

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

December 2014, Volume 46 No. 12, ¥400

**Media:**  
**HOW THE EAST ASIAN MEDIA COVER JAPAN**  
(... while battling financial, political and press club barriers.)

**イデオロギイ**

**Profile**  
Chuck Lingham on his 100th-birthday

**Welfare**  
The sad end to a noble imported idea

**Science**  
Japan leads in saving young lives



> THEME.07  
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**Cover illustration:** Andrew Potheary





From the President

SIX MONTHS INTO OUR financial year, I'm very pleased to report good news: we are getting stronger, with our finances well ahead of budget. Compared with last year, our first-half (Apr.-Sept.) revenue is up 8.3 percent and our bottom-line net-profit is up 72.3 percent. This has enabled us to boost our net worth to ¥12.02 million compared to a ¥3.62 million deficit in 2013.

Much of this can be credited to the hard work of many of our committees, our staff who have helped to bring in new banquet revenue and general manager Tom Yanagi, who is skillfully implementing fiscal belt tightening, collecting unpaid fees and modernizing our accounting and POS (point of sale) operating systems, among other efforts.

Overall, the first-half FY2014 income statement shows a surplus of ¥16.7 million. The budget approved by the Regular Members last spring had forecast a deficit for the period of around ¥3.9 million.

Of the surplus, about half (¥8.2 million) is from stock market gains via the employee retirement fund sale, made possible by the solid stewardship of associates on the Finance Committee. This is not operating income of course, but it helps to bolster the retirement pool, money that would have to come from other sources if not for this gain.

It should be noted that we are not out

of the woods, however, and continue to rely on revenue from the special levy to help cover our costs.

The levy, implemented in July 2012, brought in ¥12 million during the period. It is also a targeted revenue source. The resolution approving the levy stated that it was to be used "to cover transition costs related to our re-incorporation as a Koeki Shadan Hojin (public interest association), including outsourcing of the Food and Beverage operation, and pay for an eventual renovation of the Club's facilities."

How exactly has the levy been used? Some has gone toward renovation (replacing old pipes, etc.) but the bulk of the spending to date has been on restructuring costs, including attorney fees in relation to ongoing staff legal cases from the F&B outsourcing decision. A House and Property Committee report shows, however, that we could face an expensive infrastructure emergency with our rapidly aging, 39-year-old space. The Board of Directors and GM are looking at how much we need to spend to ensure our facility stays robust until our planned relocation in 2018.

We must make an important decision about our finances when the levy expires at the end of March 2015. Like a bad crutch, the Club has in recent years depended on revenue from special levies. Prior to the current surcharge, there was a Publication Levy (for *Number 1 Shimbun*) of ¥400 per month per member that began in April 2008.

So where do we source our revenue? By far the bulk is from membership fees at 78 percent (71 percent monthly dues and 7 percent initiation fees); 9.6 percent from F&B; 5.5 percent from the special levy; 6 percent "other." With 60 percent of our Members over 60 years

old, we will be facing a critical juncture in the coming years. Like many press clubs, it's clear we need to shore up our membership numbers. Our recent discounted membership campaigns have helped significantly, but complaints from long-time Members on this strategy have been growing.

The Membership Marketing Committee (MMC) is now targeting young Members with youth-oriented events and services. Corporate memberships are in the works, and tax deductions on membership fees are also being explored.

The MMC will continue to take on our membership challenges, but we need your help. As you know, we are a small group of busy volunteers. Please join us in this critical endeavor, or simply help us with your suggestions.

We're also moving forward on the donations front. The Compliance Committee has submitted a set of rules to the board in line with our Koeki Shadan Hojin status. Once passed by the board, the Donations Task Force will kick into high gear and begin soliciting donations. Please let us know of any potential donors!

Last but not least, we plan to establish a three-to-five-year business plan, which Treasurer Yuichi Otsuka is determined to implement during his tenure. 2015 is our 70th anniversary year – a critical period in our Club history when we must establish a solid base for financial stability. Again, I ask you, our Members, to help us with this endeavor. Help us ensure that the FCCJ will be able to celebrate its 100th anniversary, and beyond.

– Lucy Birmingham

FROM THE ARCHIVES



THE FIRST MAJOR press conference of Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) drew wide news coverage and was carried live by a number of Japanese TV networks. Joyu was absent from a second news conference held at the Club only days later, on April 7. Instead, lawyer Nobuyoshi Aoyama, and head scientist Hideo Murai, fielded questions. (Murai was stabbed to death in front of Aum headquarters a few weeks later.)

Both events drew criticism from some Club members who viewed them as abetting the spread of Aum propaganda. President Hielscher rejected that view saying that the news conferences presented major news events. The grumbling subsided as Aum continued to make headlines.

A doomsday cult founded by Shoko Asahara (born Chizuo Matsumoto) in 1984, Aum was built on a patchwork of elements drawn from major religions. It was also influenced by a fictional book in which a group of scientists survive a calamity to create a new world. Using this, Asahara



**Fumihiko Joyu, Aum's spokesman, responding to a question at the FCCJ on April 3, 1995. Joyu, who spoke fluent English, denied the cult's involvement in the March 30 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system that left 13 people dead and more than 5,000 seeking medical treatment. Behind Joyu is Gebhard Hielscher, correspondent for *Suddeutsche Zeitung* who was FCCJ president. Leaning forward on the right is Richard Lloyd Parry, then correspondent for the *Independent*, now for the *Times*.**

(AP photo by Tsugufumi Matsumoto)

lured into his cult the young scientists who later produced the sarin used in the subway attack as well as other chemical and biological weapons.

Intended to divert police attention, the subway attack of 1995 instead led to Aum's downfall. The cult lost its status as a religious organization shortly thereafter, had assets seized, and had its compound near Mt. Fuji – where the sarin gas had been made – closed down. Its membership at the

time was estimated at some 40,000 members worldwide with over 9,000 members in Japan.

Although sentenced to death by hanging in 2004, Asahara's execution is still on hold. The last fugitive of the sarin attack, Katsuya Takahashi, was captured in 2012 and will be tried in January, 2015. A verdict is expected in April.

