



NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN



September 2015, Volume 47 No. 9, ¥400

**The shift in the shrine focus
from Yasukuni to Ise**



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Hajime Shiraishi

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From the President

VOLUNTEERS.

Look at almost any aspect of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan and these are the people that are almost always behind it. Whether that's a budget, press conference or microbrewery beer tasting, someone has taken time – often significant – out of their schedule to plan, write notices or crunch numbers. (Of course, our management and staff are equally or more critical in these endeavors.) And while it's not all selfless, volunteering probably pales in comparison to spending more time on a story, a business project or with one's family. Even with the dozens of journalists and Associate Members helping us carry out our core mission of promoting media access, press freedom and fraternity among our Members and foreign and Japanese journalists, we still need more people to chip in. We often have to turn to the same group of eligible Members time and time again. (One area of expertise, for example, where we are short is information technology – all the more important as we plan for our 2018 move to new premises.) There are some issues affecting our ability to get people to devote more time. We, as a Club, aren't getting any younger: The average age of Members is around 62 and expected to rise further. That means retirement, people leaving the FCCJ or moving away. And the internecine rancor, which I don't remember as being so stark when I first joined, and lack of basic decorum at times has turned off many of our fellow Members, especially younger

ones, from getting more involved. (Neither does it help with recruiting or retention.) Some of our Club volunteers have borne the brunt of online attacks – quite a few ad hominem – by people on the inside and outside for the volunteer work they have done for the Club. Disagreements are part and parcel of the FCCJ, all the more understandable for an organization made up of journalists. But discussions should stick to the facts and be civil: In other words, the debate ought to befit that of a professional and fraternal organization. Moreover, the numerous anonymous attacks by Japan's so-called *netto uyoku* (internet right-wing) strike at our fundamental press functions. We must remember what our core mission is, as set out in our Articles of Association, and protect, as necessary, the Club and those being singled out for carrying that out. So, the next time one is tempted to grumble about some aspect of the Club, step back, take a deep breath and think: "Can I offer a constructive solution with my criticism or offer a word of appreciation for those volunteering? Am I willing to give up some of my time to move the FCCJ forward?"

On a housekeeping note, again please keep the evening of Oct. 30 free to join in celebrating the FCCJ's 70th anniversary at the Palace Hotel. Tickets for the event go on sale Sept. 1.

Finally, we broke the ten-month dry spell on ruling Liberal Democratic Party executives and administration officials speaking at the Club. Toshihiro Nikai, the chairman of the LDP's General Council, gave a press conference Aug. 19 and spoke at length on the crucial topic of Sino-Japanese relations. Hopefully, this will be the start of top officials from the ruling party and government again coming to the Club. In the next two months, as part of our efforts to get more business and financial speakers, we also plan to have some top auto executives ahead of the Tokyo Motor Show, which starts in late October.

– James Simms

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.



Shintaro Ishihara, Director-General of the Environment Agency, addresses FCCJ Members on May 23, 1977. Seated to Ishihara's left is Bill Shinn (Sisa News Agency), then President of the FCCJ, and checking his notes to the right is Peter "Shin" Higashi (AP). That's former FCCJ president Lee Chia (China News Agency) seated on the far right. All three were Club stalwarts, referred to many times in our history book, Foreign Correspondents in Japan.

subsequently served in the Diet from 1968 until 1995, where he became a controversial figure with rightist tendencies. His early political career ended abruptly, however, with his resignation following the Aum Shinrikyo subway attack in Tokyo. But Ishihara soon re-entered politics, serving as governor of Tokyo from 1999 until his resignation in 2012 to head his own political party, the Sunrise Party of Japan. Plans to coalesce with other small parties then foundered on policy disagreements. Ishihara went on to form the Party for Future Generations, but he was defeated in 2014 and retired from politics, but not before giving journalists an endless amount of controversial, jaw-dropping comments during his many appearances at the Club.

During Ishihara's governorship of Tokyo he showed up to push for Tokyo as the venue for the 2016 Olympic Games. A friendly question was put to him by Sam Jameson, long-time Bureau Chief for the *Chicago Tribune* and then the *Los Angeles Times*, who in earlier years had played poker with Ishihara. There was no sign that Ishihara remembered those earlier days, and Sam did not bring it up either.

– Charles Pomeroy

FROM THE ARCHIVES



JAPAN'S DONALD TRUMP

SHINTARO ISHIHARA WAS FAMOUS as an author whose novel, *Season of the Sun*, launched him on his writing career and garnered for him Japan's top literature award, the Akutagawa Prize, in 1956. His younger brother, Yujiro, appeared in the movie version, and both became famous as icons of the youth culture of the time. As author and adventurer, Ishihara produced a wide

range of works – almost 40 books – but he is better known to journalists for co-authoring, with then-Sony Chairman Akio Morita, *The Japan That Can Say No*. Written in 1989, it was translated into English in 1991. Ishihara even served briefly as a war correspondent, with a stint in Vietnam from late 1966 to early 1967 for the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. That experience turned his attention to politics and he

TALES FROM THE ROUND TABLES



BARE BREASTS, THE PRINCE AND THE CHINDONYA

WITH THE CLUB'S 70TH Anniversary fast approaching, the Round Table has been abuzz with memories of FCCJ celebrations past. In the postwar frontier days of impoverished Japan, shortages of just about everything were a daily reality. That we were so resourceful in producing entertainment on a legendary scale in those bleak days is testament to the esprit de corps and rugged survival instincts of the early Members. No curtains to hide the drab windows? No problem: plenty

of parachute cloth available. Music entertainment for the big opening? Hallelujah! The kind folks at NHK have a piano they're willing to lend. On that august occasion, however, we seemed to have given NHK the wrong date, so the movers showed up again before the big event to collect the broadcaster's treasured instrument. What ensued was a hilarious Keystone Cops hide-and-seek, with Members scrambling to hide the piano on one of the elevators, traveling up and down as the exasperated movers searched

floor to floor in the other. NHK went home empty handed that day, but 600 grateful guests and organizers made sure they became part of the Club's party lore. Gems like this fill the pages of *Foreign Correspondents in Japan*, the Club's history lovingly compiled for its 50th anniversary celebration. Chief editor Charles Pomeroy reminisces with particular fondness about the skits that were regularly put on by correspondents at these parties. Lou Cioffi, the ABC bureau chief in the late '60s, starred in a perennial favorite, parodying the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) as FARTS. Bursting with raw thespian and comedic talent, Club stalwarts led the charge with side-splitting, irreverent

renditions of everyone from MacArthur and Mao Tse-tung to Castro. Jazz luminaries Dolly Baker and Helen Merrill dazzled the crowds. Another popular act was the Two Bares, an attractive Japanese girl duo that graced the parties intermittently from the '50s well into the '70s, with – you guessed it – no tops. Sandra Mori is still crazy for the Moonshots, the feel-good band that regularly played for the anniversaries and still appears at our Saturday Nite Live events to this day. "They represent the kind of tradition that is so important to our Club," she says. The 40th anniversary found itself in the annals of Japan's history as the occasion that saw then Crown Prince and Princess dance in public for the first time. What made the

