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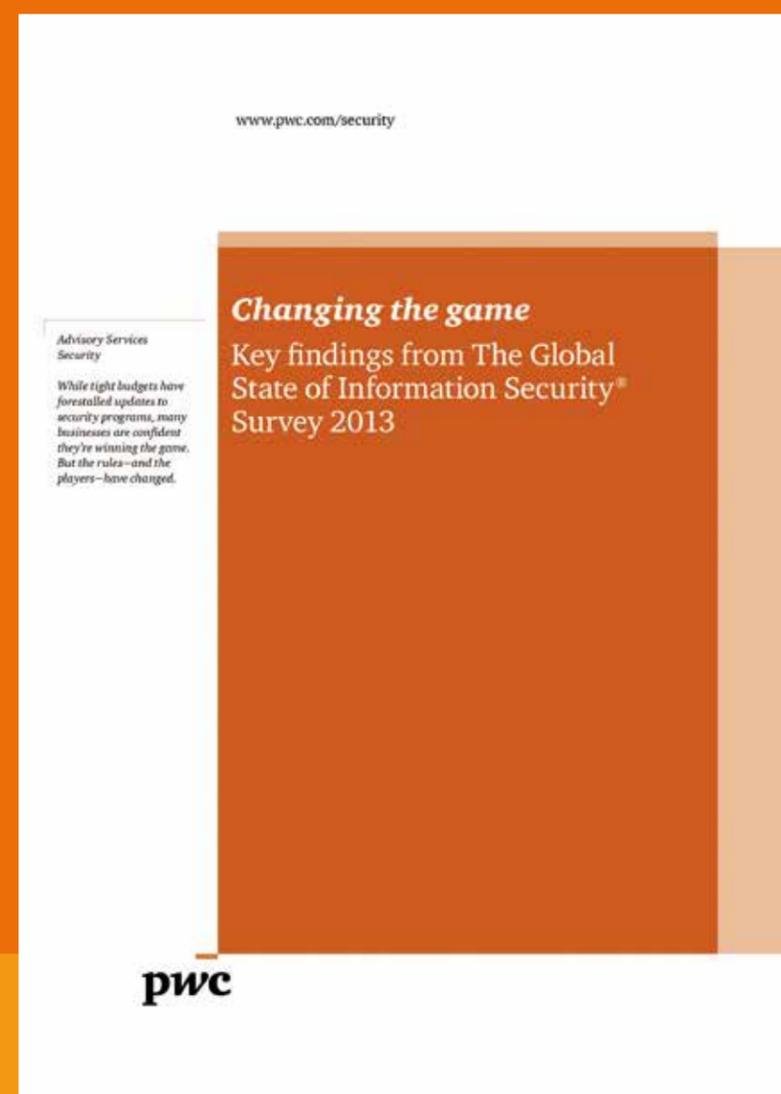
WHY HAVE THE NUCLEAR PROTESTS FADED FROM SIGHT?

DAVID MCNEILL AND JUSTIN McCURRY

LOOK FOR THE ANTI-NUCLEAR CROWDS



Making your business cyber secure



Cyber security is rapidly rising to the top of the corporate agenda, and rightly so. A cyber-security breach can lead to a loss of trade secrets and customer data, leaving companies open to financial and reputational damage.

PwC's recently completed survey of more than 9,000 executives and IT professionals in 128 countries revealed some surprising trends. Although executives seem optimistic that they are winning the battle against hackers – high-profile failures call into question the strategies they are deploying.

What do business leaders need to do to boost their their resilience to digital attacks?



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In this issue

The Front Page		4
From the president		
Click on this	Steve McClure	
Cover story		
Down, but not out	David McNeill and Justin McCurry	6
Profile: Haruko Watanabe	Monzurul Huq	8
It's global investor courting time in Tokyo	Gavin Blair	10
Defamation from the Club dais?	David McNeill	12
History according to Stone	Daniel Leussink	13
Mission to Rome	Geoff Tudor	14
Obituary		
Remembering Bruce Dunning, 1940-2013		15
Classical success	Suvendrini Kakuchi	16
Exhibition		
Innocence Lost	281 Anti Nuke	17
Statement from the Freedom of the Press Committee		18
New members		18
New in the library		18

Heard at the Club

“Obama is a snake.
We have to turn on him.”

Oliver Stone,
film director,
page 13



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Cover: AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye

From the president



DESPITE THE SEARING AUGUST HEAT AND OBON holiday we had a lively month, with progress on important issues, popular "Nights" and a history-making PAC luncheon with a Hollywood rebel.

Business first. After months of interviews and heated debate, the board of directors agreed on a final candidate for general manager. Now the GM Search Committee, including Kurt Sieber and Masaaki Fukunaga, will hammer out details on a financial package. His goals will be made clear, and we are determined to maintain oversight and closely evaluate his performance.

Increasing membership will be one our GM's biggest tasks. We're already moving quickly on membership marketing efforts. After my July email to members, I was delighted to receive many offers of help. Journalist Eric Johnston from Kansai sent me a 10-page report full of suggestions. Marketing guru Burt Blume enlightened me on ways to expand our internet and website presence. Cookware expert and foodie Bill Shinn offered tips on attracting and keeping members through high quality cuisine and hospitality measures. The expertise of our membership is extraordinary!

The Membership Marketing Committee's first meeting was a good brainstorming session. Joining us was Tokyu Hotels Senior Marketing VP Yoshiaki Miyajima and International Marketing Manager Kenji Itakura. Lot's of ideas were shared. The next step is implementation. We're just at the start and really need your input. Please contact me anytime.

IRS/Tokyu is also pitching in with event marketing. IRS President Masaichi Nakauchi and Etsuo Miyata, Director of Business Development at Tokyu Hotels, presented three proposals to the board. One long-term proposal, in collaboration with JTB, involves student tours of the Club and talks with journalists. Each will help increase our presence, revenue and public koeki status.

Fun events that drew big crowds included the Aug. 8 "Hawaiian Night" with 189 attendees enjoying the island music, dancing and great food. The all-you-can-drink "Draft Beer Night" on August 23 pulled in 84 who swilled the night away. I learned that our very popular "Bingo Night," (a big revenue pull) has lost its mojo. It seems there are no sponsors to donate prizes. Surely this could be remedied. Please let me know if you're a Bingo fan and would like to revive those enjoyable evenings.

Surely the biggest hit of the month was the PAC luncheon with film director Oliver Stone and "radical" historian Peter Kuznick, here in Japan to promote their book and TV series titled "The Untold History of the United States." Over 200 members, guests and media attended, making it one of the top three most popular PAC events in the 68-year history of the Club. (#1 Hashimoto, #2 Dalai Lama.) They squeezed the Club into their hectic Japan schedule with a riveting talk. "Obama is a snake" was my favorite Stone quote, which unfortunately the big media did not repeat.

Their appearance catapulted the Club into the realm of live streaming. Despite the last-minute notices and last minute technical glitches, the Stone-Kuznick event was watched live online by over 40 people. I was told this is a good start. There's lot's more PAC live streaming to come, so stay tuned.

The dynamic duo's talk also hurled me into Twitter land as Club president. I've been tweeting daily, with a focus on challenges and dangers facing journalists, freelancer hell, media issues, language quirks, communicating the printed and spoken word, upcoming FCCJ events, and much more. You can follow me @fccjapan.

– Lucy Birmingham



Steve McClure searches for media mea culpas in reaction to last month's eye-opening debunking

NOTHING SPOILS A GOOD STORY LIKE THE TRUTH. Although No. 1 last month published an article by Mark Schreiber effectively debunking a supposed "eyeball-licking" trend in Japan that had swept through the global media, the mendacious meme in question will likely never die.

As Tim Hornyak pointed out in an excellent piece he wrote for tech media website **CNET**, "I'll wager that few sites will bother to update their posts about this non-trend, and it will probably remain part of the collective Google-mind forever."

