

Press Conference

TV Shine! Citizens Network

Monday, February 05, 2024, 14:00 - 15:00

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「TV Shine! Citizens Network」 Press Conference

Summary of Remarks

Yuko Tanaka

Professor Emeritus and Former President, Hosei University.

In June of this year, Mr. Junro Omori, former director of NHK, published a book titled “Radio and War“. The book has received many reviews and has drawn attention. It tells us that not only the content, but even the voices of the announcers changed in accordance with the wartime regime. At the end of the book, it says, "If power tries to control the media, how far will it go? And how far will the media get corrupted? Wartime radio broadcasting teaches us.

In today's world, this is “Television and War“. The influence of television is still very significant. The sense of presence that accompanies images exerts great power in our values and judgments. That is why we want TV programs to be accurate and fair.

However, since the second Abe administration took office, it has become clear from publicly disclosed administrative documents that the administration has interfered in various ways with the TV media on broadcast programs, and that it has taken measures to manipulate the media. In the case of the Johnny's scandal, even in the verification programs, it was suggested that the most important indicator for TV was “sales and profits through viewer ratings”.

What I want from TV is to present unbiased and accurate data and a variety of well-reasoned opinions. They can activate lively debate in our society. In the past few years, the administration has been conspicuously refusing to answer questions and cutting off opposing opinions. This attitude discourages mutual criticism and discussion. If television becomes a forum for discussion, where every issue is put on the table, people can form their own opinions. The basis of democracy is for people to have their own opinions. We want television to play this role.

Kihei Maekawa

Former Administrative Vice-Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology

Democracy is the best political system that humanity has achieved to ensure human dignity. While direct democracy, in which people discuss, set norms, and resolve issues, is the most desirable form of democracy, in societies above a certain size, indirect democracy, or representative democracy, is the next best form of democracy.

In an indirect democracy, there is inevitably a gap between the sovereign people and those in power who are entrusted with political authority. The gap is widest in national politics. Because of this gap,

the politics of those in power become directly invisible to the sovereign. When politics is invisible, the sovereign loses control of those in power, and those in power begin to privatize their power. In order for indirect democracy not to fall into this trap, the sovereign must always be able to see and watch how politicians use the power entrusted to them by the sovereign. This is where the media, especially television, which has the most influence, has an important role to play. It is the role of being between the sovereign and those in power, monitoring the actions of those in power, and communicating them to the sovereign.

Have those in power become servants of some rather than servants of the whole? Are they disrespecting human dignity? Are they preparing for war without the knowledge of the sovereign people? The role I expect TV to play is to watch sharply at the state of power in light of universal human values such as freedom, equality, peace, and the rule of law, to expose the reality of such power, and to inform people about it. I have a strong concern that television is being taken in by those in power. I have strong concerns about this.

Kazuyuki Azusawa

Attorney at Law, "Shine on TV! Citizens Network" Secretariat.

Although the number of young people in Japan who obtain information online is increasing, as you can see from the chart in your hand, the public still has a high level of trust in television. The moss green line in the lower 60% range shows the level of trust in NHK, newspapers, and commercial broadcasters.

We are very concerned that TV broadcasting is losing its role as a media outlet, and we have launched a campaign to restore its role as a useful tool.

A document prepared by the Information Distribution Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications titled "Interpretation of the Broadcasting Law Concerning "Political Impartiality" (related to Prime Minister Aide Isozaki)" has been continuously posted on the MIC website from last year to the present.

It describes the communication between the second Abe Cabinet's aid

to the prime minister and senior officials of the MIC, which began on November 26, 2014. It openly states the Cabinet's intention to change the traditional interpretation of political impartiality in the Broadcasting Law to pave the way for the administration and the regime to interfere with the content of TV broadcasts. The Abe cabinet's intention to interfere with press freedom is clearly expressed in the words of the prime minister's aide, who is trying to push the administration's agenda beyond the persistent efforts of MIC bureaucrats to protect the autonomy of the administration.

