

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

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## Huq vs. Kelly for President



**Special FCCJ Election Issue  
Voting June 22-26**

**BALLOTING HOURS**

June 22 Monday noon - 7:00 p.m.  
June 23 Tuesday 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
June 24 Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
June 25 Thursday 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
June 26 Friday 10 a.m. - noon



**PRESIDENT NOMINEES - VOTE FOR ONE**

**MONZURUL HUQ**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Kaz Abiko; Per Bodner**



Many FCCJ members feel that our Club is going through one of the worst periods in its history. Club finances are not good, membership figures are trending downward, and there is growing concern about an erosion of trust between management and staff. These are the hard facts as we approach the Club's annual election.

I am running for President of the FCCJ in hopes of changing the direction we are now headed, which clearly, at least to me, threatens our future. I have served the Club over the past five years on the Professional Activities, Membership and Membership Marketing committees, although I have not served on the Board since 2004. Thus I am not tied to any policy or position if I feel it is not working. I come in with fresh eyes, yet with considerable knowledge of the issues.

The erosion of trust between management and staff, more specifically between the General Manager and the Club's union, is something that we cannot allow to linger, as it has the potential to damage the FCCJ's reputation for years to come. Thus the first priority of the next Board must be to do everything in our power to find the right way to return us to the path of decency and mutual trust. Of course there will be differences of opinion about the best way to resolve the issue. But the need for resolution cannot be disputed. It is a matter of the greatest urgency that we look back to find the fault lines and correct the mistakes of the past so that we don't ever encounter a similar unhappy experience again. I believe it is critical that we establish a mechanism for expressing grievances by our employees so they might have a better place to work and ultimately be motivated to provide us better service. This will be my first priority if elected.

As for other Club problems, I believe the greatest cause is lack of transparency. Members have been kept in the dark on many important issues. Unlike business organizations where the main goal is to earn profits, the principal objective of the FCCJ as outlined in its Articles of Association is to provide better services, in particular journalistic services, to our members. Of course we have to generate sufficient income to support our operations. But to do so in a way that meets our "mission" requires greater transparency about our financial situation. I believe members will pay for services if they know in detail what they're being asked to pay for. Moreover, as a *shadan hojin* that enjoys special tax breaks, the Club's financial transactions must be more open and transparent if we hope to maintain our privileged status. We must follow spending guidelines in the Club's Bylaws. Again, transparency is the key. And for senior management, specific targets must be set and performance judged on meeting those targets.

On other matters dear to me, I would like to remind you that our Club is a unique combination of professionals who come from various regions of the world. The primary purpose of the Club has always been to provide essential services for foreign correspondents working in Japan. So if elected, after beginning a process of reconciliation with our staff, I will focus my attention on the Club's professional activities including our library, workroom and speaker program. I believe, for instance, that we can further improve the Club's already highly acclaimed speaker program. I would like to see a more diverse list of speakers, including "less-famous" but nevertheless important people who have legitimate issues to raise concerning human and minority-rights violations – and who have no other place to hold small news conferences.

Finally, we face a serious membership problem, as had been reflected in the lengthy

debate in March to change our Bylaws and create two new categories of Regular members. There is no doubt that the number of foreign correspondents in Japan from Western industrialized countries has declined steadily throughout the past decade.

It is not true, however, that the number of "foreign" correspondents in Japan has declined. In fact, we have seen growth in correspondents from many Asian countries including China, South Korea and Hong Kong. As a Club representing ALL foreign correspondents in Japan, we can no longer afford to continue ignoring their growing presence. The first step should be to launch a Web page in Japanese in addition to the existing English one, as many Asian journalists are not proficient in English, yet are fully fluent in Japanese.

Finally, I would like to introduce myself to those who don't know me. I come from Bangladesh and represent the largest-circulation national daily, *Prothom Alo*. I started writing in the early 1970s when, joining our war of liberation, young Bangladeshis dreamed of freeing our occupied land and I too reflected that desire not only on the battlefield but also in the form of writing. My involvement in full-time journalism dates back to the early 1980s when I started working for a vernacular daily. I then worked briefly for the United Nations after which I joined the BBC World Service in London in 1990 and continued working there before moving to Japan in 1994. At present, in addition to *Prothom Alo*, I also represent the leading English-language daily of Bangladesh, the *Daily Star*, and contribute regularly to a number of reputed Bengali- and English-language periodicals in my country. ●

**TIM KELLY**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Dennis Normile; Steve McClure**



For the fourth time in as many years I am asking you, my fellow members, to elect me to the Board, this time as your president. There's much we can achieve next term. After serving as a director for two years, and last year as 1st Vice President in charge of house and property, I believe I have what it takes to hit the ground running on July 1.

Topping the list of matters to address is how we improve understanding between our General Manager, the people that work under him and us the members. It is regrettable that our staff union felt a threat to strike was the only way to express their dissatisfaction. For the situation to deteriorate to this extent indicates a breakdown in communication and inadequate procedures to deal with staff grievances.