In fact, a Google search for "eyeball licking" produces a mixed bag. Hornyak's story, in which he recapitulates Schreiber's No. 1 article and makes some telling comments about the digital media's pack mentality, comes up first. That's followed by some other stories citing Schreiber's demolition of the bogus "oculolinctus" trend, including one on rumor-checking site **snopes.com**.

But slack-ass hacks at organs such as *The New Zealand Herald* as recently as Aug. 8 were reporting versions of the story that made no mention of mythbuster Mark's tenacious travails on the trail of truth. Scrolling down through the Google search results produces page after page of variations on the original story. It's like reading a long and depressing charge sheet against contemporary journalism.

Stories about this insidious cyber-myth have so far been published in Chinese, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, Khmer, Hungarian, Indonesian, Vietnamese, German, Albanian, Czech, Finnish, Russian, Greek, Portuguese and Polish. I find it vaguely comforting that mindless credulity is something we humans have in common, despite our various political, ethnic and religious differences.

By the time I got to page 20 of the Google results for "eyeball licking" I felt like my ocular orbs had been tongued by a moose with halitosis.

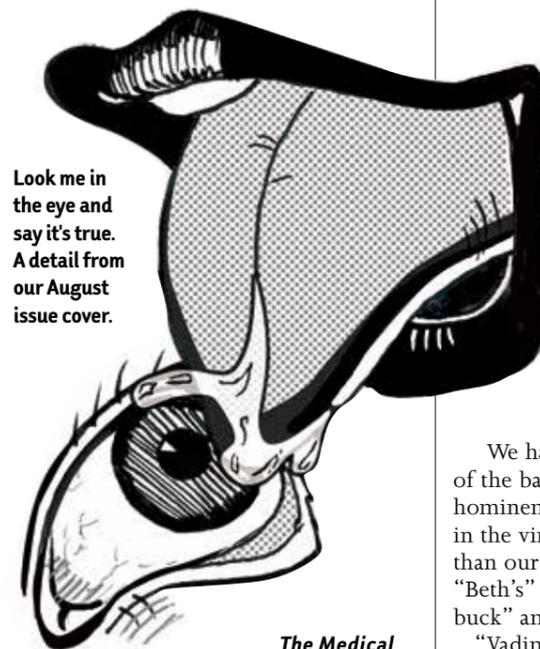
Conspicuously absent from the results were any mea culpas from the online heirs to the fine tradition of Grub Street hackdom who rushed lemming-like to report this non-story. Checking specific websites, however, shows that some folks are ready to fess up and admit that there's less to this story than meets the eye.

Well, kind of.

The website of Britain's *Telegraph* has a pathetically equivocal paragraph clumsily grafted onto the end of Danielle Demetriou's June 17 eyeball-licking story, which states: "However, whether the phenomenon is actually real or a fictitious craze invented by the Japanese website,

however, [sic] remains unclear. Recent media reports in Japan claim that the original report of eyeball licking among Japanese schoolchildren was a hoax..." *The Telegraph* then mentions how Schreiber checked the veracity of the original report with various Japanese medical authorities, none of whom had heard about the alleged phenomenon.

The Telegraph does its readers a disservice by relegating Schreiber's demolition of the story to the category of a "claim," implying that it has as much validity as the original report. In logic, this is known as "the argument from middle ground." Wikipedia helpfully describes this as "an informal fallacy which asserts that the truth can be found as a compromise between two opposite positions."



Look me in the eye and say it's true. A detail from our August issue cover.

The Medical Daily website does somewhat better in the mea culpa department. It amended its original story to report Schreiber's findings in the third paragraph. Website **Gawker.com** has also added a qualifier to its eyeball-licking story based on Schreiber's research:

"Though Schreiber, who spoke with the story's author, was unable to definitively disprove that the activity had taken or was taking place, he was at least able to debunk the idea that the phenomenon was 'widespread' among Japanese youths."

Here *Gawker* is committing the classic logical fallacy known as "negative proof," in which a statement is held to be true because there is no proof that it is false.

An even more pathetic example of posterior-covering comes from the translator known only as "Beth," who – for the **JapanCRUSH** site – rendered into English a story about the supposed fad that appeared on Japanese website *Naver Matome*. Schreiber showed how many "news" organizations took the translation at face value, without bothering to check the original story's veracity (something that "Beth" didn't do either).

In an online exchange with a poster called "Vadim" calling Schreiber's exposure of the "story" so much eyewash, "Beth" strikes a paranoid, defensive tone:

"It irritates me somewhat that Schreiber has the audacity to blame me for translating it in the first place, when it was attracting a lot of online attention, and that was the

only reason I translated it on what was otherwise a really slow day. . . .

Oh, and Mr. Schreiber, who implies that we're basically sensationalizing Japan, is a serious journalist. His books? *Tokyo Confidential: Titillating Tales From Japan's Wild Weeklies* and *The Dark Side: Infamous Japanese Crimes and Criminals*. And now he's trying to make a buck off us, too."

We have now reached the bottom of the barrel of sloppy logic: the ad hominem attack. And we who labor in the vineyard of No. 1 for little more than our colleagues' approbation find "Beth's" comment about "making a buck" amusing, to say the least.

"Vadim" then makes the following sensible comment: "The 'weird Japan' trope is so ingrained in the West that one can apparently mystify and sensationalize Japan without really intending to – the audience (and 'media outlets') will just hear what they want to hear." But he/she then perversely adds, "On the bright(-ish) side, it also means that it's unlikely that Schreiber's article will go as viral as the original story."

So what it all boils down to is a sort of online version of Gresham's Law: "bad blogs drive out good ones." Call it the new blog (sub) standard. 📍

Steve McClure publishes the online music-industry newsletter *McClureMusic.com*. He has lived in Tokyo since 1985.



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



In recent years, Japanese people could rarely be accused of social militancy. The country sleepwalked through the painful two-decade contractions of the miracle economy, shrugged at the dreary conveyor belt of political scandals and yawned at the endless string of outrageous bon mots from the mouths of its top politicians.

Fewer than 30,000 people turned out in Tokyo to demonstrate against the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq a decade ago, in contrast to the millions that thronged cities elsewhere. It took a level-seven nuclear disaster to send people back onto Japanese streets in large numbers for the first time since the 1960s.

In the summer of 2012, salary-men, high school students and women with strollers were gathering outside government buildings in Kasumigaseki on Friday evenings, to yell at the prime minister over rows of policemen. Organizers claimed over 100,000 people once joined what became known as the Friday-night demo.

Japan's big broadcasters and newspapers showed little interest in the post-Fukushima protests until an estimated 170,000 people packed into Yoyogi Park to demand an end to nuclear power – probably the largest mainland demo since the war. There was no way to ignore that.

The mainstreaming of the once defunct Japanese street protest took many by surprise. One unlikely sign it had arrived was former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on July 20 last year – wearing a cheap plastic rain mac and mixing with the noisy plebeian demonstrators outside the office he once occupied. Look, the gesture seemed to say, we are all antinuclear now.

A month later, then Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda reluctantly invited a dozen or so sweaty protestors into his air-conditioned office to hear their case. “We will never, never, never, never give up until reactors are shut,” one of the clenched-jawed activists told the politely nodding Noda. “We will never forget the accident on March 11 and what we’ve lost because of that,” he pledged.

Then everything seemed to go silent. A little over a year later, Japanese voters stunned many observers by putting the nation’s only explicitly pronuclear party back in power. Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democrats not only want the reactors back on, they’re trying to sell them abroad. Apart from the election in Tokyo of actor Taro Yamamoto, blacklisted for his criticism of the nuclear industry, the antinuclear parties were wiped out.

So has the post-Fukushima protest movement burnt itself out? Not quite. Tens of



Thousands gather at an anti-nuclear demonstration in downtown Tokyo, Sept. 19, 2011

While contamination leakage goes from bad to worse, where have Japan's antinuclear protesters gone?

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT

by David McNeill

thousands were back on the streets around Japan on the second anniversary of March 11 this year, though again the television cameras mostly stayed away. Outside the Prime Minister’s Office, people still gather every Friday, albeit in far smaller numbers than last year – fewer than 100.

