

The magazine of The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN



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## Come inside:

**The new Club in photos**

*The Seoul investigative-journalism conference*

*Press freedom news*

*Ilgin Yorulmaz profiled*

contact the editors  
no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp

Publisher FCCJ

**Editor** Gregory Starr  
**Art Director** Andrew Potheary  
*www.itsumo-music.jp/design*  
**Editorial Assistants** Naomichi Iwamura  
**Photo Coordinator** Akiko Miyake  
**Publications committee members**  
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**Foreign Press in Japan** Robin Harding

**The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan**  
Marunouchi Nijubashi Building 5F  
Marunouchi 3-2-3 Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-0005  
Tel: (03) 3211-3161 Fax: (03) 3211-3168 fccj.or.jp

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Please pitch and send articles and photographs, or address comments to [no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp](mailto:no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp)  
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Page 6: **Attendees of the 3rd Asian Investigative Journalism Conference hold posters of arrested Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo.**

Photo courtesy of THE GLOBAL INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM NETWORK

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FREEDOM OF THE PRESS INFO



FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,

The commonly cited “Murphy’s Law” states that what can go wrong will go wrong – usually with a myriad of unforeseen consequences. It has been suggested Murphy’s Law be included in studies of physics, though I’ve yet to see a book titled: *Black Holes, Quarks and Murphy*.

Journalists are not well known for their grasp of quantum physics but they are familiar with Murphy’s Law. When dealing with breaking news and dozens of moving parts, Murphy’s Law truly comes into its own. My memorable experiences of Murphy were running a newsroom with about 200 staff on dozens of news beats. The lesson learnt was you cannot fight Murphy’s Law, you can only embrace it, laugh along with the absurdities and carry on.

I’m rambling on about this because the FCCJ’s move to a new Club is prime territory for Murphy: new untested facilities and hundreds and hundreds of moving parts. FCCJ staff members have been working long days and, in some cases, overnight, to prepare for the move, but thanks to Murphy’s Law it will take months to bed down operations in the new Club. Stuff happens. We ask your patience and cooperation to make this work. And, of course, suggestions are welcome.

While on the subject of welcomes, the Board met on Oct. 24 and Treasurer Willem Kortekaas gave an update on the donation drive. We have a long way to meet our financial targets, but it was very welcome to hear about the generosity of members. A big Thank You to those who have contributed, and much encouragement to those who are considering the same.

At the Board meeting we passed a number of resolutions. They include:

Hiring an auditor for fiscal 2018/19 and a tax advisor. The Board also authorized publication of minutes of meetings, excluding items discussed in “executive session” that can include personal information and other confidential data. The minutes will be posted on the members-only section of the Club’s web site. It will be announced when the first report is posted.

Finally, we have tempered our ambitions somewhat on the Nov. 22 Gala Opening of the new Club as we believe we were being, well, overly ambitious considering the short time to prepare.

It will be a Grand Opening Party for members and guests, including several entertainment events. Taiko Drummers and *Kagami Biraki* are just a couple of them. More details will follow. I’m not sure about inviting Murphy, but he usually just shows up anyway.

– Peter Langan

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS NEWS

## A regional round-up

### JAPAN

The Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan and its Freedom of the Press Committee are gravely concerned by reports that Hong Kong has refused to renew the working visa of Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club’s Vice President Victor Mallet after he chaired a talk by activist Andy Chan at the Hong Kong FCC in August. Chan’s opponents had criticized the talk and also applied economic pressure to the FCC Hong Kong by threatening to cancel the market-rate lease on the building it occupies.

**These actions are an affront to press freedom. We stand in solidarity with our Hong Kong colleagues and call on the government to offer an explanation for denying Mallet a working visa and in the absence of that, rescind the decision.**  
• *The Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan, Tokyo*

### SINGAPORE

Kirsten Han is editor-in-chief of New Naratif, an online news organization covering Southeast Asia conceived in 2017 as a place “where we could tell Southeast Asian stories, ones that wouldn’t fit in foreign news publications or local publications that might have censorship.” One of her main concerns, shared by tech firms like Facebook and Twitter, is the government’s intention to introduce legislation to tackle fake news. “It’s very problematic. If there’s no clear definition of what the government calls deliberate online falsehoods, the law could turn out to be very broad.”

In April, New Naratif was denied permission to register as a company or legal entity and was accused by the government of “being used by foreigners to pursue a political activity in Singapore.” Yet Han remains defiant, and continues to publish on the platform with her network of contributors. • *TIME magazine, June 22, 2018*

### CAMBODIA

The Cambodian government is extending its crackdown on “fake news”, just weeks before the increasingly authoritarian government of Prime Minister Hun Sen heads to the polls.

A new directive aimed at fake news posted on websites and social media platforms could see violators jailed for two years and fined US\$1,000, according to a report in the *Khmer Times*. The widening powers come at a time when Cambodia’s free press has been under increasing pressure.

The recent sale of the *Phnom Penh Post*, an English-language daily considered one of the last independent media organisations in the country, was seen as a major blow to freedom of expression. The paper was sold to a Malaysian investor who is the chief executive of a PR firm that has worked on behalf of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The sale of the *Post* followed the closing of the *Cambodia Daily* last September, after the paper was saddled with a disputed \$6.3m tax bill. The final edition ran with the headline: “Descent into Outright Dictatorship.”

