

NUMBER

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JULY 2004 ¥500

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

FOUR MORE YEARS?

Japan and the U.S. elections



POLITICS, SOUTH ASIAN-STYLE

Change in India, Sri Lanka

Japan Sherpa

Wallet-friendly Hiroshima



C O N T E N T S



LEFT: A-bomb Dome, originally built in 1915, designed by Czech architect Jan Letzel, in Hiroshima.



COVER: February 17, 2002, on the occasion of Bush's visit to Japan. Location was as close to the U.S. Embassy as the police would let demonstrators, near Kasumigaseki. DAJ members were protesting along with Japanese environmental groups.

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The *Number 1 Shimbun* welcomes articles, commentary and other contributors from members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan and interested readers. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the contributor, and are not necessarily those of the editor, the Publications Committee, the FCCJ or members of the FCCJ Board. We reserve the right to select or reject and to edit all submissions. We encourage article proposals in advance.

Please address your articles or proposals to the editor at shimbun@fccj.or.jp. Comments, questions and other correspondence about the content of the *Number 1 Shimbun* should be addressed to the Publications Committee chair at pubs-chair@fccj.or.jp.

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Ruth S. McCreery arrived in Japan in 1980 to finish her Ph.D. in Japanese literature, but ended up a full-time writer and translator. Translator of over a hundred books, from the fantasy *A Little Country No One Knows* to *The i-Mode Strategy*, she is also the author of *A Japanese Touch for the Seasons*, co-author of the Yokohama entry in the *Encyclopedia of Urban Cultures* and editor of the *Overseas Democrat*.

Monzurul Huq is Tokyo correspondent for the *Daily Star* and *Prothom Alo*, two leading national dailies of Bangladesh. A journalist with a past working experience at the United Nations and in the BBC World Service, he moved to Tokyo in 1994 and has been covering Japan since then for a number of publications in Bangladesh.

Sri Lankan journalist **Suvendrini Kakuchi** has a long career covering Japan and Asia working for several media organizations in the region. She is currently correspondent for Inter Press Service, a wire-service focusing on issues of developing countries. Kakuchi started out in journalism in Sri Lanka after studying law and then moved to Tokyo to graduate in Japanese language and culture. Kakuchi is also the recipient of the Nieman Fellowship in 1997 and was selected for the South Asia Journalism Fellowship awarded by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 1984. She writes for many Western and Asian publications on Japanese issues and is respected for her critical but sensitive approach to Japan-Asia relations.

Atsuko Shigesawa is a freelance writer, translator and interpreter/fixer who has lived in Hiroshima for 10 years. A former staff writer at the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, she has written about Hiroshima and educational issues for various magazines and publications, including *Kyoiku Hyoron*, in which she has a monthly column.

PHOTOGRAPH OF HUQ BY AKIKO MIYAKE, KAKUCHI BY NAOMICHI IWAMURA



Manifesto Destiny

Daniel Sloan

By the time you read this, the next Board of Directors will have been selected and a new year of challenges begun.

One of the most daunting is membership, particularly attracting and keeping

folks in an environment where cost-cutting and the growing importance of China have reduced the international pool here. This affects Regular membership as well as Associates with ramifications for the activities and finances of our Club.

Similar to the nation's revitalized automakers, the FCCJ is in transition from securing fiscal health to a growth phase in which new models and initiatives are key. By the right tweaking of policies and

efforts by members themselves to introduce new candidates, we can succeed.

After numerous campaigns in the past with muted results, the General Manager, outgoing Board and General Membership are adamant that we must comprehensively address the paucity of journalists and declining non-Japanese Associate ranks.

Once on-board, we need to encourage all to take part in Club programs and committees. ■

FOREIGN PRESS IN JAPAN

The PM's Office and the Foreign Press

Things have moved rapidly this year with regard to treatment of the foreign press. Before explaining the most recent change at the Prime Minister's Office, I'd like to emphasize that we at FPIJ will monitor closely how new opportunities develop, just as we have to monitor the effects of the earlier missive sent out by the MOFA.

I'd like to urge FPIJ members to report any difficulties you may still encounter when trying to obtain access, whether those troubles are caused by kisha clubs or by agencies giving a press conference. This time next year we should have an evaluation of foreign media access in Japan. So, if you encounter any problems, don't just grumble and forget. Write it down. Publicize it in the *Number 1 Shimbun*. At the very least, inform FPIJ.

With regard to the Kantei (Prime Minister's office), I'll avoid the not-completely-gratifying experience regarding the Pyongyang visit because it is treated elsewhere in this month's *Number 1 Shimbun*. I'd like, instead, to accent a positive,

structural change in access to the Kantei. Until recently, foreign media who wished to cover the Kantei first had to apply for membership to the Kantei Kisha Kai (the kisha club on the premises). Foreign media, recognized as such by the government itself through the MOFA Press Card, had to submit themselves to a selection process of a private club that has no knowledge of foreign media organizations before being able to attain access to the most important government institution in Japan.

Just recently, however, Kantei introduced a new system to manage access. This system came into being after the Foreign Ministry sent out a letter in March to all government institutions asking them to allow those with MOFA Cards to attend their press conferences. "Access" to the Kantei also means being able to ask questions, as long as some "existing practices" are honored, such as allowing the acting captain of the kisha club to ask the first questions.

In the new system, announced to all FPIJ members before Golden Week, the

Kantei asks foreign media for a one-time registration through FPIJ. The only condition is possession of the MOFA Card. When accepted by the Kantei, the media organization will receive the schedule of press conferences at the Kantei, including those of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary. Notification will be through the FPIJ by fax. If a correspondent wants to attend, he or she is asked to notify the Kantei in advance through a separate fax form. This is for security reasons.

Such procedures may sound cumbersome, but the Kantei has said those who attend often enough will become eligible for the special Kantei Press Pass, which gives you free access. Some major foreign media with enough manpower to regularly post a reporter at the Kantei did, in the past, go through the kisha club process and have already obtained such passes. For them, nothing changes. The system also doesn't apply to photo and TV reporting. Existing pool procedures will continue as before. It applies only to pen reporters who do not (yet) have access to the Kantei. The Kantei is currently processing the first batch of applications from FPIJ members. By the time you read this, those reporters should already be able to attend the Prime Minister's press conferences.

— Hans van der Lugt, FPIJ chairman

WHAT'S INSIDE

We don't do theme issues in the *Number 1 Shimbun*; but, inadvertently, both of this month's feature stories have to do with politics and elections. Ruth S. McCreery takes a look at Japanese reactions to the upcoming U.S. presidential election, while Monzurul Huq and Suvendrini Kakuchi review the elections in India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, Jim Treece

reviews the problems FPIJ had in getting its members to Pyongyang for the Koizumi-Kim meeting in May. On a lighter note, Pat Killen looks back on the history of this publication in *Write Up Your Alley*, while Atsuko Shigesawa is your guide to Hiroshima in the *Japan Sherpa*.

— Eric Johnston, editor



"How often misused words generate misleading thoughts"

— Herbert Spenser,
"Principles of Ethics"

There are countless reasons why many Japanese might consider their language difficult. Some are based on solid linguistic reasons and others are based on ignorant, racial stereotypes. But an often overlooked reason is that the wholesale borrowing of foreign words creates an illusion among native speakers (of the word's country of origin) that the context of the loanword is the same in Japan as it is in their country.

Even more of a problem is that the use and abuse of foreign loanwords creates misleading thoughts among the Japanese themselves, resulting in arguments and confusion as to not only a word's literal meaning, but also which interpretation should be the socially accepted one.

Thus, into the discussion steps all manner of those who attempt to explain the word in question. The courts, often unable or unwilling to interpret a new word's legal meaning, let the media, the public, politicians and various special interest groups decide. The result is not a legally binding definition, but a very vague consensus enforced by the tyranny of the minority. Of course, the meaning and interpretation may eventually become legally binding after those who opposed the consensus have been weakened and marginalized. Or, the meaning of the word simply remains in legal and social limbo, neither enforceable nor defensible by due process, subject to the political mood of the day and utterly forgotten when it no longer suits the current pseudo-intellectual fashion.

To take but one example, journalists in the FCCJ are familiar with the Japanese use of the word "privacy." Cry "privacy," and the Japanese media and public will

EDITOR'S NOTE

acquiesce to whatever demands you or your self-appointed organization has with regards to controlling the reports in a way that favors your interests.

