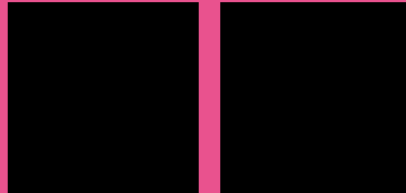




NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN



December 2015, Volume 47 No. 12, ¥400



**WILL A NEW TECHNOLOGY
FINALLY REVEAL
THE STATE OF THE
FUKUSHIMA REACTORS?**



Pre-war buzz words:
What's behind the
"100 million" slogan

Post-war fuzzy words:
Time to delete "self-
defense" from JSDF?

Nights at the
round tables:
Sandra Mori profiled

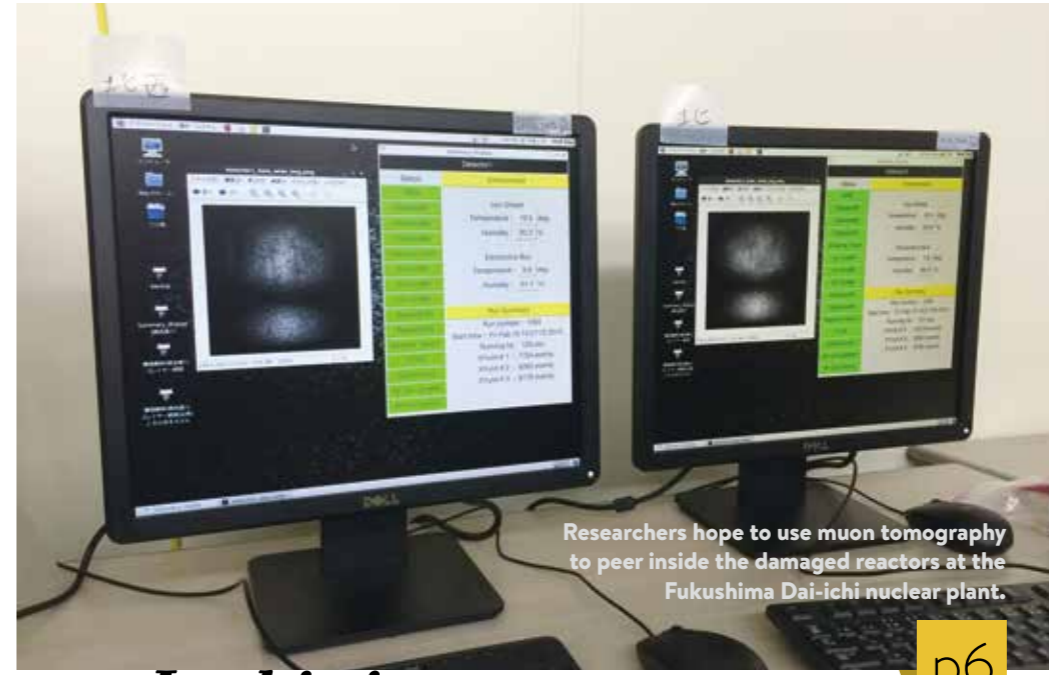


> THEME.07
> BALLPOINT PEN

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Researchers hope to use muon tomography to peer inside the damaged reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY TEPCO



From the President

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE we're already nearing the end of 2015. November saw us conducting business as usual at the FCCJ, with PAC holding important press events that included a luncheon with Yukio Edano, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Japan. The Food and Beverage Committee held a landmark tasting of France's finest wines. The library staff and committee members continue to organize book breaks that are always fascinating and often newsworthy.

The Entertainment Committee is frequently approached by officials and businesses from often-ignored regions looking for ways to attract the attention of our Members. We work with them to produce events that can be crucial in improving understanding of regional economies, cultures and societies. One particularly good example was the November Aichi Night, graced by the prefecture's governor, Hideaki Omura, that included a 1,200 year old sacred knife ceremony for peace and harmony.

For these events, we've arranged it so that 10 journalists are invited free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis to participate and network with the business leaders and local government politicians.

While I prefer to hold my tongue until everything is all wrapped up, I want to assure members that the long-standing legal cases against the FCCJ are nearing a solution. The Board will also convene a special General Membership Meeting in December on the Club's plans to move to a new location.

On the journalism front, the events in Paris last month highlighted, once again, the difficult issues

of reporting on global terrorism. Following the initial stories filed on the horrifying attack and heightened security by the global media comes the next challenge – to make sense of the tragedy without resorting to parochial viewpoints. Among those in Asia who have lived through similar tragedies – I mention in particular the Bali disaster in 2005 and the Mumbai attack on civilians in 2008 – there is a deep sense of solidarity accompanied by a wish for Europe to continue to uphold its tolerance for multiculturalism and individual freedom. Newspaper editorials in Asian media, speaking from experience, have included pleas not to cave in to rightist agendas.

Before leaving you with wishes for a pleasant holiday season, I will share thoughts from a recent assignment in Sri Lanka – at a showcase of the impact of digital media in regional journalism. One meeting I attended was a brainstorming session on best practices in online newsrooms. With media owners and long-time editors as participants, we took up a crucial question – can traditional newsgathering and watchdog practices survive the onslaught of the internet, with its focus on big data and social media? The consensus we reached was that digital newsrooms in emerging countries, while balancing media ethics and commercial pressure, must take special steps to incorporate independent watchdog journalism to protect readers who rely on independent information to inform the decisions that affect their daily lives.

– **Suvendrini Kakuchi**

For the rest of this 70th anniversary year, 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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, BOB!



World-famous comedian Bob Hope spoke to a full house at a Club professional luncheon on Dec. 17, 1972. On the way to his last performance for U.S. troops in Vietnam – his ninth consecutive Christmas appearance there – he took time to answer questions from Tokyo correspondents. At least one query, no doubt, would have been in regard to his support of President Nixon's bombing of North Vietnam to force acceptance of U.S. peace terms, for which his usual response was to cite his responsibility to lift the troops' spirits. Hope and then-FCCJ President Mack Chrysler (U.S. News & World Report) can also be seen in a photo on the wall of the Club's entrance.

BOB HOPE WAS BORN Leslie Townes Hope in England in 1903 and emigrated with his family to the U.S. at the tender age of five. He was a busker and a boxer before becoming a comedian – and dancer, actor, singer and eventually an author (and golfer). After an early career in vaudeville and on Broadway, he gravitated to radio in 1934 and switched to television in the 1950s. His film career spanned more than 50 productions, including *The Paleface*, one of my favorites, and the series of "Road" films with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. He hosted the Academy Awards 14 times from 1941 to 1978.

He is remembered by millions in the U.S. for his many USO tours for military personnel, and a 1997 act of the U.S. Congress signed by President Bill Clinton named Hope an "Honorary Veteran." From the Vietnam and later wars he was faulted for supporting the government in these conflicts, but from an overall perspective his underlying support appears to have been more for those serving in the military.

He died on July 27, 2003 at the age of 100. His signature song, "Thanks for the Memory," which he first sang together with Shirley Ross in a film in 1938 and then used to close his many shows, is still remembered with nostalgia by his fans.