Hun looks set to extend his 33-year grip on power in elections later this month, after having dissolved the opposition party and jailed his main critics.

• *The Guardian, July 6*

### THAILAND

Bangkok, Sept. 11, 2018—Thai authorities on Monday shut down a panel discussion at Bangkok’s Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand, marking the sixth such event the country’s ruling military junta has canceled since seizing power in a May 2014 coup.

The event, entitled “Will Myanmar’s Generals Ever Face Justice for International Crimes?,” was shut down after Thai police delivered a letter to the club’s management saying the discussion could be used by “third parties” to cause unrest and endanger national security, according to reports and an FCCT statement protesting the cancellation. The letter was delivered after participants and attendees had arrived at the event, according to the same reports.

The FCCT statement said there were “no grounds whatsoever for such suspicions” and that Thai authorities had “overreacted” in shutting down the event. Journalists who spoke with CPJ on the condition of anonymity said that plainclothes authorities took pictures of attendees and panelists at the event before it was closed down.

• *Committee to Protect Journalists, Sept. 11*

### VIETNAM

A court in the northern Vietnamese province of Bac Ninh sentenced land-rights activist and citizen journalist Do Cong Duong to 48 months in prison on Monday for “disturbing public order,” his lawyer told RFA’s Vietnamese Service.

Duong, 54, was detained on Jan. 24 by the police of Tu Son commune in Bac Ninh while he was filming a forced eviction. He met his lawyer, Ha Huy Son, on April 5 and was charged with “disturbing public order.”

According to the Vietnamese Political Prisoner Database, Duong was warned by authorities in September 2017 that he was sharing on Facebook “content that distorts the truth, impacts upon the credibility and reputation of other citizens and organizations” and “content that contradicts the directions and policies of the Party and the law of the state.”

Vietnam’s one-party communist government is currently detaining at least 130 political prisoners, including rights advocates and bloggers deemed threats to national security, according to New York-based *Human Rights Watch*. It also controls all media, censors the internet, and restricts basic freedoms of expression.

During the first eight months of 2018, at least 28 rights activists and bloggers have been put on trial, convicted, and sentenced to long prison terms, including prominent blogger and democracy advocate Tran Huynh Duy Thuc.

Thuc, who is serving a 16-year sentence, has been on a hunger strike for nearly a month to protest police pressure on him to plead guilty in exchange for amnesty. • *Radio Free Asia, Sept. 17*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Mr. “Made in Japan”



**Sony’s top executive Akio Morita updated Club members on his company and its latest technological wonder, the Walkman, on Oct. 25, 1979. Seated to his left is Jack Russell (NBC), sitting in for FCCJ president Swadesh DeRoy (Press Trust of India). To his right is Board member Loic Salman (AFP).**

Born in Nagoya on Jan. 26, 1921, Akio Morita was raised in a sake-brewing family, but went on to graduate with a degree in physics from the Osaka Imperial University. That was followed by a 1945 commission in the Japanese Navy, and to a friendship with Masaru Ibuka. In 1946 the two men launched Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo, with Morita’s family as a major shareholder. The company’s first major product came in 1950 when it marketed Japan’s first tape recorder. It then licensed transistor technology from Bell Labs and in 1957 launched a pocket-sized transistor radio, a great success that led to the company’s 1958 name change to the Sony Corporation.

In 1961, Sony Corporation of America became the first Japanese company to be listed on the New York stock exchange. Their string of successes is legendary: the first transistor TV set in 1960, the Walkman in 1979 and the Discman in 1984. It was only interrupted by their 1975 Betamax video cassette, which was eclipsed by Victor Japan’s VHS format launched the following year.

Morita diversified the company through acquisitions, including in 1988 that of CBS Records and then in 1989 of the Columbia Pictures Entertainment group. In 1988, *Time* named him one of the 20 most influential business leaders of the 20th Century.

He was also an author. His second book, *Made in Japan*, was a 1986 English-language autobiography written with the assistance of former FCCJ president Ed Reingold (*Time*) and Japanese journalist Mitsuko Shimomura. In 1989, he co-authored with Shintaro Ishihara *The Japan That Can Say No*. The criticisms in the book of the U.S. caused some controversy, and Morita had his chapters removed before publication of the 1991 English edition and distanced himself from the book.

Morita, who suffered a stroke in 1993, stepped down as Chairman in 1994 and died from pneumonia on Oct. 3, 1999 at the age of 78.

– Charles Pomeroy,  
editor of Foreign Correspondents in Japan,  
a history of the Club that is available at the front desk

# Joining hands to promote



## press freedoms

**A gathering of journalists from the Asian region share knowledge and camaraderie in the quest to bring truth to power.**

By Daniel Hurst

They say the pen is mightier than the sword. Even so, Zunar, a renowned political cartoonist who has campaigned against corruption in Malaysia, faced an uphill battle with authorities intent on suppressing his freedom of expression.

In recent years, he has been arrested numerous times, detained, charged with sedition and slapped with travel and book bans. His printers were harassed for publishing his work and he was forced to cancel an exhibition because of threats from pro-government mobs. "I told the police: 'Look, you can ban my book, you can ban my cartoons, but you cannot ban my mind,'" Zunar recalled in the keynote address to a large gathering of investigative journalists in South Korea in early October. "I said to them: 'I will keep drawing until the last drop of my ink.'"