Because the *katakana* version of "privacy" is a relative newcomer to the Japanese lexicon, legal and social judgments as to its meaning – and accepted norms on how, when, where and why it may be used – are few. "Privacy" thus easily becomes a euphemism for censorship, an all-purpose excuse used to justify the continued existence of the kisha clubs ("We can protect the 'privacy' of our sources. Non-kisha club members cannot."); or to allow fascist mobs and vigilante groups to disguise themselves as concerned citizens ("No, we're not stifling freedom of speech. Our group of families/academic experts/benevolent officials exists to protect the 'privacy' of the victims."). Then, politicians and bureaucrats, in true Orwellian form, insist that new laws are now necessary to guard against invasions of privacy; laws they declare will lead to a better, more informed public. Thus the true meaning of the word remains opaque, even as a system of very concrete laws referring to the word comes into force.

Then there is the issue of purposely misleading words that lead to purposely misleading thoughts – in short, propaganda. In Japan, this is discernable in the misuse of *kanji*, whose meaning is at odds with reality. A perfect example is the verb "*kikoku suru*," recently used by many Japanese media to describe attempts to get the children of five abductees to come to Japan from North Korea. "*Kikoku suru*" means "to return to one's country"; a very strange, and very wrong, way to describe the travel to Japan of five people, including several legal adults, who were born and raised in North Korea.

To their credit, some *Kyodo* reporters insisted on using "*rainichi suru*" ("to come to Japan") at press conferences to describe the trip, while one person who works for *Kyodo's* English service told me that the foreign editors convinced their managers to avoid literally translating "*kikoku suru*" to "return." But too many Japanese media and commentators simply used "*kikoku suru*" either out of laziness, out of some tribal belief that refused to acknowledge the children were North Korean, not Japanese, or out of a fear that using a different word would invite public wrath.

It is the responsibility of Japan's citizens to be vigilant against such abuses of their language in forming public law and social norms, and to force the debate over the Japanese meaning and context of such terms. But it is the responsibility of all who write about and cover Japan – be they journalists, academics or other professionals – to be on guard against two follies.

First, we have to avoid the all-too-easy assumption that borrowed words carry the same meaning in Japan, and make all efforts to confirm and reconfirm that the words we think are familiar to us do not create misleading thoughts among our own readers, or, most importantly, ourselves. Second, and far more difficult, is to keep alert for the misuse by the Japanese media of *kanji* whose use grossly distorts, or contradicts, the truth. Otherwise, we risk becoming adrift in a sea of confused language, and confused thoughts.

— Eric Johnston, editor
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Letters to the Editor Guidelines



Notice: Deadline for submission of Letters to the Editor for the **September 2004** issue of the *Number 1 Shimbun* is **July 5, Monday, at 5 p.m.** Letters are accepted **via e-mail or fax only**. In principle, all letters submitted will appear on the *Number 1 Shimbun* section of the FCCJ Web site after being received by the Editor and in their original style and length. However, any letter may be revised, edited or rejected if the Editor judges the content to be libelous or personally offensive.

Please note that all letters to be inserted in the print edition are subject to editing for space and/or style reasons. As with the Web edition, the Editor reserves the right to reject letters deemed inappropriate.

— Eric Johnston, editor
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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANIKO MIYAKE

PHOTOGRAPH BY HIDEHIKO UMEHARA

Foreign Reporters Battle Kantei for NK Access

Pyongyang II was a sequel the foreign media in Japan didn't want. On Monday, May 17, the Prime Minister's office (Kantei) told the Foreign Press in Japan (FPIJ) that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi would be going to Pyongyang on Saturday, May 22. Two of 27 media seats on the PM's plane were for foreign reporters.

When Koizumi flew to North Korea in September 2002, the Kantei simply hand-picked the foreign media that flew with the PM. The Kantei later said it didn't know the FPIJ existed.

Pyongyang II had the foreign media primed for another confrontation. Only two seats? Nobody was happy, particularly since the seats were designated for print media only – no TV crews or still cameramen.

Several other seats were reserved for the Korean media in Japan. Due to South Korea's high level of interest in the trip, the non-Korean FPIJ media accepted that arrangement as understandable.

At the FPIJ seat lottery, four wire services vied for one seat, and seven media for

the other. *Bloomberg* and the *Wall Street Journal* won seats. Italy's *Il Manifesto* was the alternate.

Here, versions of the tale diverge. The wires say they clearly told other FPIJ members that they were still applying for their own seats on the plane, and immediately notified the FPIJ when they got the seats. But when Pio d'Emilia of *Il Manifesto* told other FPIJ members Tuesday that the Kantei had found three additional seats for the losing wire services – *Associated Press*, *Reuters* and *Agence France-Presse* – the news brought a flurry of scathing e-mails.

There were calls for holding the lottery all over again. One e-mail referred to the Kantei "lootery," instead of "lottery." The author said it was an inadvertent slip.

FPIJ head Hans van der Lugt was out of town, so Khaldon Azhari had to sort it out. He discovered that the Kantei had set aside the three extra seats *after* learning of the FPIJ lottery winners. The Kantei's explanation: "Because they have worldwide distribution networks." Azhari asked for a third seat.

On Wednesday, the Kantei told Azhari that a third seat was impossible, but a new lottery would be accepted. Then it relented: a third seat was possible if



Bloomberg and the *Wall Street Journal* kept their seats. FPIJ cancelled plans for a new lottery. In a 3:45 meeting, the Kantei reversed course. No third seat.

"This hybrid system of both 'selecting' and 'choosing by lottery' stinks," wrote d'Emilia.

"In normal emergencies, reporters rent planes. Why don't we charter a plane, call it Koizumi's press plane, and tag along?" suggested the *New York Times'* Jim Brooke in an e-mail. "I realize [the] Gaimusho and North Korea are two daunting bureaucracies, but special times require special actions."

That didn't happen. Nor did the media's fights for access end with the PM's arrival in Pyongyang. According to the pool report filed by the *Wall Street Journal's* Sebastian Moffett, "North Korea and Japanese camera crews jostled for space outside the meeting room, and a scuffle broke out."

— Jim Treece

OBITUARY

Former *ABC News* Tokyo Bureau Chief and FCCJ member Roger Peterson, 67, passed away on April 18th in the United States. An FCCJ member from March 1968 to October 1969, Mr. Peterson was seriously wounded while covering the Vietnam War.

Mr. Peterson reported on the war while assigned to *ABC's* Saigon bureau. In October 1966, he was traveling with the Marines on patrol just south of the demilitarized zone when they came across bunkers, which the soldiers cleared. Suddenly, they started taking gunfire from a nearby tree line.

The soldiers hit the ground in the chaotic scene, which Mr. Peterson described into

his tape recorder. He managed about a dozen words before what he said felt like someone striking his right elbow with a baseball bat. He had been shot but continued to report on the battle, which was filmed by his cameraman and later aired on *ABC News*.

A hulking figure who stood 6' 4", Mr. Peterson recovered from his injury on a hospital ship and, with his arm in a sling, found time to marry Karen Stokoe. He returned to Saigon in 1967, and the following year was named Tokyo bureau chief.

After a brief stint as a national correspondent in New York, he moved to Washington in the early 1970s to serve as Pentagon

correspondent and became an energy correspondent, then a new network position. He covered environmental and health issues before leaving *ABC News* in 1988 to establish a video production company.

Mr. Peterson, an Arlington, Va.-resident, was a native of Minneapolis and broadcast journalism graduate of the University of Minnesota. Before joining *ABC News*, he reported for local radio and television stations in Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Atlanta. Survivors include his wife, Karen Stokoe Peterson of Arlington; a son, Chris Peterson of Satellite Beach, Fla.; and a sister.

— Membership Committee

WHAT'S AHEAD

We know many FCCJ members head out on vacation in August, but don't forget to take your copy of the *Number 1 Shimbun* with you. August features include an article by Lucille Craft on some place with cool breezes – the Shiretoko Peninsula, which aims to become a

World Heritage site. For those stuck in Tokyo, *bon vivant* Mike "Iron Chef" Jacobs takes us on a tour of places in Tokyo where you can get all of your favorite goodies. In Japan Sherpa, writer and Newcastle fan Simon Moran is your guide for Osaka. Enjoy.

FOUR MORE YEARS?

Japan and the U.S. elections

With the U.S. presidential election now only about four months away, interest around the world, and especially in Japan, is intensifying. A meeting at FCCJ several months ago of a local chapter of Democrats Abroad, of which I am a member, drew extensive Japanese media coverage. Both the *Asahi* and the *Yomiuri* have provided explanations in their student weeklies of the arcane process by which Americans elect their president.

