PRESS RELEASE:
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS’ CLUB OF JAPAN MOVES TO NEW PREMISES

The Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan, or FCCJ, will mark its 73rd anniversary year by moving to new and improved facilities in the Marunouchi Nijubashi Building on October 26, 2018. The new Club is a short walk up the street from the Yurakucho premises where the FCCJ has been located since 1976.

The new Club is equipped with the tools and facilities needed by journalists in the 21st Century as Japan prepares for events that will throw a renewed global spotlight upon the world’s third-largest economy. These events include the G20 Summit in 2019, the Rugby World Cup in the same year, and the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

This happens against a backdrop of record numbers of overseas visitors coming to Japan. Significantly, many of those arrivals are repeat visitors, suggesting that once people around the world discover Japan they continue to return. This has led to the Government recognizing the importance of tourism to the economy and the revitalization of rural areas. As a result, the government has raised the international profile of the tourism industry, and the potential economic benefits, in the Abenomics strategy.

The FCCJ is well placed to support the corresponding increase in media interest in Japan, dealing with increasing numbers of journalists working in Japan or on assignment from overseas. Japan is recognized by the Economist magazine as one of the few countries in Asia operating with a free press. Since its founding in 1946, the FCCJ has been and remains a leading venue for promoting those freedoms that are essential for a proper functioning democracy.

Many of the speakers at the FCCJ illustrate the rich and varied role the Club has played in Japan and will continue to play. They include world leaders from Ronald Reagan and Kakuei Tanaka to Shinzo Abe, Indira Gandhi and the Dalai Lama; sports personalities such as Yuzuru Hanyu, Muhammad Ali, Pele, boxer Manny Pacquiao and Sumo champions Hakuho and Akebono; Japanese and non-Japanese business leaders, including Donald Trump; Japanese author Yukio Mishima, Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida and pop singer Cyndi Lauper.

In 1985, the then Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko danced at the Club's 40th anniversary celebration.

As the FCCJ prepares for its 75th anniversary in 2020 and for the future beyond, it wants to make sure the Club continues to play its role in defending freedom of the press in a democratic society with all its attendant institutions in business, academia and social and civil society for many more years to come.
Upheavals in the news business caused by the Internet have not left the FCCJ unscathed as the numbers of working journalists worldwide has shrunk. The Club's move to new premises is a vote of confidence in the future of Japan and journalism.

The FCCJ was recognized in 2014 as a public-interest membership organization ("Koueki Shadan Houjin") by Japan's government. It is one of the biggest self-financed and self-organized press clubs in the world, with an active program of professional and social events.

The club has around 2,000 members from all sectors of Japanese society. Foreign and Japanese Journalists comprise around 300 of this number; the remaining 1,700 are "Associate Members", working mostly in business and finance. Emphasizing its independence, the Club's membership consists of individuals only. The Club does not represent media organizations and has no corporate memberships.

The Club is supported by a volunteer Board of Directors and Committees. Day-to-day management is in the hands of a professional General Manager and staff.

Mission statement

The mission of the Club is to facilitate the journalistic activities of members, and to promote interaction between journalist and non-journalist members and newsmakers and to share information with people in Japan and around the world. It strives to serve people's right to know and aims to promote international understanding.

The Club aims to provide foreign correspondents in Japan and other journalists, including visiting correspondents with various forms of access to news sources in Japan and overseas. The Club is committed to defend the freedom of the press and the free exchange of information. Further, the Club promotes friendship, harmony, and mutual welfare in both professional and social relations among Japanese and non-Japanese journalists.

Specifically, the club offers a membership package that includes lunches with speakers, press conferences and book presentations for journalists. These events are accessible also to non-journalist members. Press events are open to all non-member journalists. The club provides workroom, library and research services for its journalist members. Various kinds of social and cultural events highlighting different regions and aspects of Japanese culture are provided for journalists and non-journalist members.

The club manages a scholarship program, presents Freedom of the Press awards annually and maintains reciprocal membership arrangements with press clubs around the world.

For further information or to discuss a press tour of the new facilities, please contact:

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