party "one of the happiest memories of my life in Japan" for key organizer Geoff Tudor, however, was something that brought a smile to the faces of the imperial couple. Geoff had hired a *chindonya* troupe, street musicians in loud kimonos, wigs and heavy Kabuki-esque make-up, to march around the ballroom of the hotel to promote raffle ticket sales. The wailing tunes, backed by drums, gongs and bells, were commonplace on the streets back then, most often as attention grabbers for store and event openings. When the Imperial Household Agency informed Tudor that the Crown Prince and Princess would be attending, there was concern that the garish entertainment might be disrespectful, so Tudor consulted with the Agency, only to be told, "It is your

party. We are the guests." The anniversary was a stunning success. At the end of dinner, Tudor was called to the top table to hear a very happy Crown Prince complimenting him on the entertainment. "I have never seen *chindonya* before," the prince said. "I thought they were fascinating. Thank you very much." Of course, the prince is now emperor, but the FCCJ remains the place where His Imperial Majesty learned of a street tradition beyond the reach of his palace life. If the Imperial Household Agency would permit, Tudor would be delighted to be forevermore, 'By appointment, supplier of *chindonya* to the Emperor of Japan.'

– The *Shimbun Alley Whispers*

Who needs Yasukuni?



There's a reason Shinzo Abe has given up performing one of his most symbolic acts. And it might not be what you think.

by MICHAEL CUCEK

Something very odd has occurred in the world of Japanese politics: For over a year and a half, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has managed to avoid visiting Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which hosts the spirits of those who died in military service to the Emperor. After a lifetime of faithful pilgrimage, the supposed arch-hawk Abe hardly speaks of the place, the purportedly irreplaceable heart of his revisionist, militarist agenda.

To be sure, Abe is not alone in his sudden seeming loss of passion. In fact, this year's fraught 70th anniversary of the end of World War II passed without incident or much enthusiasm by many in the political spectrum. Only three members of Abe's staunchly conservative Cabinet, all women, paid their respects in person at the shrine. Only one member of the Liberal Democratic Party's directorate, policy chief Tomomi Inada (again, a woman) visited. And although around 60 or so members of the Diet took part in the famed "Let Us All Pay Our Respects At Yasukuni" mass visit, that was a big drop from the 83 members who attended in Abe's first year in office.

Three days after the anniversary, Abe's spouse Akie did

pay her respects at the shrine. Possibly it was a means of compensating for her husband's absence. More likely it was to provide her with political cover: her love of all things Korean and her opposition to many of her husband's security initiatives have made her a target of Japan's xenophobic and paranoid rightists.

Abe himself, however, came only as close as the official end-of-war memorial service with the Imperial Couple at the Budokan, a 300-meter walk from the main *torii* gate of Yasukuni. Representing Abe in spirit at Yasukuni on Aug. 15 were a *masasaki* altar decoration and a sum of money, hand delivered by his protege Koichi Hagiuda, the militant of the House of Representatives widely described as the mouthpiece for Abe's true feelings.

This cooling attitude toward Yasukuni seems hard to fathom, given what is allegedly known about the prime minister. Prior to his return to the premiership in 2012, Abe famously expressed regret that he had failed to pay his respects at the shrine during his first term (2006-7). After Abe's reelection, doppelganger Hagiuda warned the press that Abe needed to do a Yasukuni visit every year.

EUGENE HOSHIKAWA PHOTO

Regrets? I've had a few. But then again . . .

PM Abe giving his speech for the anniversary of the end of WWII. He didn't visit Yasukuni shrine on the anniversary.

ABE DID MANAGE TO stay away from the war memorial for 365 days. The hope inside the Abe circle may have been that the governments of China and South Korea would recognize his sacrificing of his vow to visit and, in return, would reward him with invitations to meet presidents Xi Jinping and Park Geun-hye. After a full year of waiting in vain, though, Abe went ahead with a visit, despite having received explicit warnings against doing so from the Obama Administration.

Since that provocative Dec. 26, 2013 visit, however, Abe has stayed away, despite a lack of U.S. pressure (having been ignored by Abe once, the U.S. government is likely reluctant to test his resolve again). He has done so despite continued cold shoulders from the leaders of South Korea and China.

Conventional explanations for this seeming about-face are that Abe is a pragmatist and a politician. The former argues that Abe has a calculating nature and is able to restrain himself when a visit would damage the national interest. The latter argues that Abe is congenitally dishonest, willing to make solemn vows in order to win an election, but able to forget them once he is in power.

There is, however, an explanation that requires that he be neither a Machiavellian prince nor a run-of-the-mill political hack: Shinzo Abe does not visit Yasukuni because he has found something better. A lot better.

Namely, the Imperial Shrines at Ise.

Yasukuni's dilemma is that it is burdened with the spirits of 14 convicted Class A war criminals who were either executed by the Allies or died in prison prior to their convictions. This isn't a problem when it comes to Ise, where the enshrined spirit is Amaterasu Omikami, the Sun Goddess and - according to tradition - the progenitor of the unbroken Imperial Line.

For centuries, the chief priestess at Ise had to be an imperial princess. From the Meiji Restoration until the Occupation the reigning emperor was the shrine's chief priest. Even today, the chief priest at Ise is a relative (adopted) of the Emperor. Ise is also the assumed home of the Mirror, one of the three Sacred Treasures (the others being the Jewel and the Sword) of the Imperial House. The red sun on Japan's official Rising Sun flag, the visual analog of the circular Mirror, is the symbol of Amaterasu herself.

As such, participating in rites at Ise swaddles the celebrant in Imperial symbols, and in a way that the Imperial Family cannot disdain, as it has disdained Yasukuni since the 1979 enshrinement of the Class A war criminals.

ISE'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE Imperial House has allowed it to hover above the separation of church and state arguments that have bedeviled efforts to win official status for Yasukuni. Indeed, the very first church/state dispute of the Occupation Period was over Ise, when Japanese officials asked whether or not the Showa Emperor could travel to the shrines to inform his illustrious ancestor of the outcome of the war. (Occupation authorities approved the visit under the legal fiddle that the Emperor was acting on his own in a private capacity).

Mie Prefecture, the home of the Ise Imperial Shrines, is also the prefecture in question in the Supreme Court's Tsu decision of 1977, which ruled that public officials could have Shinto priests perform rites at the groundbreaking for public build-

ings on the assertion these were not just religious but social rites. (In his one published book, *Atarashii Kuni e* ["Towards a New Nation"], Abe makes mention of the Tsu decision.)

Ise is unique among Shinto shrines for its fabulously expensive (¥57 billion) Sengu rite, in which the main buildings of the shrine are torn down and reconstructed of new materials at a new location on a 20-year cycle. While the budget for the rite is officially from a shrine fund and public donations, the biggest donor is often the Imperial House, which means that to a certain extent all of Japan's taxpayers are donors.