That is not to suggest that the elections are kids' stuff. As the *Yomiuri's Kyoiku Shinseiki* reported on Valentine's Day, America has issues to address in both the economy and international relations, and the U.S. president's thinking on them will have an impact on Japan.

How would Japanese citizens like to see the election turn out? An *Aera* poll showed them firmly in the "anybody-but-Bush" camp, with only 7 percent hoping for his reelection (*Aera*, February 23, 2004). Noted translator and *kena* player Oya Kyoko echoes the feelings of many Japanese when she says she sees Bush as "untrustworthy, timid and self-centered," hardly the strong leader the Bush campaign would like us to believe he is.

Such comments can be heard in many countries, including America, where the battle lines are already drawn between Bush-haters and Bush-supporters. Some pundits say most Americans are still evaluating the incumbent and haven't yet turned their attention to John Kerry. Others, notably former Democratic Texas Governor Ann Richards, believe that nearly "90 percent" of the public has decided who to vote for and that the remaining months will see both parties battle over the final 10 percent.

Of course, there is also the Ralph Nader question: Will his campaign take votes away from Kerry?

In May, U.S. media coverage of the Bush administration became increasingly critical, and his popular support dropped. The week of May 12 saw Bush's job approval numbers fall below the 50-percent level for the first time since September 11, 2001, according to the CBS/*New York Times* and Pew polls.

As U.S. voters mull their options, the Japanese press has already begun reporting on what a Kerry administration might mean for Japan. A March 4 *Asahi* editorial stated: "The central issue in the U.S. presidential election for the rest of the world is whether the country will reject or support the Bush administration's



President George W. Bush in the Oval Office.

unilateralism and its stance on the war against terrorism. The fate of Japan, and of the entire world, depends to a great extent on the behavior of its only superpower."

It is interesting to note that at the time of the 2000 election, many in official Japan, especially conservatives, welcomed the prospect of a Bush administration. A report by Richard Armitage in October 2000 charged that the U.S.-Japan relations had "drifted" under President Bill Clinton and the Democrats, and that further strategic (read: defense) cooperation between the two countries was necessary.

This report pleased those in Japan who felt Clinton had paid more attention to China than to Japan. Bush's statement that China was more a "strategic competitor" than a strategic partner was also welcomed by Japanese businessmen who feared the rise of China economically.

But however happy some in the conservative political/business/military establishment may have been, Bush angered far more Japanese with his announcement, on March 29, 2001, that the United States opposed the Kyoto Protocol. This rejection was a slap in the face for Japan, which had put its prestige behind building a world accord on implementing the climate-change protocol.

Japan was also worried that the Bush administration's policies in East Asia were far too aggressive. By taking a very hard line with the DPRK and China, as Edward Lincoln of the Council on Foreign Relations observed, Bush "managed to destabilize the East Asian region in his first nine months in office."

Bush's assertion that the U.S. would do "all it takes" to defend Taiwan trashed three decades of diplomatically balancing an explicit One-China policy against implicit support for Taiwan. His rejection of the Agreed Framework for talks with North Korea left a state (with a history of aggressive acts against the chief U.S. ally in East Asia) free to pursue its program of building and disseminating weapons of mass destruction.

Bush's slash-and-burn approach to international treaties in general was reversed post-9/11, and particularly in the run up to the war on Iraq, as Bush busily collected a Coalition of the Willing to cloak the war in international legitimacy.

Japan joined that coalition, dispatching troops overseas for the first time since World War II. The more conservative press, such as the *Sankei Shimbun* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, have not been displeased by this development, no doubt in the hope that it will help conservatives' efforts to amend Japan's peace constitution.

One of the more articulate conservative voices, former ambassador Okazaki Hisahiko, argued in the September 28, 2003, *Yomiuri* that Japan had no choice but to send the Self-Defense Forces to Iraq to reinforce the U.S.-Japan relationship. In the May 11, 2004, *Sankei*, he reiterated that view, asserting that "the most important objective of dispatching Self-Defense Forces is protecting the U.S.-Japan alliance."

Yet, according to Edward Lincoln, the U.S. did not explicitly demand troops from Japan; a statement of support would have been sufficient to reinforce the alliance. In giving Japanese conservatives a hook for their plan to amend the constitution over the opposition of China and South Korea, Bush may have further destabilized East Asia.

So what might a Kerry victory mean for Japan?

For starters, John Kerry was a strong supporter of the Kyoto Protocol, and one of only a half-dozen U.S. Senators to attend the COP3 conference in Kyoto in December 1997. He boasts a strong



At the FCCJ, February 8, 2004. Some 156 Democrats crowded into a room for 80, listening to presentations by supporters of each of the presidential candidates.

environmentalist voting record and most environmental groups give him high marks.

Kerry has also promised that he will reinsert the United States into international climate negotiations; his plan for the environment flatly rejects both the argument that climate change theories are "bad science" and the notion that the U.S. can and should go it alone.



John Kerry

Does that imply that he will sign the U.S. back on to the Kyoto Protocol and push for its passage in the Senate? The answer appears to be "no." Failure to control emissions during the Bush administration has made the existing targets unattainable on the current timetable. But there are also many in the Senate, including a large number of Democrats, who do not want to sign the Kyoto Protocol because so-called developing countries like China and Brazil would be excluded from it.

Kerry will, however, do what he says: engage in international climate negotiations. That will be a delicate process, with the EU and Japan already moving to enforce the existing protocol. It will ultimately, however, put the U.S. on track towards managing emissions as part of the global community.

On international security affairs, Kerry sees U.S. security and that of America's allies in East Asia as compromised by the

unresolved North Korean nuclear situation. Obviously, Kerry will work for American interests. But his policy statements stress cooperation, coordination, global collective security and long-range goals. It remains unclear as to what he would do about current U.S. military levels in East Asia, especially Okinawa, and whether or not he would be willing to discuss further troop reductions.

Most ordinary Japanese would no doubt welcome a more constructive approach towards North Korea, with the possible exception of the families whose missing loved ones may have been kidnapped to North Korea. Many families and their conservative, sometimes rightwing, supporters appear to fear that a Kerry administration would take a softer approach towards North Korea, making it far more difficult for Japan to press Pyongyang on the issue.

When looking at a Democratic candidate, the Japanese press automatically worry about trade. Kerry's April 26 comment on currency manipulation in Japan and China did raise eyebrows in Japan, where the Bank of Japan has been busily engaging in vigorous exchange-rate intervention.

Will Kerry institute protectionist policies? His economic advisors, which include people such as Stuart Eisenstadt (who was one of the top U.S. negotiators at COP3), are free traders, one and all. And Kerry's handling of the labor unions talking about enforcement of worker protections, not tariffs, suggests he is listening.

The *Kyoiku Shinseiki* is right: "The outcome of the U.S. election is of critical importance to the whole world." And Bush and Kerry are two candidates who do represent very different positions on issues that affect both countries. ■



February 17, 2002, on the occasion of Bush's visit to Japan. DAJ members were protesting along with Japanese environmental groups.

PHOTOGRAPH OF WHITE HOUSE BY ERIC DRAPER

PHOTOGRAPH OF KERRY BY SHARON FARMER

POLITICS, SOUTH-ASIAN STYLE

Indian and Sri Lankan elections

The outcome of India's general election in May generated more than the usual interest from the foreign media; in fact, more than the election itself. If one factor for that interest was the prospect of a foreign-born lady taking the helm of the world's largest democracy, the other was obviously the possible course the new government might take on India's much heralded economic reforms, which many Westerners view as the noteworthy achievement of the outgoing administration.

The aftermath of the stunning defeat of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has been interpreted by many overseas observers as a setback for globalization, which many in the West have taken for granted to be something charted by the ruling coalition that has just been voted out of power.

Proponents of globalization everywhere have also taken the results of the election as their own defeat. They didn't waste time predicting a drastic slowdown in India's economic progress. Later, as it became clear that the resurgent Indian left would take a leading role in a new coalition government, the opposition turned increasingly bitter, portraying the new leadership as being the spoiler of a process that had been taking India towards a "shining world of affluence."

Politics in the subcontinent, particularly the politics of India, with its firm democratic tradition, is not what Western media experts usually tend to think about. There is no doubt the election results were completely unexpected. But the verdict given by the people is also a clear indication that the "shining world of affluence" some were talking about (citing examples of India's recent success in the IT sector) looks more like a closely guarded garden party for the privileged few.

The vast majority of Indians remain outside of that pompous celebration. Their situation has worsened further as globalization proponents were poised to sell even profitable state corporations that also provide food and shelter to a significant number of Indian citizens. The election proved to be an opportunity for those left out to express their anger and distrust to the ruling elite, which received outside praise simply because their policies opened the gates of India to foreign businesses seeking profits.