But Zunar may have the last laugh: the fallen prime minister of Malaysia, Najib Razak, is now the one who is subject to a travel ban – and facing a raft of serious charges over corruption allegations that helped fuel his defeat at the general election in May. Najib has pleaded not guilty.

In a passionate speech peppered with light-hearted anecdotes, Zunar urged journalists to use their talents to expose wrongdoing and to keep fighting for the truth and free

speech, saying it was a never-ending marathon. "Responsibility is bigger than fear," he said. "My philosophy in cartooning is: How can I remain neutral? Even my pen has a stand."

Zunar was addressing the 3rd Asian Investigative Journalism Conference, held in Seoul's Millennium Hilton Hotel after previous gatherings in Manila in 2014 and Kathmandu in 2016. The three-day event, the biggest one to date, attracted 455 participants and speakers from 48 countries, including investigative and data journalists, media law experts, security specialists and representatives from leading non-government organizations. "It's incredible to see this great ballroom full of investigative journalists from across Asia and around the world," said Kim Yongjin, editor-in-chief of the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism, one of the co-hosts of the conference.

Apart from arranging panel discussions and workshops, the organizers scheduled extra-long coffee and lunch breaks, giving journalists from across the region an opportunity to network and potentially even generate cross-border collaborative projects. "We were struck this time by the high levels of collaboration, brainstorming and camaraderie among the participants," said David Kaplan, executive director of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), another co-host. "A lot of the action at our conferences takes place not just in the panels and workshops but in the restaurants, bars and hallways."

Kaplan, a former Tokyo-based journalist, said a post-event survey of the participants' reaction was "off the charts" – with nearly 98 percent of respondents saying their capacity as journalists had been increased. "It's also inspiring to our attendees to find out that they are not alone – that the

threats, harassment, and lack of information access they face are all too common," he said. "They also discover they share a stubborn commitment to the truth and accountability. That's a powerful feeling to take home."

### Increasing hostility to 'fourth estate'

The conference comes amid signs of increasing pressure on journalists in many countries. Apart from the financial difficulties that many legacy media outlets are experiencing as part of the industry's digital transformation, loud voices can often be heard denouncing reporters. Journalists are also having to confront sophisticated disinformation campaigns along with legal threats and other risks to their personal safety.

Sheila Coronel, an event panelist and dean of academic affairs at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, said it was a fraught and difficult time to be an investigative journalist. She said there used to be a broad consensus that the press played an important role as a watchdog on power, as the "fourth estate." "That consensus is rapidly fraying," Coronel told the audience, adding that journalists have been denounced in some quarters as "presstitutes," purveyors of "fake news" or tools of the liberal global elite.

Zaffar Abbas, another panelist and editor of Pakistan's English-language daily *Dawn*, said journalists are facing multi-pronged attacks including accusations of being unpatriotic. This notion of patriotism, he continued, was destroying journalism and free thinking.

Maria Ressa, chief executive of the Philippines-based social news network Rappler, explained how the outlet has faced numerous threats, including a government attempt to revoke its license. "We feel like the time to fight is now," she said. "The only way to fight is to shine the light, because if we do not fight we will lose."

In a later plenary session, Patricia Evangelista, an investigative journalist for Rappler, provided a compelling account of her work in documenting the effects of the so-called "drug war" that has led to thousands of deaths at the hands of police or vigilantes.

She emphasized the importance of fact-checking in order to make a story bulletproof. "I know the world is howling about fake news but that's not the worst of it," she said, arguing it was worse when the general public believed a story about an unjust killing in the drug war was true "but say 'It's okay. . . . They deserve it, so what?'"

### Japanese journalists share their stories

A number of Japanese journalists spoke at the conference about topics ranging from access to information about misuse of taxpayer funds, to shining a light on human rights abuses. Satoshi Kusakabe, a deputy editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, explained how he used Freedom of Information (FOI) laws in 2004 to reveal the lavish spending of then Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara, as well as his frequent absences from the office. "It was an eye-opening experience for me because [the laws enabled us to act as] a watchdog without any special sources," he said.

More recently, Kusakabe has used FOI applications to investigate the development of Japan's controversial state secrets law – an extraordinary search that, he said, uncovered 40,000 pages of documents. Kusakabe advised the gathered journalists that even a failure to find specific documents under FOI could become the basis of an article, if it suggested

flaws in the proper decision-making process.

Makoto Watanabe and Hideaki Kimura, both from the *Waseda Chronicle*, spoke about their reporting on the practice of forced sterilization in Japan. Journalist and documentary filmmaker Shiori Ito also addressed the conference about her efforts to counter the taboo of sexual abuse in Japan.

### Support for jailed reporters

The conference focused heavily on press freedom and attempts by governments to suppress critical reporting. At the gala dinner on the final evening, the attendees endorsed a statement calling on Myanmar's government to immediately and unconditionally release Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who were recently sentenced to seven years in prison for breaching state secrets.