The people who serve our dinners, cook our food, answer our phones or tally our accounts are an important and valued part of the Club and are one reason why we are the world's leading club for foreign correspondents.

The problem can be remedied and represents a chance for us to put in place changes that will ensure the smooth operation of our great Club in the future. If elected I will invite a member of staff, chosen by his or her peers, to attend regular board meetings as an observer, a privilege we already extend to our Associate members. I would also urge whoever is elected as 2nd Vice President to add a member of staff to the Human Resources Committee. Formalizing these arrangements and constructing an effective grievance procedure to quickly identify and deal with complaints would be the next step.

Better cooperation and communication will put us in good stead for what is going to be a financially challenging term. The simple fact is we are losing money. The economic downturn has left our members with less cash to spend.

For us journalists the recession has been particularly grueling. Some of us have lost jobs; others have had their salaries cut. And everybody is working under a cloud of uncertainty. During such harsh times the value of joining the FCCJ community and sharing the resources and network it offers is clear.

The deficit isn't, however, a crisis. We can tackle it. To begin with we need to invite new members to join our club. We have a lot to offer and more active marketing should lengthen our membership roll.

Encouraging members to come to the Club more often to sample our fare and join in our varied social and professional events will also

help. There are plenty of reasons for them to come.

Through the hard work of the Professional Activities Committee and staff, the quality and diversity of visitors we attract has improved greatly. In the past year we have entertained dignitaries such as Japan's prime minister, Taro Aso, and the Dalai Lama. I don't think any other venue in Japan can boast a better list of speakers. Also, we are a club that gives a voice to the less-well-known, ordinary and extraordinary folk who have important things to say about Japan. It's a good balance and one I would preserve.

We must also trim expenses, cuts that can be made without getting rid of workers or diluting services. When we have to spend we should look for new ways to keep expenses low. As an example, a major cost next year will likely be to replace our aging computerized point-of-sales system. It's already on its last legs. Going to one of the well-known IT companies for a customized package will cost us dearly. Using the skills of our staff and members instead to adapt off-the-shelf software could save us a lot of money.

Our Club, however, is not just about profit or loss. At the heart of our organization is a working press club, one that supports the efforts of writers, broadcasters and photojournalists. Library and workroom resources are better than they have ever been, and as a full-time journalist who works at the FCCJ most days of the week I know the value they bring to my job. I believe we can do even more to tap those resources. Our store of recorded press conference

stretches back more than half a century and represents an unprecedented archive of Japan's postwar history and the people that shaped it. Accompanying those tapes is a treasure trove of photographs snapped over the decades. They shouldn't stay in their boxes collecting dust. I would propose establishing an archive committee to begin the work of preserving and digitizing that valuable record.

The FCCJ has been around for more than 60 years and will be around for at least as long again. We remain strong and our future is bright.

Once again, I humbly ask for your vote.

If any member wishes to ask me about where I stand on any issue you can e-mail me at [tim.kelly@forbes.com](mailto:tim.kelly@forbes.com) or call me at 090-9850-1378 ●

**1st VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEES - VOTE FOR ONE**

**JAMES SIMMS**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Justin McCurry; Tomoko Hosaka**



Heard on the Street Columnist for the Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones Newswires

In the next year, I hope that the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan can return to its roots – a place where “The News is Made” and an organization where communication, civility and fraternity are the norm.

The past several months have been stormy at best and have escalated to new levels, following a pattern set by some members in the last couple of years. It goes without saying that the top priority of the Club is newsmaking and gathering, but communication is also equally critical – and it ought to be as that's what we do as journalists. It's key whether that's between the Club staff and the management and the Board of Directors or among members.

In the next year, I will strive to do that, including regular Town Hall meetings between the Board and staff, and an FCCJ Hotline or Listening Post to grasp problems from both staff and members. I also support proposals to have staff as observers on the Board and Human Resources Committee.

The current issues have distracted us from the Club's primary mission of serving the members,

whether that's bringing the best and most topical speakers to the Club or providing attentive service and the best value for the money in our food and beverage offerings.

But that's not to say that the past year has been static.

Indeed, we brought on a new Executive Chef and Information Technology and Membership Marketing managers and had an excellent slate of speakers thanks to our Professional Activities Committee. They ranged from then-candidate, now Prime Minister Taro Aso, and European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet to Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, Chairman Fujio Mitarai and Yojiro Takita, director of the Academy Award-winning movie *Okuribito (Departures)*. The Club also put in place human resource structures that were non-existent before, such as performance evaluations, personnel files and clear command chains.

As the PAC Board Liaison this year and PAC Co-Chair last year, I have moderated over 50 events and probably written as many notices and have put down the groundwork for many of our biggest speakers in the last two years, including

Aso, Trichet and Mitarai – the latter a year and a half after first talking to Keidanren.