For many South Asians, it's quite surprising to find the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main component of the ousted NDA, becoming the darling of Western business and political circles. On core policy issues, the BJP differs little from religious fundamentalist parties elsewhere. The BJP's leadership never hid their desire of turning India into a Hindu religious state, and were less tolerant towards all other religious minorities, as they dreamt of a mighty "Great India."

The BJP's past is tainted with the systematic destruction of a mosque at a site they claim to be the birthplace of a mythical Hindu god. While the party was in power, India witnessed some of the worst religious violence since independence in 1947, when the Muslim population of Gujarat came under systematic attacks by Hindu gangs supported and patronized by the state government headed by the BJP.

It is, indeed, quite surprising to see how a party with such a checkered past became the darling of the West. The responsibility to correct this situation eventually fell on the shoulders of the Indian people, and there is no mistake that they wanted to show the world that the picture some in the West tried to paint of the BJP was not realistic. It is the majority of Indians who suffered most in paving the way for the



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meets Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi, on May 28, 2004.

The prime minister paying homage to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his death, at Shantivan in Delhi, on May 27, 2004.

The prime minister attends a prayer meeting organized at Shantivan in Delhi, on May 27, 2004.

prosperity of a privileged few. As the election showed, the majority have gained the experience and maturity needed to make democracy truly workable, and they did not hesitate to vote out a government that for six long years practiced systematic assault against the poor and minorities.

At the same time, it is too early to predict how well a resurgent Indian National Congress will be able to heal the wounds inflicted by the BJP rule. But a change always provides opportunities for renewed hope. The celebrated Indian author Arundhati Roy, in an article on the election, had this to say: "We know the legacy of the Congress led us to the horror of the BJP. Still, we celebrate because surely a darkness has passed. Or has it?"

Like the results in India, many in Sri Lanka are also asking this same question.

Rohan Silva, 43, the owner of a "three-wheeler," or mini cab, in Colombo, says



(left to right) Small shop catering to the poorer middle classes of Sri Lanka; children working in a rural coconut plantation; Colombo stupa decked with Buddhist decorations for Vesak Day, the celebration of the birthday of the Buddha observed by the Sinhala majority in Sri Lanka.

his vote went to the Marxist People's Liberation Front, a party comprised of mostly young, inexperienced Sinhala politicians. The Sinhalese represent the majority race in Sri Lanka's two decade-long ethnic strife that continues to simmer between the Sinhala and the minority Tamils.

But Silva cast his vote for different reasons.

"I'm fed up with the two main political parties that have ruled Sri Lanka since independence from British colonialism. They have not improved things for the masses," says the energetic father of three.

"My lifestyle is hardly comparable to the rich who live in palatial homes and fly abroad at the drop of a hat. I blame politicians who are busy stacking up national resources for themselves instead of developing the country," he charges.

Silva's political choice echoes the sentiments of millions of struggling middle-class and rural Sri Lankan voters whose decision to throw their weight behind a Marxist party, known by its acronym JVP, helped secure a new government in a landslide victory against the outgoing United National Front in the parliamentary elections on April 2. The popularity of the JVP, which joined with the United People's Freedom Alliance, the party of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, resulted in winning 105 seats, or 46 percent of the votes.

Kumaratunga, the daughter of a wealthy Sinhala family that launched the nationalist Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the traditional opponent of the UNF, called

for snap elections just two years into the administration of the more Western-oriented UNF, led by Ranil Wickremasinghe. She is a bitter critic of Wickremasinghe's peace initiatives, accusing Wickremasinghe of giving too much to the Tamils, despite a long-awaited cease-fire signed during his term between the rebel group, the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam, and the government. The cease-fire was brokered by Norway in February 2002.

But the peace initiative seems to have not been the decisive factor in the elections. Analysts point out Wickremasinghe's defeat – securing only 82 seats in the 225-seat parliament – can be traced to policies that failed to tackle domestic economic woes.

"The JVP's entrance into mainstream politics symbolizes the dramatic change in the Sri Lankan electorate, which has hitherto been controlled by conservative elitists. It underscores the rise of the power of rural voters, and is challenging the older generation that represents bureaucratic control and corruption," explains Sunandra Deshapriya, a journalist who heads the Free Media Movement and is a former member of the JVP.

The ideals are lofty, but the emergence of a government with a strong Marxist bent heralds a period of tense political negotiations. There is a looming clash between the JVP and those who supported the economic reform policies of the previous government, policies that focused on boosting business confidence

and pushed privatization. The JVP advocates a socialist economic model, one focusing on agricultural development and more jobs for the impoverished south, a region that forms the base of their support.

On the peace front, too, analysts are wary. Homegrown Marxists, who spring from a former Sinhala extremist group that failed to oust two governments in revolts in 1971 and 1988, are vehemently opposed to granting new peace initiatives that even hint at autonomy for the Tamil minority in the North.

Officially, the JVP is leaving the peace talks to Kumaratunga. But experts contend that the JVP's resistance to meet Tamil aspirations even halfway will prove a major sticking point in the new government's efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the ethnic war.

Another development being watched closely is the victory of LTTE-backed politicians, who belong to the Tamil National Alliance, which grabbed almost 90 percent of the vote in the Tamil-dominated north.

Pathmini Sithamparanathan, 49, a female activist who emerged as the second-highest contender in the election results, says she will not budge from her mandate. "Peace can only be achieved when Tamils are treated as equal citizens on par with the Sinhalese," she says.

The contradiction between the Tamils and the JVP is obvious, points out Sunandra, adding, "Sri Lanka faces a risky future." ■

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUVENDRINI KAKUCHI

Hiroshima Castle (originally built in 1589, reconstructed in 1958)



Hiroshima

Economic hub of the region

With new shopping centers, the first-ever renovation of department stores, and the construction of high-rise condominiums and offices, Hiroshima city is changing rapidly to revive itself as the economic hub of the Chugoku-Shikoku region.

It's hard to say which method of transportation from Tokyo is more convenient, Shinkansen or airplane. Either way, costs (assuming for airfare, an advance-purchase discount) are usually between ¥33,000-37,000 roundtrip. It takes about four hours by Nozomi express, with the first train leaving Tokyo at 6 a.m. and the last train from Hiroshima to Tokyo departing at 7:31 p.m. From Hiroshima Station to Kamiyacho, or central Hiroshima, takes about five minutes by taxi and costs about ¥1,000, or 10 minutes by bus at a cost of ¥150.

If you're flying, it takes about one hour and 20 minutes from Haneda Airport to Hiroshima, with the first flight departing Haneda at 6:55 a.m. The last flight leaving Hiroshima for Haneda departs at 8:45 p.m. But it takes nearly an hour by bus from Hiroshima Airport to the center of the city, at a cost of ¥1,300.

If you can reserve at least one week in advance of your trip, packages that include roundtrip airfare and one night in a hotel are available from around ¥28,000. But many of the hotels in these packages are

located in less convenient areas and are often not wired for broadband.

Convenient hotels in the city are plentiful. If you're visiting Peace Park and the city center, try to find a hotel near Kamiyacho or Peace Boulevard. Recommendations include the Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima at ¥8,085/night for a single, while Mitsui Garden Hotel Hiroshima has single rooms available from ¥8,300. Dormy Inn Hiroshima and Comfort Hotel Hiroshima, both in Komachi, have singles for ¥7,350 and ¥5,775, respectively. Single rooms at Hotel Hokke Club Hiroshima in Nakamachi go for ¥7,140. All of these hotels can be reserved on-line and offer high-speed Internet access, although only 15 rooms at the Sunroute have such access.

For those on a very tight budget, Aster Plaza, located near Peace Park, is an option. A single room is available for only ¥3,620. Be careful, though. There is a midnight curfew.

For those who come to Hiroshima to cover peace issues, check out the World Friendship Center, a 15-minute walk from Peace Park. Though small, with only three Japanese-style guestrooms, the center plays an important role as a forum for peace and cultural exchange. A one-night stay with a Western breakfast costs ¥3,500 per person.

Neither the Aster Plaza nor the World Friendship Center have Internet access.

But there are plenty of round-the-clock Internet cafés, as well as two branches of Kinko's. One Internet café is at Futaba Toshō (bookstore). You can become a member at a cost of ¥100, which allows you to surf the Net for between ¥390 and ¥450 for the first hour and then between ¥90 and ¥100 for every 15 minutes. Media Café Popeye does not ask for a membership fee, but charges between ¥230 and ¥300 for the first half hour (depending on which branch you are at) and then ¥70 for every 10 to 15 minutes afterwards.