– Charles Pomeroy

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

TALES FROM THE ROUND TABLES  
HIJINX AND HIGH SEAS

"BEING A CLUB FOUNDED by hacks who came ashore with MacArthur, it's no surprise that there have always been epic tales from the high seas on tap at the Shimbun Alley bar. Many of us can recall firsthand accounts – such as Al Cullison's tale of his destroyer's great rescue mission after witnessing the *HMAS Canberra* take

a surprise hit of 28 Japanese 8-inch shells. It was in the still-dark hours of Aug. 8, 1942, and heralded the tumultuous beginning of the Battle of Savo Island.

"Then there were the award-winning insights of premiere war correspondent Dennis Warner, who started covering the Pacific region in the 30s and went on to report from the fronts of WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam. Dennis filed a number of stories of his close calls, the most dramatic probably being the direct kamikaze attack on his warship *Formidable*. Years later the experience led to a book, *The Sacred Warriors*:

*Japan's Suicide Legions*, co-written with his wife Peggy, a correspondent for the *Herald*.

"One of our all-time favorite stories comes not from the swashbuckling heroics of a renowned journalist, but from longtime associate member Bill Salter. After working in Japan for over a decade, Bill joined the British Navy when the war broke out, and was assigned to a submarine. As the senior officer on deck one day, he was about to start questioning the captured members of a Japanese crew when he hears ('in the middle of the f--cking Indian Ocean!' Bill would repeat to delighted

audiences for the next 50 years) 'Salter-san! Salter-san!'

"And wouldn't you know it?' Bill would laugh, 'It's the damn guard from the YCAC who in pre-war days once caught my friend Serge Bielous and me trying to burn evidence in the club's boiler next to the men's big *ofuro*.'

"The evidence in question was a rather formidable wood signboard that had graced the front of a police station and which Bill and Serge had been inspired to steal in a moment of alcohol-induced merriment. The guard saw the suspicious black smoke go up from the club's chimney in the early morning hours, and arrived with

great urgency to catch the two club members feeding the now chopped up police *kanban* into the fire. 'That cost us ¥5 to keep him quiet,' Bill said, 'a lot of money in those days.'

"But rather good value, the Round Table Whisperers would venture, when you consider how much chuckle mileage Bill clearly got out of it for the remainder of a very long life. As for the guard, he not only earned his payoff, but enjoyed exceptional British hospitality on the high seas for keeping his end of the deal . . . we're pretty sure."

– The Shimbun Alley Whisperers



# Reporting Japan to our neighbors

In an unremarkable residential neighborhood in the Ebisu area of Tokyo stands a small, anonymous office building with security cameras and a distinctly unwelcoming locked door. There is not even a sign on its glass façade. But this is the local headquarters of the most powerful news media organization of continental East Asia; this is the Tokyo Bureau of the Xinhua News Agency, as well as an annex to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Media is not noted for its shyness in seeking attention. The whole concept is to be out there in the public eye. So when a media organization hides behind a locked door, we can imagine factors at play that lay outside the industry norm.

These are tough times for media everywhere, and that includes the foreign media in Japan. Foreign correspondents have been hit by a double blow since the 1990s: the declining financial fortunes of the news media globally and, specifically, the fading foreign interest in Japan.

While pockets of keen interest in Japan remain, it is believed by most media watchers that, within the Tokyo-based foreign journalist community, East Asian journalists are the only group that is growing in numbers and capacity.

## A TALE OF THE NUMBERS

The number of journalists granted Foreign Ministry press cards is one way to gauge this assertion. The South Korean media, for example, had 41 journalists with press cards in 2004, and the current level is 38.

The number of Hong Kong journalists with press cards grew from 10 in 2004 to 15 journalists today, while over the same 10-year time period, the number of Taiwanese journal-

***Though some suffer from dwindling resources and access barriers, East Asian journalists reporting from Tokyo have a big impact across the region.***

by MICHAEL PENN

ists with press cards dropped, but only slightly, from 11 to 10.

The one truly striking figure, however, is that of China. From 27 holders of Foreign Ministry press cards in 2004, the community of Chinese journalists in that category has now grown to 47.

These figures, of course, don't include freelancers and stringers, but from discussions with the East Asian press community here, it seems that freelancing for the South Korean, Taiwanese and Chinese media organizations is a profession that effectively doesn't exist.

"Living in Tokyo is expensive," notes Yang Ming Chu, the Tokyo bureau chief for Taiwan's Central News Agency. "There's no way for freelancers to make money. The media companies will not even cover a freelancer's travel expenses." Moreover, editors at East Asian newspapers do not generally welcome submissions from anyone other than their own reporters.

This is not to say, however, that there isn't a lot of work for the reporters here. For Taiwan, especially, the public appetite for news from Japan is voracious. "Taiwan is remarkably influenced by Japan," says Amy Huang, Tokyo bureau chief for *China Times*, "Our public is interested in all kinds of things; not just politics and economics, but also culture, the arts, manga, food, transportation and various aspects of tourism."

## THE TIGHTENING FINANCIAL SITUATION

Unfortunately, that massive public interest back home does not translate into sound economic prospects for the Taiwanese journalists here. As it has globally, the internet has undermined the traditional media outlets, and most Taiwanese can

now access, at no charge, English-language news or Japanese media services translated into Chinese in order to learn about the major happenings in Tokyo.

Even the Central News Agency, the Taiwanese equivalent of NHK, now stations only a single correspondent in Japan – Yang – who does all of her work alone, including writing articles out of her apartment and taking video with her little handycam.

"Before I came here," she laments, "there used to be a lot of Taiwanese journalists in Tokyo. If you were a bureau chief like me, for example, you'd be making good money and you'd be treated like an ambassador. There were cars and mansions . . . but now we don't even have a dedicated office."

That's certainly not the case for the state media of China, which has become increasingly dominant in the field of Chinese-language reporting about Japan. Xinhua's staff is now young and professional and equipped with state-of-the-art television cameras. They have the manpower to put stories out immediately, and the budget to send reporters and crews all around the Japanese archipelago. They are now operating on an entirely different level from the one-man or one-woman shows that characterize the Taiwanese – or, for that matter, the South Korean – journalists.

Taiwanese journalists point out that more and more of their potential readers take their news directly from Xinhua, which usually can deliver its reports more quickly. But since Xinhua is also the state media of a non-democratic country, there are questionable effects attending its expanding dominance of the Chinese-language sphere. It can change the political nuances of stories, and can have other unfortunate effects.

For example, the *China Times'* Huang relates an incident in which her editors in Taiwan called her frantically after they had read a breaking story in the Chinese press. According to the reports, Japan was sending a war-

ship to the Senkaku Islands, and the situation had the potential to start a war. They demanded that she file her copy on the warship's departure as soon as possible.