After this exchange, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Takaichi's answer that

"suspension" was possible in some cases even appeared.

When one looks back at this exchange in conjunction with Prime Minister Abe's frequent eating and drinking with top TV station executives and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga's informal conversations with station executives about the Broadcasting Act, one can better understand the cause of TV's present eerie silence on issues such as war, democracy, and human rights.

When the administration interferes with television, which is a licensed business, under the pretense of "political impartiality" under the Broadcasting Law, television atrophies without support. Without changing the current situation, where TV stations lack the power to protect freedom of expression (Article 21 of the Constitution and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), both inside and outside of TV stations, TV will not be able to exert its true potential. People cannot take the initiative to act as sovereign citizens, express their opinions, and legitimately exercise their right to vote.

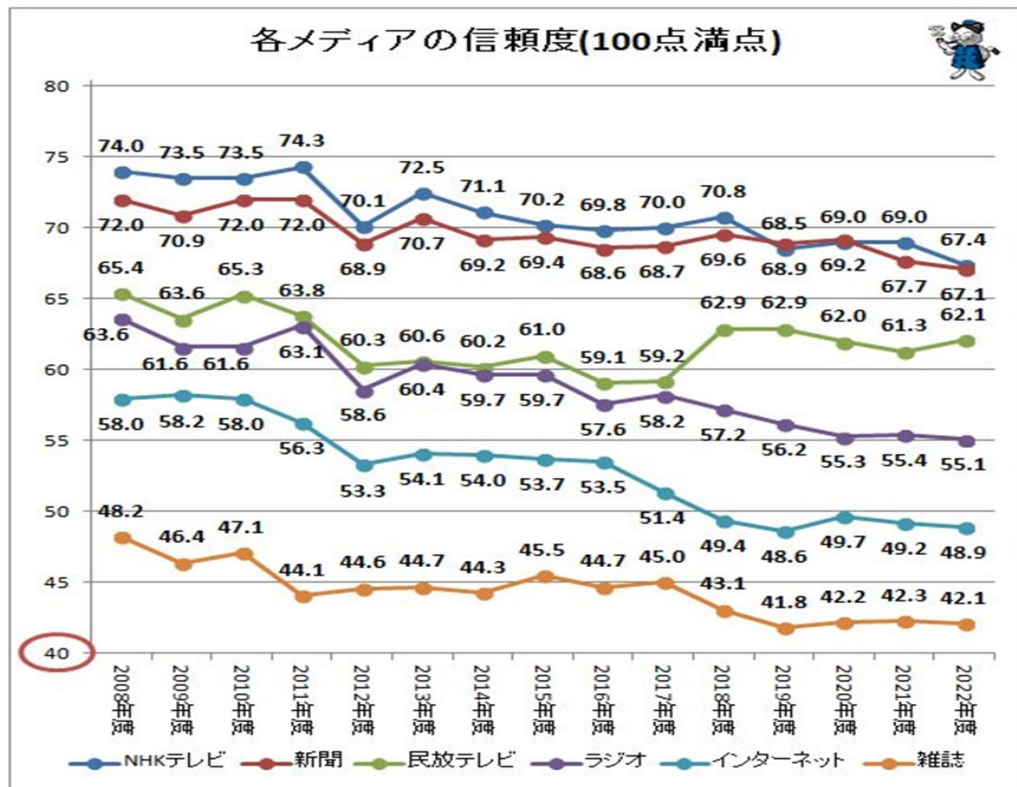
The network will do two things to change this situation.

(1) Dialogue with broadcasting station executives and workers

(2) Become shareholders of TV stations and make shareholder proposals in accordance with the Companies Act. Specific proposals will be made and openly discussed to ensure that the right of resistance in the field to regime interference and internal attrition is secured. The company is obligated to respond. The crisis of press freedom in Japan is directly related to the crisis of peace in Asia. We expect that the practice of (1) and (2) will attract the attention of residents of Japan islands who do not want war preparations and dictatorships, as well as interest that transcends national borders.

