

Dear Board of Directors,

My name is Rodrigue Maillard. I have had the honor to receive the Freedom of the Press Award last year in 2024 on my work on undocumented children in Japan.

I have been a documentary director and journalist mainly for NHK but, I think, have proved continuously a strong sense of independence in my work. I specialize among other things on the topic of inclusivity in Japanese society and sensitive topic among Japanese immigration issues.

Receiving the prize, and a card for a special one-year membership, my intention was to know the Club better and participate in some activities to see what I could contribute to the club. Alas, my workload suddenly increased and along with some family tasks, I was not able to visit the club and participate through the past year.

I have begun to teach Journalism as a visiting professor at a university and have become very interested in promoting the craft and industry of journalism in any way I can.

I am actively considering becoming a regular member, but, at the moment, my finances are very tight and I want to be certain that my contribution to the club's activities is worthwhile.

Therefore, I am humbly asking for "another chance" with an honorary membership, with the promise that at the end of that year, I will join the club. Please let me know as soon as possible whether this can be arranged.

With my best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Rodrigue Maillard-Belmonte