– **Charles Pomeroy**

TALES FROM THE ROUND TABLES



THE CENTURIONS

THERE'S A LITTLE HOLE in the heart of the Club these days, especially around the Open Table on the far side of the Main Bar. That's where Chuck Lingam has held court for 50 years; a welcoming face that bore witness to an impressive sweep of history, from life in India under colonial British rule, to landing as a 21-year-old in Nagasaki in 1935, and the subsequent series of roller-coaster transformations of his adopted homeland.

FCCJ has always had a roster of legends who straddled those different times and different cultures. It was only last year that we lost former FCCJ president John Rich, who became a journalist after fighting in WWII. Rich went on to cover the rise of Mao Zedong, the Korean War and a lion's share of the world's most coveted headlines all the way through to the Gulf War, where, at 73, he distinguished himself with his usual world-class reportage as the oldest correspondent.

We had London-born journalist Ian Mutsu, a charter member of the Club, born to the Japanese count who masterminded the Great Japan Exhibition of 1910 in London and his English wife. Ian, who boasted foreign minister Munemitsu Mutsu for a grandfather, was family friends with Ichiro Hatoyama and a host of other postwar lions of Japan. He then went on to form a film company that dominated the documentary and newsreel market through which the world learned about Japan. Many in the Club still remember his towering influence on the international news scene, remaining a resonant voice and the Club's resident dandy well into his 90s.

The FCCJ is now 70, so it's no

wonder we are losing some of our greatest storytellers. Chuck entertained us all with his tales from his 100 years on earth, but left us just short of his 101st birthday party – one that we were all looking forward to attending. He must be laughing with mock envy in heaven at the news that arrived just a few weeks later from our sister correspondents' club in Hong Kong, where our old friend, the British journalist Clare Hollingworth, was celebrating her 104th birthday in style.

Clare will probably never be surpassed for making the most impressive debut ever as a correspondent, scooping the start of WWII in 1939 when she followed a hunch and stumbled upon Hitler's

tanks moving onto the Polish border. Just one week into her job at the UK's *Telegraph*, she attempted to report the developments to the British Embassy – only to be lectured on how negotiations were still ongoing. At which point she put the phone where they could hear the first shots being fired outside her window. A war was being launched, and with it, a legend.

When not in the trenches, Clare was often dressed to the hilt, hobnobbing with diplomats and spies at dinner parties, like the one at which expected guest Kim Philby didn't show. Not long after, the story of his defection to the Soviet Union broke. All in a day's work for Clare.

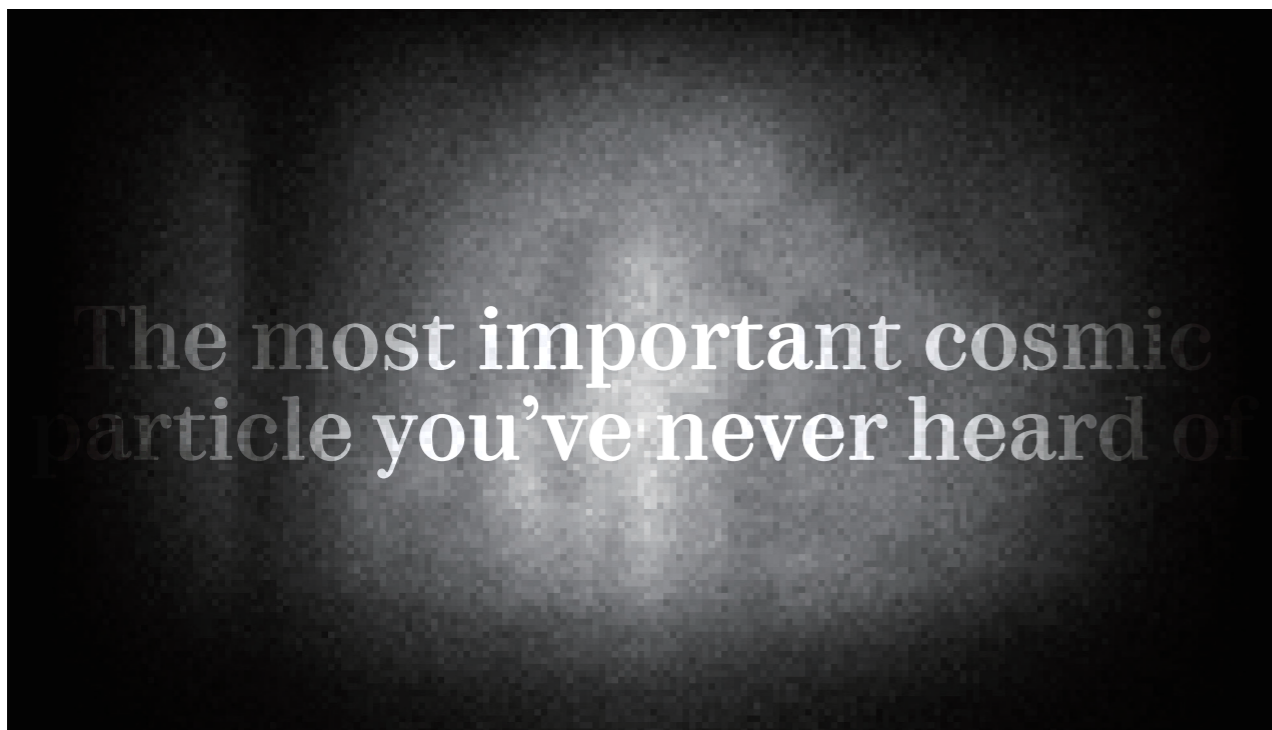
Hollingworth was an inspiration for generations of journalists and an

exceptional raconteur who kept FCCJ friends enraptured whenever she stopped by. The lines between "good" and "bad" appeared clearer in her heyday. Countries still fought "good" wars, and with that came the heroics, the pride and the great tales we still keep hearing at the Round Tables.

Every time we lose legends like Chuck Lingam, John Rich and John Roderick, all the questions we might have asked linger like sweet memories of a world we know only vicariously, but vividly, thanks to the people who lived them.

It would be worth asking the FCCJ to put us on their guest list for Clare's 105th.

– **The Shimibun Alley Whisperers**



They are tiny, fast and very versatile: and they could make a huge difference in decommissioning the damaged nuclear plants . . . and seeing inside the pyramids.

The image is blurry, underexposed and out of focus: One cannot make out much more than a long object rising

by SONJA BLASCHKE

up out of the semi-darkness. What appears to be just an amateur photographer's snapshot taken at night under difficult lighting circumstances, however, actually took one month to create – and the technology behind it is the result of years of intensive research and a massive amount of investment. What the image shows is something that no one will be able to see with the naked eye for a very long time: the inside of the damaged reactors of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Since the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami knocked out the power supply and led to multiple core meltdowns in the plant, thousands of workers have been struggling non-stop to bring the situation under control. Large amounts of radiation have been released into the environment, and parts of the plant are so highly contaminated that workers can only work there for a couple of minutes without risking radiation sickness or death.

One of the biggest hurdles in decommissioning the damaged plant is that no one knows exactly where the molten fuel rods are. Some could be at the bottom of the reactor vessel. Others might have fallen into the containment vessel. But Dr. Haruo Miyadera, a young Japanese scientist working in the U.S., realized that locating the fuel would accelerate the clean-up process considerably. So just one week after the disaster he boarded a plane home with an idea of how to do just that.