Numerous international newspapers and magazines are available at the Hiroshima International Center on the 6th floor of the Crystal Plaza building on Peace Boulevard and at the International Exchange Lounge on the first floor of the International Conference Center in Peace Park. Though access time is limited to 30 minutes per person, a PC with Internet access is also available at these places free of charge.

Walking around modern Hiroshima, it's easy to conclude that it is no different from other major Japanese cities. But despite growth over the past 60 years, the scenes of devastation are still fresh in the memory of many citizens.

The average age of the city's 85,000 A-bomb survivors is 71.5 years (as of March 2003). While survivors account for one-third of citizens aged 65 years or older, only a few are vocal about their experiences. The Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims opened in August 2002, and speaks for the silent victims and survivors. In addition to the 9,200 photos of the victims, about 100,000 memoirs are also available to the public. About 150 of these memoirs were written in, or were translated into, English.

Those who wish to listen to the testimony of a Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor may contact the Hiroshima Peace Cultural Center to arrange a meeting. In addition to providing a ¥6,000 honorarium to the survivor, you are asked to bring your own interpreter.

And if you need an interpreter, the Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace (HIP) offers interpreters on a voluntary basis. You are only expected to pay ¥2,000 for transportation costs, etc. But be aware that the language ability of the interpreters varies. For qualified interpreters, there is the Hiroshima Interpreter and Guide Association (HIGA).

— Atsuko Shigesawa

CONTACT INFO

ORGANIZATIONS:

Hiroshima Convention & Visitors Bureau

Tel: 082-244-6156

Web site: www.hiroshima-navi.or.jp

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims

Tel: 082-543-6271

Web site: www.hiro-tsuitokenenkan.go.jp/english/index.php/

Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Tel: 082-247-9715 (for International Exchange Lounge)

Tel: 082-541-5544 (for arrangements for hibakusha storytelling)

Web site: www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/english/index.cgi/

Hiroshima International Center

Tel: 082-541-3888

Web site: (no www) hiint.hiroshima-ic.or.jp/hic_eng/

HOTELS:

Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima

Tel: 082-249-3600

Web site: www.sunroute-hiroshima.com

Dormy Inn Hiroshima

Tel: 082-240-1177

Web site: www.dormy-in.com/home/index.htm

Hotel Hokke Club Hiroshima

Tel: 082-248-3371

Web site: www.hokke.co.jp/3401/

Mitsui Garden Hotel Hiroshima

Tel: 082-240-1131

Web site: www.gardenhotels.co.jp/hiroshima/

Comfort Hotel Hiroshima

Tel: 082-541-5555

Web site: www.greens.co.jp/cfhiro/

Aster Plaza

Tel: 082-247-8700

Web site: www1.ocn.ne.jp/~kokusei1/

World Friendship Center

Tel: 082-503-3191

Web site: <http://navi.seikyoku.ne.jp/navigator/top.asp>

INTERNET/PRINTING SERVICES:

Kinko's Hachobori branch

Tel: 082-502-2577

Kinko's Hiroshima Hondori branch

Tel: 082-546-2411

Media Café Popeye Nakanotana branch

Tel: 082-545-7670

Media Café Popeye Hondori branch

Tel: 082-545-0369

Futaba Toshō GIGA Hiroshima Station branch

Tel: 082-568-4792

Futaba Toshō Kamiyacho branch

Tel: 082-542-5455

INTERPRETERS/FIXERS:

Hiroshima Interpreters and Guide Association (HIGA)

Tel: 082-245-8346

Web site: www.urban.ne.jp/home/higa/

Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace (HIP)

Tel: 090-7501-4694

Web site: www.hipj.org

PUBLICATIONS:

Chugoku Shimbun

Web site: www.chugoku-np.co.jp

GetHiroshima

Web site: www.gethiroshima.com

OSAKA DIARY

Tales from the Wild, Wild West

She's baaack?

Former Social Democratic Party gadfly Kiyomi Tsujimoto, who was the darling of the media a few years ago and widely hailed as a true representative of the people before she was forced to resign and later go to jail due to a scandal, may be re-entering politics.

Tsujimoto, originally from Osaka, has reportedly sounded out her supporters about running in a future Upper House election, or, failing that, for a position on the Osaka prefectural assembly. No word on whether or not this is just idle speculation on the part of her supporters, but given the number of political comebacks of late (Koichi Kato, Makiko Tanaka being the most prominent), why not Tsujimoto?

Fair warning

Now that Kansai's beastly hot and humid summers have returned in force, local media are giving more attention to academics who warn that the Southeast Asian-like climate could bring Southeast Asian-like

health problems. Like other parts of the world, Kansai summers have been getting longer, more humid and hotter over the past decade, bringing in swarms of mosquitoes. One professor predicted Osaka would begin seeing malaria outbreaks within the next couple of years. As is usual, the official mentality is that since there is currently no problem, it's not necessary to take preventative action, so the few who have warned of a looming health problem are being dismissed as Cassandras.

Shanghai express

After years of denial, it turns out that Kobe officials were lying when they kept telling the airport's numerous skeptics that Kobe would have a domestic-only airport. In late May, a small charter firm announced that when Kobe Airport opens in 2006, it will offer flights on small business jets between Kobe and Shanghai. Needless to say, Kansai Airport officials are furious and feel betrayed. But they only have themselves to

blame. Landing small charter and business jets at Kansai Airport has always been a bureaucratic hassle, and the costs were such that only occasional visiting Hollywood actors like Tom Cruise could usually afford it.

Changes

Some FCCJ members are familiar with the magazine *Kansai Time Out* and its editor, Dominic Al-Badri. In his eight years at the helm of *KTO*, Dominic was a valuable source of local information for all manner of journalists passing through the region. Unfortunately, he returned to England in June to pursue a master's degree at the London School of Economics. As of now, *KTO* is carrying on with an editorial committee, but it remains to be seen what direction this magazine, now in its 27th year, will take, especially given the fact that, unlike a quarter century ago, there is now competition in the form of various free papers. Those of you seeking information from *KTO* are still welcome to call them, but don't be surprised if it takes a bit longer to get an answer to your question.

— Eric Johnston, editor

Myung Suk Chae

Myung Suk Chae first came to Japan to study international economics at Keio University back in 1981. Afterwards, Chae earned a Master of Arts in 1984 and later graduated from Keio with a Ph.D. in 1988.

Chae then became a journalist for *Sisa Journal*, a Korean weekly news-magazine in 1989, and a reporter for Radio Free Asia in 1997. He wrote on Japanese political, economic and social issues for the *Sisa Journal*. Now, he reports on North Korean issues to RFA every day.

Fumiko Dobashi

Fumiko Dobashi started her career as a journalist at *AFX News* in London in 1998, and since then has enjoyed working in business journalism.

Dobashi studied in Japan, Australia and Britain before entering journalism. In Britain, she completed a master's degree at the University of Leeds. After training at *AFX News* in London, she came back to Tokyo to start her career as a journalist in 2000. Dobashi left *AFX News* last August and began working at *Platts*, a division of McGraw-Hill. She enjoys covering dynamic, energy-related news from upstream to downstream. Dobashi covers an oil pipeline from East Siberia, LNG projects in Sakhalin, the Azadegan oil field development, and oil field developments in Iraq, as well as troubles at refineries and domestic oil markets.

Needless to say, she also enjoys working with her boss, Mihir Sapru, an FCCJ committee member. Dobashi is interested in learning languages. She is now studying Danish so that she can communicate with her father-in-law. In her spare time, Dobashi enjoys going to the cinema, museums and theater. She is sure you will find her at one of the film screenings at FCCJ!

Kiyoshi Hasegawa

Kiyoshi Hasegawa has been executive director, International Affairs, at Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc. since March 2004. Until February of this year, he had served

for two years as president of Nihon Keizai Shimbun (S) Pte. Ltd. (Nikkei Singapore), where he took full responsibility for publishing the *Nikkei* in ASEAN countries, as well as in managing other business activities of *Nikkei* in the region.

Hasegawa worked as general manager in the International Affairs Department of *Nikkei* from 1999 to 2002. He was in charge of international business strategy and organizing international symposia such as the conference on "The Future of Asia" and the "Nikkei Global Management Forum" held annually in Tokyo.

Hasegawa joined *Nikkei* in 1971, where he started his career as a staff writer of business news. Between 1987-1990, he was assigned as Bangkok bureau chief to cover news in Thailand, the three Indo-Chinese countries and Burma. Hasegawa also served as the Asian news editor of *Nikkei* from 1996 to 1999 and was appointed senior editor in 1998.