TV Shine! Messages from viewers

1 TV coverage has a significant impact According to the "Public Opinion Poll on Media" released by the Newspaper and Communications Research Institute in November 2022, trust in television (NHK and Minpo) remains high.



Television, which can be easily viewed, has a great influence because of its ability to accompany images and effectively express itself.

2 Television these days is not fulfilling its role as a news organization.

There are many political and social events that I do not agree with or regret, but there are three in particular that I would like to see TV coverage of more forcefully.

The first is security policy, or more simply, war.

Using the phrase "a Taiwan incident is a Japanese incident," the three cabinet members of Abe, Kan, and Kishida have been planning to involve Japan in the US war.

The construction of Self-Defense Forces missile bases in the Nansei Islands, including Yonaguni, Ishigaki, Miyako, Okinawa Island, and Amami Oshima, is proceeding at a rapid pace, and evacuation plans for all islanders in the event of war are being openly discussed in the three islands of Yonaguni, Ishigaki, and Miyako.

In December 2022, the Cabinet approved the Three Security Documents, which stipulate the national policy to have "enemy base attack capability," and in the subsequent ordinary Diet session, a law was adopted to secure the defense budget to fortify all of Japan, purchase expensive weapons, allocate a huge budget for defense, and build Japan into the third largest military nation in the world over the next five years. The law has been adopted.

The mass media should report objective international situations, not just dripping government information, and tell the current situation where Japan's actions to increase its military buildup are raising the sense of crisis in other countries.

Please provide a guideline for rational diplomacy that Japan's actions are a mirror of the Asian nations.

War does not stop once you step into it. Japan is now at a crossroads.

Second is the issue of individual human rights and freedoms.

(i) Personal information and privacy

The decision to abolish the health insurance card by the fall of 2024 has made it obligatory to hold a my number card. This means that information about all financial assets, information about shopping, medical information, and information about ideological beliefs will be filed by public authorities and instantly searchable.

In Canada, Prime Minister Trudeau has taken such wild measures as suspending refunds on the bank accounts of truck drivers and supporters who oppose the vaccine-passport system. ("Tsunami Mika's Shock Doctrine," Gentosha Shinsho, p. 208)

The implementation of an "economic conscription system" that makes full use of personal information collected through the my number card to guarantee a higher annual income than now to the non-regular, physically healthy, and non-anti-governmental youth population and prepare a pinpoint path to recruitment for the Self-Defense Forces is also a future that cannot be denied. We hope that the media will not only report the government's policy, but also draw attention to this possibility.

(2) Problem of arbitrary restriction of freedom

The Diet's Constitutional Review Committee is rapidly considering an emergency clause that would amend the Constitution to allow a single cabinet decision to have the same effect as a law. Our freedom is arbitrarily restricted by the government "without law" made by the Diet, which is, to all intents and purposes, the representative of the citizens. Depending on the outcome of the next general election, a constitutional amendment to write an emergency clause into the Constitution may be proposed. We would like you to present the issues of what this constitutional change will bring to the lives of the people and whether it is a matter that can proceed only by a Cabinet decision.

(iii) Unforgivable human rights violations have been covered up for a long period of time, as seen in the issue of sexual abuse by former "Johnny's" and power harassment within the Self-Defense Forces and Takarazuka.

In the case of the former Johnny's issue, the sexual abuse of young boys was whispered as a rumor in the industry and was known as an open secret in the mass media, but was never covered by the Japanese mass media until the victim's desperate accusation was reported by foreign media.

The mass media overlooked distortions of power, such as the cover-up of sexual assaults within the Self-Defense Forces and the cover-up and obstruction of investigations of journalists who were in close contact with politicians.

