

Thursday 29 May 2025

Publications committee report

The editor of the *Number 1 Shimbun*, Justin McCurry, and its designer, Julio Shiiki, believe there are several ways in which the magazine could be improved.

ACTION REQUESTED

A gmail account for the editor to replace the current email [no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp], which contains thousands of ads and spam messages, making it impossible to manage.

A monthly email messages to all Club members encouraging them to contribute to the magazine.

FOR THE BOARD'S CONSIDERATION

Liaising with the Board and FCCJ management to look into hiring someone to promote the *Number 1 Shimbun* online.

Discussing a possible modest increase in writers' fees. The current rate is ¥20 per word or a maximum of ¥15,000 for articles of 750 words or more. This year we began paying ¥2,500 per photo and up to ¥5,000 for two or more to encourage contributors to supply images. My understanding is that the word rates have remained unchanged for several years. We could offset any increase, of say ¥25 per word and up to a maximum of ¥20,000, by observing strict limits on the number of articles we run each month.

Finally, we believe changes are required to make the magazine more attractive and to enhance our ability to promote content. Shiiki's opinion is as follows:

The *Number 1 Shimbun* should have a cleaner and more distinct look. Right now, it's just like another section of the FCCJ website. The current *Number 1 Shimbun* runs on a Wordpress theme, but it's very limited due to the main FCCJ website, which runs on Drupal. Long story short, we cannot take advantage of the social media tools Wordpress has natively.

I would suggest creating an independent Wordpress website. There are many magazine-oriented themes that will suit our contents and will definitely enhance the reading experience. The easiest solution is to sign up at <https://wordpress.com/> The pricing seems reasonable. Regardless of the current website or implementing a new Wordpress, the biggest challenge is getting good visual assets for the articles. I am happy to put together illustrations and look for free images online, but this is something we need to improve on.

Thank you for your attention.

Submitted by Justin McCurry

Chair, FCCJ Publications Committee