Veteran demonstrator Daizo Yoshioka accepts that the protests have peaked but disputes that activists have surrendered. “The immediate, instinctive response to the disaster, which was to get angry and take to the streets, has cooled,” he says. “But most people are still antinuclear.”

Yoshioka is right, at least according to most polls. One of the latest, by the *Asahi* newspaper in June, found nearly 60 percent of voters in Japan are against the renewal of atomic power. But the waters

have been muddied since 2012: over half also said they expected Abe’s economic policies to improve the economy.

That priority was on most minds during the election, says Yukiko Kameya, one of 7,400 people who fled the town of Futaba when the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami crippled the Daiichi nuclear plant a few miles from her home. “A lot of people are more worried about their jobs and security than nuclear reactors, so they chose the politicians they know.”

The LDP has long been the party that Japanese fall back on when times are tough. After experimenting with the Democratic Party of Japan four years ago, many voters are now back in their electoral comfort zone. In any case, the really strong nuclear opposition comes

expert at the University of Tokyo, points to a deeper cultural and political malaise: the education-enforced reluctance in Japan to have an opinion or take political sides. “Apathy is the social norm,” here, she says. “This attitude of course tacitly supports the status quo and the establishment. People have no concrete opinions or ideals for society. So if they learn from media that DPJ were doing badly as a government, then people immediately turn their backs to them and move back to the LDP.”

Hayashi says people who read the newspapers or watch the TV in Japan know about the problems at Fukushima and Tepco’s systematic negligence. “But such individual facts fail to bring people together. Many people were against nuclear energy at first, but the larger political motive or cause is missing, and the motivation for taking part in the demonstration did not last long and the movement subsided, unfortunately.”

It remains to be seen how the antinuclear movement will play out in the months and years to come. One reason why it is unlikely to fade completely

is the lingering calamity in Fukushima, which some experts are predicting will now take a century to clean up. “This is the biggest industrial accident in the history of the world,” says Arnie Gundersen, a nuclear power whistleblower.

The enormous bill for the cleanup is likely to keep the disaster in the public mind. “Abe wants to get more nukes on line, and public pressure if the true cost comes out will provide too much backlash.”

Whatever happens, the battle will likely move off the streets. One key standoff is those tents outside METI. The government is trying to order them removed. Kameya and other say the movement will not be dismissed that easily. “Whatever happens, we’re here to stay.”

David McNeill writes for *The Independent*, *The Economist*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and other publications. Justin McCurry is the Japan and Korea correspondent for the *Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers in London and Japan correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*. He also writes for the *Lancet* medical journal and reports for France 24 TV.

“People are forgetting about Fukushima”

An antinuclear artist continues his anonymous crusade

WHILE THE ANTINUCLEAR MOVEMENT HAS faltered since its summer 2012 heyday, one man continues his anonymous battle against the industry and its political backers.

Since his first stickers appeared in Shibuya in the aftermath of the March 2011 disaster, the artist known as 281_Anti nuke has augmented his portfolio of street art with designs that take a swipe at everyone from Tepco to the pro-nuclear administrations of Yoshihiko Noda and Shinzo Abe.

281_Anti nuke, like many who joined the post-Fukushima antinuclear movement, took little or no interest in political activism before the disaster. Stick thin, softly spoken and self-effacing in his appraisal of the impact his work could have on the national nuclear debate, he is an improbable environmental warrior.

“I don’t think my art will have a direct impact on politics... but it does have the power to make individuals stop and think,” he says. “And if Japanese people change together, then Japan too will change.”

His Facebook page and twitter account, with over one thousand followers, is full of messages of support. But his work has also attracted the attention of online right-wingers who denounce him as a traitor.

Given the antipathy he has aroused, 281_Anti nuke’s determination to conceal his identity is understandable. On the night we meet, he is disguised in a surgical mask and a pair of dark sunglasses, the hood of his top pulled loosely over his head, despite the brutal humidity.

He won’t give his age – “just say I am in my thirties,” he says – refuses to discuss his home life, and agrees to talk about his art on condition of anonymity. He says he has managed to conceal his activism from family and colleagues by designing and printing the stickers when alone at home or at his workplace.

The artist is disturbed most by Japan’s apparent drift into a state of collective amnesia over Fukushima. “People are forgetting about Fukushima... they want to forget,” he says.

“There are people who see the stickers, and people who see them and think about what they mean,” he adds. At the end of a month in which the situation at Fukushima Daiichi has taken a dramatic turn for the worse, even 281_Anti nuke’s detractors can have little argument with the message of one of his most combative designs: “311 is not over.”

– Justin McCurry

This month, 281_Anti-nuke’s images are being displayed at the FCCJ.



Another
in our series
of Club Member
profiles

Haruko Watanabe

by Monzurul Huq

"It was after the war that I first encountered the crude form of suppressing independent thinking by censoring what is uncomfortable to those in power," says Haruko Watanabe. "At elementary school, some of our teachers told us to ink out parts of the textbooks they considered to be harmful. It was the first time my heart wanted to rebel against attempts to suppress facts."

This was how a deep love for conveying the message without distortion was implanted, something she's nurtured throughout her career in journalism.

Haruko was born in an intellectual family of Kyoto, surrounded by the books that her grandfather, a university

professor, collected at their ancestral home. The intellectual atmosphere that she was exposed to at a very early stage also made her aware of the importance of independent thinking: a virtue that she considers to be fundamental for anyone seeking to become a journalist.

involved with mainstream Japanese journalism, contributing regularly to *Mainichi Shimbun* with featured stories focusing on the realities of American life.

It was also in Missouri that she met her life partner, Yuji, who at the time was a research scholar at the Illinois Institute of Technology. According to Haruko, "it was not just love at first sight. He even proposed at that first meeting. Somehow I was convinced by his sincerity that he would allow me to continue my professional career after marriage." The couple tied the knot. Soon after he was recruited by Sony.

A big change came when her husband was assigned to Sony's New York office,

those was the 1980 Copenhagen World Conference of Women, and the resulting production "was made by an all-female crew under my supervision."

The Copenhagen conference led to a long association with UNESCO and other international and regional bodies, like the Manila-based Press Foundation of Asia, for which she served as Tokyo Bureau Chief until 2000. As a UNESCO consultant, Haruko also worked to train women broadcasters in developing countries in Asia and Africa, an assignment that she still feels proud of.

Today, Haruko keeps herself busy not only as a media consultant, but also as a regular contributor to *Media Report to Women*

'SOME OF OUR TEACHERS TOLD US TO INK OUT PARTS OF THE TEXTBOOKS THEY CONSIDERED TO BE HARMFUL. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME MY HEART WANTED TO REBEL AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS FACTS.'

She was a student of Doshisha University when another series of events rocked Japan – the mass movement against the revision of the Japan-U.S. security treaty. "Professors at our university were urging us to join the movement," Haruko recalls, "and the press sided mostly with the protesters. But after the *New York Times* criticized the movement, calling it a student riot, the position of the Japanese press changed abruptly. What infuriated me was the changing position of leading Japanese newspapers, which at the beginning inspired students to join the ranks of protesters and then started branding them as rock-throwing rioters."

She was among a few Doshisha students who dared raise their voices against the intellectuals and, considering her independent spirit, one of her professors suggested that she pursue a higher education in journalism in the U.S. She began graduate studies at the School of Journalism at University of Missouri, and became more

as Haruko accompanied him with the aim of pursuing her career in journalism. "I enrolled as a graduate student at the Columbia School of Journalism and took an assignment from the New York Board of Education to make a series of educational videos," she says. That assignment marked a permanent shift from the print form to the electronic one, leading her to become a pioneer not only for Japanese women pursuing this difficult career, but for women around the world.

Encouraged by her success in the New York educational community, she established her own non-profit video production and media research institution, HKW, in New York in 1972. Says Haruko, "HKW made its first breakthrough in 1975, the year that was designated by the United Nations as International Women's Year. I got actively involved in producing videos focusing on the plight of women in Japan and Asian countries."

