

Annual Report on the General Welfare of the Club for FY2024

DRAFT

To achieve the objectives stated in the Articles of Association, Article 3, the Club engaged in the following activities in FY2024.

(1) Invited news sources and newsmakers to speak before foreign and Japanese journalists at professional activity functions, including news conferences and briefings.

Number of PAC events: 84

Number of attendees: 1565

Number of overall livestream video viewers: 116,6006

3 Professional luncheons

0 Professional dinner

0 Professional breakfast

70 Press conferences

8 Press briefing

3 Press Tour

Well-attended and watched PAC events speakers FY2024:

(The number on the left is the number of attendees in person and the number on the right is the number of live streaming viewers)

“Ethical concerns over Shiori Ito documentary”

Tsukuda Katsuhiko (Lawyers), Nishihiro Yoko (Lawyers), Tsunoda Yukiko (Lawyers) 02/20/2025
【102/749】

Renho, Tokyo gubernatorial election candidate, member of the House of Councilors 06/14/2025
【76/244】

Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Ambassador to Japan 01/10/2025 【73/94】

Shigeru Ishiba, Member of House of Representatives, LDP 【67/91】

“Koike and the Cairo Document”

Kojima Toshiro, Lawyer / Former Secretary General of the Political Affairs Research Council,
Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, Tomin First no Kai 17/04/2024 【55/2006】

Uketsu, Horror writer and YouTuber 16/01/2025 【47/34】

“EXPO 2025 OSAKA KANSAI JAPAN: One Year To Go”

Ikenobo Senko, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Event Planning Committee Co-Chairperson,
Osaki Hiroshi Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Event Planning Committee Co-Chairperson &
Takeda Ieaki Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition Director General of Event
Bureau 04/09/24 【40/69】

Tanaka Tomihiro, The President of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification & Konodo
Norishige, Deputy Director, Legal department of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification
03/27/2025 【35/3889】

“Shibuya and Shinjuku Join Hands Against Overtourism and Halloween Street Drinking”

Ken Hasebe, Mayor of Shibuya and Kenichi Yoshizumi, Mayor of Shinjuku 10/07/24 【35/44】

Tamaki Yuichiro, Leader of Democratic Party for the People 11/08/24 【33/93】

“Protecting Mt. Fuji from Overtourism”

Kotaro Nagasaki, Governor of Yamanashi 06/17/24 【32/557】

“Sexual Assaults in Okinawa”

Denny Tamaki, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture 08/07/24 【32/71】

Miura Daisuke, Head Coach, Yokohama DeNA Baystars & Tobashira Yasutaka, Catcher, Yokohama DeNA Baystars 11/12/24 【31/36】

Noda Yoshihiko, President of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan 11/07/24 【29/61】

Taro Kono, Minister for Digital Transformation 09/09/24 【29/54】

Tanaka Terumi, Co-Chairperson of Nihon Hidankyo 10/22/24 【24/53】

Takuya Yokota, Megumi Yokota's brother and the head of the abductees' family group 04/05/24 【23/43】

etc.

The Special Projects Committee

The Special Projects Committee organized following events

Activities of the Special Projects Committee 2024-2025 are listed below.

I. Three Saturday Lunch with Shakespeare Event

TITUS ANDRONICUS, April 20, 2024

PERICLES, June 22, 2024

LOVE’S LABORR’S LOST, September 21, 2024

III. Other event

William Adams Dinner, October 26, 2024

Due to committee’s chair’s absence, the events after October were organized by Entertainment Committee.

(2) Provided services to facilitate the collection and distribution of news. Supported the distribution of news from Japanese and other news sources without discrimination. Provided, when necessary, other professional services such as telecommunications, postal, clerical, liaison, and message services, and offices and meeting facilities.

(3) Maintained a library of books and other printed or published materials, including reference books and books on Japan and Asia, and provided access to electronic information sources. Also maintained the journalist workroom, the meeting room and the studio, the photo archives as well as the audio recordings of press events at the FCCJ in the past, and Book Break events.