Discriminatory treatment that turns a blind eye to problems within certain sectors of society is an admission of areas outside the bounds of human rights guarantees under the Constitution. The media should expose such abuses.

Third, measures to realize democratic politics.

For example, there is the problem of the party ticket kickback scheme, which is simply the "transfer of money. This is not simply a matter of formal deficiencies such as "failure to record money transfers. The obligation to record is a system adopted to ensure the soundness of democracy to prevent "money politics.

Right now, the Special Investigation Department of the Public Prosecutor's Office is on the move. The media, especially television, should not only report the video footage of the LDP faction entering the facility, but also the fact that this opaque transfer of money has the power to destroy democracy, and please convey the significance of the prosecutors' action to correct this injustice, without being discouraged by the administration.

3 The above three issues are matters that citizens should seriously consider, and should be openly expressed and discussed.

To this end, please provide factual information on the news and wide-ranging programs to arouse public debate, as an agenda for discussion by the influential media outlet of television.

Since the cabinet decision on the right of collective self-defense in 2014 and the Security Law (War Law) passed by the Diet in 2015, TV has been eerily silent on these issues, or has been reporting side-by-side on the same issues. Please change this attitude.

4 We want to change this somehow.

We cannot overlook the impact of TV journalism that is still being broadcast to the public along with the impact of the images. Therefore, we, the viewers who believe in the potential of TV journalism, call for a sincere discussion with the management of TV stations and TV journalists in the field.

To this end, we will promote a variety of activities, including requests to TV stations, symposiums, and exercising our constitutional and legal rights.

We call for the understanding and support of like-minded people.

Please send your name, title, and e-mail address to the address marked ** if you support us. Your name and title will be published on social networking sites and at press conferences.

* The first deadline is January 12, 2024, and the final deadline is January 25, 2024.

*Contact Attorney Tokuo Sakaguchi Attorney Kazuyuki Azusawa Attorney
Hitomi Sugiura

December 28, 2023

Callers

Co-chairperson Yuko Tanaka (Professor Emeritus of Hosei University, former
President of Hosei University) Co-chairperson Kihei Maekawa (Former
Administrative Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology)

Total number of supporters: 107

(As of 12:00, February 1, 2024)

Karin Amemiya (Author, Sponsor of Anti-Poverty Network)
Takao Saito (Journalist)
Saneko Takenobu (Journalist, Professor Emeritus of Wako University)
Hiroyuki Kamiwaki (Professor of Kobe Gakuin University)
Kazuyoshi Yuzuoka (Former Director of Shareholders' Onsmen)
Kazuyuki Azusawa (Attorney, Tokyo; Former Chairman of Peace Committee of Japan PEN Club)
Noriko Ishida (Former President of Osaka Bar Association, Attorney at Law)
Kenji Utsunomiya (Former President, Japan Federation of Bar Associations)
Tokuo Sakaguchi (Attorney at Law, Osaka)
Hitomi Sugiura (Attorney at Law, Tokyo)
Yukiko Takei (Attorney at Law, Tokyo Daiichi)
Sachiko Matsuda (Former President, Miyazaki Bar Association)
Yoshio Inoue (Attorney at Law, Former Representative, National Citizen Onsmen)
Yoichi Ooe (Attorney at Law, Osaka)
Yuji Kodama (Attorney at Law, Tokyo)
Hitone Saka (Attorney at Law) (Attorney-at-law, Tokyo; former reporter for Kyodo News)
Akio Shibahara (Attorney-at-law, Osaka)
Keitaro Shirai (Attorney-at-law, Osaka)
Yasuo Sui (Attorney-at-law, Osaka)
Chieko Tani (Attorney-at-law, Osaka)
Shinsuke Tani (Attorney-at-law, Osaka)
Jun Takenaga (Researcher)
Hirokatsu Tsuda (Attorney-at-law, Osaka)
Yoshiyuki Tokui (Attorney-at-law; leader of Osaka Minamata Second Kinki National Claims Defense Group)
Michio Nakajima (Former President of Kanagawa University and Professor Emeritus of Kanagawa University)
Shinichiro Nagano (Attorney at Law, Osaka)
Hikaru Nohara (Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University and Nagano University)
Masayuki Noro (Former Editorial Writer, Asahi Shimbun)
Yasumichi Nogami (Attorney at Law, Gunma)
Sachiko Harano (Attorney at Law, Osaka)
Kuniaki Fujiki (Attorney at Law, Osaka)
Tadashi Matsumaru (Attorney at Law, Osaka)