From then on, Haruko could be seen lugging around heavy video equipment to conferences and international gatherings focusing on women's issues. One of

en and as a columnist for *Rosetta Stone Magazine*. She is also invited regularly to speak at seminars for women students who would like to start a career in journalism. As for the FCCJ, she has never hesitated to spare her valuable time for the benefit of the Club. As a Regular Member since 1981, Haruko served in various Board positions and has chaired most of the committees during her long career. One of her significant contributions is the Special Project Committee that she was instrumental in establishing.

Haruko is quite frank in suggesting that her path to success was paved by the supporting hands of all her male associates. As she says, "Being a woman born in Japan at a time when there were still many taboos surrounding the role of women in society, I achieved what I did mostly due to the support of male decision makers, professionals and other helping hands. This started right at home with my husband, who all along was supportive and cooperative. I'm thankful to all of them."

The mother of two adult daughters and the grandmother of five, Haruko feels it is still a bit early for her to think about total retirement. The Club, for one, is the better for it. ❶

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

ANDREW POTHECARY

It's global investor courting time in Tokyo

First came the cash, now come the suits that sent it

by Gavin Blair

When Japan's long-unloved stock market suddenly roared back to life last November, foreign cash began pouring into Japanese equities by the typhoon-load: more than \$100 billion between November and July. Some of that liquidity has drained back out since the market retreated in July, but as the summer's heat wanes, prepare for another deluge: the "suits" that sent the money are coming to see what they bought, and to decide if they want to buy more. The impressions they take away from five upcoming gatherings may have a significant impact on the nation's economy.

September marks the start of Japan's global investor courting season: a series of week-long gala conferences put on by the major investment banks from September through March, in English and for the benefit of major international investors and stock pickers. Feature presentations by Japan's senior corporate managers, as well as figures from the worlds of politics, economics and beyond, offer opportunities to demystify players in the world's third-largest economy.

This time last year, the main attraction for hedge, mutual, pension and other fund managers was the prospect of outstanding sushi. Few expected growth in Japanese equities – ever. But this year organizers are expecting sell-out crowds and rapt attention as one *shacho* after another leads his dog and pony onto the stage.

Before you rush to sign up, here is the bad news: all five confabs are closed to the media and off-the-record. But knowing when and where the events will be, the diligent journalist still should be able to ferret out the odd sideline interview with a featured luminary. To that end, here is an overview of the upcoming conferences.

BANK OF AMERICA MERRILL LYNCH 2013 JAPAN CONFERENCE 2013

For a decade the lead-off event of Tokyo's investor-courting season, the Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML) Japan Conference is held at the Grand Hyatt in Roppongi. Running this year from Sept. 17 to 20 under the title "Japan Rising," organizers expect more than 1,000 investors from around the globe to hold 7,800 one-on-one meetings with 275 participating

Japanese corporations, in addition to the extensive line-up of feature presentations.

Speakers over the years have included Al Gore (by teleconference), Paul Krugman, Shintaro Ishihara and Masayoshi Son. This year's line-up features Sony CEO Kazuo Hirai, economist Koichi Hamada (the brain behind Abenomics) and METI minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

"Investors want to come because we have senior management and politicians speaking; so in one visit of a few days, they can get a quick download of Japan and get up to speed," says Christian Howes, head of research marketing Japan at BofAML.

"A lot of investment firms had moved people to Hong Kong and they have basically spent 90 percent of their time looking at China. And now all of a sudden, Japan is not only hot and it's moving, but it's got a much bigger economy than many of them realized. It was almost as if Japan wasn't recognized for the economic power it is," Howes said.

Beyond the big picture, the opportunity to meet face-to-face with senior corporate management is a major attraction for investors.

"What the investor wants to see is what the CEO's face looks like when they've been asked the difficult question," says Howes.

Focusing on different industries and issues each year, the conference has evolved over the past decade – and so has the audience.

"Ten years ago we had less than 40 investors from Asia, but so far we have 213 registered this year," says Yuki Maeda, head of corporate access at BofAML for Japan and Korea. Over the same period attendance from Europe has halved.

"This year there is more interest in the macro situation in Japan, they want to meet people from the government," says Maeda. "There's also more interest in



automakers and retailers as well as new internet and IT firms."

Participating investors are also offered tours to factories and other points of interest.

"The tour to the Bank of Japan and the Ministry of Finance is particularly popular this year," says Howes. "People want to know how real the change in Japan is, and that can be hard to get a handle on just by reading about it in the media."

MIZUHO INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Mizuho Securities, the new kid on the block in global investor conferences, is racing to catch up with incumbent rivals. Just six months after holding its inaugural event, Mizuho is holding a second shindig from September 9 to 12 at the Palace Hotel, upstaging BofAML. Organizers say 276 companies will be on hand for the gathering. The event's concluding keynote, entitled "The Sun Also Rises (at last)," will be delivered by No.1 Shimbun contributor (and former editor of *The Economist*) Bill Emmott. Also on the program is Akira Amari, minister in charge of Economic Revitalization. Participating investors will be given an opportunity to volunteer in Tohoku for a day.

NOMURA INVESTMENT FORUM

Domestic heavyweight Nomura Securities holds an event that is the oldest of its kind in Japan, running this year from Dec. 2 to 6 at the Mandarin Oriental. Although the speaker line-up had yet to be announced at press time, and few other details were available, Nomura expects 200 companies and 1,500 global investors to participate.

CLSA JAPAN FORUM

This past February, CLSA (Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia) marked the 10th anniversary of its Japan Forum, held each year at the Grand Hyatt in Roppongi. This year, the buzz around Abenomics was in its early stages when the event was being organized, but interest and participation were still up, according to Yasuo Hinoki, head of Asia corporate marketing at CLSA, and coordinator of the Forum.

"The number of investors looking at Japan had dwindled every year since the Lehman Shock. A lot of Japan-only funds



had either closed or been consolidated into other funds. But now people have the biggest budget they've had to trade Japan in years," says Hinoki.

"Japan is a macro story now, whereas previously it was more of a stock-picking story. And with China's growth coming in below forecast, there's a lot of interest now," says Hinoki, who has already begun work on the 2014 Japan Forum.

"For foreign investors, one of the attractions of the conferences is the opportunity for participants to get through eight to ten meetings a day, including breakfasts and dinners, without having to travel off the site," says Hinoki.

Around 70 percent of the corporate participants in CLSA's forum are top 100 companies, but smaller firms with what Hinoki calls "interesting stories," are also invited.

"Japan is full of those kind of smaller companies that have the best technology,

or are the best at what they do, in the world," says Hinoki.

While CLSA's Japan Forum is one of the biggest shows in this town, its Hong Kong conference is legendary: "two to three times bigger" than its Tokyo counterpart and featuring up to 200 presentations, according to Hinoki. But it is not the volume of corporate slideshows that make it legendary. Past conferences have been headlined by notables like Mike Tyson, George Clooney, Sarah Palin, Bob Geldof and Desmond Tutu. And the evening parties, like last year's featuring a performance by Katy Perry, are a hot ticket in the industry.

While the Tokyo events are, perhaps predictably, more sedate, the 2009 edition reportedly included a pole-dancing show and a live appearance by Macy Gray.

DAIWA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Daiwa Securities ends the global investor

courting season with a conference in March, with the next one scheduled for March 3 to 7, 2014, at Tokyo's Prince Park Tower. Beyond Japanese listed firms, Daiwa also features companies from around Asia. Although the line-up for the upcoming event has yet to be announced, speakers at Daiwa's 2013 event included Jim Rogers, former partner of legendary investor and George Soros, and the LDP's Shigeru Ishiba.

ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT INVITED...

Unfortunately, all five of these conferences are off-limits to media. But interested journalists who contact the organizers' PR departments may find them helpful in arranging off-site interviews with the keynote speakers. Or so we might hope. ❶

Gavin Blair covers Japanese business, society and culture for publications in America, Asia, and Europe.