"I told them, 'It didn't happen!'" she says. "I'm talking directly with Japan's Ministry of Defense and I'm telling you that such an event did not occur!" It took some effort to convince her editors that the headlines splashed across China's newspapers were, in fact, baseless.

Attempts to get a direct response on this issue from the Chinese side were unsuccessful in light of that locked door in Ebisu and unanswered requests for interviews.

Transparency – or the lack of it – is not only a feature of the Chinese media. South Korean journalists did answer interview requests, but requested anonymity in order to speak freely. The picture they paint of their community stands somewhere in the middle, both in regard to the financial resources available to them as well as to the political pressures that they must conform to.

The recent poor diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Seoul encourages them to be critical of Japanese policy in some of their reports, which could be a reason why they frequently have trouble scheduling interviews with Japanese news sources. They are set apart from the other East Asian journalists by their national language and a more competitive media environment among the Koreans themselves.

**It is believed by most media watchers that East Asian journalists are the only group that is growing in numbers and capacity**

Michael Penn is President of the Shingetsu News Agency and First Vice-President of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

## DEALING WITH THE BARRIERS

On top of their financial struggles, most East Asian journalists have little institutional support for their efforts. They are routinely blocked out of some events by the Japanese press club system, and few of them feel that there are enough compelling reasons to join the FCCJ.

They make some use of the government-affiliated Foreign Press Center Japan (FPCJ). For the journalists with no travel budgets, FPCJ press tours to the various local regions are a welcome chance to see other parts of the country and socialize with their peers. On rare occasions – such as after the Fukushima nuclear disaster – the journalist community has banded together on their own.

South Korean journalists, for example, became unhappy at their treatment regarding access to the danger zone. Japanese journalists were being given tours of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, and Western journalists were also being provided with tours through the Foreign Press In Japan (FPIJ) – but the South Korean press was completely locked out. Some of them then grouped together and approached the FPCJ to help them. Their effort bore fruit when several journalists were allowed to participate in a plant tour along with a very large delegation of Japanese journalists.

The Taiwanese journalists have a similar story. After becoming aware of a rumor that spread across Taiwan after 3/11, suggesting that Hakodate in Hokkaido had been terribly damaged by the tsunami, they banded together and decided to take a look for themselves. There was some urgency involved because Taiwanese tourists had begun avoiding Hokkaido, and the local economy was feeling the pinch.

What they found, of course, was that tsunami damage in Hokkaido was relatively light. The local Japanese authorities were very cooperative once they understood the purpose of the Taiwanese journalists' visit, and that the reporters were spending their own personal money to report the story. The very positive result of their reports from Hakodate was that Taiwanese tourists were effectively reassured and they quickly began to return to Hokkaido in large numbers.

This latter example highlights the largely unrecognized importance of the East Asian journalists in Tokyo. In fact, their reports, even when compiled with very modest resources or with particular political slants, may exercise a larger influence on the real world of politics and economics than the English-language media reports that receive more attention from Japanese government and big business.

The Central News Agency's Yang points out that she is often locked out from video news coverage by press club restrictions, and she doesn't receive support from the FPIJ because of her use of a handycam, but that the impact of her reports on the Japanese economy may be greater than that of the "major" Western agencies.

"My video reports are distributed to at least five 24-hour news channels," she says, "meaning that they are viewed not only in Taiwan, but also in Hong Kong and in some coastal parts of mainland China, as well as via the internet to Chinese-speaking communities in Australia, the United States, and elsewhere.

"The system run by the 'major' Western agencies is extremely unfair," she adds. "Although I work alone, I am also a major agency." ●





# Chuck Lingham, centenarian

by MONZURUL HUQ

Vellayappa Chokalingham was born on Nov. 30, 1914 to a South Indian merchant family whose business empire stretched to Malay and Singapore. Many of the male family members of the well-off clan had been sent to Europe for higher studies – and, upon completing his education, the same opportunity was open to young Vellayappa. The young man chose to head in the opposite direction, however, and sailed to Japan with the dream of becoming an engineer specializing in power generation. It was an area that he hoped would be helpful in expanding the family business.

His first encounter with Japan came at the port city of Nagasaki on a sunny spring morning in 1935, and there was not the slightest hint that his stay in the country was going to be a very long one, or that it would cover turbulent times and be full of exciting endeavors. That first encounter did expose, however, the first few of many contradictions in Japanese life that he was to find curious.

As he sailed eastward from Singapore, he was pretty sure that he was going to arrive at a country that was preserving the oriental traditions that were much appreciated in other parts of Asia. Instead, the people he met at the port were all dressed in Western attire. Surely, he thought, the way they had taken to the Western dress code meant he could expect a deep knowledge of the languages of the West as well. That would be to his benefit, since he knew no Japanese and needed to get directions to the railway station from where he had to take a train to Tokyo. Instead, to his misfortune, no one spoke a single word of English and he had to find his own way to the station with much difficulty.

In Tokyo he rented a place near Shinjuku and enrolled at Kogyo University. It was a time when exiled Indians in Japan were organizing under the leadership of Rashbehari Bose with the idea of launching a liberation movement to free India from British colonial domination. As the Japanese army started moving westward, the movement received the patronage of the Japanese government, and it was sometime during this period that Bose asked young Lingham to become his private secretary. Initially he was a bit hesitant as he thought accepting the offer might disrupt his study. Later, however, he decided to join Bose; his close association with the leader continued until Bose's death in early 1945.

He travelled all over the Southeast Asian region with the movement leader, encouraging Indian expatriates to join the newly formed liberation army. However, many of their countrymen in Southeast Asia were suspicious of Rashbehari Bose's motives. They saw him as a puppet of the imperial Japanese army, and were reluctant to step forward. This prompted the Japanese leadership to

look for an alternative, and with the arrival of the charismatic Indian leader Subhash Chandra Bose in Tokyo in 1943 the leadership crisis was solved. By the time Rasbehari Bose returned to Tokyo to hand over the leadership to Subhash Chandra Bose, he was already seriously ill.