The pair, who have maintained they were framed by the authorities, were in the process of exposing a massacre of 10 Rohingya Muslim men and boys in the coastal village of Inn Din in Myanmar's Rakhine state. They were, according to the conference statement, "unjustly convicted and jailed, simply for their crime of exemplary reporting on a matter of great public interest."

In a speech to the assembled media, Reg Chua of Reuters spoke of the two journalists' commitment. "Despite the toll on them personally – Wa Lone has a young baby girl he has never met, since she was born while he was in jail – they have called at every trial hearing and every opportunity for the need for a free press and the need for independent journalism," he said. He added that it was important "to call for their freedom and the freedom of journalists everywhere who face a similar plight."

"It's a really sad commentary on the world that we live in that we have so many panels here [at this conference] about the harassment, hate and violence directed towards journalists," said Chua. "Forty-two journalists were killed last year, a record 262 were imprisoned this year."

In the statement, published in seven languages, the conference attendees demanded that governments, multilateral agencies and authorities worldwide "commit to protecting the press, freeing those held arbitrarily, and ending impunity for those who attack journalists." Attendees held up pictures of the Reuters duo along with a large banner saying "Journalism is not a crime".

### If you can't beat them . . .

In his speech, Malaysian cartoonist Zunar described finding his way to maintain resolve and a sense of humor throughout his own ordeal. He said that as a cartoonist he believed that "if you cannot beat them, laugh at them." "No dictator in the world can stand it if you keep laughing at them," he quipped.

"Just laugh, until one day they introduce an anti-laughter law," he said. "Then if you want to laugh, you'll need to get a permit, a license from the police, you know, and fill out a form: When do you want to laugh? Next month. Where are you going to laugh? Who are you going to laugh at – the opposition or the government? And what kind of laughter will it be – hahaha or hehehe? Until then we really have to fight with laughter. It is very, very important for us to use our skills and our own way to fight with corrupt regimes." ●

*Daniel Hurst* is an Australian freelance journalist based in Tokyo who writes news and feature articles for a range of international publications.

# Ilgin Yorulmaz

By Julian Ryall

In journalism, as in life, it's often about being in the right place at the right time. Ilgin Yorulmaz seems to have made that something of a specialty since turning her hand to news reporting from the arts and culture features that she previously created.

Take this example: Izmir-born Yorulmaz was aboard a flight from New York to Istanbul in June 2016, just 48 hours after three terrorists used automatic weapons and suicide bombs to kill 46 people at Ataturk Airport. She was able to interview people on the flight about their thoughts and concerns as they approached their destination as well as speak with officials and witnesses in the airport after landing. By the time she arrived at her ultimate destination, Izmir, she was ready to file news stories for *The Huffington Post* and other outlets.

Example two: Less than one month later, as she was preparing to leave Turkey for New York, a faction of the Turkish military attempted a coup against the administration of President Erdogan. Fighting broke out on Turkish streets, leaving as many as 248 dead, before pro-government forces ultimately fended off the coup.

Being at the center of events that made headlines around the world was, Yorulmaz agrees, a formative experience for any journalistic career-seeker. "Seeing Turkish civilians give their lives to resist the coup that night was extraordinary. They were not simply 'casualties' and I felt privileged to tell their story.

"In journalism, I always ask myself 'Whose truth are we telling here?' I warn my Western colleagues reporting complicated conflicts in the non-Western world to avoid catering to predetermined audiences within a narrow band width – progressive or conservative – even if it means arguing against your editor sometimes," said 46-year-old Yorulmaz, who is half-Turkish and half-British and now serves on the FCCJ's Professional Activities Committee.

YORULMAZ FIRST CAME TO Japan in 1993 as a graduate student at a university in Niigata Prefecture, where she studied Japanese and international relations as a prelude to a diplomatic career. After completing the course, she joined a market research company and stayed a further five years, during which she discovered a talent for writing analytical reports.

Moving to London in 2000 with her husband, she completed a course on feature writing at Central Saint Martin, the University of the Arts London and began contributing design, art and lifestyle features to magazines, including *Maison Francaise* and the Turkish edition of *Vogue*.

Yorulmaz continued to write for *Vogue* while she was back in Istanbul with her growing family between 2007 and 2015, before her husband was offered a job in New York. "I had been wanting to go into journalism full time and I could see the

industry changing, so I decided to do the 10-month masters course at Columbia University," she said. "It was very intense, but there was so much for me to learn about journalism. There were new skills to master, such as podcasting and video production and we also had some wonderful professors, including Bob Woodward."

She was present at President Obama's last White House Correspondents' Dinner in 2016, ending with his infamous "Obama out" mic drop. "The presidential election campaign was an interesting time," she said. "Quite often I found myself as the only Muslim in a room, trying to explain and change attitudes towards my religion."

Yorulmaz brought that same desire to increase understanding others to her reporting. "I found myself interested in writing about New York's sub-cultures, about ethnic minorities, religion, LGBTQ issues," she said.

And while she is uncomfortable with the direction that the U.S. has taken under President Trump, Yorulmaz says she can understand its origins. "When I spoke to people in Milwaukee, for example, I could understand the concerns they had for their jobs and the economy. I heard the anger over the regulations they felt Obama had imposed on them," she said. "Smaller companies were struggling to pay their taxes and there was real resentment in a lot of the country."