At the time of the triple disaster the 38-year-old Miyadera had been part of a group of researchers at the renowned Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. The team was developing detectors using cosmic particles called muons for imaging techniques, under their leader, Dr. Christopher Morris. Morris is one of the pioneers in muon research, which has changed quite a bit since the discovery of the particles in the mid-20th century.

Muon tomography is used in situations where conventional techniques like Roentgen X-rays cannot be used –

such as when the object is too big or may not be manipulated. The applications are extremely diverse. These elusive cosmic particles have been used to search for secret chambers in the famous Egyptian pyramids of Giza and to “see” magma bubbles in active volcanoes in Japan.

And to search for nuclear weapons at major U.S. ports. “After 9/11, people became worried about terrorism,” the 68-year old Morris says. “Imagine someone wanted to smuggle nuclear weapons in a cargo container filled with frozen peas. Due to the aerial mass it would be impossible to produce an X-ray of the container.” Muons were the solution.

Since all that can be done without handling or manipulating the object being scanned, Miyadera wondered whether the technique could be used to detect molten fuel in a damaged nuclear reactor. “Lots of people were speculating. We thought that the planning must be done based on real data, not just speculation,” Miyadera says.

MUONS ARE “BORN” 10 kilometers above the earth, where cosmic rays, mainly protons, react with the atomic nuclei in the atmosphere. They are similar to electrons, but 200 times more massive. They look like a dot and do not have an inner structure. But since muons are electrically charged, they are easy to detect.

Every minute, 10,000 muons pound each square meter of the earth at slightly under light speed. They shoot through human tissue as if it does not exist, because our atomic nuclei are too light to divert them from their path.

But when muons hit objects with heavy atomic nuclei, like plutonium and uranium, they are scattered or absorbed. They lose energy and speed, and scientists can deduct from their behavior what kind of object they have encountered.

Dr. Alexander Merle, a particle physicist from the German Max-Planck Institute for Physics in Munich, makes the basic principle easily understandable. “Imagine,” he says, “a muon as a tennis ball that hits an object and ricochets off at a certain angle. If you were to repeat this experiment with

many tennis balls you would be able to deduce the form of the object they are hitting.”

Miyadera, the young LANL scientist, was not the only one to think of muons as a possible solution to locating the reactor fuel. Teams of researchers at Japanese universities and research institutes also began to develop radiation-resistant muon detectors after the Fukushima accident. The detectors that existed at the time were unusable, as the thick concrete and steel walls of the reactor pressure vessel would have diverted the muons. That would make it impossible, for example, to distinguish between uranium and water in the core.

The teams produced several workable detectors. The blurred picture of the inside of the Fukushima reactor shown on these pages was the result of a muon tomography done in spring 2015 by the Japanese High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, known as KEK, which operates Japan's biggest particle physics laboratory in Tsukuba. It collaborated with the University of Texas. Based on these images and further measurements, the researchers concluded that no nuclear fuel remains in the No. 1 reactor. Measurements on the No. 2 reactor, done by Nagoya University also using the conventional transmission method, yielded similar conclusions.

While these experiments offered the first insight into the damaged reactors, however, they left much to be desired with regard to image quality. “Even for experts, it is difficult to recognize much,” said LANL scientist Morris.

AND THAT'S WHERE MIYADERA reenters the story. Since his return to Japan, he had been working on demo versions of a detector. Despite meeting some skepticism both in the U.S. and Japan, his mock-up project ended up being funded by the operator of the damaged plant, Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco).

But when it came to realizing the project, he ran into roadblocks: “We tried to get funding from the Japanese government, but there was no mechanism to fund an American laboratory, at least not at this scale.” Neither would the U.S. lab



The inside story

Opposite: the reactor interior revealed this year by the KEK method (see story). Left: an image of the reactor's design for comparison. Both photographs supplied by Tepco.

be able to gain access to the detailed drawings of Fukushima Daiichi that were necessary for moving the project forward. So when Toshiba, a major nuclear industry supplier, showed its interest in collaborating with LANL, Miyadera decided to move into the private sector.

As a result, the detector development, aimed at delivering images 10 times more accurate than previous results, has become a national project. The Japanese government is providing 50 percent of the funding, with the other 50 percent coming from participating companies, including Toshiba, under the umbrella of the International Research Institute for Nuclear Decommissioning (IRID) founded in August 2013. The installation of the detectors at Fukushima Daiichi will be financed by Tepco.

To achieve the higher image quality Miyadera and his colleagues were striving for, they came up with an algorithm that reduces gamma ray noise during the measurements. “This algorithm was based on previous Toshiba technology,” says Miyadera, “but it was specifically developed for the use at Fukushima Daiichi.”

The algorithm was then combined with special muon detec-

tors provided by LANL. Unlike previous detectors, they do not measure the transmission of muons, but track their paths before and after traversing the reactor core. They record the muons' entry and exit angles, which are directly related to the atomic number of the object. In this way, the researchers can distinguish between the heavy atomic nuclei and the light atomic numbers of the reactor's building elements, a distinction that wasn't possible using the KEK method.

THE BREAKTHROUGH WAS ANNOUNCED this past summer at a press event at the Toshiba research center in the Isogo industrial belt south of Yokohama. In one of the halls, the researchers had set up the detectors, measuring eight meters wide and eight meters deep and weighing some 20 tons.

According to Toshiba, the devices can detect objects as small as 30 centimeters. Unfortunately for the several dozen journalists who had gathered to watch the demonstration, there would be no live test, thanks to a software glitch that they had not been able to fix in time.

Following setbacks and scheduling issues, the first measurement on site is now planned for March 2016, after the detectors – which will be disassembled for transport by ship – are reassembled on site. Some of the tools necessary for this process are still being developed.

They will also need to build a steel shield to protect the detector from radiation when it's placed next to the reactor building. “The detector can only be operated in an environment under 50 microsieverts per hour, but in the area in front of the No. 2 reactor the radiation can reach 700 microsieverts per hour,” Miyadera says. “In the turbine building the radiation is only 25 microsieverts per hour, so no shielding is necessary.” In the future, he is thinking about building detectors from scratch, so that they can withstand even higher radiation.

The first task will be focusing on the lower part of the reactor building, where they expect to find some of the molten nuclear fuel. For this, the detectors will be set up 50 meters apart on the same level, one on the outside of the reactor building, the other in the turbine building itself.

For the second set of measurements, the detector on the outside of the reactor building will be raised 10 meters, increasing the measurement range to include the reactor core. “Our detectors are 50 times bigger than those used by KEK to measure the No. 1 reactor,” says Miyadera. “And the bigger the detector, the more data, the better the image quality.”

One of the biggest challenges, according to Miyadera, is to schedule the muon tomography into the complicated decommissioning schedule. Another is to find enough workers to carry out the measurements. Every day, between 10 and 200 workers will be needed, in addition to the several scientists who will be observing and analyzing the experiments. And Miyadera estimates that the Toshiba-LANL team will need around six months to analyze the results of each set of measurements.

If the measurements go well and meet the expectations of everyone involved in the project, the study could have a huge impact on the decommissioning of the Fukushima reactors. Tepco now estimates that it will take some 40 years to complete, but thanks to muon tomography this could be shortened by up to 10 years, say the scientists.

Encouraged by the quick progress his young Japanese colleague has made, Morris remains very confident, convinced of the power of muon tomography. “It sounds like magic,” he says, “but it actually works.” ●

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.