Yasutake Matsuoka (Former President, Nara Bar Association, Attorney at Law)
Haruyuki Matsuyama (Certified Public Accountant, Nara)
Takuro Maekawa (Attorney at Law, Secretary General of Shareholders' Rights Defense Group, Osaka)
Akio Muramatsu (Attorney at Law, Representative Member of National Lawyers' Committee for Pollution Victims, Osaka)
Toshihiko Morino (Former Chief Judge of Fukuoka High Court, Osaka)
Kenichi Yamaguchi (Former President of Osaka Bar Association, Osaka)
Naofumi Yura (Attorney at Law, Osaka)
Mihoko Aoki (Secretary General of Social Democratic Party of Toyama Prefecture, Osaka)
Osamu Arai (Seeking an independent NHK Chairman who has worked together with citizens)
Yoko Ito
Itaru Ueno (Lawyer, Tokyo)
Yuji Osaki (Faculty of Sociology, Hosei University, former NHK reporter)
Toshio Oshima
Gakujin Kanazawa (resident of Kokubunji City)
Kotaro Kato (Lawyer, Aichi)
Chieko Kamei (Lawyer, Aichi)
Tamiyo Kimura (resident of Kokubunji City)
Shinichi Kusunoki (Lawyer, Osaka)
Seiki Goro (Attorney at Law, Sapporo)
Miiko Kodama (Professor Emeritus, Musashi University)
Osamu Konishi (Professor Emeritus, Future University Hakodate, Kyoto University, Dr. Eng., Informatics)
Touichiro Sawafuji (Attorney at Law, Tokyo)
Taiga Sawafuji (Attorney at Law, Tokyo)
Masahiko Shimizu (Japan University of Health and Sport Sciences Professor)
Haruo Sudo (Professor Emeritus, Hosei University)
Hiroko Takagi (Resident in Kokubunji City)
Yasuo Tanaka (Former Professor, Baika Women's University)
Tsuneko Tanaka (Professor Emeritus, Osaka Kyoiku University)
Katsutoshi Namimoto (Professor Emeritus of Rissho University, Former President of Japan Association for Educational Policy Studies)
Kaname Nakanishi (Lawyer, Osaka)
Kazuo Nakamura (Lawyer, Kyoto)
Kyoichi Nanazawa (Peace activist in Toyama)
Hiromichi Machida (Kokubunji City resident)
Keishi Matsumura (lawyer, Aichi)
Koji Maruyama (lawyer, Ibaraki)
Hotaka Muro (lawyer, Aichi)