Opposite, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's conference last year. Below, CLSA's Japan Forum

A comment during a packed FCCJ presser has triggered a potentially bitter libel trial

Defamation from the Club dais?

by David McNeill

Yoshiaki Yoshimi is recalling the day he was called a fraud at the FCCJ.

On May 27, right-wing lawmaker Fumiki Sakurachi told an FCCJ audience there is "various evidence" to prove that Yoshimi's research on Japan's wartime comfort women is a fabrication. The Japanese word he used was *netsuzo*, which most dictionaries translate as "forgery," "falsehood" or simply "cooked up."

"I couldn't believe it," says Yoshimi, a professor of modern Japanese history at Chuo University and author of the most authoritative study on the sex slave issue*: "I've been doing this for over 20 years. It was a shock to hear someone say I was making it all up."

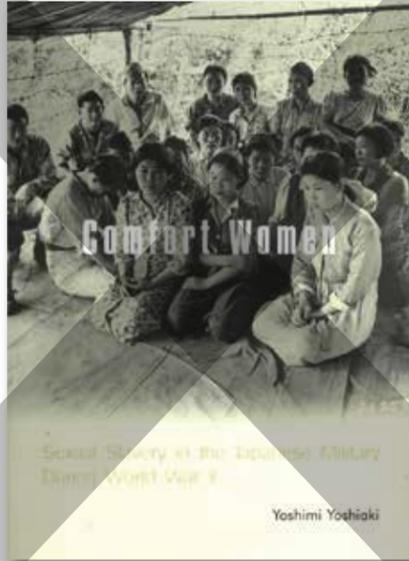
The comment passed without protest during the packed presser for Toru Hashimoto, joint leader of the radical conservative party Nippon Ishin no Kai (Restoration Party). Sakurachi sat to Hashimoto's right and was otherwise silent during the event, which was called to discuss Hashimoto's own controversial comments on sex slaves.

Both men are part of a large and increasingly vocal group of conservative politicians who deny the Japanese state was involved in herding what some scholars estimate to have been 200,000 Asian women into military brothels. Yoshimi has spent half his life trying to prove them wrong.

Among the expert testimony he cites is a wartime navy officer called Yasuhiro Nakasone, later prime minister. In his memoirs, then first lieutenant Nakasone recalls setting up a "comfort station" – a euphemism for a military brothel – in the Philippines after soldiers began attacking local women. "For these men, I went to great lengths and even built comfort stations," Nakasone wrote. "In fact, they packed into them like sardines."

Yoshimi mined government and military libraries to write his book. He says his intellectual curiosity was triggered when he found papers in Ministry of Defense archives from wartime Japanese military commanders ordering troops to set up comfort stations. "That was very different to what the government was saying."

"It's not possible to deny the copious records of the Imperial Army's systematic involvement in the comfort women system," he says. "The women had no freedom to escape from these single rooms where they were held. And they had no right to quit if they wanted to, or to refuse sex with soldiers. In that sense, they were clearly sex slaves."



'THE WOMEN HAD NO FREEDOM... THEY WERE CLEARLY SEX SLAVES.'

A soft-spoken, elderly man, Yoshimi was threatened by ultranationalists after his work became public in the early 1990s. He received repeated phone calls and death threats, including one delivered by hand to his home. "That was frightening," he recalls.

Despite appearances, he says, revisionists are losing the battle against the expanding public record on the sex slave issue. "Mr. Hashimoto, Mr. Abe and others have repeatedly said there is no evidence that the military or state was involved in direct-

ly rounding the women up. But actually there is, and it's becoming clearer."

"First, there is the testimony of the women," he says, and not just in China and Korea but across Asia. "The evidence of Filipino sex slaves in particular is compelling."

"Also, Chinese women have launched four separate lawsuits. Although the courts did not meet the women's demands for compensation, they accepted that the women were forced. Then there is the investigation by the Dutch government of the experience of women in the former Netherlands East India [present day Indonesia]. It's not possible to deny any of this."

Yoshimi says his son found the Hashimoto presser on YouTube and sent him a link. "To be honest, I was surprised nobody in the audience spoke up after Mr. Sakurachi's comment," he laments. The comment has been transcribed and submitted as part of a claim at the Tokyo District Court. Yoshimi is demanding about ¥20 million in compensation for defamation and infringement of his personal rights when the trial begins on Oct. 7.

If Sakurachi wanted to pick a fight over one of Japan's most bitterly contested contemporary topics, he could have made it easier on himself. While Yoshimi's name has surely been repeatedly blackened in private, he can't recall a case where his work has been so publicly challenged – in front of dozens of journalists at one of the FCCJ's biggest recent press events.

Because he threw down the gauntlet, the onus will be on Sakurachi to prove that Yoshimi's work is flawed or fake, not an easy task against such an experienced researcher. "It's a very clear case of defamation," says Yoshimi. "I'm told it will not be difficult to win."

The outcome of the larger battle over historical memory, however, is less easy to predict. In January, Prime Minister Abe revived a panel on education reform that many historians predict will put his revisionist theories into practice. One of the panel's declared aims is to demand rewrites of high school history textbooks, removing "disputed" facts.

It also wants to eliminate the so-called neighboring-country clause, which gives "consideration" to Chinese and Korean sentiments about the war. "With Mr. Abe in power, it's not really possible to be optimistic," says Yoshimi. ①

*Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military During World War II, Columbia University Press

Director Oliver Stone and historian Peter Kuznick took on conventional beliefs before an SRO crowd at the Club

History according to Stone

by Daniel Leussink

Just like the U.S., Japan is saddled with an "untold history" that needs to be put in the spotlight. The "crooked" and "sanitized" histories of Japan and the U.S. go hand in hand, and are part of a process of obfuscating what really happened.

That was the message of Academy Award-winning writer/director Oliver Stone and historian Peter Kuznick, who were at the FCCJ on August 12, promoting their controversial television documentary series, *The Untold History of the United States*.

In their challenging work, Stone and Kuznick deconstruct a number of "myths:" that the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan ended World War II, that the U.S. won the war in Europe, and that the U.S. was only responding to aggression from the Soviet Union at the start of the Cold War.

Stone, the 66-year-old director of *Platoon*, *JFK* and *Wall Street*, said that the U.S. trashed the memory of both the U.S. and the Soviet sacrifices that really won the war by dropping the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, effectively ending the war on a dirty note. "In the atomic bombings we find everything that's wrong with the U.S. today – the lying, the denying, the censorship," he said. "The predominant myth is that the U.S. had to drop those bombs to win the war."

The appeal of Stone and Kuznick's 2012 work was enough to draw a crowd of members and guests to the Club, with 214 people attending and 42 people watching on a live FCCJ website video stream that was freely available for anyone, a first in Club history.

Although Stone and Kuznick did not clarify

all of their controversial remarks, some of their comments were met with warm applause from the crowd. Kuznick, director of the Nuclear Studies Institute at American University, described the U.S.-Japan relationship as problematic and denounced U.S. censorship of Japanese press corps coverage of the atomic bombings during the occupation period that ended in 1952.

The U.S. has treated Japan largely as a junior partner for empire building, he said. Kuznick also criticized Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the grandson of Nobusuke Kishi, the Prime Minister who concluded the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty in 1960, calling him "one of the worst deniers of real history." Stone later criticized Barack Obama, Abe's American counterpart.

Kuznick said that the discussion about Japan's war atrocities has been about a select set of subjects such as the deployment of comfort women and the occupation of Nanjing, resulting in little discussion, for example, about what happened during the occupation of Southeast Asian nations. He did not exactly specify what he meant with actual examples.

Film director Stone said that although *The Untold History of the United States* had received a cold reception by the mainstream U.S. television stations and newspapers, he was still happy he made the series. "Every time I go out in public, I feel that we're not alone. We have been rewarded in many ways, and perhaps we will even make a little profit in the end with the DVD sales," he said. "The movie reinforces my belief that I'm doing the right thing with my life."