The number of Book Break events: 12

The number of attendees excluding heads: 484 (non-members excluding speakers' guests: 23%)

DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER(S)
2024/4/11	On Kurosawa: A Tribute to the Master Director	Peter Tasker
2024/6/11	A Gentleman from Japan: The Untold Story of An Incredible Journey from Asia to Queen Elizabeth's Court	Thomas Lockley
2024/6/27	The Thorn Puller (とげ抜き 新巣鴨地蔵縁起)	Hiromi Ito (伊藤比呂美)
2024/7/10	The Premonition (哀しい予感)	Banana Yoshimoto (吉本ばなな)
2024/9/18	Euroshock: How the Largest Debt Restructuring in History Helped Save Greece and Preserve the Eurozone	Charles H. Dallara
2024/9/26	Gamblers, Fraudsters, Dreamers & Spies: The Outsiders Who Shaped Modern Japan (新東京アウトサイダーズ)	Robert Whiting
2024/11/6	China: The Super Predator: A Challenge for The Planet	Pierre-Antoine Donnet
2024/11/19	Antonin Raymond in Japan 1948-1976: Recollections of Friends	Helena Čapková
2024/12/9	Japan Re-Emerges (シン・日本の経営 悲観バイアスを排す)	Ulrike Schaede
2024/12/18	"How to publish in Japan: Can foreign authors succeed?"	Satoshi Gunji; Roland Kelts; Tetsuya Sugahara;
2025/1/15	Japanese Swords and Armor: Masterpieces from Thirty of Japan's Greatest Samurai Warriors	Paul Martin
2025/3/31	The Last Yakuza: A Life in the Japanese Underworld	Jake Adelstein

(4) Granted scholarships to students interested in journalism and contributed to the future advancement of journalism.

An open call was made to universities and graduate schools for the 2022 scholarship selection with a deadline of 31 March 2023, but due to a low number of applications (four), it was decided to set the deadline again to 30 September 2023 and continue the open call. The results will be reported in next year's annual report.

Following the above, with a deadline of September 30, 2023, three entries were consequently received in the pen category and four in the photography category.

The following winners were selected through a rigorous judging process.

Pen Award: Ms. Eru Ishikawa, Keio University

Photography Award: Ms. Song Linxiao, Waseda University

The award ceremony was held on January 10, 2024, inviting the winners, their relatives, and past winners, and each winner was awarded a scholarship of 300,000 yen.

Scholarship Application for 2024

An open call was made to universities and graduate schools for the 2024 scholarship selection with a deadline of 30 September 2024, four applicants were submitted in the pen category, one in the photography category, and one in the video category.

After a strict judging process, the following winners were selected.

Pen Division: Ms. Yewon Chang, the University of Tokyo

Photography Division: Ms. Meiyu Guo, Temple University

Video: Ms. Weiyao Luo, Temple University

The award ceremony was held on December 6, 2024, inviting the award winners, their families, and past award winners.

External Student Tours

May 23

Sakute Junior High School, Aichi, Japan

Six third-year junior high school students and three teachers visited

September 27

Ibaraki Prefectural Shimodate Daiichi High School

One teacher and five first-year high school students visited

We had an exchange time with our Regular members

(5) Supported professional efforts in other ways, including sponsoring working committees, meetings, lectures, study groups, debates, and language and other training.

Foreign Press in Japan (FPIJ) supported the foreign media in Japan with press event pre-registration; press tours; and various other related press events. Total number of times FPIJ have cooperated with various ministries, companies, etc.: approximately 800 events.