Mr. Abe and his “100 Million”

Why is Japan's prime minister using wartime propaganda buzzwords to promote his social and economic programs? And why should the world care?

by MICHAEL CUCEK

Imagine German Chancellor Angela Merkel announcing a new set of national economics, labor and natality initiatives that proudly promise to preserve 80 percent of the current population without immigration, increase the size of the economy by a third in five years and turn back the clock on sex, work and marriage to the 1970s. Imagine that the program is called the “*Arbeitszeit macht Freizeit*” (“Work Time Makes Free Time”) Program, that she is appointing a special cabinet minister with that title and is insisting that there is no resemblance between the program's name and the notorious “*Arbeit Macht Frei*” slogan hanging over the gates at Auschwitz.

Then imagine that Angela Merkel, rather than being a former East German citizen from a Protestant church family with no ties to the Nazi era (which she is), instead is the scion of a leading Third Reich family – Albert Speer's eldest granddaughter, perhaps – and a well-known apologist for the excesses of the Nazi state.

The world would likely have a nervous breakdown.

Yet the world's financial and political commentators merely shrugged when on Sept. 24 Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe unveiled his “*Ichi oku so katsuyaku*” (100 Million Making Eye Opening Efforts As One) initiative – a.k.a. The New Three Arrows of Abenomics.) Two weeks later, when he introduced his new Cabinet, it included Katsunobu Kato in a newly created position in charge of driving the program.

One cannot fault the overall goals of the New Three Arrows. After all, Japan's current population level of 127 million is unsustainable when the number of births per woman is at 1.42 and immigration is a negligible force. Indeed, the population is already dropping, last year by 268,000. If no special measures are taken, the population will fall below 100 million somewhere around the year 2050 and decline to around 80 million by the millennium. Japan's relative and absolute economic power will decline in step, leaving the country a still populous but minor player at the end of the century.

That the ambitious Mr. Abe wants more for his country than a slide into sleepy irrelevance is not surprising. What is stunning is the decision by Abe, the grandson of the wartime government's munitions minister and a known admirer of Imperial Japan, to use the historically fraught number 100 million (*ichi oku*) as his target population level.

ANYONE WITH A PASSING knowledge of pre-1945 propaganda can rattle off a string of *ichi oku* phrases, none of which invokes happy memories. There is the commandment for ideological unanimity – *Ichi oku isshin* (100 Million Persons: One Mind) – or the encouragement to press forward with the war effort – *Susume ichi oku hi no*

The minister in charge

Katsunobu Kato, appointed to lead the “100 million” effort.

AP PHOTO/KOJI SASAHARA

tama da (“Forward The 100 Million Balls of Flame!”). There is the call for to be prepared for extermination of every single Japanese citizen in the final defense of the country: *Ichi oku gyokusai* (“100 Million Crushed Jewels”).

In his speech announcing Japan's surrender, Emperor Hirohito thanked the *ichi oku shusho* (“the 100 million commoners”) for their efforts, vain as those efforts turned out to be. And most disturbingly, there is the infamous call of Prince Higashikuni, the interim prime minister after the surrender, for an *Ichi oku so zange* (“100 Million Reflecting Upon Their Responsibility as One”) – as if the Japanese people were collectively responsible for the country's descent into war rather than the nation's leaders – where Higashikuni's phrase is the same *ichi oku* that appears in Shinzo Abe's new program.

Ever since announcing the new program and ministerial post, Abe has been denying any link between his 100 million population goal and the wartime propaganda use of that number as a shorthand for “all Japanese.” Mr. Abe's protestations, however are undercut by the peculiar and inaccurate official government English translation of *ichi oku so katsuyaku* as “Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens.” If there is nothing wrong with saying “100 Million As One” in Japanese, why does the English translation not use that phrase as well?

If the use of the 100 million figure is dog whistle politics – a signal sent out to those whose political ears are set to hear a specific pitch – it is not as if Abe's continuing allegiance to Japan's revisionist right is a secret. While he has suspended his annual pilgrimages to Yasukuni Shrine in order to secure summit meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Park Geun-hye, he still sends cash donations and presents to the shrine during its spring and autumn festivals and on Aug. 15, the anniversary of Japan's acceptance of defeat in World War II.

Abe also maintains open ties to the revisionist and denialist Nippon Kaigi (Japan Conference), and addressed that organization's “Let's Revise the Constitution – the Great Gathering of the 10,000” mass meeting at the Nippon Budokan via video message on Nov. 10. He also tucks into his schedule meetings or visits, such as pilgrimages to Ise Shrine or paying respects at the grave of anti-Tokugawa activist Shoin Yoshida, that appear benign but which revisionists can read as quiet assurances that the hard right's longtime champion still holds their issues and values close to his heart.

IS IT WRONG FOR Abe to pander to the revisionists or blend his economic revival and social inclusion programs with elements of his romantic view of pre-1945 Japan? Not necessarily. A politician has to demonstrate his gratitude to the knot of loyalists who have been with him from the very beginning, granting them some measure of their wishes and taking stances they will applaud. He cannot turn his back on his original supporters, even if he has since supplanted them with richer and more socially acceptable backers – a political reality the great political satirist Molly Ivins summed up in the phrase, “You gotta dance with them what brung you.”

The revisionists “brought” us Shinzo Abe – at least the first Shinzo Abe premiership of 2006-7. Ignoring them and their issues would represent a risky bet by the prime minister on the economy's performing above trend or his new friends in big business staying as close to him in the future as they are now.

Affixing revisionist labels on ambitious economic and social engineering changes could also represent clever political salesmanship on Abe's part. Many of the changes the Abe Cabinet and the Liberal Democratic Party have been mold-

ing into legislation are, from an international perspective, socially liberal and market-oriented transformations. These would be inimical to the party's core support among economic and social conservatives, who have taken Mr. Abe's campaign slogan *Nippon o torimodosu* (“We Will Take Japan Back”) at face value. By applying a gloss of pre-war Imperial Japan on these programs, Abe is ostensibly shielding them from the automatic rejection they would have received were they presented as liberal or neo-liberal reforms.

A noble reading of the intentions of Mr. Abe and his allies would be that they are plastering a disingenuous pre-1945 “100 Million as One” label on their plans for a post-industrial, post-mercantilist 21st-century democracy in order to sell what would otherwise be unsaleable. However, for that reading to be plausible, the reforms themselves would have to be honest and profound – so much so that it was worthwhile for the government to lie about their true nature in its sale pitch.

THIS IS PRECISELY THE point where the generous view of the Abe administration falls apart. The New Three Arrows of Abenomics – a 600 trillion yen economy by 2020, 1.8 births per woman by 2025 and the zeroing out of persons leaving the workforce to care for an elderly relative (currently over 100,000 workers per year and rising) – are unachievable. Economists and business writers have scoffed at the proposal to increase the nominal GDP 22 percent in five years – though a recent proposed revision of the calculation of GDP figures seems to have lowered the bar.

As for 1.8 births per woman, the last time that happened was back in 1984 – and even that figure was a fluke. One has to go back to 1977, when the marriage, development and labor environments were so different as to be those of another country to get a realistic sustained rate of 1.8 births per Japanese woman. As for the third proposal to zero out the number of job leavers due to eldercare – without the mass immigration of healthcare workers the promise is beyond absurd. The very oldest members of the postwar baby boom generation that dwarfs all its predecessors are not even 70 years of age yet. Many of these boomers indeed are already the stressed-to-the-breaking point caregivers of the relatively tiny generation of their parents. When the boomers themselves become the cared-for rather than the care-giving, the loss of only 100,000 workers a year to eldercare will seem a dream by comparison.