Chokalingham, too, was ordered to return to Tokyo, where he was given a new assignment as a Tamil language radio broadcaster at NHK. The remuneration that he received for his service was quite hefty at the time, allowing him to lead a relatively well-off life. He even had enough to sip coffee at the luxurious Imperial Hotel, where he once saw the legendary spy master Richard Sorge spending time with his cohorts. But that good time came to an end. Chokalingham remembers when Tokyo was the target of frequent U.S. bombing raids, and he had to run for shelter on a number of occasions when he was trapped in the street.

## He travelled Southeast Asia with the liberation movement leader, encouraging Indian expatriates to join the newly formed liberation army.



Japan's unconditional surrender in August, 1945, led to a period of uncertainty. "It was a time of anxiety and fear," he says, "because I belonged to the losing side and was waiting for my turn to be called for interrogation."

But he needed work. The only opening he could see for someone with his skills was for interpreters. He was worried that for someone like him applying for that kind of job might turn out to be suicidal. Eventually, he made friends with a few Americans who encouraged him to get involved in interpretation. The call from the interrogators came while he was already working for the occupation.

His worries were for naught. "My interrogators came to a firm conclusion," he says, "that I had done nothing wrong."

His American friends also suggested that he try his hand at commerce, so in the 1950s he began operating his own import company. (The friends also began simplifying his name from Chokalingham to "Chuck Lingham" – a name that has stuck.) Success followed quickly, and with his Japanese wife, Chuck settled down to make a good life in his adopted country. Later he established a new company that concentrated on importing metals for Gillette Japan, which he ran until his retirement almost 30 years ago. Chuck joined the FCCJ in 1967 and was given life membership in March 2005. He is now its oldest member. It has become his second home to the extent that, most days, he can be seen spending a few hours being waited on with great care by the staff and his friends at the Club.

From an obscure student activist dreaming of liberating his country to a very successful businessman and entrepreneur to a beloved fixture at our tables, Chuck has led his fascinating and active life to the full.

He celebrated his 100th birthday last month

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

ANDREW POTHECARY



# Life begins earlier in Japan

by SONJA BLASCHKE



Alive and kicking. Ayako Ishii with her son, Kenta

ALL PHOTOS: SONJA BLASCHKE

**The country boasts the world's highest survival rates of extremely premature babies thanks to advanced medicine – and the law. But it's still a matter of contention.**

When she first saw her new-born son Kenta, Ayako Ishii did not feel a thing. There was no motherly love flooding her system, nor was she sad. She simply thought: “That isn’t a baby, it’s still a fetus.” Looking at the child’s narrow face, a typical feature of premature infants, she knew he should still be in her womb, not in an incubator. With only 23 weeks of gestation, he weighed just 500 grams, six times less than children born after a regular pregnancy of 39 weeks. But he had it good: the smallest preemie to ever survive in Japan only weighed 300 grams.

Many prematurely born children are physically and mentally handicapped to varying degrees. In fact, three years on, Kenta suffers from a light form of cerebral palsy as well as blindness, and his development is slowed. But at least he survived, even as it took his mother weeks to overcome her first shock. Her attitude only changed when a psychologist pointed out Kenta’s will to survive, manifested by his struggle to move his little arms and legs. Then, she says, she and her husband decided, “He’s making such an effort to live that we have to support him as much as we can.”

## EVERY NINTH U.S. CHILD IS BORN BEFORE ITS TIME

The Ishiis are not alone. Though comparatively few children are born preterm in Japan – less than six per 100 births – preterm births of babies under 37 weeks of gestational age are on the rise worldwide. Even in developed countries like the U.S. every ninth child is born before its time. There are a number of theories about why this is happening. The fact that more and more women give birth for the first time later in life may be one reason; increased stress could be another. Infections of the birth canal may also lead to preterm births. Sometimes, as in the case of the Ishii family, the waters break too early and birth has to be induced. Often, however, the exact reasons remain a mystery.

No other country in the world saves as many extremely low-birth-weight children – those who weigh less than 1000 grams and have spent only 22 or 23 weeks in the mother’s womb. Dr. Satoshi Kusuda from Tokyo’s Women’s Medical University, who was responsible for the care of little Kenta at the hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), explains: “Children born after 22 weeks of gestation have a 50 percent chance of survival, and 50 percent of the survivors suffer physical damage, such as neurological defects. After 23 weeks of gestation, 80 percent of the children can be saved, 80 percent of them without suffering any handicap.”

In some countries doctors do not even try to save children born with just 22 weeks, but Japanese doctors are obliged to – by law. According to most specialists, this is the utmost limit of viability. It’s also quite simple to remember, since women can have an abortion in Japan under certain conditions up to 21 weeks.

There are a number of reasons why Japan has so few preterm births and why it is so successful at saving them. One is that the country’s health system is well developed. It covers over a dozen health checks for the mother during pregnancy and all costs for the treatment of preemies. Such financial support can make it easier, especially for low-income families, to decide whether doctors should save their child in critical cases or not. In other countries, the costs for some medications, which can make the difference between life and death, have to be shouldered by the parents themselves.

Another factor that impacts the survival rate is the highly specialized equipment available. In the 1970s, there were no respirators for extremely small babies in Japan. Children born weighing less than 1500 grams were considered nonviable back then. But now Japan ranks high among nations with the highest standards of equipment and training. In Tokyo, for example, a system linking 25 hospitals that can take care of preemies and their mothers has been in operation for over 10 years: participants are able to check in real-time the availability of spare hospital beds at clinics specializing in neonatology.

Sonja Blaschke is a German freelance journalist writing for publications in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. She also works as a producer for TV filming in Japan.

In addition, the condition of every child at Dr. Kusuda’s unit is monitored and recorded by a personal computer placed next to its incubator.

Another unique feature of the Japanese system is that every NICU employs specialists who have the authority and knowledge to conduct all necessary checks and treatments themselves, on site. At least one of these “almighty” doctors is present at all times, and each is capable of determining the whole treatment strategy, according to Kusuda. That is different from the U.S. system, for example, where the division of labor is more prevalent and the infants have to be taken to different rooms for different examinations.

For Hiroshi Nishida, one of Japan’s leading neonatologists, the doctors’ attitude towards their tiny patients is another decisive factor. “Even at the very beginning of their lives, preemies are human beings,” he says. “Therefore we do everything we can to help them survive. That is how we achieve our high survival rate.” In the early days of Japanese preemie medicine, Nishida devised ethical standards for doctors they could refer to when deciding whether or not to continue treatment and to what degree.