Stone also said he invested private capital in the documentary series,



On the one hand... Peter Kuznick (left) and Oliver Stone at the Club

which was aired in the U.S. by the Showtime cable channel. It took five years to make, and is now also available as a 784-page book, in English and Japanese editions. "I've been a warrior my whole life," said Stone, "but now I feel more than ever that I'm a warrior for peace."

Stone praised 30-year-old NSA leaker Edward Snowden for doing the world a great favor, calling him a hero. "Snowden didn't give away secrets that could hurt our country for profit. He is doing it out of the higher law of consciousness. He sacrificed his life for it," he said. He pointed out that Obama has essentially institutionalized wiretapping of the entire world, breaking the law despite his legal background. "Obama is a snake. We have to turn on him," he said.

Kuznick added that the U.S. now sees Asia as the new frontier, because while the U.S. has indicated it will cut back on military spending, Obama has said that there will be no cutbacks in Asia and that he will focus on pivoting the defense posture to Asia.

Stone and Kuznick both said they would like to see Japan reaching out to China in a more positive way. "A way that would get past the crazy nationalism that we see in both countries," said Kuznick. Stone reiterated that Japan's interests lie very much with China in the long run. "Don't look at China as your enemy," he said. "Start seeing it differently, start by apologizing to China for what you did and all the people you killed in China."

"It would be like spring," he added. "China would then suddenly look at Japan a little differently, instead of hating Japan. That would be the beginning."

In the end, by not specifying exactly in what way Japan should apologize, Stone and Kuznick left untold the history of Japan's war apologies to many Asian nations. ①

Daniel Leussink is a Dutch freelance journalist who has been based in Japan since 2007.

In the early days of the 17th century, Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu showed a keen interest in international commerce, a position that gave other powerful men in Japan the incentive to develop their own trade links with far away countries. One was *daimyo* Date Masamune, the dynamic, fiercely independent – and stylish – leader of the Date domain in remote Tohoku, far away from Tokugawa spies.

Like Ieyasu, he wanted to promote foreign trade. Enlisting the help of Spanish Christian missionaries, he dispatched a mission that was to proceed to Acapulco, Mexico (then known as Nueva España), thence overland to the Atlantic, where they would take ship to Spain and the final goal of Rome.

The mission leader was Hasekura Tsunenaga, a middle-ranking samurai who led the group of warriors, merchants and attendants on board a galleon built to Spanish design at Tsukinoura, near Ishinomaki. The ship's name was the *San Juan Bautista* – although the locals dubbed it the *Date Maru*.

On Oct. 28, the brave band set sail, arriving in Acapulco on Jan. 25, 1614.

After trekking across Mexico to Veracruz on the Caribbean coast, the main party sailed via Cuba to Spain, where they changed ships, and eventually reached Rome after further stopovers in Spain and France.

One of the most notable layovers was at the little Spanish town of Coria del Rio, on the Guadalquivir river near Sevilla, where some of the party left significant traces in the form of Japan-Iberian offspring. The children thus born were given the family name of “Japan.”

Today, there are several hundred Spaniards with this historic name descended from Hasekura's band of visitors. They have formed an association and arranged exchange visits between groups of the Japon families from Spain and citizens of Sendai.

One of Hasekura's descendants visited Coria del Rio earlier this year – as did Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, who stopped by in June to help commemorate the 400 years' connection of the two countries and to plant a cherry tree near a statue of Hasekura in a park by the river.

Another memorable stopover happened on the party's voyage between Spain and Italy in October 1615. A storm forced their ships to take shelter in the safe haven of St. Tropez bay, where French eye-witnesses reported, “The Japanese never touch food with their hands, but instead use two small sticks that they hold with three fingers.

▶ The recent TPP talks evoke the memory of the earliest attempt at transpacific trade by Japan, launched 400 years ago this October



A fresco of the embassy of Hasekura Tsunenaga (painted with head in hand) that is in the Quirinal Palace, Rome, 1615.

Mission to Rome

by Geoff Tudor

The impressed witnesses also noted that the samurai “blew their noses in soft silky papers the size of a hand, which they never use twice,” a reference to *chirigami*. Observers were also awed by the sharpness of the samurai swords, “which could cut paper just by putting it on the edge of the blade and blowing on it. . .”

This short visit in 1615, documented by letters now in an archive in Carpentras, in Provence, is the first recorded instance of Franco-Japanese relations, and offers cause for a commemoration in two years' time. Certainly there should be one in St. Tropez, which can claim to be the first place in Europe to record the use of tissues. Perhaps Kleenex might make an excellent sponsor.

Hasekura's mission eventually did make it to Rome. Hasekura converted to Christianity, and posed for a fine oil portrait by the French court painter Claude

Geoff Tudor writes for *Orient Aviation*, Hong Kong. He is the Assistant Editor of the *No. 1 Shimbun*.

Deruet, a well-known Baroque artist then living in Rome, that remains in the Vatican collection.

But they failed to get the trade deals they wanted. By the time they reached Rome in 1615, reports had arrived from Japan about the savage repressions being forced on Japanese Christians. The bona fides of the mission were also suspect.

After suffering delays and misfortune, Hasekura and a handful of men made it back to Japan via Manila in 1621, to find that Christianity was now savagely condemned. Their few *omiyage* – a handful of rosaries and a portrait of the Pope – were not exactly welcome in the new environment.

Hasekura died of illness in 1622. It is not known if he renounced his Christian faith before he passed away.

Although Hasekura and his band had had left their mark in Europe in several ways, all knowledge in Japan of their heroic journey was forgotten, if not suppressed, for hundreds of years. When the Meiji-period Iwakura Mission members visited Italy in 1873, they were shown old documents describing the events and interest in the old story was revived.

Today three temples in the area claim to be Hasekura's last resting place. A few religious trinkets thought to have belonged to him survive in a Sendai museum.

Award-winning writer Shusaku Endo's acclaimed 1981 novel, *The Samurai*, provides a dramatic fictional account of the mission and Hasekura's dilemma as a Christian convert in resolving his loyalty to Christ, his spiritual master, and his earthly lord, Date Masamune. ❶

GALLEON FIX

A full size replica of the *San Juan Bautista* – *St. John the Baptist* – is proudly displayed in a marine park in Ishinomaki City, not far from where the original galleon set sail in Oct. 1613.

Two of its three masts were damaged beyond repair in the 3.11 disaster. No suitable timber was available in Japan to replace the damaged parts, and museum minders thought of using aluminium.

Hearing of the problem, a Canadian forestry company donated five giant logs for reconstruction, ensuring that the vessel would be fully ship-shape by the 400th year of its ancestor's maiden transpacific voyage. After four centuries, the merits of foreign trade have come home to Date's domain.

Remembering Bruce Dunning 1940-2013



Bruce Dunning, the CBS News correspondent whose 1975 television report on the last flight from Da Nang vividly captured the frantic end of the Vietnam War, died Monday, Aug. 26 in New York at the age of 73.

“His passing marks another big loss for our craft. He was one of the best of the TV stalwarts who covered the Vietnam War, a serious foreign correspondent with a proper skepticism about ‘news’ and the people who make it,” said AP Vietnam and Tokyo veteran Richard Pyle.

The retired CBS newsman died at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Manhattan from injuries suffered in a fall. He lived in Union, City, N.J, where he had resided since his retirement from CBS in 2005.

Dunning was FCCJ president 1978/9.

As a young correspondent reporting on the Vietnam War, Dunning developed an affinity for the region and spent most of his 35-year career at CBS News in the Far East, where he rose to become Asia bureau chief in 1989 based in Tokyo. In that position, he supervised all of the news division's operations in Asia until he retired.

In 1979, he was one of the first American broadcast journalists to report from North Korea; and in 1981 Dunning was the first CBS News reporter to be based in China when he opened the Beijing bureau in 1981.

He is best remembered for his award-winning and dramatic report on March 29, 1975, aboard a 727 World Airways jet attempting to rescue refugees from the airport in Da Nang, South Vietnam. The five-and-a-half-minute report – long even then for a television evening news segment – was broadcast on the “CBS Evening News” Saturday edition anchored by Dan Rather, who introduced Dunning's segment with the words “Da Nang has become a Dunkirk.”