What then are we to make of the “100 Million Making Eye Opening Efforts As One” initiatives? Why go to all the trouble of associating them with the pre-war Japanese imperial state when they are not even realizable? And what kind of modern democratic government has a core policy program whose goals are not just difficult but impossible to achieve?

The answers to these questions may be simple ones. Mr. Abe and his government face a national election in 2016 – far enough in the future that the wide-ranging protests against the security bill and the little sense of any opposition that they seemed to engender will very likely have faded from the public's memory. If the pure fantasy of these initiatives and their unrealistic goals succeed in stupefying the non-aligned voters into a lethargic state, the ruling coalition may conceivably be able to motivate its base and seize control of both Houses of the Diet, setting the stage for revision of the Constitution – Mr. Abe's well-known, long-cherished goal. ●

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

In October, the U.S. Navy rolled out the red carpet (literally) as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe set foot on the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Ronald Reagan*, the first time that any Japanese premier had visited a U.S. naval vessel at sea. Clothed in a flight jacket covering his pin-striped suit and accompanied by his deputy Taro Aso and Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, Abe toured the ship, sat in the cockpit of an F-18 fighter and chatted with American officers, including the Chief of Naval Operations, America's senior sailor. Earlier, Abe had reviewed the naval regatta from the bridge of a Japanese destroyer, where he later gave a succinct version of his military credo: "No country can protect itself on its own."

The naval review, held every three years since 1860 and revived in 1957 with the rebirth of the Japanese navy – now called the Maritime Self-Defense Force in keeping with the country's American-written constitution – was the first major display of Japanese military might since the passage one month earlier to permit collective defense. Pride of the fleet was the recently commissioned "helicopter destroyer" *Izumo*, the largest warship Japan has built since World War II. The spirit of a reinvigorated partnership was evident in the words of Vice Admiral Nora Tyson, commander of the Third Fleet, which is based on the U.S. West Coast. The review was a "symbol of the ties between Japan and the U.S.," she said.

Collective defense, the right to come to defense of allies and close partners, is dear to the prime minister, who steadily pushed through the legislation while taking hits to his popularity. In his first term (2006-2007)

he formed the Advisory Panel on the Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security to propose new laws. It languished under his successors and the Democratic Party of Japan government, but was revived with a vengeance after Abe's party won a landslide general election victory near the end of 2012.

The new laws are complicated, but are likely to impact Japan's freedom of action in four areas: 1) participation in peace-keeping operations in the Middle East and globally; 2) in the response to a closing of the Strait of Hormuz shutting off Japan's main source of petroleum; 3) dragging Japan into the South China Sea conflict in support of allies like the U.S. and "close partners" such as the Philippines and 4) in support of American military "assets" under attack, which could be defined as naval vessels close to Japan or to American bases as far away as Guam.

Ever since 1991, when Japan sent troops to Cambodia to help supervise that country's first free elections, more than 8,000 Japanese servicemen have taken part in several global peace-keeping operations under U.N. auspices. It currently has about 350 ground self-defense force engineering troops deployed in South Sudan. The Maritime Self-Defense Force now takes part in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden along with other nations, such as China and South Korea, with a permanent base in Djibouti, Japan's only overseas military post.

However, until the new law's passage, Japanese soldiers were legally constrained from coming to the aid of other peace-keeping contingents, even if they came under attack by terrorist groups or anybody else. This came to a head in 2013 when South Korean troops protecting refugees in Bor, the capital of Sudan's Jonglei province, were running short of ammunition and asked Japan to

The new laws permitting "collective defense" are now in effect. A look at what changes are in store as restrictions loosen on Japan's military activities

What's ahead for Japan's armed forces

by TODD CROWELL



lend them some bullets (Japan was the only readily available source of the correct caliber.) Abe was willing to comply with the request even though it was then technically illegal under the previous interpretation of the Constitution. He proposed to justify his decision by saying it was an "emergency," but another source was eventually found, taking Abe off the hook.

WHILE YOU SHOULDN'T EXPECT to see Air Self-Defense Force F-15's taking part in any bombings of Iraq and Syria, other military operations in the Middle East could become possible under the new rules. The one most often mentioned would involve sweeping maritime mines at the entrance to the Gulf of Hormuz, should they be planted by Iran to block petroleum shipments. Under those circumstances, Tokyo could argue that since 80 percent of Japan's petroleum is imported, blocking shipments threatens Japan's existence, thus making it an action of valid self-defense.

In fact, the Japanese navy actually swept mines in the northern reaches of the Persian Gulf in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War. However, that was after a ceasefire was agreed. Under the new rules this presumably could take place during hostilities.

The U.S. is eager to draw on Japanese capabilities in maritime mine warfare. With some 30 specialized vessels, Japan has considerable experience and capabilities in this arena of conflict, while the U.S., which tends to neglect mine warfare for sexier weapons such as aircraft carriers, has tended to neglect it.

But with the South China Sea getting hotter with Washington's stance of confronting Beijing over its territorial claims, could Japan be drawn into the imbroglio? The legislation speaks of helping allies and "close partners" under attack. "Close partners" could be defined as countries like the Philippines or Australia, in which negotiated defense agreements allow Tokyo to, among other things, give the Philippines patrol vessels or to sell submarines to Australia. Philippine President Benigno Aquino III heartily supported the new security legislation. "We welcome the passage of legislation on national security," said presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda.

The new security laws and the new Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation that were negotiated last spring in anticipation of the new laws' passage this past summer remove some of the geographical constraints on defensive cooperation. The U.S.-Japan partnership is no longer limited to "areas around Japan." "The alliance will respond to situations that have an important influence on Japan's peace and security. Such situations cannot be defined geographically," says the newly approved guidelines for military cooperation with the U.S.

Washington and Manila are pushing Tokyo to take part in regular patrols over the contested Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, where China is turning tiny artificial islands into military bases. Manila has even offered bases for Japan. And Vice Admiral Robert Thomas, then commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet based at Yokosuka said earlier this year: "I think that [Self-Defense Force] operations in the South China Sea make sense in the future."

So far, Tokyo has not committed itself to taking part in any such patrols. The pressure could be hard to resist should Washington send naval vessels into waters that Beijing considers part of its own territory to challenge China over territorial claims in the South China Sea (see box).

The new laws and guidelines permit Japan to help protect the "assets" of its allies and close partners. Some would argue that this merely codifies some-

thing that is unofficially already in place. Erik Slaven, Asia correspondent for the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, surveyed American ship captains, and, to a man, they said they believed that Japan would come to the aid of an American ship under attack and sort out the legal questions later. "If it came to breaking the law or breaking the alliance, they would break the law," he said.

PUTTING THIS ALL TOGETHER would seem to herald a significant shift toward a more militaristic Japan. That certainly is how many would interpret it. The *New York Times* in an editorial warned that Abe was getting "dangerously close" to changing the constitution by his own fiat rather than going through a formal amendment process, especially after Abe told a parliamentary session that changing the government's traditional interpretation "rests with me." Three prominent jurists, including, embarrassingly to Abe, one appointed by his own government, declared the legislation unconstitutional.