Kusuda says that doctors try to treat their small patients as non-invasively as possible when giving injections, drawing blood samples or conducting ultrasound tests. They provide the infants with food, give them oxygen and keep them warm. “We try to create an environment similar to the one in the mother’s womb,” he says. “Then we observe how the child develops.”

## THE PROS AND CONS OF SAVING EARLY LIVES

If Kenta had been born in China, he might not have lived to become a three-year-old who loves to listen to music and play with his parents. There, doctors only save preemies born with 28 weeks of gestation – a full six weeks later than in Japan. At least in major cities like Shanghai, where neonatology clinics are on par with Japan, this is not due to a lack of knowledge or technology. It is the cost involved, not only for the infant in question and his family, but also for society as a whole: preemie care is extremely expensive and its outcome often hard to predict. Financial and other resources put into their treatment become unavailable for other research and treatment. And this view is not only limited to China. Similar reasons are put forth in the U.S. and some European countries. Ethical considerations and the psychological impact on the child’s parents are also very important factors in the decision making process. In Europe, most doctors start to actively support preemies in their struggle for survival from between 23 and 26 weeks of gestation.

The situation in Japan changed after a couple of cases in which children survived with only 22 weeks of gestation, and since 1990, Japanese doctors have been obliged by law to save preterm babies from 22 weeks. Neonatologist Nishida was involved in the drafting of the law, and for him, the argument that a child might be born disabled does not count. “We should not engage in social Darwinism,” he says. “All life is equal.”

In spite of the law, the limit of viability is still a matter of dispute among Japanese neonatologists. Some, citing the peculiarities of each child’s condition, question if the length of gestation was calculated properly when the law was pushed through. Dr. Fujiwara, the discoverer of surfactant (see box, right), considers 24 weeks the lowest limit and would even prefer to see it raised to 26 weeks. “The younger the children, the higher

the mortality rates,” he explains. The 84-year old still treats patients, and encourages his younger colleagues as well as obstetricians to engage more in proactive, clinical research, including animal experiments. This research, he argues, should not exclusively focus on preemies but on expectant mothers as well. The most important focus in his view should be on “preventing premature births in the first place.”

## HOW CALVES’ LUNGS (AND DR. TETSURO FUJIWARA) SAVED THOUSANDS OF YOUNG LIVES



Dr. Fujiwara (right) with his successor, Dr. Shoichi Chida

PATRICK, THE FIVE-AND-A-HALF-WEEK prematurely born son of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, was in trouble from the start, after being delivered by Caesarean section on Aug. 7, 1963. He could breathe in, but not out, and less than two days later he was to die of respiratory distress syndrome, or RDS. One of the biggest challenges for premature births – other than brain damage and heart problems – had always been under-developed lungs. In fact, only 30 years ago, half of such babies died of suffocation. While doctors had known since the 1950s that preemies lacked a substance called “surfactant,” a coating for the lungs that helps the pulmonary alveoli to maintain the surface tension necessary for breathing, the search for a cure had stalled after several setbacks.

The high-profile death of young Patrick gave a much-needed push to further research, and a call from his former mentor at UCLA encouraged a young pediatricist at Akita University to delve deeper into the issue. Tetsuro Fujiwara had his own motivation as well: as a young doctor he had been unable to save a child who died from RDS.

It was a visit to a slaughterhouse that would hold the key. Fujiwara asked for the lungs of recently born lambs and calves to study in his research. After mincing them and putting them in a centrifuge he found a whitish liquid in the mix. It turned out to be surfactant, and after extensive testing, Fujiwara had developed the substance to a level suitable for human tests.

The first opportunity came when a schoolteacher who had lost six children from miscarriages gave birth to a child who suffered from RDS. She pleaded with Fujiwara for help. After testing it on himself, Fujiwara injected the surfactant into the child’s lungs. The child survived, and Fujiwara’s report on his successful surfactant research was published to much attention in the medical journal *The Lancet* in January 1980. In the years since, thousands of children around the world have been saved by his surfactant replacement therapy. In 1996 Fujiwara, along with Swedish scientist Bengt Robertson, another pioneer in surfactant research, was awarded the prestigious King Faisal International Prize. Fujiwara now lives and works in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture.

**No other country in the world saves as many extremely low-birth-weight children**





ALL PHOTOS: ASGER ROJLE CHRISTENSEN

## Danish welfare on away ground

*Two decades ago a fascinating social experiment began in northern Japan. Could a small town learn from Denmark's advanced health system for the elderly?*

by ASGER ROJLE CHRISTENSEN

On the nondescript outskirts of a small Akita town stands an unusually impressive structure. The stylishly curved roof and modern colors of Takanosu Care Town were designed to attract attention, for the center was to serve as a showcase for a system that would revolutionize Japanese health care. It was to display Danish design, Danish beds, Danish elderly care – in fact, all the best of the Danish welfare system. It was the brainchild of the mayor of Takanosu, Tetsu Iwakawa.

I first visited the town in 1994, when Iwakawa was being seen as a visionary pioneer in Japanese elderly care. When he ran for mayor in 1991 for the first time at the age of 44, he challenged the traditional power elite of the town with promises of dramatically better care for the elderly. That helped him overthrow the incumbent mayor, who had held the post for 24 years.

As a voter I met in a café told me, “We voted for him because he was the only one who looked forward. The shops are shutting down, the young generation is leaving, the old ones are being left on their own, and everything was going downhill here in town. We did not understand his philosophy, but he gave us hope.”

Shortly after the election, Iwakawa went on a study trip to Denmark on a search for a way to keep his election promises. He was so inspired by the Danish system that over the following 11 years he led nine study trips for a total of 120 civil servants, nurses and domestic helpers from the town.

The mayor also invited a number of experts from Denmark such as the former minister for social security, Bent Rold Andersen, to give presentations on Danish welfare. He brought in expensive Danish architects, and Danish NGO's were directly involved in the construction of the city's elderly care facilities.

“I learned from Denmark that public welfare ought to be free for citizens,” Iwakawa told me on my visit to report on his ambitious endeavor. “If the Japanese could have more confidence in their politicians, they might not mind paying taxes so much.”

WITHIN TWO YEARS IWAKAWA dramatically increased the number of home-helper employees in the municipality from five in 1991 to thirty in 1993. He converted a former clothing store on the main street into a nursing station, so that elderly citizens could drop in at the facility while shopping without feeling embarrassed.