In 2017, Yorulmaz's husband took a position in Tokyo once again – and she is happy to be back here working as a

journalist. She contributes to the BBC World Service's Turkish language programming and has ambitions to follow through on digital projects, using new ways of creating content.

"The media here is just one area in which Japan needs to transition in many ways," Yorulmaz said. She's keen to work at a university with a journalism program to pass on some of the skills and knowledge she has learned in the industry to up-an-coming Japanese journalists.

"I think Japan is trying to change but there are too many cultural and heritage barriers that are holding it back," she said. "Look at China, where everyone uses electronic money for everything; Japanese still want to have bills in their pockets."

But Japan also has an important role for the rest of the world. "Japan is the laboratory for the rest of the world," she said. "The population is ageing fast. At first glance a story about people renting strangers to act as members of their families at formal occasions is just a 'crazy Japan' story. But it's bigger than that and can tell us a lot about society here.

And, she says, these aren't isolated stories. "I can very easily see stories like this appearing in Europe in 20 or 30 years," she added. ●

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

**"SEEING TURKISH CIVILIANS GIVE THEIR LIVES TO RESIST THE COUP THAT NIGHT WAS EXTRAORDINARY. THEY WERE NOT SIMPLY 'CASUALTIES' AND I FELT PRIVILEGED TO TELL THEIR STORY."**



RODRIGO REYES MARIN

# NEW LOOK

Architectural photographer (and Club Member) **Stirling Elmendorf** photographed the new Club as it began opening – while awaiting final touches – for business.

Dedicated elevators open on the fifth floor to an open, glass-fronted **Reception**, with the hallway leading off to the right to the Club proper. (The photos temporarily hung behind the reception desk will be replaced by monitors.)

The wide hallways feature monthly **exhibitions** (right).





Of course, the Club's ultimate raison d'être is the work of journalism. Four adjoining **Function Rooms** of adjustable size will host the Club's regular press conferences (above) and other events.

**The VIP Room** (left) will host speakers awaiting their press conference appearances. It has access to the balcony (page 15) and can also be rented for member's events. The large windows offer a view of the Meiji Seimei Kan, a building designated as a National Important Cultural Property (and home of the post-war GHQ).

On the 6th floor is the **Library** (opposite top, and center, left) and journalists' **Work Room** (center, right). The windows have blinds to avoid distraction. It has a comfortable seating area, a work table and computer and printer access. The library books are housed in a glassed-off area (center, left). The work room has 20 work areas, screened for privacy and quiet. Both rooms feature the comfort and function of Herman Miller office chairs.



USM has provided modular furniture for use throughout the Club, including the Library's magazine rack and the side tables in the hallways and the VIP Room.



At the heart of the Club are its social and dining facilities. **The Main Bar and Restaurant** (top) features a large space with corner view of the Mitsubishi Ichigokan museum (a faithful reconstruction of its 1894 design). A piano graces the entertainment space, the correspondents' tables nestle in the corner (above) next to the open table, and all the chairs are freshly refurbished.

The restaurant opens onto a **Balcony Terrace** (opposite, top) that will give Members an uncommon chance to experience open-air dining in the middle of Marunouchi.

Fine dining is provided by two restaurants – the **Pen and Quill** (above, left), which is part of the adjustable complex of function rooms and can be screened off or left open to the Main Bar, and **Masukomi Sushi** on the floor above – a renowned sushi restaurant that has come with the Club from the Yurakucho location.

Photos by Stirling Elmendorf:  
[www.stirlingelmendorf.com](http://www.stirlingelmendorf.com)

# Thanks for the memories

Club Members share their remembrances from the FCCJ's 42 years at the Yurakucho Denki Building North Tower.



Yurakucho Denki Building, North Tower, from the Number 1 Shimbun front page, Nov. 1975

## A SHOUT-OUT TO THE PM

SANDRA MORI IS ONE of a select few who have actually set foot in all four premises the Club has used since its foundation in November 1945. They are the old Tokyo Kaikan (1945-1954), the former American Club Building, Marunouchi (1954-1967) the Chiyoda Annex Building (1967-1976) and the Yurakucho Denki Building (1976-2018).

"My first visit was with my Dad in 1947 when I was 11. I remember summer-night film shows on the roof of the old Tokyo Kaikan, organised by the Zenier brothers Gene and Julius (aka Julie). There was no air-conditioning then," she says.

Mori's most treasured memory of FCCJ life in the Yurakucho Denki Building was the visit by then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Sept. 14, 2001. "It had been some years since a Japanese premier had visited the Club. The Foreign Correspondents' Club was the Jaws of Death, seemed to be the attitude in Nagatacho," says Sandra.

When Koizumi strode purposefully into the packed Main Dining Room, Sandra - like a true Edokko greeting a favorite actor at a Kabuki performance - called out, "Yooo! Matemashita!" - which translates as "We've been waiting for you."

Koizumi stopped in his tracks and breaking into a smile turned towards Sandra in acknowledgement. "Ah! That's Kabuki!" he said. But before he could make more than eye contact, one of his minders gently but firmly steered the prime minister towards the podium. Sandra's brief moment of mixing with the powers that be passed into oblivion, largely unnoticed by the media throng, leaving her, she admits, "All of a-quiver" as the charismatic politician walked past.