Felicetously for Abe, the most recent Sengu cycle ended and began in October 2013. He and his Cabinet took advantage of the wiggle room created by the Tsu decision in dramatic fashion, with Abe and eight of his Cabinet members looking on as the shrine's contents, including presumably the Mirror, wended their glorious way from the old shrine to the new one.

A few months later, Abe was back, this time for his *hatsumode*, the first shrine visit of the New Year. He followed up his *hatsumode* with his first press conference of 2014, conducted at the visitor's center within the shrine's precincts. In January this year, Abe repeated the pattern, doing *hatsumode* and conducting his first press conference of the year at the shrine.

ABE'S MOST STUNNING ACT of elevating Ise to official status, however, was selecting a nearby resort to be the site of the 2016 G7 Summit. Prime Minister's Residence officials urged the governor of Mie to apply to have the prefecture host the Summit even though the official application period had expired. In announcing the success of the belated Mie bid, Abe expressed the hope that world leaders would visit the Imperial shrines, taking Abe's dodgy stance toward Article 20 of the Constitution out of the realm of domestic administration and into international politics. (The article reads: No religious organization shall receive any privileges from the State, nor exercise any political authority. No person shall be compelled to take part in any religious act, celebration, rite or practice. The State and its organs shall refrain from religious education or any other religious activity.)

Aside from its associative, legal and international political advantages over Yasukuni, an infatuation with Ise befits Abe for another reason. Though he exhibits many different

nationalist facets, he is most attuned to what political scientist Takashi Inoguchi has termed "imperial nationalism" - the faith that Japan is special because it is a racially homogenous

island nation steeped in rice agriculture. As Abe writes in his 2013 book *Atarashii Kuni e*:

"The country called Japan has been from time immemorial a Mizuho no Kuni ('land of abundant rice plants'), where we rose every morning, cultivated our fields with sweat running down, taking water and divided its use amongst us and when Fall arrived, celebrated, with the Imperial Family as the center, the Festival of the Five Grains." (emphasis added)

With an unproblematic devotion to the Amaterasu cult at Ise offering a direct line to the Imperial House and thus essential center of Japan, who needs Yasukuni? ●

Michael Cucek is a Tokyo-based consultant to the financial and diplomatic communities and author of the Shisaku blog on Japanese politics and society.

Parsing the Prime Minister

The world's media reacts to PM Shinzo Abe's address on the occasion of the end of WWII. Was it worth the eight months of nail biting?

Abe Focuses On Japan's "Lessons Learned"

To be sure, the Abe Statement will be scrutinized – and undoubtedly criticized – in the days to come for what he did not say. Before that conversation unfolds, it would be wise to identify what he did say. First, Abe reinforced his country's commitment to regional reconciliation and the principles of peace outlined in Article Nine of the postwar constitution. Second, he spoke of the "quiet pride" of those postwar Japanese who rebuilt their country, and outlined their continued desire for shared peace and prosperity with their Asian neighbors. Finally, he has also done what no previous prime minister has done – acknowledged with gratitude the tolerance of the

He also made it clear he thinks the world cannot continue demanding apologies from Japan forever.

– Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, BBC News

Shinzo Abe Divides Our Region With A Rewrite Of Japan's War History

Initial English-language media responses to the Abe statement have been muted. Many quote Abe's expression of "profound grief" and "eternal, sincere condolences," and his repeated references to the need to "engrave the past in our hearts," but some suggest that he did not go far enough with his apologies. The White House promptly issued its own statement welcoming Abe's "commitment to uphold past Japanese government statements on history." These responses fundamentally misinterpret the nature of the Abe statement. This is not a well-meaning but cautious expression of regret for the war. It is a radically different take on the war which rewrites Japan's modern history. Japan's most prominent right-wing revisionist, Fujioka Nobukatsu, certainly got the point: he describes the statement as "nicely crafted," and expresses his personal sense of relief on reading it.

– Teresa Morris-Suzuki, the Age (Australia)

Abe Stops Short Of Offering Fresh Apology For War

Japan's prime minister Shinzo Abe has expressed remorse for the Second World War in an ambiguously worded statement that will do little to dispel lingering resentment over his country's actions. . . . "The Abe administration doesn't think there was anything wrong that Japan did in the war – they just think it was unfortunate that they lost," said Tessa Morris Suzuki, a professor of modern Japanese history at Australian National University. . . . Mr Abe reluctantly inherited the Murayama Statement, issued in 1995, which carried a "heartfelt apology" and stated that Japan had engaged in a "mistaken national policy." The prime minister's own statement, which included references to the millions of Japanese deaths in the war, was nearly three times longer, reflecting his divided loyalties, said Andrew Gordon, a professor of history at Harvard University.

– David McNeill, the Irish Times

Abe "Drowns" Apology In Long Lecture

The tiresome political game forced Abe to say "apology" and "aggression" and several other magical words that he originally wished to exclude, so it seemed he decided that they should come in a lengthy historical lecture by Professor Abe. The statement will hardly have the major influence on developments in the region that some had feared and others had hoped for. In the end, it drowned in its own (many) words.

– Asger Christensen, on Danish radio's "P1Morgen"

With WWII Statement, Japan's Abe Tried To Offer Something For Everyone

In his highly anticipated speech Friday marking the 70th anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stopped short of delivering a full-throated apology for his country's wartime actions – and ended up fully satisfying no one. . . . Harumi Arima, an independent political analyst, said Abe's 25-minute statement could have been condensed into 30 seconds.

"It would have been so much simpler for them to agree to if he stuck to the key words as requested," he said. "He squeezed every possible thing into the statement, but that blurred the focus and made me wonder what he really wanted to say."

– Anna Fifield, the Washington Post

very people Japan harmed most deeply in last century's war, and credited them with his nation's postwar recovery.

– Sheila A. Smith, the Diplomat

N. Korea Slams Abe Statement For Lack Of Apology

Japan is talking about the future and responsibility and contribution in the international community, without making an apology and reflection on having not yet liquidated the monstrous crimes and unspeakable damage done to the Korean people. It is an unpardonable mockery of the Korean people and an act of deceiving the international community.

– Korean Central News Agency (North Korea)

Japan's Abe Stops Short Of Apology For World War II

"History is harsh," he said.

– AP

Japan WW2: PM Shinzo Abe Expresses "Profound Grief"

Mr Abe walked a careful line, maintaining previous apologies, but also saying future generations should not have to go on apologising endlessly. He did not deviate from the now standard wording of Japan's official apology, but also sought to cast Japan's 20th-Century history as anti-colonial. Japan's defeat of Russia in 1905 had, he said, encouraged many people under colonial rule from Asia to Africa.