However, it is worth noting what *isn't* changing as a result of the new security measures. Japan will still deny itself "offensive weapons," which are defined as being able to project power abroad. These include long-range bombers, aircraft carriers, inter-continental ballistic missiles, nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines and, of course, nuclear weapons – all of which China possesses – and, probably, cruise missiles.

Defense appropriations have been increasing under the Abe administration, but have not broken the unofficial one-percent-of-GDP barrier, and the number of men and women in uniform has been static for years. Tokyo is not obliged to support the U.S. in any and all conflicts. The recently concluded defense guidelines with the Americans are just that: guidelines, not a mutual defense treaty. ●

ARE YOU GOING TO SCARBOROUGH SHOAL?

ANGERED BY CHINA'S INCREASING encroachments and island-building on features that the Philippines claim are theirs in the South China Sea, Manila dispatches a converted coast guard vessel supplied by Japan plus a contingent of marines to retake Scarborough Shoal, occupied by China in 2012. As it approaches the shoal, the vessels are fired on by an armed Chinese Coast Guard ship patrolling the waters around the shoal, causing it to retire to the Zambales naval base on Palawan. Manila invokes the 1951 treaty of mutual defense with the U.S., saying it is under attack and asking it to come to its aid. Washington dispatches a destroyer to show solidarity with the Philippines. When it arrives, the American destroyer captain finds three Chinese naval vessels lurking nearby. It radios Honolulu, the headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, for instructions.

The captain is ordered to sit tight. In the tense standoff, Washington consults with Tokyo over any logistical support. It asks that elements of the Japanese navy be ready to come to its aid if shooting breaks out. In the past, the question would not have arisen as it was understood that assistance of this kind was limited to "areas around Japan," such as a conflict in Korea or around Taiwan, not somewhere as far distant as the South China Sea. But as part of its defense reforms enacted in spring of 2015, Japan has dropped the geographical limits to its cooperation with the U.S. or other close friends. In the best case, the ships eventually withdraw without further shots being fired, but this imagined scenario shows how easily Japan could be dragged into conflicts in the South China Sea.

The fog of war

A Maritime Self-Defense Force ship during a review in October this year.

Todd Crowell is the author of *The Coming War between China and Japan*, published by Amazon as a Single Kindle.



Sandra Mori

by MARY CORBETT

The saddest day of Sandra's 11-year-old life came in 1946 when her parents announced that the family would soon move across the world to Japan, where her father would be working for the Allied Occupation's Public Health and Welfare section.

Plotting scenarios of escape filled her time throughout the long drive from her home in Monrovia, California, to Seattle, and continued aboard the *USS Mercy* on a storm-tossed, three-week journey across the Pacific. But her trepidations vanished when a snow-covered Mt. Fuji rose in its full magnificence over the waves on the final day of her voyage, guiding the ship to port, and the young girl to a new life in Japan.

The war-battered country was only beginning to find its footing. Soon after the family's arrival, Sandra first set foot into the old Tokyo Press Club with her parents as guests of a friend. Set amidst grand stone columns, the Club's lobby was brimming with the activity of "important-looking people," and it made a deep impression on the little girl. It wasn't a place for children, but Sandra remembers occasions when some friendly journalists would set up a projector and entertain them with movies on the roof.

Other than one brief period in high school when she temporarily returned to the U.S., Sandra has spent her entire life in Japan. The Club has featured large throughout those years.

Sandra found herself "falling into" journalism at a very young age. By the time she was 17, she was filling her days with writing assignments and her evenings with classes at Sophia University. Some of her early pieces were for *A-No-Ne*, one of the first weeklies to highlight trends and entertainment spots around Tokyo.

WHILE STILL AT SCHOOL she began working at the *Japan Times*, where she found herself editing Donald Richie's columns – a particular claim to fame – and "working side-by-side with one of the former Tokyo Roses." She still managed to find time for other work, including a stint as an extra in Japanese films, and once struck up a flirtatious friendship with Toshiro Mifune, who was in the midst of filming *Seven Samurai* on a neighboring set. "He loved pulling my pony tail," she says.

In spite of the crazy, busy days, Sandra found time to go dancing . . . a lot. Tokyo didn't offer much in the way of entertainment during the '50s, but universities and clubs, like Ginza's Kinbasha, held nice tea dances where young men and women, some accompanied by mothers eagerly scouting good marriage prospects for their children, could meet over ¥300 coffee and cake. It was quite a sum in those days.

It was on one of these occasions that a handsome young man approached Sandra for a dance.

Seinosuke Mori had a reputation as the dapper *waka danna* (young lord) of Ginza and – like Sandra – a passion for dance. It was magic at first sight for the young couple. But "respectable" Japanese families would not permit their young to date foreigners in those days; neither was Sandra's father enamored by the young Japanese man.

This postwar Romeo and Juliet saga was to last for six years as they dated on and off. The walls of the Capulets and Montagues finally came tumbling down when news broke of the Crown Prince's engagement to elegant commoner, Michiko Shoda. Suddenly, the idea of "romantic love" swamped the old traditions, and marriage fever hit with such force that Sandra and Seinosuke could hardly find a wedding ceremony location when their parents' blessings were finally given. They settled on the picturesque Shitaya Shrine, and the bride looked exquisite in full wedding kimono.

"Toshiro Mifune loved pulling my pony tail"



SANDRA RETURNED TO WORK soon after her marriage. The *Mainichi Daily News* came calling with an offer for a weekly column, and other publications like *Nikkan Sports* and *Shukan Bunshun* followed. Foreign publications, including *Asia Travel Trade* and *Travel & Leisure*, also sought her talents.

Sandra says she covered mostly soft news like travel and other "women's features," but she had her share of adventures covering other interests. Through her father's military connections, she once interviewed a North Korean contingent in town for a trade show and scooped the story of how they were exporting goods to Japan, which were then relabelled as Japanese products for export to the U.S.

It was the first time in print for what had been an apparently open secret, and Sandra remembers with enormous pride when Sam Jameson of the *Los Angeles Times* called to congratulate her. Scenes like that and heroic moments on the FCCJ Board – such as the time she led the resurrection of the Alley Cats softball team after it had been cut in a big budgetary sweep – color the vivid tapestry of her Club memories.

Sandra remains active today on the Entertainment Committee, hosting dignitaries and celebrities at some of the Club's biggest events. While a member of the FCCJ since 1969, it was only upon retirement from the *Mainichi* in the late 80s that her writing portfolio turned predominantly international. She promptly became a Regular Member, telling a bemused Bruce Dunning from CBS in the application interview that it was to fulfill her greatest dream of sitting at the Round Tables in the Correspondents' Corner.

That's exactly where you'll still find her on many days, holding the community together with her inimitable laughter and sparkling eyes. ●

Mary Corbett is a writer and documentary producer based in Tokyo, and a board member of the FCCJ.

There's more than meets the ear behind the jokes and the gossip of those who've escaped from Kim Jong-un's regime.

Rumor and humor from North Korea

by SANDRA FAHY

GIVEN THE BOMBASTIC STYLE of its official pronouncements, North Korea has long been low-hanging fruit for comedians looking for a quick nibble. On the other hand, anyone attempting serious analysis faces the huge barrier of the country's inaccessibility. But while few pundits tend to place stock in rumor as a measure of conditions in the country, or imagine life on the ground there to be funny, if you ask defectors about gallows humor in their homeland or listen closely as they recall popular rumors, their words offer deep insight into North Korean life.