Apart from that stellar experience Sandra - a keen volunteer who has organized numerous FCCJ entertainments over many years - remembers "so many fun things" during the four decades plus in Yurakucho. Modestly she plays down the leading part she took in establishing the "Saturday Night Live" music event in the Main Bar as one of the Club's unique contributions to the Tokyo music scene.

"Glenn Davis [now retired in Texas] got this event started," Mori says. "The intention was to make the Club more cheerful and I can honestly say that we've done that."

Now Sandra is looking forward to similar good times at the Marunouchi Nijubashi Building, and planning the inaugural party for Nov. 22.

- Sandra Mori  
Member since 1969



THE DALAI LAMA, 1980  
(from this month's FCCJ Photo Archives Exhibition)

## A PHOTOGRAPHER'S LAMENT

THERE ARE SO MANY individual incidents that it's hard to choose just one. How do you pick between a past president falling off his backless barstool in the old Stag Bar and breaking his arm or a widely told tale about a Filipina woman charging into the club with a kitchen knife in search of her husband and/or his alleged lover with whom she believed he was having an affair, among so many others.

One conversation I do remember was with Karl Bachmeyer, who accompanied General Douglas MacArthur when he made his return to the Philippines in 1945. Karl didn't get any shots of the general striding through the surf because he was stuck with the complicated process of reloading his Leica camera. I knew how complicated it was, since I had some of those Leicas: the film had to be trimmed manually beforehand, and then very carefully inserted using both hands.

- Ichiro Urushibara  
Member since 1964

**"IT HAD BEEN SOME YEARS SINCE A JAPANESE PREMIER HAD VISITED THE CLUB. THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB WAS THE JAWS OF DEATH, SEEMED TO BE THE ATTITUDE IN NAGATACHO."**

## RANDOM THEATRICAL THOUGHTS...

SAM JAMESON WAS MY mahjong student and became my sponsor when I joined in 1972. I once asked him why he ran for FCCJ president, and he replied "I didn't like the other guy so I ran against him and got the seat." I forgot who he defeated. . . .

. . . For my "Macbeth" production at the FCCJ, then GM Nakamura insisted that the audience at the FCCJ would never exceed 100. "Our members aren't that intelligent," he said. I offered to bet him that we'd do better than that. "It's a deal," said Nakamura, "and I'll give you half of the ticket price of the audience over 100." Well, it seems FCCJ members were more cerebral than he thought. The box office was 135, so I walked away with half of the price of the 35 tickets. (There's still a sword-scar on the main dining ceiling from one of Macbeth's fights) . . .

. . . After I attended "The Winds of God" in Shinjuku, the playwright Masayuki Imai begged me to bring his popular play to the FCCJ. "I want the foreign press to know the true faces of the kamikaze," he told me. So we staged it to a full-house audience at no cost to FCCJ. I think the story of the young pilots' suffering and their training changed the image of the kamikaze among media members and associate members alike. . . .

. . . When I was doing the gaijin casting for the TV documentary, "Unrealized Japan Divisional Occupation Plan," I chose the FCCJ for the premiere. After the screening was held, a Russian reporter angrily protested to the writer-director why the Japanese family had to escape from the Russian occupied zone to the US. zone. After looking around at the roomful of foreign correspondents, the director dodged the question, saying, "Oh, they could have run away from the American zone just as well. That's not my theme in the film." That was too much for me. "Liar!" I whispered.

This is my 46th year and I still love my Club.

- Junichi Takahashi  
Member since 1973

## CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE AWKWARD KIND

I HAD AN ODD experience at the Club when Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, the former prime minister of Japan, visited the FCCJ for a press conference. I think it was in 2011. I finished lunch at the Main Bar counter and - ready to return to work - headed for the 20th floor entrance hall to wait for an elevator. When one arrived, Mr. Hatoyama stepped out of it. Seeing me standing alone, he walked toward me smiling, with his right arm stretched out.

Taken aback and not wanting to embarrass Mr. Hatoyama, I shook his hand and mumbled, "Welcome to the Club." Then, in my eagerness to escape from the awkward situation, I rushed into another elevator whose doors were about to close, and vanished without a trace.

I have been wondering ever since what went through Mr. Hatoyama's mind at that moment, and what he thought about his strange reception at the Club.

- Richard R.F Ginies  
Member since 1978

**"FOR MY MACBETH PRODUCTION AT THE FCCJ, THEN GM NAKAMURA INSISTED THAT THE AUDIENCE AT THE FCCJ WOULD NEVER EXCEED 100. "OUR MEMBERS AREN'T THAT INTELLIGENT," HE SAID. . . ."**

## HARD WORK AND LUBRICATED DEBATE

THE CLUB SEEMED MUCH more of a working journalists' hangout in the early 1980s when I first joined. Those were the days when news reports were written on a typewriter then filed by telex - and for those of us who didn't belong to a news bureau, that meant trying to find a vacant space among the cubicles lining a corridor-like room at the back of the Library (which was then on the 20th floor).