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe Makes Guarded Statement On Wartime Aggression; China And South Korea Remain Sceptical

– The South China Morning Post

Shinzo Abe Echoes Japan's Past World War II Apologies But Adds None

[Abe] said Japan had practiced "aggression," a term first used by Mr. Murayama that is disputed by Japanese rightists. Mr. Abe himself had previously questioned the labeling, but it has become too integral to Japan's position to cut without being accused of revisionism. Along with "colonial rule," "remorse" and "heartfelt apology," it was widely seen as an unavoidable term. Thomas Berger, a historian at Boston University, said Mr. Abe's "sprawling, four-page history lesson" risked giving the impression that he was trying to dilute Japanese responsibility by portraying the war as a "kind of historical tsunami for which no one should be blamed."

– Jonathan Soble, the New York Times

Abe's Watered-Down Apology Fails Sincerity Test

The tuned-down apology is not of much help to eliminating Tokyo's trust deficit. It fails to firm up – if not serving to further undercut – the credibility the Abe government needs to put Japan's interaction with its Asian neighbors back on track. Thus the "normal country" dream Abe has long been trumpeting gets no closer. The way leading to that goal cannot be paved by reluctance to extend an unalloyed apology for the atrocities committed by imperial Japan.

– Tian Dongdong, Xinhua

An Apology On Points

Abe said that the positions by the previous cabinets would remain unshakable into the future. "Japan has repeatedly expressed the feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology for its actions during the war." Thus, Abe once again used a trick he often uses. While he says that he upholds the apologies of his predecessors, he carefully avoids uttering them himself.

– Patrick Zoll, Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Switzerland)

For Japan's Abe, A Delicate Balancing Act In Expressing "Profound Grief" For WWII

As he began working his way through his long-awaited speech marking the 70th anniversary of Japan's World War II defeat Friday, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did as many had predicted, expressing "profound grief" over the loss of life and "sincere condolences" to the victims. But sorry, it seemed, was still the hardest word.

– Justin McCurry, the Christian Science Monitor

S. Koreans "Disappointed" With Rhetoric, Absence Of New Apology In Abe Statement

Yang Sun-im, president of the Association for the Pacific War Victims, said Abe might as well not have issued a statement at all. "When he says the future generations won't have to apologize, he's essentially saying they can start another war," Yang said. . . . "Abe is turning his people into warmongers."

– The Korea Herald

Abe: We've Said Sorry Enough Times

As social media users across Asia were quick to point out last night, some of the key expressions of atonement and apology in the Murayama apology were expressed indirectly or in the past, rather than the present, tense. . . . The prime minister referred in euphemistic terms to the so-called "comfort women", many of them Korean and Chinese, who were forced

Abe Statement Fails Sincerity Test

"I would not rate Abe's statement below 50 on a scale of 1 to 100 although I understand it was not fully satisfactory," said Yeoul-soo, a professor of international political science at Sungshin Women's University. "It's regretful that he did not issue his own apology over Japan's wartime past."

Lee Myeon-woo, a senior researcher at Sejong Institute, agreed. "Abe included all four terms that we deemed essential – colonial occupation, invasion, regret and apology – in his statement but it was uncertain whether he was being sincere in his remarks," he said.

– The Korea Times

to work in frontline brothels. . . . "It shows the pain and confusion of the speech writers," said Koichi Nakano, a professor at Sophia University, and an outspoken critic of Mr Abe. "On the one hand, they are trying not to apologise, and on the other, not to make this too obvious."

– Richard Lloyd Parry, the Times, (UK)

Abe: "Profound Grief" For WWII, But Japan Can't Keep Apologizing

– CNN

Abe Statement Was Vague In All The Wrong Places

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a hash of his long-anticipated statement on Friday commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. He was vague where he needed to be forthright – on colonialism, aggression and the "comfort women" system – and came up short in expressing contrition by outsourcing his apology to his predecessors. As a result, the Abe statement represents significant backsliding from those issued by former prime ministers Tomiichi Murayama and Junichiro Koizumi in 1995 and 2005 that helped Japan and its victims regain some dignity. Furthermore, Abe expressed perpetrator's fatigue, calling for an end to apology diplomacy. But a recent NHK poll suggests that only 15 percent of the country oppose apology while 42 percent support such gestures, so, yet again, Abe is out of touch with Japanese sentiment.

– Jeff Kingston, the Japan Times

Abe's "Remorse" For Japan's Misdeeds Falls On Deaf Ears In Korea

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe might have been better off saying nothing than to indicate on the eve of the 70th anniversary that Japanese are fed up with having to apologize and apologize

for their role in that terrible period. Abe in his statement no doubt intended to show how deeply he regretted whatever Japan had done during the war and the colonial era, but many Koreans see his remark that Japan "has repeatedly expressed the feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology for its actions during the war" as suggesting Japanese are tired of saying the same thing.

– Donald Kirk, Forbes

Daniel Eskenazi

by TYLER ROTHMAR

Long before he became a reporter covering business and economics, Daniel Eskenazi had an interest in people and their stories.

A French-speaking Swiss, Eskenazi was born in Lausanne and grew up in Geneva. A first close encounter with mass media came during his study of sociology and anthropology at the University of Lausanne, for which he travelled to Gabon to produce a paper on the role of radio in Gabonese culture and its link to oral tradition. While he did some writing for radio during that time, he was primarily working towards a critical understanding of the media's role in society and censorship.

"Much of the culture that was in the tribes before, the telling of ancestral stories or announcements of deaths in the community, was broadcast on the radio," he recalls. Even the televisions were used as radios – people listened to them as they went about their day, but few watched.

After returning to Switzerland and briefly considering a career in anthropology, he settled on journalism "because it gives you a chance to travel, and you don't have to be always in front of your desk." In 1999 he began working for Swiss national radio in Geneva for a stint of hands-on training. "I was the last guy who got to cut the tape on the reel-to-reel. Very soon after, it all became computerized," he remembers.

Eskenazi began to learn the ropes during the two-year period in which Swiss journalists are expected to apprentice with a media outlet. He freelanced with several organizations – including the Swiss publications *Banco* and *Bilan* – covering economy and finance, and noticed that the economy beat was a path less trodden among his peers. "The competition was not so hard compared to writing about politics, and many of the people who actually study economics in school don't end up working as journalists," he says.

A three-month contract for Swiss newspaper *Le Temps* in Geneva in 2003 eventually led to work as a contract correspondent in Zurich covering economy and finance in 2004. He covered mainly industry and start-ups, he says. "I'm always interested in new companies and how people make that transfer from university studies to entering the business market."

As his girlfriend had lived in Japan since 2011, three years ago Eskenazi decided to close the gap of their long-distance relationship. "I thought Tokyo would be a good destination, and I had already been here once for work, covering the airline industry, so I came over."

Setting up shop as a freelancer

Tyler Rothmar is a Tokyo-based writer and editor.

was a challenge, he says, but after the Tohoku earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disaster, and the later launch of the prime minister's "Abenomics" plan, there was an appetite in Switzerland for stories about Japan. Eskenazi continues to freelance for *Le Temps*, *Bilan*, and *Efficienc 21*, and says there is still competition among French-speaking correspondents covering Japan, especially now that interest in disaster-related stories clusters chiefly around the March anniversary. As a result, he has expanded his repertoire by exploring video and photography and establishing a blog.