As Dunning narrated on the scene, the camera showed the throngs running for the plane as it landed. He then described how it filled up almost instantly with young Vietnamese military deserters, some armed and “menacing.” “The men President Thieu said would defend Da Nang,” said Dunning. The camera also captured the stunning images of the airline's president, Ed Daly, punching young men to the

tarmac who were trying to get aboard the overloaded airliner's rear stairs and then, at 6,000-feet up, pulling in one last straggler, still holding on through take-off and ascent after seven others had fallen. The aircraft's mission was to gather as many women and children as it could hold, but as Dunning reported, the crew counted 268 persons, among them just five women and “two or three young children.”

His report, dubbed “Back from Da Nang,” won the Overseas Press Club's “Best TV News Spot from Abroad” award and was recently named to the Columbia University Journalism School's 100 Great Stories list. Dunning also shared in a collective OPC award for CBS News radio coverage of the last days of the war.

Dunning joined CBS News in July 1969 as a reporter/assignment editor in New York after working as a freelance reporter in Paris since the previous December. He was posted to the Saigon bureau in August 1970, where, reporting from the field with U.S. troops, he did stories on the air war in North Vietnam and covered the war's effect on the average Vietnamese. Dunning was named a correspondent in July 1972. He returned to Vietnam to cover the 10th and 20th anniversaries of the fall of the South Vietnam regime.

Dunning was assigned to the division's Tokyo bureau in 1972. There he covered major news of the region, including the political scandal involving Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka; the attempted assassination of South Korean President Park Chung Hee; and the incredible story of the Japanese WWII lieutenant who came out of a Philippine jungle after 30 years of hiding. “Bruce was a key player at the press club, and in 2010 was among the Old Asia Hands attending the memorable FCCJ reunion at the Overseas Press Club in New York,” said Pyle.

In 1983, Dunning was called back to the U.S. to be assistant bureau manager for CBS News Miami, where he covered news events throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as south Florida and Puerto Rico. He frequently reported from Central America on the insurgent wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador. He also made two trips to the Persian Gulf in 1987 to cover the conflict between Kuwaiti tankers and Iranian warships.

In January 1988, Dunning was re-assigned from Miami to Seoul, Korea, as a field producer preparing for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. He also covered the last days leading up to the death of Emperor Hirohito in December 1988 through January 1989. Dunning returned to Beijing that spring to cover the historic visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which sparked the democratic uprising and massacre in Tiananmen Square. He spent two months covering the 1991 Gulf War.

Bruce Gardner Dunning was born April 5, 1940 in Rahway, N.J., and grew up a few miles from there in Westfield, N.J. He attended local public schools before being accepted to Princeton, where he earned his A.B. degree in English Literature in 1962. He received his masters in journalism from Columbia University in 1963.

Dunning's devotion to Princeton was a lifelong one. While overseas, he served as the president of the Princeton Club of Japan; at his 50th class reunion, classmates unanimously named him class president.

Dunning is survived by his life partner, the artist Tetsunori Kawana; a brother, Alan, and his sister-in-law, Anne, who live in Manhattan. ❶

(from CBS News)

Creative ideas and determination keep Tokyo's newest classical ensemble playing on

Classical success

by Suvendrini Kakuchi



Robert Rjker conducts the Tokyo Sinfonia at the FCCJ

The menu that was served at the FCCJ's classical music night included *apfel kuchen* and *zweibel schnitzel*, German specialties specially selected to enhance the theme of the concert – serenades by composers Mendelssohn, Bach and Beethoven. The menu was carefully crafted by the Club and Tokyo Sinfonia, the orchestra that was featured that night. It was advertised as a dinner concert, a hallmark format of the orchestra for a program of music played between a service of three main courses. The evening featured beautiful music, an explanation of the serenades and the composers and sumptuous food.

After the final performance following the dessert, the musicians left their instruments by their chairs to mingle among the guests. The German ambassador was one member (invited as Chief Guest) of the sold-out crowd – testament to the popularity of the Tokyo Sinfonia philosophy of offering an experience that can be relaxing and fun.

The dinner concert was the brainchild of Canadian-American Robert Rjker, the conductor and music director of Tokyo Sinfonia. A professional tuba performer, the Maestro, as he is called, boasts a wide international conducting career – including stints with the Montreal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Calcutta Symphony Orchestra. On stage, the veteran director exudes captivating warmth as he shares his views of the music with the audience. It's this style of communicating with words and music that has won the Tokyo Sinfonia many accolades.

The chamber orchestra, composed of 19 string musicians – mostly young, professional Japanese musicians – has been holding regular performances at Ginza's prestigious Oji Hall that are patronized by international embassies interested in sponsoring the music of their countries. The orchestra also invites internationally well-known musicians as guest artists; the most recent being Wenzel Fuchs, the solo clarinet of the Berlin Philharmonic, in July.

Rjker's first trip to Japan was in 1970. "I was so totally captivated by the Japa-

nese hospitality that I worked hard to stay longer," he says. In 1981 he returned as a member of the Montreal Symphony and stayed, conducting and performing in different orchestras. He then made further inroads into the lofty Japanese world of classical music through teaching and conducting numerous small orchestras across the country.

The decision to start an orchestra would seem to be a daunting one in Tokyo, a leading world capital known for its chiseled classical music talent and many world-class orchestras. Rjker recalls the day that marks the roots of Tokyo Sinfonia. It was after he had conducted a particularly riveting performance of *Carmen* in 2005, and three of the musicians came to his dressing room to tell him they wanted to play for him. "I was totally delighted. Conductors usually do not permit musicians into their room. But I am not one of them, and the bold decision by the players to visit and talk closely with me led to this remarkable idea to start our own orchestra," he said.

The survival of the Tokyo Sinfonia, launched the next year, is a story about the solid commitment and enduring ingenuity of Rjker and his supporters. "The available niche was for an intimate sound – warm and expressive – that could be done through string music," he explains. Tokyo Sinfonia soon grew a reputation for creating a unique musical experience. The secret was not only the musical arrangements under the Maestro's baton but also the ability of the orchestra to communicate with the audience in a variety of creative ways. One delightful example is the champagne, donated by the orchestra sponsors, that is served in the lobby of the Oji Hall for guests after the performance. The evenings continue with the audience mingling with the

players, an arrangement that has become an admired signature of the organization.

Rjker has carefully nurtured his players to become musicians able to reflect the expressiveness of the ensemble. For this, he says, he regards each of his players as soloists respected for their individual expression. "Japanese musical students play with technical accuracy based on an education that focuses on how to win competitions." But for Rjker they have to play emotionally and be able to communicate their passion to the audience. To pave the way for this expression, he regards team work as the key tool. The orchestra members, therefore, spend a lot of their time with each other, sometimes visiting *onsen* together with their families to tighten the bond. They work for a single goal – creating music to touch the people. "The players are incredibly loyal to me and I to them," he says. "The base is rock solid."

On the financial side, too, Rjker has displayed a "renaissance" spirit. He has reached out to admirers of the orchestra, now a non-profit organization, and developed strong ties with embassies and corporate sponsors. An experienced business promotion director raises funds for the orchestra activities, and has found pro-bono supporters to provide things like the logo or technological assistance. Another area where the orchestra is making headway is performing at corporate events, such as fireworks nights on the bay. "With just 19 players we are portable," pointed out Rjker.

Now he is planning for a future that involves children by offering musical appreciation programs in schools. One fan letter from one audience member reads: "I thought the music, the orchestra and the audience were all enjoying themselves, and lifting each other up." That statement, he points out, aptly captures the extraordinary experience of launching and sustaining an orchestra in Japan. ❶

Suvendrini Kakuchi is a Sri Lankan reporter for Inter Press Service, and a regular commentator for Japanese publications and television.

