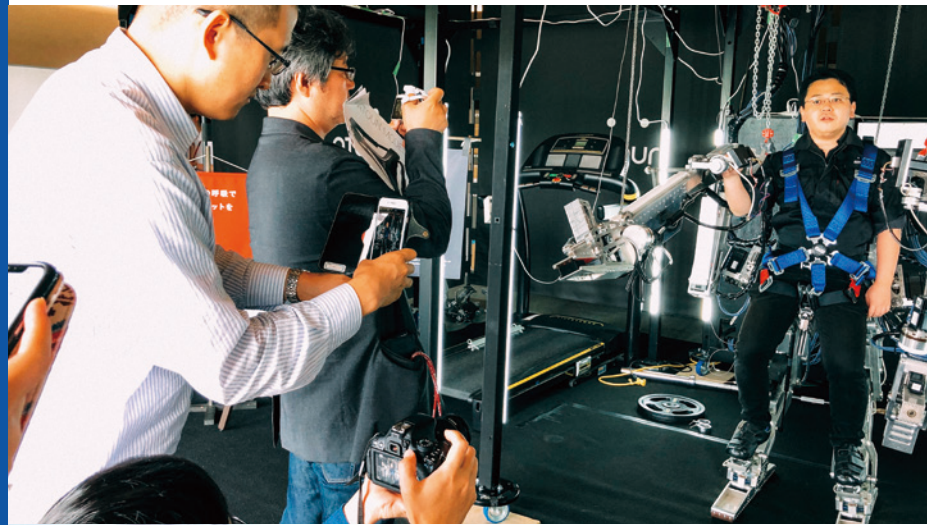


FOREIGN PRESS CENTER JAPAN



ENGLISH / 英語



公益財団法人
フォーリン・プレスセンター

Bringing Japan as It Really Is to the World

Half a Century with Foreign Press

Since its establishment in 1976, the Foreign Press Center Japan (FPCJ) has been working to help diverse and accurate reporting on Japan be carried out around the world. For nearly 50 years, the FPCJ has supported the foreign media reporting on Japan through press briefings, press tours, fellowship programs, and individual reporting assistance. Currently, there are over 400 reporters affiliated with more than 140 media organizations from 30 countries and regions working in Japan, mainly from Europe, the US, and nearby countries in Asia*. Many journalists based in other countries also come to Japan to research stories. The FPCJ will continue to facilitate reporting by foreign media in Japan, and use the far-reaching network we have developed over the years to help build bridges between the people of Japan and the foreign media, bringing Japan as it really is to the world.

*Data gathered by the FPCJ, as of January 2020
(30 countries and regions, 142 organizations, 408 reporters)



01

Press Briefings

Briefings by leading experts and senior government officials including cabinet ministers. Themes range from politics, the economy, and diplomacy, to the environment, energy, science, society and culture. Press briefings are held about four times a month, with 30 attendees on average including foreign media and embassy staff.

P.4-5



02

Press Tours

Press tours provide opportunities for foreign correspondents based in Tokyo to visit different areas around Japan and cover topics such as local industries, social issues, new technology, culture and tradition. There are 10 to 15 tours held in a year, with about 10 journalists on each tour.

P.6-7



03

Fellowship Programs

The FPCJ invites leading journalists from around the world to Japan, providing them with opportunities to cover various aspects of the country. Itineraries are arranged based on the interests of the journalists and on the latest situation in Japan, with the FPCJ making preparations including organizing appointments and arranging translators to ensure their time in Japan goes smoothly.

P.8-9



04

Assistance for Reporting

Foreign journalists often tell us that even if they have decided on a topic, it can be difficult to find interviewees or to make appointments. Those journalists in Japan and abroad can contact the FPCJ for help at any time, and we provide assistance to ensure reporting goes without problems.

P.10



05

Support for Disseminating Information Overseas

The FPCJ provides local governments, universities, and businesses (in non-profit fields) throughout Japan with support to effectively distribute information overseas. Using the network and knowhow we have built up over the years, the FPCJ will provide advice on distributing press releases to foreign media, press event support, or press tours.