"I decided to start the blog almost out of frustration, because sometimes you want to sell an article but they don't want it"

"I decided to start the blog almost out of frustration, because sometimes you want to sell an article but they don't want it. So I said, 'Okay, I'm going to write it, so at least it will be on my blog rather than on my hard drive.'" Eskenazi is now studying photography, a facet of his work that can also be found on his blog when it isn't being sold along with

his articles. "In this way I've been expanding my journalistic knowhow," he says.

Joining the FCCJ was one of Eskenazi's first moves after arriving in Japan, and he can be found working on the 19th floor most days, a habit he formed early on to avoid the noise of building construction beside his home. "The Club is quiet and a great place to get access to people and news," he says, "and the library staff are very helpful." Eskenazi has all but given up his study of Japanese, and will have to be content with speaking French, English, Spanish and German. "I'm okay with it," he laughs.

He is active at the FCCJ as a member of both the Special Projects (SPC) and Professional Activities (PAC) committees, and would like to see more PAC events with CEOs. "In Europe, if a company is having problems, they want to speak about it, to address it. Here, it's the opposite, and it seems many are afraid of the questions they will face from the foreign press. They want to have rules and know the questions in advance.

"We were lucky with animator Hayao Miyazaki," he continues. "We arranged a press conference in his studio, and it was amazing." Eskenazi wonders if the compromise of hosting press conferences at company HQs might help to land events with the CEOs of Toyota, Sony and Fanuc, but thinks it will take time. Meanwhile, he will continue to look for the human connection in stories about business, finance and green energy. "I'm always more interested in the stories than the numbers," he says. ●



ANDREW POTHECARY

Asian sports that should be in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

This month, the IOC must decide which sports to add to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic schedule. Japan obviously is cheering for baseball. But there are a few other Asian sports that should be considered – but very likely won't be.

by TODD CROWELL

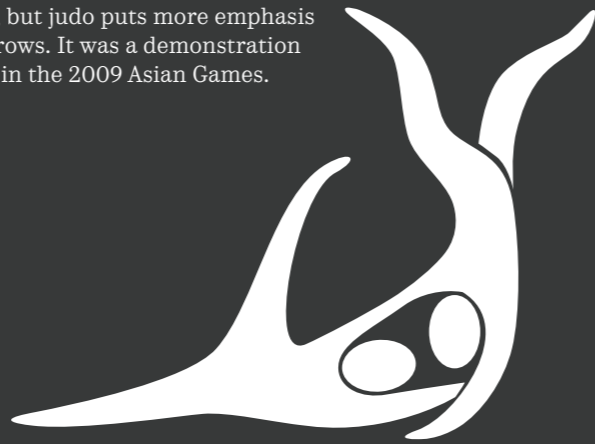
Kabaddi

Highly popular in India, Bangladesh and Iran, Kabaddi is an indoor sport in which two teams send “raiders” into the opposing side and win points by tagging opposition players. It may have peaked as a global sport in 1936 when it was a demonstration sport at the Berlin Olympics. There is already a Kabaddi World Cup, invariably won by the Indian team.*



Ju-jitsu

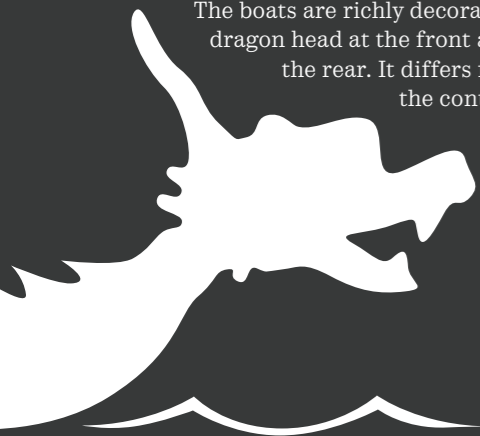
Although the differences are fairly subtle to those not schooled in the martial arts, sport ju-jitsu is not the same as judo. Its practitioners insist it is a separate sport altogether and should be recognized as such. Ju-jitsu has deep roots in Japan, going back at least to the fighting techniques of 16th-century samurai warriors. (Judo evolved from ju-jitsu at a later date.) Both disciplines manipulate an opponent by using their force against them, but judo puts more emphasis on throws. It was a demonstration sport in the 2009 Asian Games.



Dragonboat Racing

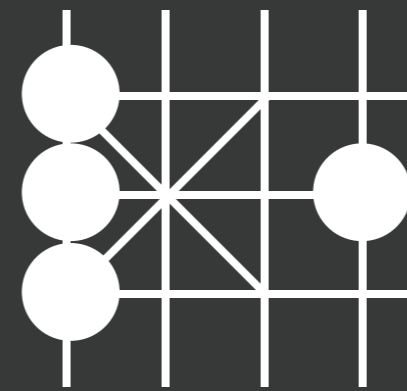
A team paddling sport with ancient pedigree – though it has become popular only in the past two or three decades. It got its boost in Hong Kong where the annual Dragonboat Festival in mid-summer is a major event, with dozens of contests held along the coastline.

The boats are richly decorated, usually with a dragon head at the front and a dragon tail at the rear. It differs from crew in that the contestants use paddles, not oars, and the coxswain beats cadence with a drum.*



Muay Thai

This is what most of the world calls Thai boxing. In addition to gloved fists, Thai boxers kick with their bare feet. The fighter utilizes punches, elbows, knee strikes, in all about eight legal points of contact that are mostly prohibited in regular boxing. Thailand's most important 19th century monarch, King Chulalongkorn, took a personal interest in the sport, helped boost its popularity and established its rules. A favorite for movies featuring various martial arts stars.*

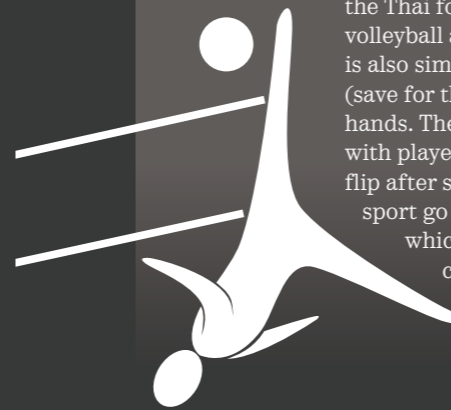


Xiangqi

This is a little unfair as Xiangqi is a board game, which are not played in the Olympics. But it is a medal sport in the Asian Games where it is one of three recognized board games; the other two are chess and *weiqi* (*igo* in Japanese). It is literally called the “elephant game” in Mandarin; the animal is featured on some of the pieces (and is known in the West as Chinese chess). It is a two-person strategy game, popular throughout the Chinese world and Vietnam. It is played with round disks, and the object is to capture the king. The Asian Xiangqi Federation bestows the title of grandmaster. A World Mind Sports Games Championship, a kind of cerebral Olympics, and which features Xiangqi, began in 2008.*