The Entertainment Committee had various events in FY2024 following;

2024

Saturday Nite Live

April 13: Red Hot Wagons (Blues, Jazz, and Swing)

April 20: Machiko Group (Jazz and Chanson)

May 11: Taku and Rei (Jazz Pop and Tango)

May 25: Eiko Solaris and Trio (Jazz Standard)

June 8: Jonathan Katz (Jazz Pop and Standard)

June 22: Kayo Hirak i(Jazz)

July 6: Felix Sonnyboy (Guitar)

July 20: The Country Crooners (Country)

August 3: Sean Tait Trio (Jazz, Tokyo Lounge Groove)

August 24: Chris Grundy (Instrumental Guitar)

September 7: Jim Butler Group

September 28: Steve Gardner (Big Leg Blues)

October 12: Ensemble Classic Trio

October 19: Kenneth Andrew Trio
November 9: Yuko & John Keyser with Mieko Tokuyama on Vocals & Piano Special Guest:
Guitarist Toshi Onizuka
November 16: Kev Gray & The Gravy Train
December 7: Eiji Fujiki
December 21: Hiroyo Watanabe & Friends

2025

January 18: Sotokanda Drunken Harricane
January 25: Celtic Culture with Morgan Paul Williams
February 1: Roger Sherrin and The Boso Boys
February 15: The Jaine Jazz Duo
March 8: Trombonist Yuu Uesugi's Female Trio
March 15: St Patrick's Day Special with Jim Ediger & Cuckoo Jam

Film Committee

For Film screening events, there were 14 films shown in this fiscal year. Total numbers of attendees were about 1,225.

#1

04102024 The Yin Yang Master Zero
approx. 120 (including 25 domestic media)

#2

05212024 Who were we
approx. 80 (including 5 domestic media)

#3

06052024 The Serpent's Path
approx. 130 (including 32 domestic media)

#4

07012024 My Sunshine
The total number is approx. 65 (including 11 domestic media).

#5

08142024 From Okinawa With Love
approx. 65 (including 5 domestic media)

#6

09122024 The Cats of Gokogu Shrine
approx. 60 (including 10 domestic media)

#7

09302024 The Making of a Japanese
approx. 75 (including 15 domestic media)

#8 A or B

10152024 A Girl Named Ann & TIFF Panel
A TIFF Press Conference
approx. 70 (including 14 domestic media)
B Screening of "A Girl Named Ann" and Q&A
approx. 70 (including 14 domestic media)

#9

11122024 A Big Home

approx.75 (including 16 domestic media)

#10

12042024 Ainu Puri

approx.60 (including 5 domestic media)

#11

01072025 Muromachi Outsiders

approx. 130 (including 30 domestic media)

#12

01142025 Teki Cometh

approx. 110 (including 15 domestic media)

#13

02252025 Escape

approx. 90 (including 8 domestic media)

#14

03122025 Ravens

approx. 95 (including 25 domestic media)

Exhibition Committee:

A project that invites a wide range of works, mainly press and other photographs, to be exhibited in the FCCJ's corridor space for members and non-members to view. The exhibition is held approximately 12 times a year on a monthly rotating basis. Many people visit the bar and space, including journalists and friends and acquaintances of many Associate members, and the exhibition is also widely viewed by the general public. The artists, themes and content of the exhibition are announced in advance on the FCCJ's website.

2024

April: NOSTALGIC EUROPE by Masatoki Minami

May : The World of the Maze Detective Pierre Illustrations By IC4DESIGN Inc.

June : OYAKO Shashin Matsuri Exhibition Celebrating the Relationship Between Parents and Children

July : A Selection of Original Animated Drawings ‘Gauche the Cellist Featuring work from the late Isao Takahata's animated masterpiece

August : Dear Maui: 12 Stories from Maui

September : That’s Punk! London’s Music Scene In The 1970s to 1980s Photo Exhibition by Herbie Yamaguchi

October: The Universe of an Imagination 2024 by Benjamin Lee

November : Ainu: One Hundred Colors Photos by Makiko Ui

December : Kimono Collages by Michiko Kataoka

2025

January: New Year's Exhibition: Year of the Snake(Group Photo Exhibition)

February : The World As Seen Through The Eyes Of Children Collated By Artist, Osamu Asano

March : Once Upon A Time In Tokyo by Bruce Osborn

Freedom of the Press:

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee announced following statements to the public in the fiscal year.