Hasegawa was born in Tsu City, Mie Prefecture, in January 1948. He is married to Taeko, and they have a daughter and a son. Hasegawa graduated in 1971 from the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, where he majored in Southeast Asian studies and economics.

Kenzo Shida

Kenzo Shida returns to Japan after a four-year stint as Shanghai bureau chief for *Jiji Press*.

He first joined *Jiji* in 1973, and since that time has spent much of his career in China. He was a Hong Kong correspondent from 1979 to 1981, and worked in Beijing twice, first as a correspondent between 1988 and 1989, and

then as bureau chief from 1989 to 1993. Shida returned to Beijing as bureau chief between 1995 and 1998, and went to Shanghai in 2000.

Regular Members

Myung Suk Chae

Radio Free Asia

Fumiko Dobashi

Platts

Kiyoshi Hasegawa

Nihon Keizai Shimbun

Professional/Journalist**Associate Members**

Masuhiko Ogawa

Tokyo IR Company

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Quick Corp.

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Freelance Journalist

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Ole Antonsen

Lundbeck Japan K.K.

Dernd-Dieter Pioch

Mathai Japan K.K.

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Jiji Press

Status Change**(Professional/Journalist Associate)**

Junichi Saito

Japan Times, Ltd.

Masaki Mita

Argus Media Ltd.

Reiko Robertson

Freelance

Reinstatement (Associate)

David Ferguson

New Zealand Embassy, Tokyo

Yasuhiko Tomita

Sankyo Co., Ltd.

Masao Tsuji

DLIBJ Asset Management Co., Ltd.

Yasuhiko Kinoshita

Micott & Basara Inc.

Nobuo Jinnai

Masumoto Shipping Co., Ltd.

Yoshiaki Edward Nariya

Entiest LLC

Koji Sasaki

AdIn Research, Inc.

Toshio Suzuki

Suzuki Kousan Co., Ltd.

Takashi Kiya

RITE

**Gadget Guru****Going Global With a Japanese Cell Phone**

Japan's fast adoption of a 3G (third-generation) wireless technology called WCDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access) is bringing benefits to frequent international travelers, like journalists. WCDMA is a cousin of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications), the standard used in almost every country with a cellular network. That means truly global cell-phone roaming is now possible with your Japanese number.

Vodafone offers the most stress-free international cell-phone service at present. It has several handsets as part of its VGS line-up (including the V801SH pictured) that work in Japan and the 93 countries where the operator has roaming agreements. In 17 of those countries, you can also pick up e-mail and access Vodafone Live as you do in Japan.

NTT DoCoMo Foma handsets won't work overseas, but roaming is possible if you pull out the USIM card and insert it in a GSM handset, either your own or one rented. (You can also do this with a Vodafone USIM card.) NTT DoCoMo has agreements with operators in 104 countries.

Both services charge standard rates in Japan, but using your phone overseas is more expensive. Local calls cost around ¥75 per minute overseas, while calling back to Japan is around ¥175 per minute. You'll also pay for incoming calls, so heavy users might still want to rent local phones.

KDDI Corp. also has a roaming service, but it's more limited and more expensive. The A5505SA or A1303SA handsets work in Japan and 12 countries. The main advantage of KDDI's service is handset roaming with South Korea, which is not offered on the Vodafone and NTT DoCoMo services.

To check out or buy the phones: Vodafone offers English-language service

by phone at 0088-212000 and at its flagship shop in Shibuya, at the Yaesu Kitaguchi shop in Tokyo Station and at its shop in The Diamond, Yokohama. NTT DoCoMo has English-language service by phone at 0120-800-000. KDDI au can be contacted at 0077-7111.



Know of a gadget that helps you or could help other journalists get their job done? Send your suggestions and comments: martyn@idg.com.

— Martyn Williams

Martyn Williams is Tokyo correspondent for IDG News Service, a part of U.S.-based International Data Group, that supplies IT and technology-focused stories to around 300 IDG-affiliated magazines in 80 countries. He lives with his wife Hiroko and two cats, Pou and Lulu. Williams' hobbies include photography, scuba diving, skiing and visiting an *izakaya*.

Kristen's Corner**Backup Is Not a Four Letter Word**

“Backup?!?” I can hear you groaning all the way over here. Most of us hate backing up our computers. I, for one, am always putting it off, even though I've been burned before and I know the benefits.

Maintaining your computer is a pain. Backing up is time-consuming and boring.

I'd rather be writing, or editing a video, or washing the kitchen floor.

But it's not as bad as you think. Really. The trick is to do backups often. The old saying, "A stitch in time saves nine," is really apt here. Backing up every day takes less than 10 minutes, fitting easily into your daily schedule. But if you put it off and get around to it, say, once every eight months like I did recently, you could spend a full day trying to find the files you've changed.

Backups can be as casual as occasionally copying your files onto a CD, or as regimented as daily incremental backups that check everything on your hard drive and make a copy of anything that has changed, including your preferences, files, programs and e-mail.

To start with, you can back your computer up manually by copying your work onto a CD, MO or a simple floppy disk. There are, or should be, tiny thumb drives that plug into the USB port on your computer. Just attach the drive to your computer, drop your files onto it, unplug and store safely until tomorrow.

But casual, manual backup isn't fool-proof. You might forget a file or the media might become corrupted over time, or lost. It's really easy to forget or skip a few days. And, of course, you just know that your computer will notice you haven't done a backup and decide to crash the day after you finish your most important project. Computers are spiteful like that.

So, for the forgetful or paranoid among us, purchasing an automated backup program is a good way to go. There are many systems available commercially that automatically scan your computer for changes and write them to a CD-RW, tape or DVD.

I've used a system Retrospect on my Mac. Setting it up was very complex and took hours; but after I configured it, all I had to do was change tapes every couple of weeks when the program prompted me. This worked for years and I even successfully restored my entire hard drive after a crash.

If you've got a Windows-based PC (as most people seem to have these days), there are dozens of options available. Some well-reviewed ones include Backup Manager by Genie-Soft and Backup NOW! by NewTech Infosystems. You should be able to find these at any major computer store.

So take my hard-earned advice and backup your computer today. A stitch in time saves not only a lot of headaches, but also costly consulting fees later.

— Kristen McQuillin, FCCJ Webmaster

The No. 1 *Shimbun* through the Years

“Newspapers must not be run behind closed doors. They must face the masses, and must have the general orientation and at the same time be fresh and lively.”

That quote led the first edition of the *No. 1 Shimbun* in September 1968. As editor John Roderick of the *Associated Press* wrote, it was a quote from neither Lord Thomson of Fleet nor Joseph Pulitzer, but from John’s old cavemate in Yen-an, Mao Tse-tung.

At the time, Club President Henry Hartzenbusch observed, “For a bunch of foreign correspondents to undertake to publish a monthly newspaper is, I believe, the height of recklessness.”

That first newspaper, roughly A-5 in size, covered six pages and contained stories by Jean Pearce, Al Kaff, Mas Ogawa, Ray Falk, Emerson Chapin, Frank Devine and Henry Scott Stokes, who wrote that the visiting U.S. ambassador to the U.N. spoke of Japan’s reluctance to play an active part in foreign affairs, even in East Asia.

The December 1968 issue was noteworthy for several items. A young, handsome priest/Club member in dark suit and turned around collar, James P. Colligan, wrote of an interview with a visiting trappist monk from California. And the front page featured an attractive Japanese woman, topless and well-endowed, appearing in a Club skit at the 23rd anniversary party and wearing this legend: “Imperialist Pig Go Home.”

The issue, which covered 20 pages, also carried a story by Dick Halloran and Ken

Ishii on correspondents’ problems with Japan’s restrictive kisha clubs.

John Roderick was editor of the *No. 1 Shimbun* until Dec. 1971, when Ted Marks of *UPI* took over. According to my unscientific count, the Club publication has had 26 editors from Roderick to our current leader, Eric Johnston. Past editors have included Bruce Dunning, Irv Chapman, Andy Adams, Tracy Dahlby, Andrew Horvat, Jim Treece and Kevin Sullivan. Recent past editors have been Khaldon Azhari, John Bosnitch, Richard Smith and Bill Brocato.

To date, I am the editor with the longest span, about eight years, from 1991 to mid-1999. The editor is chosen by the president and many editors served only for one year or less.