P.11

Using FPCJ Expertise to Tell Stories of Japan's Initiatives to the World

The international community in the 21st century is facing issues such as changing demographics (rapidly declining birth rates and aging populations in developed countries and population explosions in developing countries), global warming causing tremendous damage to the biosphere, prevention of future pandemics, the limitless potential and risks of the digital revolution for human welfare, and the light and dark sides of globalization. These issues know no borders and are all shared among countries, which will be difficult to solve without the international community uniting to work together. The world has been paying close attention to initiatives by Japan, as one of the first countries in the world to face several of these issues. The FPCJ, using the expertise we have developed over the years, will continue to help the foreign media tell stories to the world of Japan's experiences and initiatives in dealing with these issues. I believe that continuing these efforts will help promote a more accurate and fair understanding of Japan, as well as leading to a greater sense of closeness with Japan. The FPCJ asks for your continued understanding and support of our activities.

Kazuo Kodama President
Foreign Press Center Japan



FPCJ Activities
and Services at
a Glance

01 Press Briefings

Providing Context to News in Japan



Press briefing by Ms. Yuriko Koike, Tokyo Governor

Briefings by leading experts and senior government officials including cabinet ministers can help foreign journalists better understand the context of news in Japan. Themes range from politics, the economy, and diplomacy, to the environment, energy, science, technology, society, and culture. Press briefings are held about four times a month, with 30 attendees on average, and videos are uploaded to the FPCJ website. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we began holding online briefings through livestreams.

Videos of briefings are also uploaded to the FPCJ website and YouTube.

FPCJ Briefing Report

Search

Comment from Briefing Participant

Good opportunity to network with experts

The press briefings organised by the FPCJ have been extremely topical and relevant, covering a wide range of topics from politics to economics, as well as technology and key social matters such as aging. Foreign correspondents may not always get access to Nagatacho, and as such these press briefings have not only been extremely useful to be brought up to speed with the latest facts, but also to gather insights and to network with the invited experts.



Mr. Walter Sim
Tokyo Correspondent,
The Straits Times (Singapore)

Who Gave Briefings on What Issues

How Will the Media Report on the Imperial Succession?

Dr. Eiichi Miyashiro Senior Staff Writer, *The Asahi Shimbun*



With the emperor abdicating for the first time in 200 years and a new emperor taking the throne for the first time in 30 years, Dr. Eiichi Miyashiro, a senior staff writer at *The Asahi Shimbun* (with a doctorate in history), who frequently writes articles about the imperial household, was invited to hold four briefings. He responded to many of the questions correspondents had, discussing the meaning and history behind era names, how they are decided, and their social impact; the meaning of the different ceremonies of the imperial succession, what they involve, and how the media reports on them; and public opinion of the new emperor in the new Reiwa era.

Healthcare, Nursing, and Employment in an Age of Living to 100

Dr. Yuri Okina Chairperson, Japan Research Institute



With the percentage of Japan's population 65 years old or over increasing to 28.1% in 2018, and the population aged 75 or over reaching 14.2%, Japan is said to have reached "an age of living to 100." With the employment of seniors as well as social welfare aspects such as healthcare and nursing becoming critical issues, what measures should be taken? Ms. Yuri Okina, an expert in financial systems and social welfare systems and the chair of a government council of healthcare and nursing experts, discussed measures to sustain the national healthcare system.

Development of Flying Cars

Mr. Tomohiro Fukuzawa President, SkyDrive Inc.



"Flying cars" have been receiving attention worldwide as a possibility for next-generation mobility, with efforts underway in Japan to make them a reality. Mr. Tomohiro Fukuzawa, a member of the Public-Private Conference for Future Air Mobility Revolution established by the Japanese government and president of SkyDrive Inc., a startup company leading Japan in the development of flying cars, displayed a model while he spoke about the state of development of flying cars, the schedule for them to see actual use, issues that remain to be solved, and their possible uses in a variety of areas.

02 Press Tours

Covering Topical News Throughout Japan



Visiting the Otsuka Museum of Art on the G20 Osaka Summit Press Tour

Press tours provide opportunities for foreign media to visit various areas around Japan and cover topics such as unique local industries, social issues, cutting-edge technology, culture, and traditional crafts. For foreign journalists generally based in Tokyo, these tours provide a rare chance to cover other areas of Japan. There are 10 to 15 tours held in a year, with about 10 journalists on each tour.