As 1st Vice President and Chair of the House and Property Committee, I will seek ways to improve the Club in a way that brings the most bang for the buck, especially important in light of our current financial situation. Clear projects that can dramatically change the atmosphere are new or refurbished furniture, especially the deteriorating dining chairs, new carpets and lighting with more ambiance. While the new maintenance service has clearly improved the physical plant, which had been neglected for a couple of decades, the Committee will need to see how that cost can be trimmed without affecting our aging facilities.

I will also push to get more high-level engagement of the BoD in securing speakers, notably more pro-active outreach to embassies, companies, international institutions and non-governmental organizations. That will be especially critical as Japan will be hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum next year.

All that said, the Club must return to its strengths and that is its deep roots. That means ensuring communication flows freely and civilly and that the Club is the place where “The News is Made.”

**HARUKO WATANABE**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Masuhiko Hirobuchi; Fred Varcoe**



**Like Good Wine, Older Is Often Better**

Many of you know me. Yet I suspect that many of you, including some of my closest friends, really don't know me.

So let me reintroduce myself:

I am Haruko Watanabe, a proud mother and grandmother. I joined the FCCJ in 1981 and have served on four Boards, including three times as 2nd Vice President in charge of personnel matters. I also have served regularly on many committees, including the Library, Professional Activities, Special Projects and Election committees (I have chaired the latter committee four times).

I have worked as a journalist for more than

40 years, including 12 years as a media consultant for UNESCO, on whose behalf I helped foster and train female journalists in China, Africa and other emerging regions.

For my UNESCO work and the video-TV documentaries I produced, I received the East-West Center's International Outstanding Achievement Award in Journalism in 1991.

Between 1987 and 2000, I served as Tokyo Bureau Chief for the Press Foundation of Asia and for the past eight years I have been Japan correspondent for the *Media Report to Women*. I have also written two columns in local magazines since 1999.

I hold a Master's Degree in Journalism with Kappa Tau Alpha honors from the University of Missouri Journalism School, where in 1964 I became the first Japanese to receive a graduate degree.

You might ask why a proud grandmother would seek the office of 1st Vice President in this year's FCCJ election?

The reason, frankly, is that in my nearly 30 years as an FCCJ member I have never seen the Club more divided and, frankly, mean-spirited. We have always had serious disagreements. But never before has there been such intolerance.

And never in 64 years since the FCCJ's foundation have our employees, in many ways the heart and soul of the Club, been pushed to the brink of having to walk out or strike because, ▶

as a Board member stated at the June General Meeting, "Our Board didn't listen to them."

I believe that my opponent is substantially responsible for the breakdown in trust and good will with our employees.

And while I have never conducted a negative campaign, I also believe Board officers should run on their records. So I will limit my critical comments to my opponent's record and then move on to my agenda when elected 1st Vice President:

Prior to running for 2nd Vice President last June, my opponent voted against a plan that would have brought FCCJ labor practices into compliance with Japanese labor laws and standards. He didn't organize a committee and, in violation of Club bylaws and possibly Japanese labor laws, interrogated an employee who blew the whistle on management for unauthorized spending, with no

one from management present.

At the recent June General Meeting, he didn't give a complete report about possible financial liabilities for the GM not paying legal overtime to as many as 15 employees. He also did not present a detailed report on the GM's unauthorized expenditures, as the membership was promised at our meeting in March.

Now, my priorities:

When elected, since the 1st Vice President is in charge of house and properties, I will not support the current 1st Vice President's plan to spend ¥300 million on renovating the Club. The Club can't afford it.

I will prioritize:

- Fixing all IT-related infrastructure problems. I will bring a top-ranked IT expert.
- Protecting the Club's library and research bud-

get as much as possible in these difficult times. Do we need cookies at the front desk for our stomachs or books and magazines for our brains?

- Expanding offsite reporting trips via the Special Projects Committee to places like Iwo Jima and the Chiba whaling village. Whatever additional services we offer ultimately create feature-writing opportunities for members.

- Adopting an aggressive marketing plan, including possibly lowering dues, to attract journalists from emerging countries.

In closing, I promise to work toward restoring decency, fairness, civility and transparency. Serving on our Board is a privilege. It gives me no special right. All of us are answerable to the General Membership.

Your "one vote" makes a difference.

Please vote for Haruko Watanabe.

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEES - VOTE FOR ONE**

**PIO D'EMILIA**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Gregory Clark; Masuhiko Hirobuchi**



To be honest, I didn't want to run for office anymore. The atmosphere at our Club has dramatically deteriorated in the last few years - and not only from a financial and management point of view. There is a clear "fascist" undercurrent - and please, as an Italian who knows what fascism means, allow me to use this word.