During my tenure, we went from sending packets to our long-time printer, Tadashi Nagasawa, in Kawasaki, to sending it to him by fax, and finally by e-mail. Richard Smith was the first editor to put together the newspaper on a Club computer, achieving desktop publication. In April 2003, we went to a magazine format, with Paradigm handling production, design and proofreading, something that previous editors, particularly me, usually failed at miserably.

The Board and the Publications Committee decided to switch to a magazine format in order to encourage more professional content and after determining the old newspaper was a drain on Club finances and could not pull in ads in Japan’s uncertain economy. Additionally, Paradigm took over all production and domestic mailing costs. It was fervently



Pat Killen at the FCCJ launch party for the April 2003 *Number 1 Shimbun* magazine.

hoped that a slick publication would move the Club’s talented journalists to provide more stories.

The *No. 1 Shimbun* was free at its 1968 birth. The March 1972 issue proclaimed a ¥20 charge. It was raised to ¥100 in December 1975 and to ¥200 sometime in 1991. The current magazine carries a ¥500 price tag. Club members pay a ¥2,400 annual charge that covers the *Number 1 Shimbun* and other publication expenses, which includes Club notices.

The 50th anniversary publication of November 1995 ran 40 pages and holds the record as the largest issue. It included an account on how the FCCJ began by Frank Kelley and Cornelius Ryan; an earlier Club history by three-time president Hessel Tiltman; Day Inoshita’s remembrances of wartime Shanghai (he was playing softball when the war ended); and James Michener’s account of “America’s Greatest Writer,” a tongue-in-check reference to another three-time president, Ernie Hoberecht.

Bound copies of issues from 1968 through 1990 are socked away in the library stacks and make fascinating reading. Issues since then are in loose-leaf folders, and, sad to say, some copies are missing.

— Patrick J. Killen

Petra and MBC Tokyo Bureau Opens

Khaldon Azhari, correspondent of *Petra* (Jordan News Agency) and MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Center), is pleased to announce the opening of the first Arabic media bureau in

Tokyo for *Petra* and MBC. The bureau was agreed on in 2003 between *Kyodo* and *Petra*, and established on April 1, 2004, at the *Kyodo* News Building in Toranomon, and officially inaugurated on June 1.

Petra is the official news agency of Jordan. MBC is a Saudi Arabian-owned and Dubai-based leading Pan-Arab independent radio and TV media organization, and operates MBC FM, PANORAMA, MBC TV and AL Arabiya TV. Khaldon has been a Tokyo-based *Petra* correspondent since 1997 and MBC radio correspondent since 1998.

Shigehisa Okano



Kitchen

For Shigehisa Okano, deciding to employ his culinary talents at the FCCJ was a family decision, as his brother had once worked as a chief in our humble establishment.

A 30-year veteran of the FCCJ, Okano-san has successfully handled, with the finesse of a U.N. diplomat, one of the most difficult aspects of working at the FCCJ: satisfying the tongues of the FCCJ's very finicky diners.

When not in the kitchen of the FCCJ, Okano-san likes to travel the world, sampling local cuisine and, no doubt, learning new ways to tantalize our taste buds. His one wish for the FCCJ? "Please use the Club more," he urges members.

Katsuyoshi Aoki



Assistant Manager of the Kitchen

For over three decades, Katsuyoshi Aoki has worked at the FCCJ, providing all sorts of food to the multitude of FCCJ members and guests who frequent the Club. A trained chef, Aoki-san is also something of a railroad history buff, having fallen in love with trains as a boy. Today, his love of trains, as well as geography, continues, as he has an avid interest in books on trains and old maps, which he peruses in his spare time. Transportation and history buffs at the FCCJ take note.

— Akiko Miyake

Correction: In the May 2004 issue of the *Number 1 Shimibun*, Ms. Michiyo Kobayashi was erroneously described as working in the Library. She works at the Front Desk. We apologize for the error.

Contributions Welcomed

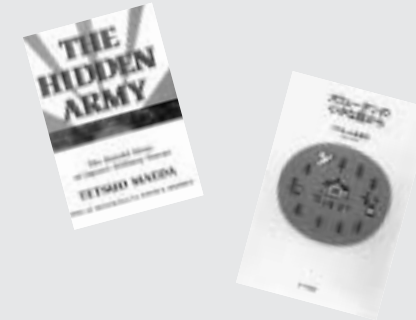
The *Number 1 Shimibun* is your magazine. Let's have our flagship publication reflect more what we say our organization is – a club that boasts superior professional and social facilities and activities for 400 journalists and 1,600 associate members.

Click on to shimbun@fccj.or.jp today and get that story idea realized, startling photo or provocative speaker review published in a first-class monthly magazine. And upcoming committee events? Boost attendance by having your event promoted with a specially designed in-house ad.

You owe it to yourself – and to your fellow Club members.

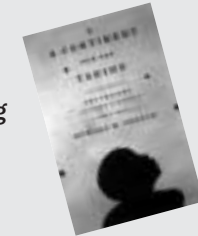
NEW BOOK LIST FOR JULY 2004

The Hidden Army
Maeda, Tetsuo
edition q. inc.



Sweden no Chiisana Niwa kara
Bierner, Tamiko
Okura Shuppan
Gift from Tamiko Bierner

A Continent for the Taking
French, Howard W.
Alfred A. Knopf
Gift from Random House



Globalization no Uchigawa
Sonobe, Meishi
Bungei-sha
Gift from Meishi Sonobe



The Great Divergence
Pomeranz, Kenneth
Princeton University Press



Against All Enemies
Clarke, Richard A.
Free Press



Krakatoa
Winchester, Simon
Perennial/HarperCollins



Disarming Iraq
Blix, Hans
Pantheon Books



Plan of Attack
Woodward, Bob
Simon & Schuster
Gift from John W. Brady



Cambodia
Freeman, Michael
Reaktion Books
Gift from Reaktion Books

Expert Sources

Log into your Members Only section and select Expert Sources, which is a guide to Associate members of the FCCJ willing to share expertise and connections with journalist colleagues. You can download the pdf file with relevant information such as fields of expertise, telephone and/or e-mail address. There are around 50 listed so far – and updated regularly. (www.fccj.or.jp)

If you do not already have a Web site account, please contact Naomichi Iwamura in the Club office. If you have an account, but need help getting logged in or using the site, drop an e-mail to webmaster@fccj.or.jp.

FCCJ Library AV Trove

DVD Library

Members are invited to browse the Club's extensive library of DVDs, videotapes and laser discs. The Movie Committee obtains the latest films from the U.S. and around the world – often before their Japan theatrical releases.

You can borrow movies and a DVD player to take home, or join members on Monday nights for screenings in the library.

The calendar of screenings and current catalogue of nearly 300 DVDs is posted on the Web site. Edwin Karmiol manages the DVD library and is happy to help you make a selection or to put your movie recommendations before the committee.

Stop by the library to see Edwin, to look through the tape library (hundreds of VHS and PAL format tapes are available), or to scan the Club's 1,200 laser discs.

Historical Speeches and Event Archives

Since the dawn of time, the Club has recorded the presentations of the newsmakers that have graced our podium. You can get copies of recent speeches by asking the librarians to make you a cassette.

A full catalogue of nearly 50 years of tapes is stored in the library, but many are no longer available for duplication due to the delicate condition of the antique media. The Club hopes to select some key speeches from the archive and have them restored. However, some tapes are no longer owned by the Club, having been donated years ago to the Library of Congress in the United States.

Contemporary speakers may soon find themselves archived on the FCCJ Web site, enabling journalists from around the world to benefit from various professional lunches and invited speakers. The on-line Event Archive hosts photos and summaries of key presentations. As the technology and workflow are settled, it will become a repository for recordings as well.

To All Members:

The Library Committee is pleased to report that we now have access to

LexisNexis, the most famous and comprehensive database of news articles and business information available. A training session for those interested in learning how to get the most out of LexisNexis was held on Monday, May 10, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in the 20th floor media room.

— L.A.W. Committee

Foreign Press in Japan

FCCJ is proud to be an active participant in the FPU. In fact, our Web site hosts key announcements and information. If you're looking for foreign press access to events, click on **Media Support > FPU** to see what's available: www.fccj.or.jp.

PHOTOGRAPH OF OKANO BY KAZUIE OKANO, AOKI BY HIROO CHIKARASHI

Down Memory Lane

Thanks for the memories, Pat Killen!



(from top left) Alley Cats 2002 championship team. Left to right in front row: Hiro Morita (and son), Mike Faas, Alan Davis, Jim Clark, Carlos Ortiz and Jeff Libengood. Left to right in back row: D.J. Platt, Pat Killen, Larry Platt (D.J.'s husband), Ralph Saunders, Peter Juds, David Cady, Glenn Davis, Kimitaka Koga and Dan Sloan.