FCCJ EXHIBITION: INNOCENCE LOST The 281 Anti Nuke exhibition



281_ANTI NUKE, WHO PREFERS TO REMAIN anonymous, is a Japanese street artist whose work focuses on Japan's use of nuclear energy, politics and other social issues.

His work has appeared in stories on the 3.11 disaster, the economy, government and culture in *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *The Economist* and Japan's *Rolling Stone*.

This exhibition is a mix of 281_Anti nuke's work, showing signed limited edition prints and selected photography of his work on the streets of Tokyo. ❶

A STATEMENT FROM THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COMMITTEE

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COMMITTEE IS AN official standing committee at this Club that seems to have slipped into the background in recent years. Indeed, many newer or younger members of the FCCJ probably have little idea what it is supposed to be doing or even that it exists at all. Now the old dragon is beginning to stir and is coming to life once again. Let all the information cartels beware!

Reviewing some old reports of the Committee, we discovered some rather fine expressions of its overall mission. For example, as the 2009-2010 co-chairs, Joel Legendre-Koizumi and Monzurul Huq, explained more than three years ago: "The FCCJ is a professional club comprising journalists. It is our duty as the Freedom of the

behind us and that the Committee will once again emerge as a key player in helping our journalist members do their jobs in Japan without illegitimate hindrances. We will also be cognizant of international developments when the well-being of journalism is threatened on various fronts around the world.

Since we realize that we are taking on a major task, we have gathered an impressive group of working journalists to comprise the inaugural membership.

The new chairman is Michael Penn. Since he also serves as the Board of Directors Secretary and as a Board Liaison to the Professional Activities Committee (PAC), he is well placed to coordinate the committee's strategies and to

ensure smooth communication between various centers of the Club's media activities.

To assist the work of the full committee, three subcommittees have been established to develop specific projects.

Patrick Zoll heads the Information Subcommittee, which is mandated to plan, execute and manage the establishment of a "Journalist Information Service" for the purpose of collecting information about local media events and ultimately presenting this information to the Club's Regular Members. You'll be hearing more about this project in the weeks ahead.

Fuyuko Nishisato guides the Access Subcommittee, which will study, educate and lobby in relation to Japan's closed-access press club system. This subcommittee will also liaise with Japanese freelance and mainstream

journalists who share a common interest in opening up the nation's media system.

Nathalie-Kyoko Stucky, who ran in the recent Board of Directors elections, leads the Declarations Subcommittee, which will set guidelines and release statements in relation to national and international events affecting press freedom. This subcommittee will also liaise with international organizations that share our values in promoting a democratic media.

The other inaugural members of the Freedom of the Press Committee are Albert Siegel, Joel Legendre-Koizumi, Jake Adelstein, Carsten Germis, and Antoine Bouthier.

If there are other working journalists who want to get involved in the fight for a democratic media, we encourage you to contact a Freedom of the Press Committee member. We can use your energy!

Also, if you face a professional obstacle that you believe should be referred to our committee, we want to hear from you too.

Back in the days of the 2006-2007 Committee under then-Chairman David McNeill, there was an email "Freedom of the Press Forum" that was laid to rest due to a series of technical problems and, apparently, the signature political infighting for which our Club has become famous.

We will refer to these dust-covered debates and long-defunct projects as we compile our own communication strategies. But we intend to be a committee of action that trains our heavy guns on those who illegitimately block our access to information, including Japanese press clubs, hindering our professional activities as journalists, rather than adopting the old FCCJ "circular firing squad" approach in which most of the energy is spent arguing with one another instead of fighting our true foes.

We look forward to keeping all members up to date with our initiatives and other activities through the soon-to-be-renewed website and on these pages. ❶

The Committee will once again emerge as a key player in helping our journalist members do their jobs in Japan without illegitimate hindrances

Press Committee of the FCCJ, and an act central to good governance, to guarantee basic due process to our own journalists members so that we can be trusted to report and to investigate in the course of our professional assignments."

But, honestly speaking, how many professional journalists at our Club can cite a recent example in which the FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee helped guarantee their due process or facilitated their professional work in Japan?

Well, we are here to declare that this era of passivity is

NEW MEMBERS



LAY KUANG-HAN (Grace Lay): Two years ago, I thought I would be covering sports news my whole life for the *United Daily News*. I love tennis and have covered Grand Slam events four times. In fact, until my posting here, the last time I was in Japan was to cover the world's top Taiwanese female golfer, Tani Tseng, at the Japan Ladies Golf Open 2011. When the Tohoku earthquake occurred, my boss couldn't find anyone to send, but since I can speak some Japanese, he asked me to go to Fukushima. In the end, I wasn't able to go, but he later asked me to cover diplomatic issues, especially the relationship between Taiwan and Japan. Suddenly, after 16 years in the sports department, I found myself covering legislative and diplomatic news for the political department. Everything was new and challenging. Then, this January found me with a bigger challenge: I was assigned to Tokyo as correspondent. Though speaking and listening in Japanese is not easy for me, I keep trying do my best. It's very possible that, after my husband and two kids join me, making *bento* will be my most difficult mission here.

REGULAR MEMBER

Lay Kuang-han, *United Daily News*

Ken Kobayashi, *Mitsubishi Corporation*

Takao Tsuji, *Sojitz Corporation*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Andrew Staples, *The Economic Corporate Network*
Ichiyo Yazaki, *Daiichi Co., Ltd.*
Takeharu Tsutsumi, *The Japan Times, Ltd.*
Takeshi Saito, *Gifu Container Co., Ltd.*

REINSTATEMENT (ASSOCIATE)

Nicholas J. C. Ingleton, *Tuttle Corporation K.K.*

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

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Yale University Press

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Penguin Books

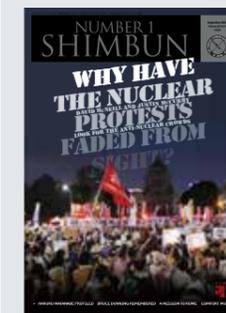
Britain & Japan: Biographical Portraits
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Located in the very heart of Tokyo on the edge of the legendary Ginza and the Marunouchi business district, the FCCJ is the ideal venue for networking, entertaining, dining and relaxing and...

making the news

For more on the benefits of membership for yourself or a colleague, contact Naomichi Iwamura at iwamura@fccj.or.jp or 03-3211-4392 for further details

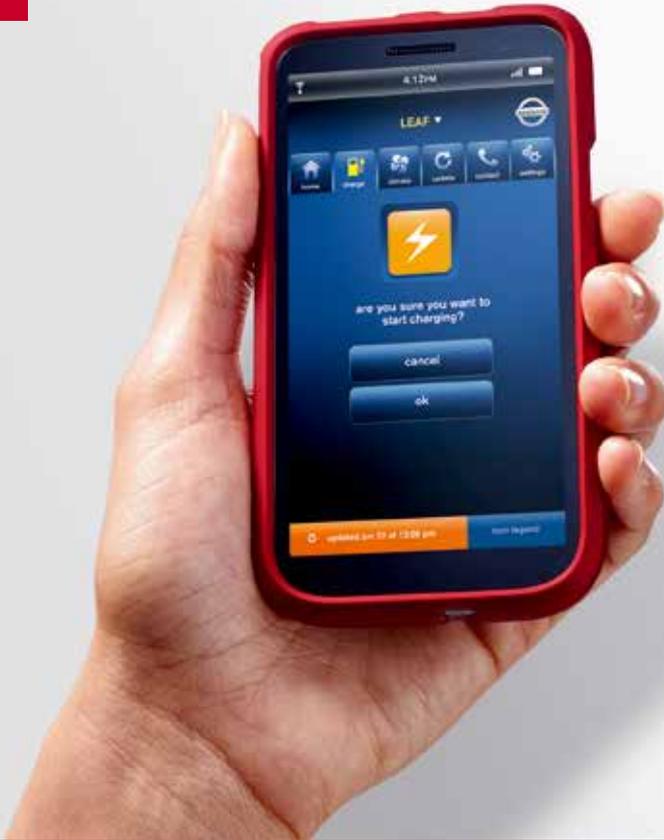




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