Club members who express dissenting views are been attacked verbally and derided. Last month during a special Board Meeting devoted to our current HR crisis, three members of the Board, including incumbent 2nd VP and 1st VP candidate James Simms, walked out when I was given the opportunity by President Makino to speak.

Last year, one outspoken "critic," a Life Member, was suspended for six months. Over ¥5 million in members' money was spent in non-budgeted legal fees to keep him out of the Club. Then a special committee eventually exonerated him of all allegations. Yet the Board refuses to issue a formal apology.

For these reasons I had decided not to run for office anymore. Then this spring, the Club found itself in the worst management crisis in its 64-year history. Imagine, FCCJ employees threatening to go out on strike.

Let me state very clearly that the cause of this crisis doesn't lie with our staff, nor, at least not entirely, with our General Manager. A big responsibility lies with past and pres-

ent Boards. Some of you who have been around for a long time, may remember that back in 2001, when I first was elected 2nd VP, I and my HR Committee found out that our Club was not in legal compliance. Not only we were abusing unpaid "overtime work," we had not duly "stabilized" some employees who had been working for us for decades.

It took a few years, but eventually, under Anthony Rowley's presidency (by far the most efficient and productive of recent years) a comprehensive HR Reform Plan was adopted and approved by the Board and GMM.

Unfortunately, it was not fully implemented. In April 2008, during Martyn Williams' presidency, then-AGM Nakamura, in full cooperation with the HR Committee and with input from professional HR experts, drafted a detailed "reorganizational plan" that would have put us in almost perfect legal compliance and enormously helped the new GM in his work.

Unfortunately, the plan was rejected: the Board, in a very close vote (5 to 4) resolved to postpone it until the new GM would be sworn in. That was an enormous mistake. Since last July, when our new GM assumed his duties, there's been virtually no oversight by our 2nd Vice President and his HR "committee" (consisting of himself and the 1st Vice President, Tim Kelly). As a result, the GM, who can't

speak proper Japanese and is clearly not aware of Japanese laws and regulations, ended up committing a lot of mistakes.

In the meantime, staff threatened to go on strike on Wednesday, June 10, the day of our General Membership Meeting. Only a last-minute, very passionate appeal by our President convinced them to "temporarily" call off the strike.

During that meeting the day before the GMM, our 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents (Tim Kelly and James Simms) didn't show up.

Note that while the General Membership passed a resolution strongly critical of the GM's performance, it may not be enough. Over 80 percent of employees have demanded his dismissal. In other words, he's lost their trust completely. This is a fact, and if elected, I sincerely believe I can positively influence the outcome of the present dispute and work toward restoring good and trusting relations among our hardworking staff and the management.

I want to end this statement on a positive note. While I did not agree with many of his decisions when he was President - namely the closing of the Freedom of the Press forum - I am sure that if my opponent, Dennis Normile, wins, he will also do his best to restore mutual trust between the staff and the management. I still remember when, several years ago, he publicly congratulated me for my HR policies, declaring his full support. I hope that if elected, he too will pursue fairness, legal compliance and humanity.

**DENNIS NORMILE**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Bob Neff; Dan Sloan**



I'd like to make one thing clear right from the start: I think my opponent has done a lot of important and good work during the various years he has served as 2nd vice president. He worked out a scheme to convert contract employees to regular employees and led an updating of the work rules, among other things.

Without double-checking old Board meeting minutes, I believe I supported most of these initiatives when they came to a vote at the Board of Directors and at general membership meetings. Of course, he has more HR experience than me. Nonetheless, I'm throwing my

hat into the ring for 2nd vice president, hoping my track record on the Board and as president will speak for itself and convince fellow members I will take a methodical, no-drama approach to getting things done.

OK, I admit I've touched off my share of drama. But there is a lot to be done this year on Human Resources, and the less drama the better. In recent years we have had an HR Committee that has wobbled

between two extremes, either being too active – trying to make personnel decisions properly left to the General Manager (and delegated to the GM by contract) – or not being active enough. I intend to aim for something in between. Decisions regarding hiring, firing and disciplining individual employees should be made by the General Manager; but the General Manager must act within the context of Japanese labor law, club agreements with the union and employees, and the traditions of the Club. This last bit -- acting within the traditions of the Club -- is particularly tricky. But this is where an HR Committee should come in. We have associate members with expertise in human resources, and many of our regular members have experience and interest in this area. A good HR committee should draw these people together to help set broad policies and provide overall guidance and oversight to keep

the GM's HR decisions within legal, contractual and traditional boundaries. An HR Committee should also be a resource for the GM and the Club to turn to for advice on staff training needs and programs.

So my first priority will be to assemble an HR Committee with such respect and expertise that core members will continue to serve from year to year, the way the core of our Finance Committee continues to serve year after year. I also intend to include one or more staff members on the committee for their input and to open new lines of communication between the staff and management.

Then, I think priority tasks are:

1. Finalizing the updating of the work rules and getting them translated into English.
2. Establishing a grievance procedure so staff members who feel they are being treated unfairly will have somewhere to turn.

