview requests continued to arrive via email and cell phone. I tried to respond to as many as I could. It would be easy to claim I did this for some higher purpose. The real reason was far simpler. It was cathartic. Talking kept me from thinking. Thinking about what was going on up north, about the overheating reactors, about how many people had died. How many of the victims had seen it coming? How many had just gotten home from the grocery store, as I had been when

the quake hit Tokyo? How many still needed help when I was chatting away with news celebrities?

The next week was a blur of virtual “green rooms” and wee-hour Skype appearances. We took to unplugging the phone whenever we needed rest. An alphabet soup of media organizations deluged my inbox with *Urgent Interview Requests* for the internet, radio, and TV. CBC. NBC. CBS. Even the Oprah Winfrey Network. The absurdities piled up. One show subtitled me a “survivor.” Anderson Cooper asked, repeatedly, if I was “in a safe place” (I was in my living room). Once a nobody, suddenly I was going toe-to-toe with correspondents of major news organizations.

Things hit a personal low point about a week later. By this time, news of the reactor meltdowns completely dominated the coverage. Hiroko and I scrutinized the news for scraps of usable information while bookmarking websites and Twitter feeds of locals with Geiger counters. At times the radiation angle reached a hysterical pitch; you’d be forgiven for missing the fact that tens of thousands of people had been literally wiped off the face of the planet days earlier. The domestic sources were doing a decent job of covering things, or as decent a job as anyone could give the slim details Tepco and the government were doling out to the world, and if for whatever reason you didn’t trust them, a small army of foreign journalists had “parachuted” into Japan for their own countries’ piece of the action.

“My sole qualifications were havin g endured a rough shake for approximately two minutes and the ability to speak English” ● “My sole qualifi

The end of the affair

I was asked by several foreign news organizations to go up north as a fixer. The work wasn’t unfamiliar to me; I’ve field-produced segments for various organizations, albeit under less stressful conditions. But going closer than one needed to the steaming husk of Fukushima Daiichi seemed like utter folly, even before I discussed it with my wife, even before my parents phoned to politely request I stay put. Later I heard about someone who’d said “yes.” A major TV news organization had him set up a triage area in an emergency shelter. They weren’t triaging for injuries. They were triaging for people who were more likely to burst into tears on camera. It was about this time that I decided I’d had enough.

But for whatever reason – lack of sleep? Inertia? Vanity? – I allowed an MSNBC producer to coax me into appearing on Chris Matthew’s “Hardball.” It would require getting up at 5:30am for his live stateside broadcast. Hiroko and I were stretched thin, dealing with the aftershocks, the temporary food shortages, and now the threat of fallout from the reactors. *One last time*, I thought, *and then I’m done. There are more*

important stories than some white guy who “suffered” two minutes of shaking. At 4:30, I began going down the final checklist with the producer. That’s when the direction came: “Just tell him what it was like when the tsunami hit Tokyo.”

I reminded her, not for the first time, that a tsunami had not hit Tokyo. It had hit many hundreds of kilometers north. A pregnant pause ensued. Presently I was told Chris’ current guest was running over and I wouldn’t be needed after all, so sorry to trouble you.

It’s a testament to the gutting of foreign news bureaus that someone like me even found a place in the media spotlight in the first place. But putting aside the lack of “boots on the ground,” the fact was nobody really knew what was

going on at the time. The areas most affected by the disaster were all but cut off from the outside world, and the Fukushima reactors represented a classic “black box” situation in that nobody save for Tepco had any eyes and ears inside. (To a certain extent, not even they did.) Updates were sporadic, but the insatiable need to feed America’s 24/7 TV news cycle demanded daily, sometimes hourly scoops. A media baby crying for food, a change or simply attention.

This isn’t to say there wasn’t solid reporting going on during the crisis, though most of it was in print, and the majority of that by the rarest of beasts, the resident bilingual journalists. As a “civilian” stuck in the thick of it, the pieces that stung most were punditry crafted purely to stoke emotional responses at an already emotional time, while the best focused on attempting to convey facts, such as scientific or historical background, expanding on official releases, or the plight of those who had lost their homes or families. Often, chaotic situations unfold in dangerous locales of the sort only specialized correspondents are willing to go; a chaotic situation in a country as safe and easily accessible as Japan represented a Petri dish for the best and worst journalism had to offer.