Visit the FPCJ website for information on press tours.

FPCJ Press Tours Notice

Search

Comment from Tour Participant

FPCJ tours direct my attention to topics I might not notice myself

FPCJ tours are arranged with an excellent grasp of journalists' needs, and can direct my attention to topics I might not have noticed myself. I am generally very interested in stories about rural areas of Japan, such as migration from big cities, local industries (success stories as well as challenges), natural resources, youth and the elderly, and the role of women. I would be particularly interested in tours to Kyushu, Shikoku, and small remote islands.



Ms. Sonja Blaschke
Freelance Journalist for publications
in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland

Places We Toured and Stories We Featured

Developing Local Specialties and Traditional Industries with Branding

Ehime Press Tour



This tour visited Ehime to cover innovative initiatives combining creative ideas and technologies with traditional crafts and primary industry. Topics included combining the island's specialty product of mikan with fish farming to produce the refreshingly flavored Mikan Fish, the cultivation of "green lemons" and development of brand products on Iwagijima in the Seto Inland Sea, and the creation of a unique product by applying gilding techniques to traditional handmade Japanese paper. The tour also heard from the governor of Ehime about its agricultural policy and measures to deal with a declining birthrate and aging population.

[Photo]A journalist at a lemon farm on Iwagijima

Spreading Word Overseas of Local Features

Miyazaki Press Tour



This press tour to Miyazaki covered three different themes: Miyazaki as a mecca for martial arts, as the No.1 producer of shochu in Japan, and as the setting for Japan's origin myths. The tour covered a swordsmith forging steel as sparks flew, a kendo equipment artisan, children practicing kendo, and the prefecture's promotion of martial arts tourism. The tour also visited both a distillery making shochu in a traditional way and the largest shochu manufacturer in Japan, as well as shrines said to be the setting for myths.

[Photo]Journalists photographing a sword being forged in a swordsmith's workshop

A Town of Living Agriculture

Tokyo Nerima Press Tour



This tour covered urban agriculture in Nerima, where farms and urban areas coexist alongside each other in the metropolis of Tokyo, looking at urban agriculture's unique features and appeal as well as the new relationship between agriculture and urban residents. Journalists learned about a blueberry picking farm, a young farmer growing a variety of seasonal crops, a local restaurant using Nerima vegetables, the only miso maker in Tokyo which makes handmade miso, vegetables sold using coin lockers, and a farm cooperating with school lunches and class trips. There was also an interview with the mayor of Nerima.

[Photo]Journalists at a blueberry farm

03 Leading Journalists from across the World Visit Japan Fellowship Programs



A HuffPost (US) journalist doing an interview about abductions by North Korea (Fellowship Program)

To give the greatest variety of foreign media from as many countries as possible the opportunity to visit and report on Japan, the FPCJ operates fellowship programs to invite leading journalists to Japan to cover stories on various topics. In addition to our own fellowship programs, the FPCJ also provides support for planning and operating programs by other organizations. Itineraries are determined based on the interests of the journalists and on the latest situation in Japan, with the FPCJ proposing and arranging a schedule, hiring interpreters, and making other preparations to ensure the fellowship goes smoothly. FPCJ staff may accompany journalists if necessary, ensuring that the needs of program participants can be met quickly.

Comment from Fellow

An Essential Program for Reporting on Japan

The FPCJ Fellowship Program was everything I could ask for. Highly efficient. Very friendly. Extremely meaningful. Thanks to the program, I was able to hear different points of view regarding the aging of the Japanese population, a monumental subject. I even had the opportunity to travel to Kochi Prefecture, on the island of Shikoku, an area with one of the highest proportions of elderly people and vacant homes. I cannot imagine a better way to understand the Japanese reality outside of the great cities. As we say in French: incontournable (essential).