3. Setting up a procedure so that all agreements affecting staff are available in both English and Japanese and in a file that can be easily referred to by all staff, the GM, board members and regular members of the Club.

I'm sure that will just be the start.

For the record, I'm the Japan correspondent for the magazine *Science* (and extremely happy to still have a job in journalism). I've been a member of the FCCJ since the early 1990s and I previously served several years on the Board and was president in 2006-2007. I had intended not to run for the Board again, but I am disturbed by the distrust and backstabbing among members, and, most of all, by what I take to be a lack of respect for our great staff. I want to do what I can to restore a civil discourse and amicably resolve outstanding disputes – with minimal drama.

**SECRETARY NOMINEES - VOTE FOR ONE**

**PER BODNER**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Roger Schreffler; Martin Koelling**

No statement received.

**FRED VARCOE**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Haruko Watanabe; Joel Koizumi-Legendre**



I am a freelance journalist with 22 years' experience in Japan and I'm hoping to be your secretary once again. I was happy to serve as secretary in 2007-08 and like to think I offered a balanced perspective on Club affairs at the time. Both then and now, a good perspective on the issues facing us is vital. And, as most people know, there are plenty of issues facing us. But of the major issues we have faced over the past couple of years, I believe all can be (or could have been) resolved. But resolution has been impeded by factionalism, divisiveness and personality clashes. Disagreement is fine, but the Regular members run the club and have an obligation to understand the issues and vote in the interests of the Club. As before,

I will stick to my guns when I know I'm right and challenge those I know are wrong. But I take neither a dogmatic nor ideological approach and am open to persuasion on all issues. Time and again, candidates for office have talked about promoting inclusiveness within the Club, particularly involving the Associate members and the help they can provide. This must become a reality. As Board members, we are entrusted with the overall management of the Club. Most journalists are not used to managing – they write, they edit, they talk into a microphone. They are not used to dealing with problems such as personnel, which is obviously one of the issues the

Club is facing at the moment. I have managed in a number of jobs; I have hired, fired and been fired. I have used the Tokyo Labor Office, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government mediation service and the services of a labor union. I have used a lawyer and the courts, successfully, to right wrongs. That said, I believe confrontations of all kinds will only produce a winner and a loser. If resolutions are found, everybody wins and everybody can move forward. More importantly, the Club wins and the Club can move forward. And that's the key. As a director of the Club, I believe there is only one criterion that matters: to do what is best for the Club. That's what I intend to do if elected, so I hope I can serve both you and the Club as Secretary this year and make the Club a better place.

**TREASURER NOMINEES**

**YOSHISUKE IINUMA**

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Steve McClure; Bob Neff**



Our club finances are in serious difficulties but are still manageable. Last year, the net deficit was ¥23 million. Even adjusting for the ¥15 million reservation for future capital expenditures (which is fully kept on the balance sheet as cash), the ¥8 million net deficit was the worst in the past six years. The basic reason is that the Club has been hit hard by the economic storm. 2008 Food & Beverage sales (measured by volume) dropped by nearly 5

percent. Although the average 5 percent menu price hike barely kept the total nominal sales almost flat from last year, the price hike has started to erode competitiveness at some F&B operations, especially the Pen and Quill dining room. The number of resigning member has been increasing. Initiation fee revenues are declining. The payroll burden is still heavy, amounting to 57.1 percent of total operating revenues last

year, second only to 2007's 57.3 percent during the most recent six-year period. A significant amount of legal fees to defend Club interests added another burden. Some new expenses for policy purposes, such as the outsourcing of maintenance, GM- staff communications and enhancing Club amenities also added to the deficit.

The good news is we still have free cash, member deposits are fully preserved in cash and we don't have any debt at all. By cautious implementation of capital expenditures, we have tried to minimize the damage to the

Club balance sheet. However, our financial cushion is not as thick as prudent management dictates. Much stricter belt-tightening is definitely needed at this time. By all means, we have to save our Club from being wrecked in this storm.

Last November, the Finance Committee and Treasurer gave a warning about our deteriorating finances and urged emergency measures. I regret that this proposal was not fully acted on. However, in the past couple of months the Board stepped up austerity measures. It mandated cutting some non-urgent expenses. I pledge to push such measures much further. Our options include a significant reduction of maintenance costs, freezing of all non-urgent capital expenditures, and cost-cutting in every other possible area. Our beautiful dream of major renovations must be shelved for years. In the cost-cutting effort, there should be no sacred cows. We need the understanding and

cooperation of our members.

The 2009 budget includes a significant reduction in personnel costs. How can we get our staff to understand and accept this? First of all, the reality of the personnel-cost structure should undergo thorough examination. Everything should start with austerity on the part of all committee activities as well as top management. Only by doing this can the Board and management send a strong message to our staff, who I believe are sensible enough to go with us through this process.