The nurses and home caregivers didn't simply copy what they saw in Europe, but the Danish inspiration in those years had a profound effect. One of the group leaders of the municipal home-care taker station, Yumiko Nagasaki, told me that the two countries' understanding of elderly care is different. “In Denmark, help and assistance is seen as support for the elderly themselves, so that he or she can be more independent. In Japan, in contrast, it is basically seen as support for the family, so that the family can have more time and energy to help the elderly in everyday life.”

After being re-elected in 1995, Mayor Iwakawa focused on his pet project, the Care Town elderly care center. The facility was built after much controversy, and when it opened in 1999 it was indeed something to see. As well as its contemporary architecture and design, the elderly inhabitants each had their own single room: something unique at the time. The ratio of residents to staff was not 3:1, as in the rest of Japan, but 3:2.

On top of that, a number of local regulations were introduced that differed sharply from the general practice in the rest of Japan at the time. Strict rules were put in place against restraining residents with dementia, and employees received training to handle difficult situations in other ways. Finally, residents and users had to pay a much smaller share of the costs of running the health care system than people did in other parts of the country.

Things looked good for the elderly of the little town in northern Japan.



**Health, work.** Above, Yuetsu Suzuki (Kita-Akita Director of Health and Welfare) and Makoto Kanezawa (who took part in one study trip to Denmark) at City Hall; the pharmacy run by Tetsu Iwakawa. Opposite, the Care Town today and, inset, the original Danish report.

BUT, AS IS SO often true, it was financial circumstances that led to everything going south.

The many changes that Mayor Iwakawa introduced cost the town money – a lot of it. What became clear, however, was that the municipality didn't have a tax base big enough to support his big dreams. Debts began to pile up over the years, and things went from bad to worse. Other municipal buildings throughout the town – schools and sports facilities – became dilapidated because of the lack of funds available for maintenance.

It all led to a very abrupt end to the Danish experiment in Takanosu. After a bitter election campaign in 2003, Iwakawa failed to be elected to a fourth term as mayor. The extent of the accumulated debt was no longer a secret to the voters, and they hoped that participation in the municipal merger into Kita-Akita – which Iwakawa opposed – would result in more taxpayers having to share the burden of the large deficit.

Meanwhile, a new law had been introduced in Japan in the year 2000. The so-called long-term assistance insurance system ensured a minimum of help to senior citizens in need and opened its arms to private companies. While the law actually led to significant improvements in most places in Japan, it also meant that most of the local decisions made during the Iwakawa administration that had led to better conditions for the elderly were rescinded very soon after his election defeat.

Only four years after the establishment of the Care Town Center, it was transferred from public to semi-private status. The fees for residents and users of the Care Town Center more than doubled. The guaranteed 24-hour surveillance in the home care center was abolished. The kitchen, which supplied food to the city's elderly 24 hours a day regardless of where they lived, was closed.

CARE TOWN TAKANOSU IS no longer a showcase, I found upon my recent return to the area. It is just a semi-private, semi-public senior center in line with other elderly care centers across Japan. Yuichi Kosaka, director of the care provider company that operates the center, says that he is “running it like a business.” The only reason that it can balance its books, he says, is that the facilities are now utilized to full capacity.

“There was never a need for such a luxurious place,” Kosaka says. “Mayor Iwakawa and the people around him just used the place as a tool to promote themselves in the eyes of the world.”

Iwakawa had received recognition for having learned in Denmark that involving working groups of citizens and experts in formulating policies was a good strategy. His supporters were very active in these working groups, while opponents argued that it was used as a way to exclude them from the decisions.

“The working groups would have been a good idea if they had made compromises and if they had cooperated more with other groups in the town,” says Yuetsu Suzuki, director of the health and welfare division of Kita-Akita, the merged municipality that includes Takanosu. “Unfortunately it didn't happen that way.”

LOCAL POLITICS CAN BE a brutal affair in Japan. With his charisma, his lofty vision and numerous initiatives, Mayor Iwakawa made many enemies in the local power elite, and in 2009 he was suddenly charged with giving illegal gifts during the 2003 election campaign.

Furious at his arrest, Iwaki refused to testify on his own behalf, and ended up spending a year in prison. He was convicted in

2012, but has appealed the judgment, and the case is ongoing. Today, he operates a pharmacy in the center of Takanosu. For several years after his defeat, he planned a comeback, but it looks increasingly unrealistic.

Also gone are the Danish beds, replaced by Japanese ones. “The truth is that we always had major problems with the Danish beds,” says director Kosaka. “They looked smart, but they broke down all the time, and it was terribly expensive to order replacement parts from Denmark or send them there to repair.”

But while the Danish system, like the beds, is no longer in place, the Danish inspiration has not entirely vanished. Not if you ask at the town hall.

Makoto Kanezawa is head of another department in the merged municipality, but he participated in one of the study trips to Denmark in the nineties and hasn't forgotten what he learned. “Now we think of the elderly care center as a home for the residents – not just as a place to go to die,” he says. “I learned that in Denmark.”

Yuetsu Suzuki, the health and welfare director and another participant in the study tours to Denmark, also finds positive remnants of the experiment. “Look at the elderly citizens of this town today,” he says. “They are mobile, they move around in society, they are enjoying their twilight years

“In the old days they never came out of their homes,” he continues. “They were ashamed of their infirmity, and their families didn't have the energy to help them get around. There has been a huge change, and it is a result of what occurred during the Danish period.” ●

**Asger Rojle Christensen** was Tokyo correspondent for various Danish news media from 1989 until 1995. He is back in Japan as a journalist/analyst reporting on Asia. (A longer version of this article was first published in February 2014 in Danish).



Whisky and a New Mexican actress share the screen in the popular NHK historical drama series "Massan."

## The new stars of morning TV



by JULIAN RYALL

ASK THE AVERAGE JAPANESE what they know about Scotland and chances are that the replies will revolve around whisky, the Loch Ness monster, golf and men in skirts.

It is therefore fortunate that "Massan," the 15-minute NHK drama that runs from 8 am every weekday morning, is challenging some of those stereotypes and broadening the public's understanding of the people and habits of the United Kingdom's nether regions.

And it matters not a jot that the star of the show, Charlotte Kate Fox, is actually from New Mexico and had visited neither Scotland nor Japan before being cast as Ellie, the Scottish wife of a Japanese chemistry student who introduces whisky to this country.