Mr. Jean-Simon Gagné
Le Soleil Reporter

Who Joined and What They Reported

Covering Issues Due to the Aging Population from Both Urban and Rural Perspectives

FPCJ Fellowship Program Canada, *Le Soleil*, Mr. Jean-Simon Gagné

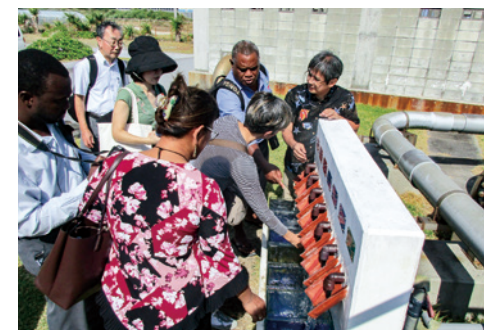


[Photo]The reporter at the Village Activity Center, interviewing a resident who relocated to Okawa

Mr. Jean-Simon Gagné, who covers politics, the economy, and foreign affairs for *Le Soleil*, a major French-language newspaper in Quebec, Canada, came to Japan. Over five days, he researched stories on the topic of the aging population. In Tokyo, he spoke with government officials and experts, and saw an example of how robots were being used in a nursing facility. He then visited the village of Okawa in Kochi Prefecture (which has the lowest population in Japan if remote islands are excluded) where he interviewed the mayor as well as residents who had relocated there from other prefectures, followed by covering the issues of depopulation and abandoned houses in the neighboring town of Tosa.

Learning of Advanced Japanese Initiatives for Environmental Issues and Disaster Prevention

Pacific-Caribbean Journalists Jamaica, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tonga



[Photo]Journalists checking the temperature of deep sea water at the Okinawa Deep Sea Water Research Institute

As part of a program sponsored by the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC), journalists from the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean visited Japan for 12 days to cover cutting edge initiatives in Japan which could be useful in solving issues dealing with the environment, disaster prevention and disaster reduction. After learning of the vibration control technology in the Tokyo Skytree and waste disposal in Yokohama, the group visited Kumamoto to cover its recovery from the earthquakes, aid for people affected by the disaster, and disaster preparations. They also spoke with a local newspaper about the media's role during disasters. On Kumejima, they covered a business promotion using deep sea water.

Looking at Immigration and Multicultural Coexistence in Japan Today

Southeast Asian Journalists Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Vietnam



[Photo]The journalists listening to a briefing on the editorial floor of Kobe Shimbun

In a program sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, journalists from Southeast Asian countries visited Japan for 14 days to cover the current state of immigration and multicultural coexistence. In Tokyo, they heard from government officials and private organizations about conditions for foreign workers, as well as learning about how Lawson, Inc. hires foreign workers and interviewing staff at a Lawson store. In the Kansai region, they visited a multicultural/multilingual broadcaster and a foreign resident support center in Kobe, as well as speaking with nursing trainees working in a nursing home in Osaka. In Ibaraki, they interviewed technical trainees working on a farm.

04 Assistance for Reporting

A Reliable Partner for Foreign Media



Vietnamese TV interview at the Komatsu Ibaraki Plant

When covering stories in Japan, many members of the foreign media encounter issues with the language barrier and cultural differences. Journalists often tell us that even if they have decided on a topic, it can be difficult to find interviewees and their contact information, or to make appointments. Journalists in Japan and abroad can contact the FPCJ for help with these kinds of problems at any time using our website. After hearing from journalists about what kind of subjects they would like to interview, and what visuals they are interested in, the FPCJ provides assistance to ensure reporting goes smoothly.

05 Support for Disseminating Information Overseas



A press event at Nihonbashi Toyama

Interested in providing information to the international media, but unsure on where to start—the FPCJ provides local governments, universities, and businesses (in non-profit fields) throughout Japan with support for distributing information overseas. The FPCJ has a menu of services available using the unique network and knowhow we have built up over the years. A variety of services are available to meet different needs, including distributing press releases to foreign media and listing them on the FPCJ website, or press event support, providing support for organizing events targeting foreign media in the Tokyo area.

How We Provided Assistance

FOCUS Online (Germany) Mr. Malte Arnsperger, Editor and Reporter



FOCUS Online, Germany's biggest online news site, which covers social issues and politics from around the world, told the FPCJ they wanted to cover the *koban* ("police box") system of Japan, one of the safest countries in the world. Having visited several koban in the Tokyo area, this reporting was released as an article series called "The heart of Japan's police strategy," explaining how koban located throughout Japan contribute to maintaining the safety of residents' lives, and also how active contact with local residents is a vital aspect of Japan's koban system.