Work went on around the clock, especially for those writing for different time zones, and even after the Main Bar closed (which was very late at night), drinks could always be had, on a help-yourself basis, in the intimate Shimbun Alley bar, with Marilyn's famous nude photograph gracing the wall. (Whatever happened to that picture, I wonder?\*)

No matter what time of night you arrived, there was guaranteed to be a well-lubricated, hot debate going on between correspondents on the issues of the day, with the likes of the young Richard Pyle, Mike Tharp, Bradley Martin, Andrew Horvat, Bruce MacDonell and others at the heart of the fray. Those were heady times, with a vibrancy that one doesn't feel today.

- Roslyn Hayman  
Member since 1981

\*It's in storage at the Club (ed.).



AUTHOR KENZABURO OE, 1984  
(from this month's FCCJ Photo Archives Exhibition)

**VIEW FROM THE TOP:  
HISTORY AND HORROR**

CHIEF AMONGST THE CHERISHED features we will surely miss of the old Denki Building is the impressive view Members have enjoyed from its 20th floor. For years we've been privy to scenes of the evolution of the capital, thanks to the panorama stretching from the Imperial Palace to Tokyo Bay.

At no time did the pleasures of its panorama clash so dramatically with the horrific drama of breaking news as in the moment when Tohoku was hit by the giant earthquake on March 11, 2011. To most of us on the 20th floor that afternoon, the epicenter felt like it was under Tokyo. The building's structural defense against earthquakes was its ability to sway widely, so damages from falling glassware, bottles of wine flying out of cabinets, and chairs tumbling over with their guests still in them, were disproportionate to the quake's actual strength.

Moments later, we watched thick, black smoke rise from the garbage disposal island of Yumenoshima, then a large explosion in the direction of Chiba, which was reported later on the news screens as one of Idemitsu's refineries. As members made our way from the Bar to the Media Room, then the Pen and Quill and Masukomi for a quick 360-degree assessment, we were pleasantly surprised to see little evidence of damage nearby. Taxis and buses were still making their way down the main traffic arteries, before the throngs of people began to flood onto the streets, stopping all transportation.

Perhaps the biggest surprise may have been the sight of members who climbed 20 flights to the Club in search of food and FCCJ's antiquated land lines which heroically delivered where most cell phone connections failed. That night, the bar was packed with earthquake refugees telling tales of their trials trying to reach family and friends.

By the next morning, a wave of international reporters were arriving at the Club, as Japan took center stage for news. Unfortunately, the true scope of the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear accident's impact on the lives of millions in the region continues to evade us.

**- Mary Corbett**  
Member since 1994



**"The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan is moving after decades. It feels like my parents sold the family home and moved to Florida"**  
Jake Adelstein, twitter, Oct. 26, 2018  
Member since 2008

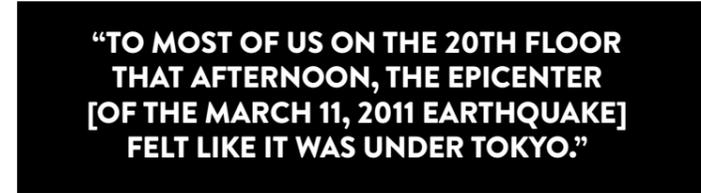
**HATCHED AT THE CLUB: THE FIREFLY CAPER**

THIS IS NOT SO much a memory of the Denki Building itself but rather a memory of the schemes that were hatched there. It was 1983 and a group of Regular and Associate Members were visiting the Chinzanso Garden in Mejirodai in order to watch fireflies, or *hotaru*. The participants included Karel van Wolferen, Bill Emmott, Richard Hanson and Urban Lehner. I recall a sumptuous *kaiseki* dinner in the garden restaurant and lots of sake. Then came the hotaru, and they were absolutely breathtaking, right there in the middle of Tokyo. I remarked to one of the attendants that it was interesting that the hotaru were plentiful inside Chinzanso's garden but that you never saw any outside. She looked at me in confusion, and said, "But we fly them in every day from Shikoku." The combination of sake and hotaru inspired a number of haiku, as is customary on these kinds of occasions. The most memorable was by Urban Lehner, of the *Wall Street Journal*.

*"Imported fireflies tried to come hither tonight, non-tariff barrier..."*  
**- Willem Kortekaas**  
Member since 1984



**TETSUKO KUROYANAGI WITH EDWIN REINGOLD, 1981**  
(from this month's FCCJ Photo Archives Exhibition)



**"TO MOST OF US ON THE 20TH FLOOR THAT AFTERNOON, THE EPICENTER [OF THE MARCH 11, 2011 EARTHQUAKE] FELT LIKE IT WAS UNDER TOKYO."**

**TWO FISTS AND A PLACE TO USE THEM**

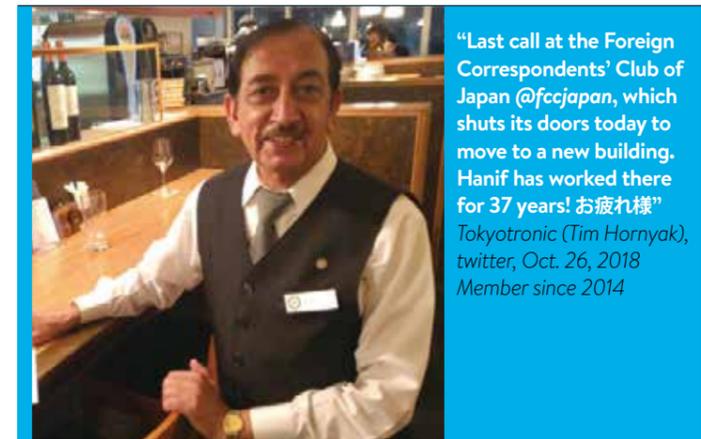
WHEN I ARRIVED IN Tokyo in 1977 the FCCJ, newly housed in the Denki Building, retained some of the Wild West atmosphere that had characterized the Club from the Occupation through the Korean War and Vietnam War years. Although bedrooms were no longer available upstairs for dalliances, the small Shimbun Alley bar spoke to the sexism of old by featuring our large, framed print of a nude Marilyn Monroe.