May 6, 2024

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee Statement on the Closure of the office of Al Jazeera in Jerusalem

July 22, 2024

FoP Statement on Dismissal of Selina Cheng

October 3, 2024

Freedom of the Press Statement Israel's closure of the Ramallah bureau of Al Jazeera in the West Bank

October 3, 2024

FCCJ STATEMENT ON THE DETENTION OF MECH DARA

November 11, 2024

FoP Statement on Frenchie Mae Cumpio

November 12, 2024

FoP Statement Updated statement on journalist deaths in Gaza and Lebanon

January 6, 2025

FCCJ Statement on Turkish Journalists Nevşin Mengü and Özlem Gürses

March 25, 2025

FoP Statement Updated statement on journalist deaths in Gaza and Lebanon.

March 27, 2025

FCCJ STATEMENT ON THE DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS IN TURKEY

Freedom of the Press Award Winners 2024.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan named the winners of its Freedom of the Press Awards 2024 at a ceremony on May 24th. The Board selected the journalists of Gaza as the winners in Asia category. Of the 99 journalists killed worldwide last year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, more than three quarters were covering the Israel-Hamas war.

This year's Japan Honorable Mention Award winner was freelance journalist Hiroko Aihara, who was honored for her coverage of natural disasters, including the New Year's Day earthquake on the Noto Peninsula and the Tohoku disaster of March 2011.

The Japan Award winner, Rodrigue Maillard-Belmonte of NHK Global, was honored for producing programs that deal with challenges faced by the children of refugees in Japan – an issue that attracts very little coverage in the mainstream media.

The Asia Honorable Mention award went to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines [NUJP], where an estimated 100 journalists have been killed since 1992, according to the CPJ. In many cases their killers have not been brought to justice.

Linda Sieg, a former Reuters correspondent, received a Lifetime Achievement Award. In a world of misinformation, Sieg, who is now a freelance reporter, spoke movingly about what matters most in attempting to get to the truth of a story.

The awards recognize outstanding journalists and media organizations that have made important contributions to upholding the values of a free press in the region, often under extreme pressure, including by pursuing coverage of taboo subjects and even risking their lives while doing so.

(6) Published matters of professional interest.

FCCJ No. 1 Shimbun editorial team published the monthly “No. 1 Shimbun” magazine by online.

(7) Promoted mutual friendship and harmony in the professional and social relations of its members. We tried them as much as we could due to Covid-19.

(8) Provided refreshments, welfare, social, logistical and other services for members and their guests. We tried them as much as we could due to Covid-19.

(9) Engaged in other activities that are needed to achieve the objectives.

FCCJ Membership Situation

As of the end of March 2025, the total number of members reached 1,462. The Club must recruit more new members in FY2025 to improve its financial standing.

Total Membership Trend

April 2024	1452
May 2024	1456
June 2024	1454
July 2024	1454
August 2024	1454
September 2024	1459
October 2024	1464
November 2024	1458
December 2024	1456
January 2025	1466
February 2025	1470
March 2025	1462

In terms of membership category numbers have changed:

- Regular: around 202
- Professional Associate: around 157
- Associate: around 1,063

	Regular	PJA	Associate	Life
April 2024	208	157	1050	37
May 2024	210	155	1054	37
June 2024	208	154	1055	37
July 2024	203	157	1057	37
August 2024	201	157	1060	37
September 2024	198	158	1066	37
October 2024	199	159	1069	37
November 2024	198	158	1065	37
December 2024	198	156	1065	37
January 2025	197	156	1076	37
February 2025	201	159	1073	37
March 2025	200	159	1066	37

End.