Manager Pat Killen shows off our 2003 Division Champ trophy while our team speed demon, outfielder Kimitaka Koga, looks on proudly.

Pat Killen with Mrs. Edward Neilan (right), along with other members of the family, at the FCCJ Memorial Night on December 1, 2000.

Pat Killen and his wife, Miyoko, (seated) at the FCCJ 55th anniversary party, December 12, 2000.



Sri Lankan-born Sujeeva Hapgalle, professional pianist and Steinway artist, played at the FCCJ on May 14 to a packed audience. Her debut program was varied, showcasing her versatility and talent. Her selections included Chopin's "Impromptu No.4 in C-sharp minor, op.66"; Beethoven's "Sonata No.23 in F minor, op.57"; and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Of particular appeal was her beautiful playing of Chopin's "Nocturne in C-sharp minor (posthumous, 1830)."

Making the Headlines



Noriaki Imai Soichiro Koriyama Takashi Morizumi



Ichiro Aisawa Nobutaka Watanabe Junpei Yasuda

Noriaki Imai, Soichiro Koriyama and Takashi Morizumi (representing Nahoko Takato) spoke about their Iraq ordeal as hostages, Apr. 30.

Ichiro Aisawa, senior vice-minister for Foreign Affairs, "Preparing for the Next Hostage Crisis," Apr. 28.

Nobutaka Watanabe, human rights activist, and **Junpei Yasuda**, freelance journalist, are Iraq hostages who spoke on Apr. 27.

Atsushi Tsukada, former AP photographer; **Hideyuki Yamamoto**, AP photo editor & current union representative; **Kanae Doi**, lawyer; and **Nobuyuki Kataoka**, Japan Federation of Newspaper Workers Union, Apr. 22.



Atsushi Tsukada Hideyuki Yamamoto



Kanae Doi Nobuyuki Kataoka



Opening Up Doors

Accessibility is at the core of keeping people informed, and the FCCJ continues to be the place for finding out what's newsworthy and how better to access it.

1 May 27 Symposium on "Privacy, Press Freedom & Media Criticism." Panelists included (left to right) Koichi Sasamoto, director, First Editorial Bureau, *Bungei Shunju*; Hiroshi Iida, editorial advisor, the *Sankei Shimbun*; and nonfiction writer Akira Uozumi. **2** Also on the May 27 panel were (Akira Uozumi); Richard Lloyd Parry, Asia editor and Tokyo bureau chief, the *Times*; Robert Neff, contributing editor, *Business Week*; and Yoshisuke Inuma, FCCJ 3rd director-at-large. **3** Richard Pontzius, artistic director & conductor, the Asian Youth Orchestra, May 26. **4** May 19 "Guest Chefs from the World" featuring Owner Chef Teruaki Tamura of Tsukiji Tamura. **5** Yasushi Koyama, "miracle" trainer, "How Do

Sports Stars Get to the Top, and How Do They Stay There?," Apr. 20. Has worked with MLB outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, world top-10 tennis star and Grand Slam doubles champion Ai Sugiyama, double Olympic ski-jump gold medalist Kazuyoshi Funaki, Japan national soccer team midfielder Toshiya Fujita, and Japanese golf legend Isao Aoki. **6** Seichiro Sato, Japan's leading bass-baritone, performed at the 2004 Spring Vocal Concert Series II, Apr. 16. **7, 8** May 18 "WAC Tea Time Around the World" featuring "China - a Kaleidoscope of Tea" with tea guru Matsuzaki-sensei. **9** Mike Leavitt, administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "The Politics of Monitoring the Earth," Apr. 23.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF CLUB EVENTS BY AKIKO MIYAKE AND MICHIO KOBAYASHI



Here Comes the *Mona Lisa*

by the Otsuka Museum of Art
News Gallery and Main Bar Gallery — July 1-31, 2004

Copies of Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* are not hard to come by. But you have never seen a copy the likes of which will hang on the walls of the Club's Main Bar during the month of July. It is not a painting but a ceramic panel bearing an incredibly faithful replication of the *Mona Lisa*. This ceramic version will never suffer the discoloration and degradation now said to be affecting the original.

This *Mona Lisa* is just one of over 1,074 Western art masterpieces that have been reproduced on ceramic panels and are exhibited at the unique Otsuka Museum of Art. The reproductions are made using transfer sheets produced from enlarged photographs of the original paintings. The images are fused to the ceramic panels at a temperature of 1,000 degrees centigrade.

A selection of these ceramic replicas will be on display for the month, along with an explanation of the process of making ceramic art replicas.

— Exhibition Committee

Note: There will be no exhibition for the Masukomi Gallery in the month of July.

Speaking to the Best Audience in Town



Yoshihiko Miyauchi

Tony Wheeler

Maureen Wheeler

Gavan McCormack

C. Fred Bergsten

Yoshihiko Miyauchi, *director, representative executive officer, chairman and CEO of ORIX Corp.*, "Has deregulation in Japan been progressing? How far has it come and what is the prospect of further implementation?", May 24.

Tony & Maureen Wheeler, *co-founders of the Lonely Planet Travel Guidebook Series*, "A Passion for Exploring the World - Lonely Planet Now, and Then," May 21.

Gavan McCormack, *professor, Australian National University & International Christian University*, "Target North Korea: Pushing North Korea to the Brink of Nuclear Catastrophe," May 14.

C. Fred Bergsten, *director, Institute for International Economics*, "A Free Trade Agreement between Japan and the U.S.?", May 12.

Apr. 19 Japan Self-Defense Force professional dinner: General **Hajime Massaki** of the JGSDF (ground), Admiral **Koichi Furusho** of the JMSDF (marine) and General **Yoshimitsu Tsumagari** of the JASDF (air).

Masao Adachi, *former leader of the Japanese Red Army*, "Adachi Urges Release of Japanese Hostages in Iraq," Apr. 16.

Kazuo Aichi, *former Environment Agency and Defense Agency director-general*, "Reasons for Revising Japan's Constitution," Apr. 15.



Hajime Massaki

Koichi Furusho

Yoshimitsu Tsumagari

Masao Adachi

Kazuo Aichi

Special FCCJ Election Insert

Election Results



An insert in this issue (July 2004) of the *Number 1 Shimbun* lists the results of the 2004 Election, held from June 21-25. Also check out the Club's Web site, www.fccj.or.jp.

On-line Membership Directory

With a few clicks, you can share information about yourself with Club colleagues. This is a great opportunity to promote yourself to your fellow journalists or to offer your expertise.

The on-line membership directory contains the names of all of the FCCJ members with Web site accounts (currently 1,664 of about 2,100 total Club members) and can only be seen by members who log in to the FCCJ Web site.

TRY IT!

Go to www.fccj.or.jp, log in and click "Member Directory" under the Members Only menu. The search form allows you to look for members by name, e-mail, URL, phone number, expertise, affiliation and more. The results of your search come back in a summary list. If more than one person matched your search, you'll see a list that you can page through.

Some basic information – name, membership type and last login date – is available for every member. Click on "details" to see more information about a member.

You control all the other information about yourself. You decide what details you want to share on your on-line Account Profile.

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

To update your profile, log into your account and click "View Account." First, you'll see what your profile looks like to others. To make changes, click the button labeled "Edit Profile." You can even upload a small photo by clicking the "Upload my Photo" button and following the instructions.

Your e-mail address is private and is not seen by others unless you check the box marked "Allow other users to view my e-mail address." If you'd like people to contact you by clicking a button to e-mail you, check the box. You must have an e-mail address on file to have an FCCJ Web account, so please do not delete it from your profile.

WANT AN ACCOUNT?

If you do not already have a Web site account, please contact Naomichi Iwamura in the Club office. If you have an account, but need help getting logged in or using the site, drop an e-mail to webmaster@fccj.or.jp.

Saturday Night Live

The 20th-Floor Club covers the musical range with first-rate performances.



- 1 Folk Rock singer/songwriter Casey Rankin (founder of Shogun), May 29 SNL.
- 2, 3 Five-piece Swing Jazz band (guitarist) Jerry (Vicars) & the Hip Swingers, May 22 SNL.
- 4 Blues/Jazz vocalist Joe Lee Wilson, May 15 Special Edition of SNL.
- 5 Aussie Classic Rock performer Brad Holmes (of The Hitmen), May 8 SNL.
- 6 Versatile guitar duo, Acousphere, featuring T. Shimizu and S. Okusawa, Apr. 24 SNL.