People's Daily (China) Mr. Liu Junguo, Tokyo Bureau Chief



The Tokyo bureau chief of the *People's Daily*, China's largest newspaper, told the FPCJ they were interested in covering how rainwater is used in Japan. The FPCJ helped arrange an interview with a specialist in rainwater use as well as coverage in Sumida, known for its efforts in rainwater utilization. An article in the *People's Daily* titled "Tokyo: Rainwater use seeping into daily life" reported on how by installing rainwater collection facilities in various places throughout Sumida, such as government buildings, schools, hotels, and backstreets, they could make effective use of limited water resources, and drink the water or use it to fight fires in an emergency. The article also explained how rainwater collection and encouraging underground seepage could help reduce the damage from urban flooding due to sudden torrential rains.

How We Provided Support and for What Kinds of Events

Supporting an Event Promoting Regional Crafts and Food at a Toyama Prefecture Antenna Shop in Tokyo



The FPCJ provided support for planning and running a lunch event by Toyama Prefecture for foreign media and embassy staff at Nihonbashi Toyama, the prefecture's antenna shop in Tokyo. To promote overseas awareness of Toyama crafts and design, there was a presentation by the director of the Toyama Design Center as well as demonstrations by local metal casting and lacquerware artisans. For lunch, there were dishes made using Toyama ingredients, such as fresh seafood from Toyama Bay. Members of the press and embassy staff from 14 countries attended this event at which they could experience the appeal of Toyama while in Tokyo.

Event Support for Covering the Latest Japanese Food Manufacturing Technology at FOOMA JAPAN (International Food Machinery & Technology Exhibition)



FOOMA JAPAN (organized by the Japan Food Machinery Manufacturers' Association) is one of Asia's largest trade shows on the "technology of food," with approximately 100,000 attendees from Japan and abroad each year. The FPCJ provided support for planning and operating a press event inviting foreign media in Tokyo to the venue, Tokyo Big Sight. Journalists from media organizations in Europe and Asia participated, covering the latest food manufacturing machinery technology from Japan with plentiful opportunities to interview exhibitors and take photos.

Need our assistance for news reporting?

The FPCJ helps foreign journalists make arrangements for news gathering based on their requests.

Type of support we can provide

Information on possible interviewees and places to cover

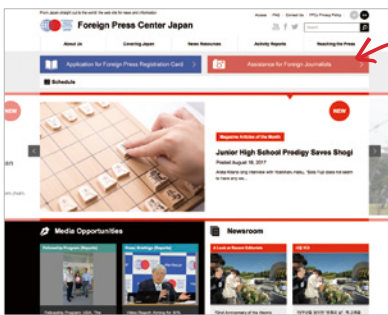
Interview arrangements upon request

Information on hiring interpreters, renting camera equipment and transportation

Send us the details of your project through the application form on our website.

FPCJ Assistance for Individual Reporting

Search



Click here on the FPCJ website Top page.

Contact Information

For any other queries, please contact us by email

Media Relations Division

E-MAIL ma@fpcjpn.or.jp

Online Press Briefings

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FPCJ began holding online press briefings in May 2020 using a video conferencing application (Zoom). Members of the foreign press based outside of Japan may also participate in these briefings, so please contact us at the email address below if you are interested.

Contact Information

Strategic Communications Division

E-MAIL sc@fpcjpn.or.jp

What's Up Japan

What's Up Japan, operated by Foreign Press Center Japan, is a website which introduces a variety of topics on industry, culture, and unique initiatives from the 47 prefectures of Japan. WUJ provides information on interesting regional topics which will help with your reporting.



<https://wujapan.news/en/>

What's Up Japan Search

Make a donation to support our activities?

The FPCJ welcomes and appreciates donations from individuals and organizations who would like to support our activities to help foreign media gather information on Japan.

Contact Information For any other queries, please contact us by email

General Affairs and Accounting Division

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 Toei Mita Line: Uchisaiwaicho Station-Exit A6,A7