In the end I was really only active for less than a week, filling the gap until the “name” journalists hit the ground themselves. As soon as the pros arrived, the requests dried up. I’ve never heard back from the army of producers and reporters who’d had me fill their Urgent Requests. I had no expectations or desire to turn a crisis into a career, but even I was a little shocked at how quickly and totally the spotlight shifted. It was an odd mix of relief tinged with withdrawal. The attention had been fleeting, but incredibly intense. For a brief moment I had reached millions more than I ever had with my own books, articles, translations, and television projects, a thrilling prospect for any content creator. That was the sense of loss. But of course, it wasn’t ever really about me. Thus the relief.

Today only a handful of YouTube videos remain as evidence of my little foray into the mass-media spotlight. Which is as it should be. Because in the end, none of the stress or sleepless nights I went through hold a candle to that of the people who lost family members and homes to the tsunami and nuclear disasters. Still, I’m honored to have had a tiny part in giving the world a window into a desperate situation in its earliest hours. ●

Matt Alt is a Tokyo-based writer and translator. He is the co-author of *Yokai Attack!* and other books on Japanese culture.

A Japanese photojournalist who had his passport confiscated on the grounds that he was planning to cover the conflict in Syria told the FCCJ that he intends to take the government to court.



Yuichi Sugimoto at the Club

Stripped!

by JULIAN RYALL

YUICHI SUGIMOTO SAID IN a press conference on Feb. 12 that the actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are “unacceptable” and that they set a “dangerous precedent” for other journalists and photographers who feel it is their duty to report on events happening in other parts of the world – even if there is a degree of danger involved.

Under duress, Sugimoto handed his passport over on Feb. 7 to officials of the passport division of the ministry – who visited him at his home in Niigata Prefecture and were backed up by

Sugimoto quoted the ministry official as saying “it is inconceivable that your passport will be returned to you”

police officers. The ministry officials acted just six days after extremists belonging to the Islamic State released footage of the execution of Kenji Goto, another freelance journalist, in Syria. A few days previously, the same group had released a video showing the decapitated body of Haruna Yukawa.

“I know that the government has issued an advisory against Japanese people travelling to Syria and is providing information on the dangers of the region, but that is an advisory and not a binding order,” Sugimoto said.

“I never had any intention of going to parts of Syria that are controlled by the Islamic State and I was hoping to take

part in a press tour organized by local Kurdish groups of the recently liberated town of Kobani,” he added, emphasizing that he has extensive experience operating in conflict zones after covering wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and the former Yugoslavia during his long freelance career.

With his passport confiscated – and Sugimoto quoted the ministry official who took it as saying “it is inconceivable that your passport will be returned to you” – he insisted he is being deprived of his right to travel and his ability to earn a living. “I have been told this is the first time since the end of the war that the government has confiscated the passport of a journalist.

I feel this sets a very dangerous precedent for all Japanese journalists because it takes away our freedom and right to report the news,” he said.

Sugimoto finished his speech with a plea to the foreign correspondents present to give him advice on how to respond to the Japanese government's draconian decision and whether withdrawing a journalist's passport would be considered appropriate in their countries.

Pio D’Emilia made it quite clear that such a measure would be unacceptable in Italy.

“No, it’s not possible,” he said. “In Italy, every citizen has the

constitutional right to have a passport.” The only situation that Italian authorities can use to withhold or withdraw a passport from one of its citizens is if he or she has been convicted of a crime, he said.

Richard Lloyd Parry, of the *Times* of London, echoed the conviction that the British government attempting a similar tactic would be unthinkable. “If this happened in the United Kingdom, there would be a huge, huge controversy – but I get the impression here that there are quite a lot of people who believe it is wrong because they say it is *meiwaku* [inconvenient] to other people.”

Sugimoto conceded that his determination to fight for his right to travel and work overseas has not been entirely welcomed, with some people calling his home and accusing him of being a “traitor,” although the vast majority of the messages he has received have been supportive.

The situation regarding the provision of passports to French journalists wishing to work in parts of the Middle East that are considered dangerous is similar to that in Italy and Britain, according to Joel Legendre, from French broadcaster RTL.

“What I hear from France is that we can go there if we are going to work and we are not a member of Isil,” he said. “I also understand that the delivery of passports in many countries is very different from Japan; in Japan it looks as if they are ‘granted’ rather than being ‘owned.’ In France we have a passport, but there is a difference legally speaking.”

The journalists’ perspective on the situation was tempered by comments by Rasromani Khalil Hassan, the ambassador of Bahrain, who called on Sugimoto to put himself in the shoes of the Japanese foreign minister, who has a duty to protect the country’s nationals – particularly given the executions of Goto and Yukawa in recent weeks.

Sugimoto replied that if he were the minister, then he would make the dangers clear to the journalist, but that the final decision should not be in the hands of the politician.