In 2005, I began recording the oral accounts of dozens of North Korean defectors who had survived the 1990s famine. I had moved to South Korea in order to learn Korean and compile their testimonies in the original language. I was curious to know how they interpreted their experience of suffering: who the North Koreans saw as being responsible, what they saw as the solution to the problem and how they had discussed the hardship they were undergoing at the time in a place that controls everything, including speech.

The hundreds of hours of testimonies are a formidable testament to the complex situation during and after the 1990s famine. There are long blanks in the recordings where I was simply watching tears fall. Expletive-laden shouting revealed their frustrations regarding the leadership's culpability for murder-by-neglect.

Those were expected. But in letting the talk run a little longer, in asking unexpected questions about rumor and humor, my interviewees began to recall the agile word-play shared between their fellows and the whispered rumors that drifted among them: a new metric for political violence.

Their jokes played on syllabic twists; tiny linguistic windows of breathing room. Always dark, they obliquely critiqued social inequalities and government-directed absurdities. "Pap mōgōsōyo?" ("Have you eaten rice?")



is the traditional greeting on both sides of the DMZ. But after the North Korean government "recommended" that people eat what it called "substitute foods" such as bark, grass and roots, the expression changed to "Taeyoung mōgōsōyo?" or "Have you eaten the substitute?"

One young woman recalled a common phrase that captured the absurd and unequal access to food: "The secret police eat secretly, and the security police eat securely," she told me. In Korean, this quip has an unmistakable poetic rhythm bearing the caustic sarcasm refreshingly along, showing the sharp eyes (and ears) of North Koreans.

As with famines throughout history, the relations between men and women grew tense. Defunct factories turned the men out and many, depressed and embarrassed, took to drink. Women were forced to bring household items to the black-market to make ends meet, while security police, seeing the women as benign, turned a blind eye. The wives did all the work, I was told,

Sandra Fahy is assistant professor of anthropology at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. She is the author of *Marching through Suffering: Loss and Survival in North Korea* (New York: Columbia University Press 2015), the subject of her FCCJ Book Break on Jan. 18.

and they became the lifeline for the family. "We called the men 'daytime light bulbs,'" one told me. Thinking my Korean had failed me, I asked her for clarification and she said, "You have no use for a light bulb during the day, do you?" Then she added, "We also called them bow-wow, because they were always barking for something."

During times of socio-economic stress, rumors also take on a frequency and a currency of their own. Stories about disappearances and cannibalism became part of daily talk. Trying to determine the veracity of such stories is impossible, but they are clearly a measure of the severity of the suffering. They indicate what was possible to conceive because the situation was so dire. "I heard that someone saw a finger-tip floating in the soup at a black-market stall," said one defector, a middle-age woman with a raspy voice and strong North Hamgyong accent.

But speaking directly about being hungry in North Korea, I learned, was more dangerous than starvation itself. Using the word "hunger" was forbidden; the word "pain" was used instead. If you didn't make this linguistic adjustment, bad things could happen. "My neighbor went around complaining she was hungry," said another middle-aged woman from Chongjin, "The next day she disappeared, taken off somewhere."

Is it true that people were "disappeared" simply for complaining of hunger in North Korea? It is impossible to know for sure, just from this exchange. But again, the fact of the rumor's existence points to what the people saw as "conceivable."

It is easy to write-off North Korea as either a place that is fodder for late-night TV hosts and Hollywood parodies or a closed kingdom behind an opaque curtain. But carefully listening to North Koreans, and asking provocative questions about seemingly banal daily chatter, can offer us new methods to define the lives of the country's citizens and measure the difficulty of daily existence. ●

They Touched My Heart by Derrick Woollacott

IN JANUARY 1946, SERGEANT Derrick Woollacott was a 22-year-old photographer for the Royal Air Force, stationed in Iwakuni. This exhibition displays a selection from a series of 100 personal photographs taken in and around Hiroshima Prefecture in that year. As a young airman, fresh from the War in Southeast Asia, he was completely overwhelmed by the beauty and dignity of the Japanese people, an experience that changed his life forever.

His images – all presented in full negative, uncropped – focus on Japanese people going about their lives and include stunning portraits of mothers and children, fishermen and farmers, taken mere months after the destruction of Hiroshima. While many were published at the time, and he won first, second and third prize in a photographic competition in the *Mainichi* English edition in October 1946, this is the first time that they have been seen in public since 1947. ●

Several of **Derrick Woollacott's** Japanese photographs were published in England in 1947. He was an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and made his living as a professional photographer until the late 1970s when he started to work on various inventions for photographic processing and printing. He died in 1991. His daughter, Valerie Neale, is researching his photographic history in Japan and Southeast Asia in 1945-6, and has written an as-yet unpublished book about these years. She will attend the opening reception of this exhibition on Dec. 7 at 7pm.



James Lagier, former AP bureau chief



JAMES C. LAGIER, a former Associated Press bureau chief in the U.S. and Japan, and FCCJ president, died on Nov. 21 in Walnut Creek, California, after battling cancer, according to his niece, Sydney Lagier. He was 80.

A native of Manteca, California, Lagier joined the AP in Honolulu in 1962 and retired in 2001 as chief of the Tokyo bureau. The two locations were fitting bookends to a career that also took Lagier to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, New York, Columbus, Ohio, and Fresno, California, as a reporter, newsroom manager and executive. "I never met anyone who didn't like Jim Lagier," said Louis D. Boccardi, AP's president and chief executive officer from 1985 to 2003.

Early in his career, Lagier covered America's atmospheric nuclear tests in the Pacific and flew on a B-52 bombing mission over Vietnam from Guam. While serving as news desk editor in Los Angeles in 1968, he worked on coverage of the assassination of U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and filed the AP bulletin on Kennedy's death. As bureau chief in San Francisco from 1972 to 1974, he oversaw coverage of the kidnapping of newspaper heiress Patty Hearst. And in Japan, he supervised reporting about the 1995 Kobe earthquake that killed more than 6,000 people.

Lagier once said during an interview that he felt like he was on a "yo-yo" at one point in his AP career. "I felt like I was a vagabond, and I was so

astounded that I was being chosen for these fabulous jobs," he said. "I mean, a lower-middle-class person, born into poverty, suddenly having these electrifying jobs in the world's oldest, largest and most lovable news-gathering organization."

Lagier said a highlight of his news career was his tenure in the San Francisco bureau, where he was responsible for coverage of Northern California during Vietnam War protests. Lagier previously worked in AP's Fresno bureau, where he wrote about Cesar Chavez's efforts to organize farm workers.

In 1975, Lagier became bureau chief for Ohio. His news editor there, Henry Heilbrunn, recalled that Lagier frequently walked his newsrooms at all hours, stopping at desks to urge his staff to "be happy in your work."

The following year, Lagier was appointed general executive for New England, based in Boston. Starting in 1979, he served as deputy director for newspaper membership at AP headquarters in New York City. Lagier was transferred to Tokyo in 1993, returning to a country he had visited while serving in the U.S. Army in Seoul, Korea.