Sepak takraw

Popular in Thailand and throughout Southeast Asia, the term Sepak takraw comes from the Malay for “kick” and the Thai for “ball.” Takraw is similar to volleyball as it is played with a net, but it is also similar to soccer in that players (save for the server) cannot use their hands. The sport requires great agility, with players sometimes doing a full flip after spiking the ball. Origins of the sport go back centuries in Thailand, which hosts the annual world championship.*



Wushu

Literally, “martial arts,” in Mandarin. It is now considered a competitive sport on par with other offshoots originating from martial arts such as judo or taekwondo, and it is said to be China's most popular sport. The rules were codified in the early years of the People's Republic as basically a judged sport, where the players are graded on various moves, kicks and throws. The International Wushu Federation organizes the World Wushu Championship tournament held every two years. Efforts to make wushu an Olympic sport have not been successful so far, but there is a head of steam behind it, which makes wushu the mostly likely non-Japanese prospect on this list to be approved.*



Sumo

Aside from vistas of Mount Fuji, cherry blossoms and sushi, nothing says “Japan” so much as sumo. Two behemoths enter the ring, psych each other out and then spring forward, grappling and pushing until one of them falls or is pushed outside the ring. It is over in a few seconds. It has never caught on globally aside from occasional foreign exhibitions and isn't even in the Asian Games. But it has become a kind of international sport with the influx of foreign wrestlers, led in the 1980s by Hawaiian-born Konishiki, the first foreign *ozeki*, and Akebono, the first foreign *yokozuna*, or grand champion. Mongolians currently dominate even though professional sumo is not played in Mongolia.

* Played in the Asian Games

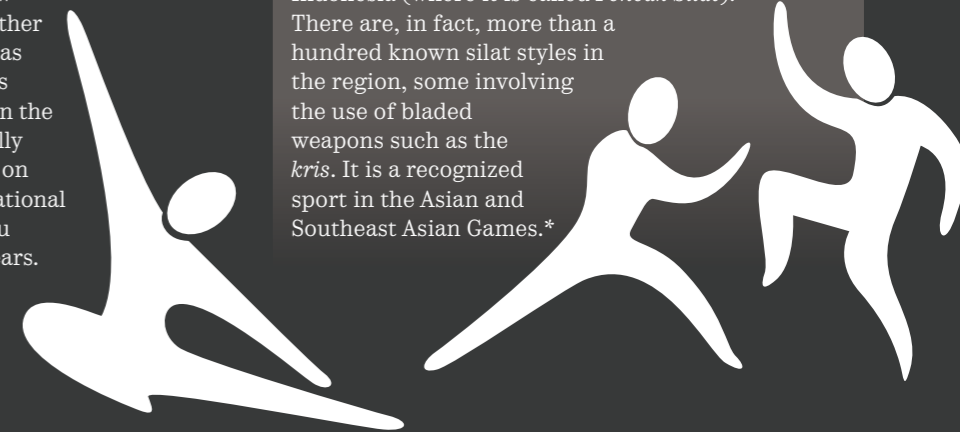


Pétanque

Pétanque is a variation of bowls, in which players stand in a circle and throw a metal ball to a small wooden one. It is mainly a French game, but it is played in parts of Southeast Asia – especially Laos and Vietnam – because of past colonial influence. The 2007 World Pétanque Championship was held in Pattaya, Thailand, and it is part of the Asian Games.*

Silat

An umbrella term for a variety of competitive martial arts forms that have evolved in Malaysia and Indonesia (where it is called *Pencak Silat*). There are, in fact, more than a hundred known silat styles in the region, some involving the use of bladed weapons such as the *kris*. It is a recognized sport in the Asian and Southeast Asian Games.*



Todd Crowell is the author of the *Dictionary of the Modern Asian Language*.

The sale of the business paper has observers feeling hesitant about what it all means.

What's ahead for the *Financial Times*?

by JUSTIN MCCURRY

JULY'S SHOCK ANNOUNCEMENT THAT the *Financial Times* had been sold to the Nikkei Group raised questions about the Pink 'Un's future as part of an organization that is respected for its command of the minutiae of stock markets and Bank of Japan Board meetings, but which rarely sets pulses racing in the Fleet Street tradition. In many ways, Nikkei was the safest of two possible suitors, the other being Axel Springer, publisher of the German tabloid *Bild*. After all, the *FT* and Nikkei's flagship paper serve a similar readerships and a belief in the virtue of free markets. Nikkei's chairman and chief executive, Tsuneo Kita, quickly promised that in his hands the *FT*'s editorial integrity would remain intact. "We share the same journalistic values," he told reporters in Tokyo. In an email to employees, Nikkei management said it was not planning job cuts and that the *FT* would "continue to enjoy complete editorial independence and freedom, just as all news organizations should have." The email continued: "We want the *FT* to be extremely profitable, and we want

journalistic values' Really." His colleague in Washington DC, Alice Ross, noted: "Smug colleague is sending emails in Japanese #sigh." In contrast to the chatter in *FT* bureaus, *Nikkei* insiders say there has been surprisingly little newsroom discussion in Tokyo. Reflecting the sort of prudence that critics say informs much of the *Nikkei*'s solid, if slightly dreary, coverage, reporters and editors here appear to be biding their time until the US\$1.3bn cash buyout is formally completed, pending regulatory approval. BUT ONE JOURNALIST INVOLVED in Nikkei's English-language operation cautioned against the idea that the new arrangements would see the editorial heart ripped out of the *FT* by risk-averse Japanese managers. "I think those fears are exaggerated," the journalist, who did not wish to be named, told the *No.1 Shimbun*. "I doubt that Nikkei would have spent that

much money on the *FT* simply because they wanted to change it." In buying the *FT* from

Pearson, Nikkei has given notice of its intention to appeal to a wider, international readership, in contrast to its Japanese rivals, which appear content to soldier on in the domestic market, despite falling readership and ad revenue. The deal was probably the best way Nikkei could realize its international ambitions without having to develop a strategy of its own from scratch, said Philip Brator, author of the Media Mix column for the *Japan Times*. "I don't necessarily see a clash," he said. "The *FT*'s reputation is pretty solid internationally, and I can't imagine Nikkei wanting to mess with it. Nikkei's

'problem,' if you want to call it that, is that its own ability to break news early is based on its close association with business insiders, but Nikkei's content is also considered dull, the kind of stuff you have to read in school because it's required." Brator, though, isn't convinced that Nikkei's stated laissez-faire attitude towards editorial policy will last. "The *Financial Times* staff seem to be relieved they weren't bought out by a more similar media company, such as Bloomberg. But I wonder if in the long run Nikkei won't try to change the *FT* workplace, especially if they see it as an investment first," he said.