Particularly after the recent unfortunate incident between the General Manager and the staff, it is indispensable to create much closer and more honest communication among the Board, GM and staff. I hope my past experience in a top management position at Toyo Keizai, a Japanese publisher, can be helpful in this effort.

In the past two years we have been pushing

toward upgrading the Club's accounting system. Due to the complexity of our current accounting methods, as well as haphazard legacy systems of the past, this has taken time. Finally, in June, the transfer from the current system to a new streamlined process began. The new system is more transparent, with much better documentation. But this is only the first step. Continued upgrading is necessary.

Another task that the Club must tackle is adaptation to the new *Shadan Hojin Ho* (Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporate Associations). Under this law, the Club must obtain new authorization within four-and-a-half years. To qualify for the new authorization, the Club must redefine both the public-interest aspect and business aspect of Club activities. If we fail to meet this challenge, we will lose our tax-exempt status. We have to start our preparations, using the aid of outside experts.

## ANTHONY ROWLEY

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
Pio D'Emilia; Haruko Watanabe

No statement received.

## DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE NOMINEES - VOTE FOR 4

### JOHN BOYD

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
Fred Varcoe; Bob Neff



I have no agenda or campaign statement other than to say that if you elect me as a director at large, I will diligently work to complete the tasks I'm presented with.

As for my background, I've been freelancing

for a couple of decades, largely covering technology news and events and the impact they have on business and people, though I also enjoy the opportunity to write on a variety of topics.

I string for several magazines including *IEEE Spectrum* and *New York Stock Exchange Magazine*. I'm also seeking new assignments.

### YOZO HASEGAWA

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
Haruko Watanabe; Fred Varcoe

No statement received.

### TOMOKO HOSAKA

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
James Simms; Justin McCurry



My reason for running for a position on the FCCJ board is simple – you, the members. Our industry is in the midst of a historic transition, some would even say crisis. But with every challenge comes opportunity, and I believe that with the right leadership, the FCCJ can emerge better, stronger and more relevant through this time of change. The problems that the FCCJ currently faces are not unique. Every major U.S. journalism organization is struggling with falling membership and revenue, among other issues. As someone who serves on the national board of the Asian American Journalists Association, I have the experience and knowledge to help the FCCJ board find innovative and smart solutions for some of its

most pressing challenges. I seek your support and pledge that if elected, I will strive to represent you with passion, integrity and pragmatism.

Below are some statements that reflect what I can bring:

I've known Tomoko as a friend and colleague through our work for the Asian American Journalists Association for more than five years. She was a driving force in re-energizing the Asia chapter of AAJA, and I'm confident that she will also make a difference at the FCCJ through her boundless enthusiasm, mixed with a level-headed pragmatism that allows her to get things done efficiently. I can't think of anyone else more qualified to become

a board member for the FCCJ.  
– Sharon Chan, national president of AAJA

Tomoko is passionate about excellence in journalism. As a national advisory board member, she has brought fresh ideas and energy to the Asian American Journalists Association, organizing workshops and teleconferences to train journalists in Asia and the U.S. about smarter, more in-depth coverage of news in Asia. I strongly support her candidacy as a director for the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

– Yukari Iwatani Kane, former chair of the FCCJ Scholarship Committee

## MARTIN KOELLING

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
Pio D'Emilia; Yoshisuke Iinuma



### Let's face the crisis

Dear members:  
Thank you for your trust in the last election. After one year on the Board, I humbly ask you to renew my term, although the Board – to the disappointment of all – did not succeed in steering the FCCJ out of troubled waters. Our esteemed Club is in difficult times, whether still or again is open to discussion. There is only thing I know for sure from my talks with members: many share my concern that we are facing one of the biggest crises in our club history, as we have to solve very serious management and financial problems, while at the same time the world and the news industry are also in a deep crisis.

As former chairman of the GM search committee and a Board member, I share responsibility for the human-resources problems of the last year. I am very sad that the Board was unable to detect early enough the division between management and labor that led to the recent de-

mands of our staff and could not solve the problem within our term.

However I have decided to contribute to their solution by running for office again, because I think that my agenda of last year, the positions I fought for on the Board, and the insights I gained through my stints on committees for finance, human resources, food and beverage still can help to rejuvenate the FCCJ.

Because of the time constraints of being a one-man office, I will focus on one issue that I think has to be a top priority of the new Board: creating a comprehensive membership-marketing strategy that reaches from our professional and social events to our publications (No. 1 Shimbun and the home page) and the exploration of new membership categories.

Apart from that, I would like to initiate and support the following initiatives:

1. Improve governance and focus on clean, ethical and financially responsible management.

As should be clear by now, these areas still need improvement.

2. Increase transparency and accountability: The Board could not only send the president's message to the members after each Board meeting, which we started doing last year, but also directly discuss its politics and strategies with our staff. To be clear, I don't want the board to micromanage, but we have to macromanage. All stakeholders should share information to be able to unite behind a common goal: to keep the Club alive as the place where the news is made.