The Japanese government does not appear to be in a mood to back down, however, with Yoshihide Suga, the chief cabinet secretary, telling a press conference a few days earlier that it has a duty to protect the lives of Japanese nationals. ●

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

FCCJ EXHIBITION

BEFORE – 3.11 – AFTER What the Fukushima Nuclear Explosion Did to Our Beloved Rose Garden

co-organized by Hisako Matsuda and Maya Moore



AS WE APPROACH THE fourth anniversary of the Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown, the general reaction – both in Japan and elsewhere – is that of disinterest. That is perhaps the most distressing aspect for the victims of that tragic day, since little about the events has faded from their memory. So it is of vital importance to think about what it is like to lose one’s family, home, livelihood and dreams.

This exhibition gives a unique and personal perspective to the ongoing suffering of the many residents of Fukushima who are now refugees within their own country. The contrast between the magnificent, vibrant rose blossoms in their prime, and the haunting images of the present Futaba Rose Garden, located just eight kilometers from the nuclear plant, is nothing short of shocking. In their silent way, the roses represent the profound anguish of all the victims of 3.11.

The photographs were taken by non-professionals: the garden shots by Katsuhide Okada, the owner of the Futaba Rose Garden, and the individual roses by members of the Yokohama Photographers of Roses. Their love of the subject matter makes these photographs all the more poignant. ●

Hisako Matsuda is a photography graduate and photographer for the Japan Kennel Club who runs a private photo studio specializing in portraits and animals. She produced “Our Beloved Rose Garden” exhibitions across Japan.

Maya Moore is a former journalist and anchor for NHK, TBS and PBS. She is a facilitator for the Tohoku Virtual English Class Project for elementary schools in Ofunato, Iwate. She is the author of *The Rose Garden Of Fukushima*. (Available at FCCJ.)

HEARD AT THE CLUB

“Before Fukushima we all believed in the “safety myth” on which all nuclear policy was based. We learned a bitter lesson, that it was a lie. From now on all possible risks must be taken into consideration to guarantee the safety of the people.”

Masao Uchibori
Governor of Fukushima Prefecture
At the FCCJ on Feb. 5, 2015



JOIN THE MOVIE COMMITTEE . . .



. . . at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 13 for a sneak preview of the U.S. festival hit *Man from Reno*, a bilingual thriller starring Steven Seagal’s very talented daughter, Ayako Fujitani (who will join director Dave Boyle for the Q&A session). Winner of the Best Narrative Feature award at last fall’s Los Angeles Film Festival, and a nominee for the John Cassavetes Award at the Spirit Awards, the film opens on a lonely highway in dense northern California fog, and it isn’t until the final moments that the fog lifts, as all the twists and turns, disappearances and mistaken identities, MacGuffins, mysteries and mayhem, finally make sense. Fujitani plays a popular Japanese mystery author who has fled to San Francisco to escape a book tour and can’t quite resist the extremely charismatic come-on of a fellow Japanese traveler at her hotel. But after a night together, Akira Suzuki (Kazuki Kitamura) suddenly disappears. Aki finds herself teaming up with aging, small-town Sheriff Paul Del Moral (the great Pepe Serna, in a rare leading role), who is also chasing a mysterious Japanese man. (USA, 2014; 110 minutes; English/Japanese with Japanese/English subtitles.)

— Karen Severns



REGULAR MEMBERS

HUI ZHAO has recently moved to Tokyo as Japan correspondent and representative of *CBN Weekly*, a business magazine in China published by the Shanghai Media Group. She covers business stories involving technology, design and fashion companies and start-ups in Japan. Hui was previously Chief Editor of *CBN Business Review* at *CBN Weekly*, and Managing Editor at *MONEY+*, a financial magazine from the same SMG Group.

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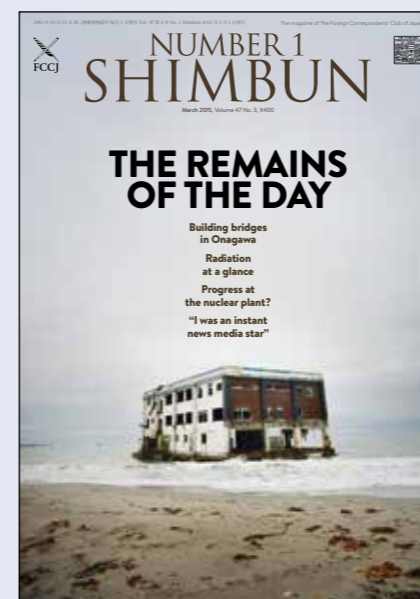
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