### "Speaking Japanese with a Scottish accent proved just impossible."

Indeed, even Scots who attended the press conference at the FCCJ on Nov. 5 with Fox and Ken Sakurai, the senior producer behind the program, congratulated her on her mastery of a Scottish brogue.

"In graduate school, we did a lot of voice and dialect work, so I did Irish, Scottish and French accents by locating certain phonetic sounds and then replacing them with whatever accent I was using," Fox said. "Although speaking Japanese with a Scottish accent proved just impossible," she admitted. Fox fought off competition from 521 other actresses who wanted

to play the part of Ellie in a story based loosely on that of Rita Cowan and Masataka Taketsuru, who arrived in Japan from Scotland almost one century ago and are credited with starting Japan's award-winning whisky industry. (The success of the drama also coincides with Japan getting one over on the home of the amber dram, with the Yamazaki Single Malt Sherry Cask 2013 crowned the best in the world by Jim Murray's Whisky Bible last month.)

"Massan" – which is taken from Ellie's nickname for her husband – was first screened in late September; it is due to run for 150 episodes until late March of next year. For cast and crew, the latest incarnation of a Japanese TV institution that dates back to 1961 – though the first starring a non-Japanese actor – has

been a testing experience.

"This whole process has continuously been the hardest thing I have ever done in my life," said Fox. "Every day, especially at the beginning, was the hardest day of my life. Imagine that you have to get up and do a speech and you wake up in the morning and find that you have forgotten how to speak your language. Though now I have a better understanding of the language and I hope one day to be fluent."

Sakurai heaped praise on his star and her dedication to her craft. "This is a tremendous project, although it has been full of challenges," he said. "The

one person who I think has suffered the most and made the greatest effort has been Charlotte.

"Not only has she had to master the language, but she has to master the performance as well and bring it alive," he said. "The Ellie that she has produced is absolutely breathtaking and has been full of surprises, even to us, the staff. The viewers' response to Charlotte has been overwhelming, week after week."

Sakurai was coy when asked about the budget for what is undoubtedly a major television undertaking, but admitted that the program "is costing a great deal more than previous series." And he agreed that if NHK had been a private broadcaster that could take advantage of sponsorship of its programs, then it might have been able to offset much of those costs by marrying the series to one of Japan's whisky makers.

But while the story has whisky as its backdrop, Sakurai insisted, it is more a tale of the development of Japan's manufacturing sector and the relationship between a foreign woman and a Japanese man. "The story is bigger than just whisky," he said. "It is the story of manufacturing in Japan. We had wanted to focus on Japan's history of 80 or 90 years ago, when manufacturing here was truly taking off, and we decided to take one particular theme – that happened to be whisky.

"But, of course," he said, "if through our efforts Japanese whisky becomes more popular and sales increase around the world, then that will be an added bonus."

Fox added that she hoped Ellie and her Japanese husband might serve as role models for modern-day couples. "She is probably the most patient person on Earth," she said. "And this show brings out – not only for wives, but for married couples – the simple sense that they should never give up." She added, "I think that mentality has been lost today and divorce is so easy. The second there is a misunderstanding or a difference in values or morals, everybody just signs the papers and walks away.

"For Ellie, that is simply not an option," she said. "If people watch the show and take one thing away, I hope it is that they should not give up, that they should not walk away, that they have to be patient and continue loving each other." ●

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

When national master narratives collide head-on, all bets are off on historical credibility.

## (Book) breaking news: Right is the new Center

by PETER O'CONNOR

ON APRIL 2, 2007, prior to the 70th anniversary of the events that took place in Nanjing in Dec. 1937, the historian Minoru Kitamura launched the English edition of his book, *The Politics of Nanjing*, with a Book Break at the FCCJ. The event drew an audience of 51, including a sizeable press pack, among them TV film crews and 15 journalist members. The audience, particularly the journalists, seemed to treat Prof. Kitamura's thesis with unjustifiable hostility. Most queried his avoidance of the word "massacre" and his use of the gentler

and no more specific term "disorder," and some insisted that he qualify what he called "emotive terms" such as "massacre" with a specific number. Others felt that he lost academic credibility by describing the Chinese as a people "prone to cultural exaggeration."

"Nevertheless," Prof. Kitamura then insisted, as far as Nanjing was concerned, "I am a Centrist" – thus staking out the middle ground on Nanjing: those who consider the events of the winter of 1937 as neither a massacre nor an illusion, but who research the evidence and historiography and aim for balance.

Seven years later, on Wed. Nov. 12, Kitamura returned to the Club for a Book Break on the English edition of his recent study, *The Reluctant Combatant: Japan and the Second Sino-Japanese War*. With him was co-author Dr. Lin Siyun, who was born in Nanjing, has a PhD in engineering and has published criticism of conventional mainland Chinese attitudes to the history of its interactions with Japan in *Epoch Times* and other online Chinese media.

Though the audience was slightly

smaller with half as many journalists, Prof. Kitamura had plenty of support. After introducing a member of the audience, Hiromichi Moteki, Secretary of the Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact, on whose website the book has already been posted, he turned the dais over to a specialist in international law. His role was to illuminate a key contention of *Reluctant Combatant*: that, by the time of the Second Sino-Japanese War, waging "aggressive war" was not a crime recognized in international

law, and was still not recognised as such at the "League of Nations" in September 1944. According to Kitamura, the term had come to be "reflexively applied" to Japan following its use at Nuremberg and the International Military Tribunals for the Far East.

Unfortunately, by this time, the audience had become restive.

One audience member pointed out that in raising the issue of the legality of waging aggressive war, Kitamura and Lin were setting up a straw man. The lawyer eventually stepped aside and Kitamura moved on to his broader contention that in the 1920s and 1930s Japan and China were rivals in East Asia who, at any other time, might have worked together to modernize and combat "Western aggression."

Kitamura and his co-author then put forward their case for describing Japanese military incursions in China in the Second Sino-Japanese War as "reluctant." Of course, reluctance to wage war, aggressive or otherwise, is not in itself unusual, and in their address the authors set up a new straw man – that of "standard historical analysis," according to

which "Imperial Japan was bent on destroying China, and the rest of Asia, for purely selfish reasons."