Perhaps too much is made of the *Nikkei*'s failure to uncover the Toshiba accounting scandal this summer, given that all major Japanese media organizations were guilty of falling asleep on the job. And it was the monthly business

magazine *Facta*, founded by a disgruntled former journalist for the *Nikkei*, not the *FT*, which broke the news of similar corporate wrongdoing at Olympus in 2011. Nevertheless, there is no question that the two organizations hail from very different journalistic traditions - the cut-throat, irreverent approach of many British journalists, and the more methodical, risk-averse methods preferred by their Japanese counterparts. But that doesn't necessarily guarantee a clash of newsroom cultures, according to one journalist familiar with reporting in both countries. "The *Nikkei* doesn't do anything to separate itself from a Japanese system that we know to be inherently suppressive of real journalism," the journalist said on condition of anonymity. "So I wouldn't single the *Nikkei* out as not sharing the *FT*'s values. I would say that the Japanese system of journalism, on the whole, does not resemble the system of journalism in which the *FT* evolved. "In end, I think Nikkei are quite pleased they have now got something that's going to be a mischief-maker. They want it to be a mischief-maker. They don't want to be known as something that harmed the *FT* brand. It's like if Yamaha bought Harley-Davidson, and decided that chrome was a bit too much. No one would ever take Yamaha seriously again." ●

"Nikkei CEO: 'we share the same journalistic values'. Really."

to achieve this through investments that lead to more customers and exciting new products, not through a reduction of the workforce." But as *FT* staff gathered around TV screens to digest the news, some could barely conceal their disquiet. Former Tokyo correspondent Ben McLannahan tweeted from New York: "Nikkei CEO: 'we share the same

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

Two years after being denied access to a building shared by media organizations, a journalist tries to keep her case alive.

My lawsuit vs. the National Diet Press Club

by HAJIME SHIRAISHI



I was stopped and refused admission at the building's entrance. "Today, no media other than National Diet Press Club members can enter," said the custodian, Toshiyuki Saga. "You don't qualify." Though I protested, in the end I was unable to gain access.

I consulted an attorney, who used

THE FOUR-STORY NATIONAL DIET Press Club Building, located in the middle of the Kasumigaseki government district and a stone's throw from the prime minister's residence, was built in 1969 with a budget of ¥600 million allocated by the House of Representatives. If rents were to be charged to its occupants, it would very likely see revenues of ¥8 billion per year, but the newspapers and TV stations that belong to the *Kokkai Kisha Kurabu*, the National Diet Press Club, have had the use of its spacious rooms measuring as large as 100m² for free over the past 45 years. In September 2012, I filed a lawsuit against the national government and the Reporters' Press Club concerning this building. Earlier that year, on July 6, I had hoped to do an internet broadcast of a demonstration to be held in front of the prime minister's official residence, opposing the restart of the Ohi nuclear reactor. Reporting for OurPlanetTV, I was headed for the rooftop of the Reporters' Club Building, where I thought I could get a superb birds-eye view of the anti-nuclear power demonstrations. Some two weeks earlier, *Tokyo Shimbun* had run an impressive full-page photograph shot from the same location. Hajime Shiraishi is the director of OurPlanetTV, a non-profit, alternative news site. www.ourplanet-tv.org

a variety of measures in attempting to negotiate with the office of the House of Representatives, which owns the building, and the club, but was ultimately unsuccessful. While the office of the House of Representatives made an effort to recognize my right to use the roof, it was the club that held the key to the solution, and they were opposed. While the facility was government-owned, the reporters' club had de facto control over its use, and it was dead set against use of the building by an interloper. Its authority, it seems, effectively supercedes that of the law concerning government property. Arguing that banning my entry to shoot a protest demonstration constituted an intrusion on media freedom, as well as discrimination against internet media, I sued the state and the kisha club in September 2012. At a hearing, Mr. Saga, who blocked my entry, and who is himself a former political journalist for Kyodo Tsushin, argued that the club was looking out for its members. "For 120 years, since Meiji times, it was not the practice for anyone to relinquish their own vested interests," he testified, adding that, "Internet media is in competition with television, and magazines compete with newspapers." We have submitted evidence that we believe demonstrates how the National Diet Press Club engages in discriminatory practices as well as how the building's operators engage in

preferential operations. One thing of interest that has come up during the trial is the ambiguous manner in which the building is run. On one hand, the government has argued that the roof of the reporters' building is dangerous, and that is has thereby prohibited all photography of the club. Paradoxically, the reporters' club argues that it controls the roof, which it can use "appropriately." In other words, the two plaintiffs in my lawsuit are arguing from diametrically opposed positions. Unfortunately, in March of this year, the Tokyo High Court declined to hear our case. The decision, which disregarded the contradictory positions on utilization of the roof, merely stated that OurPlanetTV had no right to its use. The court also ruled that while Mr. Saga's treatment was discriminatory, the National Diet Press Club itself had no "illegal motives." In other words, since the club stated that it had no "illegal motives," this made it true - an extremely peculiar decision on the part of the court. At the end of May we appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. During the period when the Democratic Party of Japan was in power we saw changes in attitudes toward the press. Press conferences by ministers were made more open, and the closed nature of reporters' clubs underwent considerable liberalization. Yet the National Diet Press Club maintains its dogged refusal to allow access to the roof of its building, with its ideal bird's-eye perspective. The building represents the single most convenient channel between the government and the mass media, and for political journalists is second to none in terms of its proximity to the center of power. It is to be hoped that the Supreme Court, one of the three pillars of a government that maintains separation of powers, will understand the significance of the problem and issue a fair judgment regarding Japan's media. ●

Board shorts
artwork by Yusuke Hanai



SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I have loved to draw, but becoming an artist or an illustrator never crossed my mind. My friends and I drew caricatures of people who we encountered in our daily lives, and shared those images among ourselves for a laugh.

I discovered surfing when I was in high school. The surfers I encountered were all unique, funny and sometimes utterly ridiculous. The characters fascinated me and became the subject of my drawings.

Now, I make my living as an illustrator. In the beginning, my drawings were heavily influenced by surfing and surf culture in general, but lately, I have expanded into other subjects and genres.

Surfer's Journal Japan recently asked me to draw a series of single-panel illustrations for each issue. My subject matter is the interesting, often ridiculous, aspects of surfing. I have learned so much from surfing and surfers. I love how they live life with a passion, care about the environment, have a sense of adventure, care deeply about their friends and how they try not to get caught up or dragged into the system.

In this exhibition, I have displayed the illustrations from the *Surfer's Journal* along with a few of my recent pieces. ●

Yusuke Hanai found passion in art after discovering Grateful Dead album cover artwork. He left Japan for the U.S. in 2003 to study illustration at the Academy of Art College, San Francisco. He was invited to participate in the 2007 *Happening* in New York City. Yusuke continues to capture the hearts of many people worldwide and has exhibited in Australia, Brazil, California, London, New York, Paris and Tokyo. Yusuke currently lives in Japan.

The FCCJ: 70 years

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ)
70th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner
Palace Hotel Tokyo – Friday, Oct. 30

To all Members,

It is an auspicious year for the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ). This year marks not only the widely noted 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII, but our illustrious Club's 70th Anniversary as well, founded in November 1945.