3. Create an inclusive human-resources policy that uses and sets free the creativity of our staff to help us overcome the crisis and improve the quality of our services.

For those of you who don't know me, I repeat my standard self-introduction: I am 42. Since 2000 I have been the Japan correspondent of the German financial daily *Financial Times Deutschland* as well as a member of the FCCJ. I have an M.A. in Sinology from the University of Hamburg, which taught me the most helpful skill for Club politics: a high tolerance of frustration.

## JOEL LEGENDRE-KOIZUMI

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
Masuhiko Hirobuchi; Monzurul Huq



### Vote for Legendre: Trust, Ethics and Professionalism

I am honored to have been nominated as a candidate for the FCCJ's Board of Directors by Mr. Hirobuchi Masuhiko, former bureau chief of TV Asahi in London and New York, and Mr. Monzurul Huq, correspondent of the *Daily Prothom Alo*, a leading Bangladesh newspaper.

Based in Japan, I cover all of Asia, where I work as a TV and radio correspondent and columnist for RTL.

The FCCJ has served me well. I am concerned that without reforms in how we govern our Club, new younger correspondents arriving in Japan will not have the same benefits I have had.

The last couple of years I have witnessed things I never imagined at the FCCJ: Board members breaking time-honored rules, concealing facts and disregarding member and staff rights.

It is no surprise that our employees were driven to the brink of striking these past few weeks.

Of course our industry is also facing difficult challenges. Information is public property, there-

fore the right to be informed should not exclude anyone or any group nor any aspect of economic, social, cultural or political life.

Thus, my first commitment if elected is to help the new Board to restore dignity, friendship and respect for diversity. Without these, we cannot have good governance, nor can we succeed in our basic mission, which is to "provide services to facilitate the collection and distribution of news without discrimination," as stated in the Club's Articles of Association.

My second initiative is to assist the President in initiating a long-term plan to retain our *shudan hojin* status, which is now under review. If we deviate too far from our "press" mission, we shall lose our standing.

A third objective is to reopen the Club's committee system, in particular the Professional Activities Committee which once was open to all Regular members who wished to volunteer.

This year's committee, a small and able group, brought political and business leaders to the

Club. Nevertheless, I know that the "small-tent" approach contributed to too few speakers on Japan's dealings with Europe, Asia and other major regions and virtually no speakers on Japanese cultural subjects.

Profession: I was educated in law and economics and specialized in international relations, security and mass media in Europe and Asia Pacific. After working as a news anchor at France TV and being hired by Radio-France, I was assigned to Asia as a foreign correspondent. I also taught audiovisual upgrade courses to Asian international broadcasters in China, the Republic of Korea and Japan. I joined the Japan National Press Club April 1993 and the FCCJ in September 2005. Many of you know my wife, Kazuko Koizumi, who is senior press officer at the Foreign Press Center.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of FCCJ members spanning many decades. But I understand that decisions of recent Boards undermined the confidence and trust both of members and staff. I ask for your vote for Director at Large and I will develop policies that guarantee creativity, ethics, professionalism, trust.

Thank you

## STEVE McCLURE

**Nominated and seconded by:**  
Tim Kelly; Charles Pomeroy



Dear fellow members,

My campaign slogan in this year's election is a simple one: communication, communication, communication.

One of the things I find most frustrating about the Club is the lack of good communication in an organization established by people who are in the communication business. The recent problems between the GM and the staff show all too vividly what can happen when there's a communication breakdown.

If re-elected, I will work toward establishing a structure that will enable staff members to more

effectively voice their concerns about human-resources issues, including a fair and transparent way of handling staff grievances. I'm in favor of formal staff/union representation on the Human Resources Committee and the Board itself. That will make it easier for all of us to work together to make the Club a better place, with all parties' rights and responsibilities clearly defined and understood.

And as a member of the Board, I have sometimes failed to appreciate the extent to which the membership is in the dark regarding the Board's discussions and decision-making process, the re-

cent GM/union fracas being a case in point. Rumor and gossip can all too easily flourish under such circumstances, fueling the petty politicking that is so harmful to the Club, both internally and in terms of its public image.

So better communication between the Board, its committees and the general membership is essential. I have some ideas about how this can be achieved, such as e-mail bulletins to the membership, but would also very much like to hear any suggestions my fellow members may have in this regard.

One thing the Board needs to better communicate to the membership is a sense of leadership and direction. During the GM/union unpleasantness, ►

the Board – and I fault myself as much as anyone else in this regard – has largely been in reactive/ad hoc mode. If re-elected, I will work with my fellow directors to make the Board more pro-active and strategy-oriented. After spending the last two years trying to be an honest broker/gadfly on the Board, I now want to do more to help develop positive solutions to the Club's problems.