Two-fistedness was the rule in more ways than one. One obstreperous member (now deceased) seemed to think the small bar was his personal domain. He got in the habit of drunkenly swinging at other members, failing to connect, falling to the floor and injuring himself.

The most memorable Denki Building fight occurred when a former Regular Member (also now deceased), who had left to study in the Caribbean at a for-profit, low-standards institution that we all denigrated as the "Papa Doc School of Medicine," returned midway through his course for a visit and was drinking at a crowded correspondents' table.

Taking issue with something said by a correspondent seated opposite him, the returnee snapped, "You're crazy!" "Is that your medical opinion, Doctor?" came the reply, dripping with sarcasm. Enraged, the Papa Doc student leapt across the table, knocked his interlocutor to the floor and pounded his face until another Member separated the pair.

Things have calmed down considerably since those days.  
**- Bradley K. Martin**  
Member since 1978



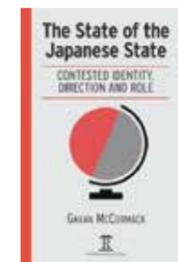
**"Last call at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan @fccjapan, which shuts its doors today to move to a new building. Hanif has worked there for 37 years! お疲れ様"**  
Tokyotronic (Tim Hornyak), twitter, Oct. 26, 2018  
Member since 2014

**NEW MEMBERS**

- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**  
**Ku Chin Cheng**, Taipei Economic & Cultural Representative Office  
**Hiroki Itokawa**, Mitsubishi Corporation Urban Development  
**Kazuo Ogasawara**, Mitsubishi Ore Transport Co., Ltd.

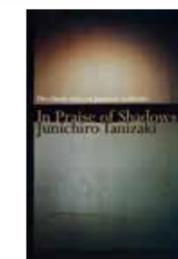
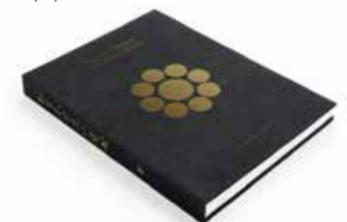
**NEW IN THE LIBRARY**

- East Asian Strategic Review 2018**  
*The National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan*  
*The Japan Times*  
Gift from the National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan
- Tokyo Roji: the Diversity and Versatility of Alleys in a City in Transition**  
Heide Imai  
Routledge  
Gift from Heide Imai and Mark Gresham



**The State of the Japanese State: Contested Identity, Direction and Role**  
Gavan McCormack  
Renaissance Books  
Gift from Gavan McCormack

- Masaaki Hatsumi: Dojo Giga | Heaven**  
Masaaki Hatsumi; photographic art direction by Steve Olsen  
Steven Olsen  
Gift from Masaaki Hatsumi



**In Praise of Shadows**  
Junichiro Tanizaki;  
Kengo Kuma (fwd.);  
Gregory Starr (trans.);  
Andrew Potheary  
(photo & book design)  
Sora Books  
Gift from Gregory Starr



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**¥5,000 ~ ¥20,000**  
**Dining voucher for introducing a new member**

**¥20,000**

**F&B voucher if you introduce:**  
Associate, Diplomatic Associate or  
Five-Year Associate member

**¥10,000**

**F&B voucher if you introduce:**  
Regular, P/J Associate, Young Associate or  
Outside Kanto Associate member

**¥5,000**

**F&B voucher if you introduce:**  
Young Regular, Young P/J Associate,  
Outside Kanto Regular or Outside Kanto P/J Associate member

THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF JAPAN

Marunouchi Nijubashi Building 5F, Marunouchi 3-2-3 Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-0005, Japan  
www.fccj.or.jp E-mail: front@fccj.or.jp Tel: +81-3-3211-3161 Fax: +81-3-3211-3168

#### Terms & Conditions of Dining Certificate

**1)** Certificate may be issued for any new member whose application is received by the FCCJ office and whose membership is paid-in-full immediately after membership confirmation. **2)** Only one certificate per new member will be issued. In case of multiple claims, reward may be split. **3)** Certificate may be redeemed at Pen & Quill Dining Room, Main Bar and Masukomi Sushi Bar during the campaign period. **4)** Certificate cannot be credited to member's account and is valid for one use only. **5)** Any unused portion of the value is non-refundable. The certificate holder is liable for any amount consumed in excess of the value of the certificate. **6)** Certificate valid for 6 months and is non-transferable.

The FCCJ may end promotion at any time. Please check with the office to confirm still active.