To commemorate this landmark anniversary – highlighting the remarkable role played throughout these decades by the FCCJ – the Club will hold a Celebration Gala Dinner at the Palace Hotel Tokyo on Friday, Oct. 30. We very much hope you will join this memorable celebratory event.

Schedule (tentative)

- 17:30 Guest Registration
- 18:00 Doors open to Grand Hall
- 18:30 Be seated for five-course dinner (table service)
- 18:45 Remarks & Toast – FCCJ President and VIP guest
- 20:00 Dancing – with Prize draws for Door and Raffle prizes
- 21:30 Final prize draw
- 22:00 End of Celebratory Evening

Reservations (from 10:00 am, Aug. 31)

To reserve your place at this historic event, please contact the FCCJ Front Desk by tel: (03)-3211-3161; fax: (03) 3211-3168; or email: front@fccj.or.jp

- **Individual tickets:**
¥19,000 (includes Door Prize lucky number)
- **A table for 10** is ¥190,000
- **Corporate/Group Table Packages:**
Table with 10 seats, plus full page advertisement in the FCCJ's *Number One Shimbun*
(1) *Early Bird Table Package* – ¥280,000 – available up to Sept. 4, 2015
(2) *Regular Table Package* – ¥350,000 – available from Sept. 5. *Deadline for Corporate/Group Table Packages:* Sept. 14, 2015. (Please note that these rates do not include advertising production costs)
- **Dress code** – Black Tie optional

We very much look forward to seeing you, your friends, and your guests at the Celebration Gala Dinner on Oct. 30!

HEARD AT THE CLUB

“Everyone commits crimes in war time. I agree that Japan should have been prosecuted for its war crimes, but everyone should be treated equally. If there is a true international war crimes court the United States must sometimes sit in the defendant’s seat for its own actions, like dropping the atomic bomb.”

Comic artist Yoshinori Kobayashi at the FCCJ on August 9, 2015



Yoshinori Kobayashi's signature and self-caricature in the Club guestbook



JOIN THE FILM COMMITTEE ...

... on Thursday, Aug. 17 at 7pm for *Chigasaki Story*, an effervescent comedy of manners. After premiering at the 2014 Singapore International Film Festival, and being acclaimed at festivals in Rotterdam, Beijing and Helsinki, first-time filmmaker Takuya Misawa's film finally hits Tokyo theaters just in time to cure our late-summer blahs. This remarkable debut is set in the 115-year-old Chigasaki Inn near Shonan Beach – the actual retreat where Yasujiro Ozu wrote some of his greatest works, including *Late Spring*, *Early Summer* and the masterpiece *Tokyo Story* – and it pays tribute to the master in its visual homages, its deceptively simple narrative and its bouncy score (which also recalls Woody Allen). Misawa's tale is infused with light, bright sentiments and melodrama, anchored by a charming young cast led by indie queen Kiki Sugino (who also executive produced). It's not often that a first feature feels like a mid-career high mark, and we can't wait to see what Misawa directs next. (Japan/Thailand, 2014; 89 minutes; Japanese with English subtitles.)



REGULAR MEMBER

UWE SCHWERING is the Tokyo bureau chief and correspondent for ARD German Television, the nation's biggest public broadcaster, covering Japan, South and North Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and Pacific Islands. Schwering holds a master's degree in German, Politics and Geography. He started his career as a freelancer for Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) before joining NDR in Hamburg in 1994, where he worked as a domestic reporter. In 2000, Schwering moved on to the foreign department, becoming editor and reporter for "Weltspiegel," the renowned foreign affairs program. After a London assignment (2003 to 2008) he became head of NDR's foreign desk and member of the newly founded pool of reporters for investigative feature films and documentaries.

STATUS CHANGE (P/JA TO REGULAR)

JEFFREY QUIGLEY is the chief editor for Japan and South Korea at *TechinAsia.com*, where he writes primarily about IT startups and venture capital. Born in New Jersey and raised in Upstate New York, he covered the HIV/AIDS crisis in Urumqi, China for the Philadelphia Inquirer while still an undergraduate at La Salle University in 2007. He relocated to Japan in 2009, spending two years on the JET Program in Hokkaido before settling down in Tokyo. He was an editor at the *Diplomat's* Tokyo bureau before joining *TechinAsia* in April 2014. He's also a contributor to the *ACCJ Journal* and his work often appears on *Mashable.com*.

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Eiji Isshiki, Dwango
Takashi Ugajin, Dwango

REINSTATEMENT (ASSOCIATE)

Jeong Jiun, Embassy of the Republic of Korea

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Shota Ishii, State Street Global Exchange
Eiji Kiyone, Mainichi Broadcasting System
Itsuki Kurosu, Toyota Motor Corporation

Naoya Kitamura, Kaga Electronics Co., Ltd.

Tetsuo Kanno, Wacom Co., Ltd.

Mayuko Machida, Gurunavi, Inc.
Masaharu Shirasugi, Intelligent Wave Inc.

Sohei Takatsuki, International Education Centre & Co., Ltd.
Hisao Taki, Gurunavi, Inc.

Kazuhiro Yoshihara, UBP Investments Co., Ltd.

REINSTATEMENT (ASSOCIATE)

Ryusuke Matsui, Citibank Japan Ltd.



What Do You Want to Create Today?

Robert Tobin
BenBella Books
Gift from Robert Tobin

Marching Through

Suffering: Loss and Survival in North Korea

Sandra Fahy
Columbia University Press

Secrecy's Power; Covert

Shin Buddhists in Japan and Contradictions of Concealment

Clark Chilson
University Of Hawai'i Press

Japanese Homes and Their Surroundings

Edward S. Morse
Dover Publications, Inc.

Marathon Japan: Distance

Racing and Civic Culture

Thomas R.H. Havens
University Of Hawai'i Press

Target Tokyo: Jimmy

Doolittle and the Raid that Avenged Pearl Harbor

James M. Scott
W.W Norton

Out of Print: Newspapers, Journalism and the Business of News in the Digital Age

George Brock
Kogan Page

Last Boat to Yokohama: The Life and Legacy of Beate Sirota Gordon

Nassrine Azimi; Michel Wasserman; With an Introduction by Beate Sirota Gordon

Three Rooms Press

Japan Company Handbook (Summer 2015)

Chopsticks: A Cultural and Culinary History

Q. Edward Wang
Cambridge University Press

New Membership Program

The Club is pleased to offer a new membership option for Associate Members who belong to a company or organization. This option allows Associate Members to appoint a replacement from within their company. This program only applies to organizations with two or more FCCJ members. The number of members can be increased at anytime, and the membership term limit is five or ten years. For more information contact the Club office at 03-3211-3161 or membership@fccj.or.jp.

Discount LexisNexis Subscriptions for FCCJ Members

The FCCJ is pleased to offer members a substantial discount on subscriptions to LexisNexis' news database service, Nexis.com

The Members-only deal allows for flat-rate access at ¥7,900 per month – offering big savings on a service that normally costs ¥126,000 per month

The service will be billed by the Club. The FCCJ benefits from all subscriptions sold under this arrangement.

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.