Lagier graduated with honors from the University of California, Berkeley in 1962 and left the AP for a year in 1966 to complete graduate school and teach journalism there. He was a benefactor to the University of California, establishing a charitable trust in journalism and leaving a gift to the music department.

Before joining AP, he worked as the sports editor and a general assignment reporter at the *Hanford Sentinel* in California.

Lagier was also an accomplished pianist and studied with jazz piano teachers in the New York City area. **AP**



A colleague remembers by Kaz Abiko

THE NEWS OF JIM Lagier's passing deeply saddened us in Tokyo, even though we knew it was coming, as he had been receiving hospice care at his home. As everyone who knew him would agree, he was a wonderful person, certainly one of a kind.

Jim served as Tokyo bureau chief for the AP from 1993 through 2001 and as FCCJ president, 1995-96.

He was asked to run for FCCJ president because the Club needed a solid representative of a major news organization to head the Club in its 50th anniversary year, although he had been in Tokyo for only two years.

At the 50th anniversary party, Jim marveled at the Club, saying, "Its membership consists of some of the most memorable journalists, scalawags and hangers-on as you can find anywhere: petulant, irritating, crusty, crotchety, witty, caring, childish, emotional, sentimental, articulate, opinionated, cynical, rude, hard-drinking, hard-driving. That's the short list."

Because of the high yen and Japan's economic downturn, Club membership had dropped to a low of about 1,700. Jim orchestrated a membership drive that helped increase the number to more than 2,000 in five months.

Jim was a paternal figure at AP Tokyo as well as the FCCJ - a loving and caring father of the family. He also was a skilled manager and adept politician. Markus Kreutz, former AP chief of communication in Tokyo, said, "Witnessing one particular sensitive meeting with overseas visitors that was conducted by Jim and concluded in the most pleasant of manners, I came away thinking that Jim could tame a lion if need be."

He used to say that the AP is "the world's oldest, largest and most lovable news agency." During his retirement party at the FCCJ in 2001, I said he was "the AP's oldest, largest and most lovable bureau chief."

We will miss him greatly **AP**

Kazuo Abiko, former AP general manager for Northeast Asia, was FCCJ president in 2001-02.

NEW BACKDROP

The Club has a new press-conference backdrop. The old one was past its use-by date (with more-than-frayed edges) and has been gently retired. The new version is the culmination of two years' effort that started with adapting the pen-and-quill icon (which, nevertheless, remained essentially unchanged). Designed by *Number 1 Shimbun* art director Andrew Potheary, the new backdrop features a repeated pattern of the Club's full name - in English and Japanese - and the pen-and-quill with the abbreviated "FCCJ" that is becoming more of the Club's "brand." Former president Lucy Birmingham oversaw its making. Daisuke Katogi of Tsutaya printers undertook the job of stitching the banner - and, in fact, was the man who had stitched the previous one.



A photo of SEALDs members at a Club conference shows that the new, larger banner also extends behind groups

MEET THE PRESS

The Nov. 18 launch of a new program series, "Startups Meet the Press," featured an very impressive first guest: Mark Makdad (right), co-founder of Moneytree, which was named Japan App Store's Best of 2013 and 2014. The startup, with its development of an app capable of providing users with a comprehensive look at personal finances, has created waves in the finance industry and convinced three of Japan's megabanks to join in an unprecedented simultaneous investment program. This program will feature leaders in the startup sector, giving journalist members exclusive face-to-face access with some very unique industry figures. Watch the events schedule on the website for upcoming speakers.



BREAKING NEWS

The gathering pictured here and officiated by two Shinto priests is the Jichinsai, or groundbreaking ceremony, for the new Mitsubishi building that will be the next home for the FCCJ. More than 100 people were invited to the event, which began promptly at 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 11, 2015. FCCJ General Manager Tomohiko Yanagi attended the event. First Vice President Peter Langan also attended as FCCJ President Suvendrini Kakuchi was out of the country.





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.



CLUB NEWS



REGULAR MEMBERS

ALEXANDER LENIN is the chief of the representative office in Japan of the Russian daily newspaper, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He was born in the western part of the country in the Kaliningrad region. He started his career as a Moscow-based correspondent with the newspaper *Zavtra* in 2008. He joined *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* in 2013. He lives in Tokyo with his wife and son.



KAZUO NAGATA joined the *Yomiuri Shimbun* in 1987 upon receiving a B.A. degree in international politics from Tokyo's Aoyama Gakuin University. Since then he has worked as a staff writer for the *Daily Yomiuri* (now the *Japan News*), and held a number of posts at the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, including as the Brussels bureau chief, correspondent at the Washington bureau, New Delhi bureau chief and Bangkok bureau chief among other posts. He was also a political news reporter, covering the Prime Minister's Office and the Liberal Democratic Party. He became a senior research fellow of the Yomiuri Research Institute in February 2015, where he follows developments in Asia, Europe and the United States.



REINSTATEMENT (REGULAR)

PETER LYON is an Australian motor journalist, author, columnist, TV personality and racing driver. Based in Tokyo for over 27 years, he contributes regular car-related stories to eight international publications, including *Car and Driver* (U.S.), *Auto Express* (UK) and *Carpaint.com.au* (Australia). He also writes in Japanese for two local monthly car magazines and co-hosts and co-writes *Samurai Wheels*, an English-language TV series introducing Japan's car culture on NHK World. He has published two books in Japanese, including *Flashing Hazards* in 2014. Lyon has also raced cars since 2000, with a 4th-in-class finish in Germany's Nurburgring 24-hour endurance race in 2010. He is chairman of the World Car Awards and a juror in the Japan Car of the Year Awards.



STATUS CHANGE (P/JA TO REGULAR)

NAZAFARIN MARZAKHALILI is an editor, reporter and announcer for NHK World's Persian Radio. From 2000 to 2008 she was a reporter, feature writer and columnist for *Iran Daily*, Iran's leading English-language newspaper. From 2007 to 2010, she worked at Iran's national Radio and Television as editor and reporter for local and international broadcasts, covering news stories such as the Green Movement in Iran, nuclear negotiations between Iran and the 6 powers, as well as other political news. She joined NHK World in 2010 as a Tokyo-based correspondent. Since 2010, she works with BBC Persian Radio-TV and the Tajiki language online service of Radio Free Europe as an expert in Japan affairs. She also works as a translator for news, features and literature.

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The mangroves of Mexico's Southern Pacific coast may not be tall as California's redwoods or vast as the Amazon rainforest, but they are a vital link in the ecology of both North and South America. These wetlands, near the narrowest point of the inter-American isthmus, are a key way station for a multitude of migratory bird species. And they are under threat. Over decades, human activity and tropical storms have severely damaged this critical ecosystem.

Now, Ricoh has come to the rescue. Working with local groups and Birdlife International, Ricoh launched a pilot reforestation program in July 2015 that aims to benefit the forest, its wildlife – and its human neighbors. By creating jobs for tree planters in Mexico's poorest region and increasing fishery productivity, the hope is that people will come to see value in the mangroves ("los manglares" in Spanish).

Forest conservation is a central theme of Ricoh's "social contribution reserve," to which the company devotes 1% of its annual profit. Starting with donations in 1999 to C.W. Nicol's Afan Woodland Trust in Nagano, Ricoh has sponsored projects in Okinawa, Russia, China, Malaysia, Ghana and Brazil. And the work continues!

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