While formal structures and guidelines can

and should be put in place to facilitate better communication at the Club, there's one form of communication that can't be legislated: the spirit of friendship, harmony and professional solidarity which for me is at the heart of our Club. As a Director I want to do my best to help keep that spirit alive by communicating your concerns to the Board so that we can put our collective shoulders to the wheel in overcoming our current dif-

ficulties and planning our future strategy.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a native of Vancouver, Canada, and have lived in Japan since the late Showa Era. Formerly Asia bureau chief of *Billboard* magazine, I recently launched McClure's *Asia Music News*, a Web site/e-mail newsletter covering the Japanese and Asian music industries.

I humbly ask for your support.

## JUSTIN McCURRY

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Dennis Normile; James Simms**



I have been involved in Club life since I arrived in Tokyo more than five years ago. For the past three years I have served as PEN representative for the Foreign Press in Japan, helping to improve correspondents' access to government bodies and quickly disseminate information about press conferences and other events of professional interest. I have also served on the Publications and Freedom of the Press committees, and in 2005-06 was editor of *No. 1 Shimbun*.

I would like to contribute more to the FCCJ, an organization that has extended me unwavering professional support and without which I would not be able to do my job. That is why I am asking for your vote as I seek election to the board.

It is no secret that the Club faces several financial and other challenges in the coming year. I look forward to helping the next FCCJ president find sensible solutions to these problems, and to strengthening the Club's role as a venue for

press conferences and other events that reflect the energy and diversity of the city in which we work.

As a regular user of the workroom, I will strive to improve our working environment. It is time to spruce up the workroom and make it a more pleasant place. Aside from a lick of paint and the addition of a few paintings and photographs, we can also make more imaginative use of the space currently occupied by boxes of dusty files.

We need to bring our archiving and book-search operations into the 21st century, and I support proposals to digitize our resources to make them more accessible and to lighten the load of our hardworking library staff. Better use could be made of the office near the entrance to the library, which is currently little more than a storeroom.

Journalists are working harder than ever as the age of digital media places new demands

on our time and resources. Those of us who considered ourselves newspaper reporters just a couple of years ago now have to write blogs, create audio and video content, and take photographs.

To ensure that all FCCJ journalists are adequately equipped to meet these challenges, I would like to add to the workshops the Club has already hosted on adapting to life as a cyber-journalist. I envisage events covering everything from digital photography to Twitter. I will also propose that a discussion forum on digital journalism be included on the FCCJ Web site.

Before arriving in Tokyo at the end of 2003, I worked in the Osaka bureau of *The Daily Yomiuri*. In addition to *The Guardian*, I write for *The Lancet* medical journal, the football fanzine *When Saturday Comes* and several other publications. For my sins, I support Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club.

Please feel free to contact me with questions and comments at [justin.mccurry@guardian.co.uk](mailto:justin.mccurry@guardian.co.uk)

Thank you very much for your support.

## RICHARD SMITH

**Nominated and seconded by:  
Todd Crowell; Pio D'Emilia**



Fellow FCCJ members:

Many of you know me. When I ran for this office last year, I received a surprising number of votes from you, for which I remain most grateful.

I am from Quebec City in Canada. I worked as a freelance reporter in my hometown and Montreal. As you know, it is no easy thing to just show up here in Tokyo unemployed, as I did 13 years ago, with the intent of breaking into journalism, and then right away be a success. It took me many years of effort and more than a little privation, but I refused to give up my calling and now find myself relatively busy with the niche of journalism I occupy: imports of food and agricultural products to Japan and South Korea. What I bring to the position of director is an intimate knowledge of how

to succeed under adverse circumstances. Consequently, I am keenly interested in the day-to-day support and services the Club makes available to journalists. I want us to make sure that necessary services are provided, that we do not expend resources on services that are not useful to us, and that the services we do have are provided efficiently and adequately. My years of service on the Library, Archives and Workroom Committee, my two full years as editor-in-chief of *No. 1 Shimbun* in its previous incarnation as a newspaper, bringing it to full in-house publication except for printing, as well as my extensive use of the Club's professional facilities and workroom have kept me abreast of both what is good now and what could be improved.

As a director, I will listen and consider

seriously the views of all, regardless of where we have stood in the past. Meetings are a place to conduct pressing Club business, not settle old arguments. I have always spoken my mind passionately and I make no apology for that because I

think I have been honest. Sometimes this has led me to disagreement with others, some of which I regret and some of which I do not. On the other hand, there have been many at the Club who also gave me encouragement or who helped me with a kind word or advice or an introduction or sometimes more. It is to honor the spirit of what they and others like them have done for me and others that I offer my candidacy. True, not all memories are happy ones, and there surely are a few things I wish I could forget. But today, I choose to focus on that which I think is best in us. In running for this post, I offer you a year of grateful and dedicated service.

## KANJI

### Khaldon Azhari

