

Dear Directors and Kanji:

I hope your Golden Week went well, and you are ready to add a few more achievements to this Board's tenure. One of its most significant may have been the launch of our long-term team under Michiyo Nakamoto, which is analyzing Club issues in a more holistic way than our previous attempts to address problems. I met with Michiyo and the GM last week, and both recognize the need to launch a team dedicated to fundraising through donations and sponsorships. This group will have at least one or two highly prominent members with name recognition in the public and private sectors. We will set goals for how much to raise and by when, and look to formally introduce the team at the June GMM.

We intend to present a new initiation fee for Regular members at that meeting, which will waive joining fees and looks to give news organizations greater reasons to have staff join and utilize the Club. Separately, PAC is presenting a motion this month to prohibit live streaming from events, which they believe is limiting the reach of our event attendance and YouTube channel utilization.

In addition, we will begin "Meet the Press" events, and the first will be with the FT's Leo Lewis in June. Speakers will tell the Club about their work, journalism and coverage issues, and we will also hold workshops such as for video and audio training; I could easily see Randy leading one of these. Separately, we will host in June the Page Society, which features some of the leading Communications officials in Japan. We aim to see more cross-purposing through our Membership Marketing Committee as well as greater Club ties.

David Umeda and Simon conducted an Associate Member survey and have issued a report on the results. They explained the report to the Associates last week and will briefly bullet point highlights for the BoD on Monday. Key issues that have not been fully addressed this year are the uninviting atmosphere of our bar and restaurants, a lack of hospitality and welcome on arrival at the Club, which I know the General Manager is working on with new hiring, and the quality and pricing of food and drink, which is set to rise.

Finally, this month will see a proper tribute to long-time FCCJ staff member Mohammad Hanif, who has retired after 46 years at the Club. So far, the fund to assist his sendoff has raised over 1.5 million yen, and we look to see even more accrued by the event. I expect you all to attend what will be a great chance to thank him and the many staff who have worked for the FCCJ over the years,

See you Monday,

Dan Sloan
FCCJ President