Neither author was, however, reluctant to single out China as a perpetrator of untruths, maintaining that the "traditional Chinese historical perspective . . . does not concern itself with the truth," and that "the first duty of Chinese historians is protecting their nation." Indeed, they said, Chinese historians saw their main function as constructing "a righteous image of China." And the authors reprised Kitamura's notion of "the Chinese philosophy of exaggerated self-promotion while covering up or lying to cover faults."

Club Member Gregory Clarke made some pointed interventions. Maintaining that much of what Kitamura and Lin had to say was already accepted by mainstream historians, and agreeing that the Chinese were in the main hostile to Japan, he cut straight to the chase with the question, "But why did that hostility exist?" to which he received no answer.

Thereafter this Book Break ceased as a discussion and morphed into a series of remarkably consensual speeches from various grey eminences in the audience, broadcasting not much Q and receiving very little A.

A great deal of sincerity went into this Book Break. The authors were clearly committed to finding some sort of truth, if not "the truth" that no realistic historian can ever hope to find. Japan does have a case. China does have unanswered grievances. But, until historians on all sides of this debate engage more fully, as the authors put it, "Reconciliation between Japan and China will be extremely challenging at best." In any perennially controversial issue, we need to talk more to our opponents than we do to our friends. ●

Peter O'Connor writes and lectures on the international media history of East Asia.



FCCJ EXHIBITION



*White Moment* by Yoshiro Higai

**YOSHIRO HIGAI BEGAN SKATEBOARDING** in 1978 after seeing the movie *Kenny and Company*. A few years later, he bought a single-reflex camera and started photographing his skater friends. While studying photography in college, a friend talked him into taking photos of a snow-surfing race.

This was the start of a career that he slipped and skated into sideways.

Through his passion for skateboarding and snowboarding, along with a love for photography, Higai has been at the center of these sports for the last 30 years. ●

SPC KAGA PRESS TOUR



**LAST MONTH, NINE JOURNALISTS** representing eight countries participated in a press tour to Kaga, a beautiful city in Ishikawa Prefecture, at the invitation of Mayor Riku Miyamoto. The highlight of the tour was *sakaami* hunting.

The traditional hunting method, which dates from the Edo Period, targets migrating ducks. Some 28 hunters use large, Y-shaped nets to trap ducks leaving a local pond. Under the wetland conservation system, only 200 birds may be caught for shipment

to exclusive Japanese and French restaurants.

Mayor Miyamoto said that the area's style of duck hunting and cooking was a symbol of the Kaga people's ecological mentality and culinary arts.

— Haruko Watanabe

FCCJ 69th ANNIVERSARY & HALLOWEEN PARTY



FCCJ President Lucy Birmingham



FCCJ Director-at-Large Suvendrini Kakuchi



Andrew Silberman led the Moonshots in entertaining the celebrants.



Cracking open the traditional saké cask are (from left) Director-at-Large Milton Isa, Yozo Hasegawa, and Entertainment Committee co-chairs Sandra Mori and Suvendrini Kakuchi.

Revelers of all ages took to the floor to dance to the sounds of the Moonshots.





HEARD AT THE CLUB

*“We might be called too naïve, but the [LDP] is surely too devious. Now the public must make a choice of which group they’d rather see in power.”*

*Yukio Edano, Secretary General of the DPJ, in response to the question of whether the DPJ was betrayed by the LDP. The DPJ was damaged by their acceptance of the plan to raise taxes in the election two and a half years ago, yet now Prime Minister Abe is attempting to gain popular support by postponing the second phase.*

Nov. 21 at the FCCJ



JOIN THE MOVIE COMMITTEE . . .



. . . at 6:00 pm on Wed., Dec. 17 at the Embassy of Canada for a special sneak preview screening of *The Vancouver Asahi*, followed by a Q&A session with director Yuya Ishii and star Satoshi Tsumabuki. Based on the true story of the scrappy Japanese-Canadian Nikkei baseball team that overcame poverty, discrimination and ostracism to become the five-time Pacific Northwest League champions just prior to World War II. The David vs. Goliath tale has been hailed for its beautifully filmed evocation of a little-known era in Canadian history, when an underdog

ball team brought Japanese and Canadian fans together in a jubilant celebration of sport and life. Please make your reservations at the FCCJ Reception Desk or online by Monday, Dec. 15, and see the FCCJ website for a map to the Embassy and other details. (Japan, 2014; 133 minutes; Japanese with English subtitles.) — **Karen Severns**



REGULAR MEMBERS

**JAMES ARMSTRONG**, a long-term resident of Tokyo, has been working at the Associated Press for the past 13 years, primarily covering sports. His major assignments have included the World Cup (2002, 2006) and the Olympics (Turin, Beijing). “I was hired by Jim Lagier just before he retired,” James said. “I guess it was his parting shot to the agency.” Prior to the AP, James worked for the IHT-Asahi and Kyodo news. A native of Toronto, Ontario, James graduated from the University of Toronto in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in political science.

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Statistical Handbook of Japan 2014

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Gray Zone: O. J. Simpson saiban de yomu America

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Journalism yo: media hihan no 15-nen: 1999-2014

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Tenjin: Fukushima Junro to shimbun no jidai

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Aruki sumaho o eigo de iu to?

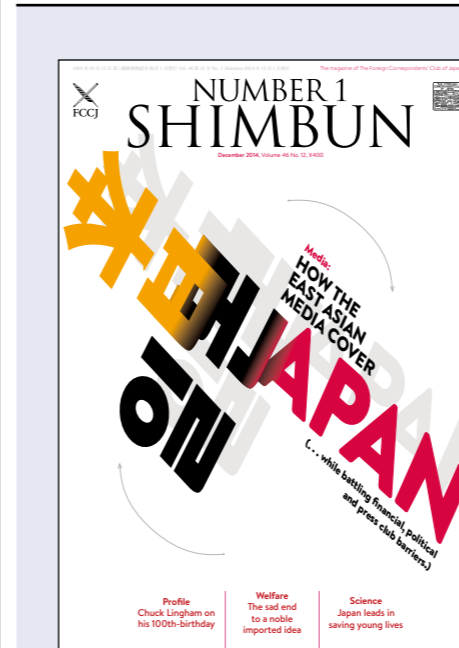
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Please send your story ideas to [no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp](mailto:no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp), and be sure to note whether you have (or have access to) visuals.

Our rates are ¥20 per published word, ¥20,000 for a front cover photo. Photo essays: ¥15,000 for full-page photos and ¥5,000 for smaller shots. All payments will be made in chits to your member account.

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

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





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