Takeshi Morotomi (lawyer, Kyoto)
Ritsuko Yanagawa (Kokubunji City resident)
Shigeaki Iijima (university professor)
Atsuo Watanabe (sponsor of the Association for Learning from Costa Rica)
Kuniko Funabashi (former Wako University professor)
Shiro Ogura (former nuclear power plant engineer)
Fukuko Kobayashi (professor emeritus at Waseda University)
Yoshiko Maeda (president of Japan Women's Medical Association)
Mieko Matsunaga (chairperson of Ai Women's Conference Kagoshima Prefecture Headquarters)
Michie Matsumoto (Ishiki River Mamoritai)
Shigeru Hanaoka (orchestra member)
Heizo Yamaoka (NPO Partner Tokatsu director)
Toshio Orihara (vocational school teacher)
Hiroko Honma (Part-time lecturer, university)
Hiroo Kubo (Yamato Shimin no Kai for Peace)
Katsuya Aisu (Lawyer)
Midori Aizawa (Peace Up "Article 9 Visualization" Group & Workers for Peace)
Kentaro Inada (Attorney)
Tetsuya Kobayashi (Attorney 46th term)
Yasuo Kobayashi (Attorney)
Norihiko Saito (Sponsor, Nara Association for NHK Problem)
Hisako Sakiyama (Former member of the National Diet of Japan Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission, Representative Director of 3/11 Thyroid Cancer Children's Fund)
Arima Sasaki (Sponsor of Osaka Liaison Group on NHK Problem)
Mari Sato (Lawyer, Head of Defense Group for NHK Legal Compliance Lawsuit)
Takeyuki Shiotsuka (Lawyer)
Soshi Tatsumi (Lawyer, Secretary General of Osaka Branch of Liberty Lawyers Association)
Terumi Terao (Nagoya Institute of Technology)
Ayako Nakanishi (Stop Secrecy Law Kanagawa)
Kuniaki Hirakawa (Caretaker, Nara Association for NHK Problem)
Yoshiharu Hitomi (Executive Director, Kyoto Association for NHK Media)
Takayoshi Masujima (resident of Kokubunji City)
Shigeaki Tanigawa (Representative of the Omura City 9 Association)
Yuzo Doi (Representative of Article 9 Peace Kosugi Association, Representative of Citizen Action IMIZU, Imizu Demonstration Executive Committee Co-Chair)
Ken Fujimori (Japan Congress of Journalists)
Chigusa Fujiki (General Incorporated Association Workers' Collective Plobono Kobo)
Shunichi Hiwatashi (Attorney at Law, Tokyo)

Kumiko Hattori(resident of Kokubunji City)

Setsuko Horie (Korea Project @ Toyama)

Noboru Hinoya

Press Conference Press Release at Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

January 29, 2024

The Citizens Network for "Shine on TV! Citizens Network" will hold a press conference to report on the purpose and content of its activities as follows. Please make arrangements for coverage, including video recording.

Details

February 5, 2024, 2:00 p.m. start until around 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan Press Conference Room

(5th and 6th floors of Nijubashi Building, 3-2-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

The Citizens Network for "Shine on TV! Citizens Network"

Speakers

1 Yuko Tanaka, Professor Emeritus, Hosei University, Former President of Hosei University

In the course of founding the "Women's Network for Peace and Military Proliferation" at the beginning of last year, She realized that although it is important for the media to maintain a critical spirit toward politics, television in particular has lost its ideal form since 2014-5, and She felt the need for citizen viewers to speak out and encourage television to change. She became a co-chairperson of this networks..

2 Kihei Maekawa, Former Administrative Vice Minister of Education

Through his experience of the Kake Gakuen case and other incidents during his tenure as Administrative Vice Minister of Education, he deeply pondered the nature of democracy and believed that it is necessary to convey a wealth of information necessary for people to speak up as sovereign citizens. For this reason, he felt the importance of TV journalism to convey information widely and abundantly, and felt the need for a network of citizen viewers. He became a co-chairperson of this networks.

3 Kazuyuki Azusawa, Attorney at Law

"Shine on TV! Citizens Network" Secretariat. He has served as an external auditor of Kyodo News and as a member of the Program Council of Fuji Television Network, Inc. He has also

interacted with mass media executives and reporters through exchanges with news companies at the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and the Tokyo Bar Association. He also edited "State Secrets and Conscience" (Iwanami booklet), a record of an interview with Pentagon Papers accuser Daniel Ellsberg, and wrote "Press Damage" (Iwanami Shinsho).

Purpose and Intent of the Press Conference

Last year, a series of documents concerning the communication between an assistant to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) around 2014-2015 regarding the interpretation of "political impartiality" as stipulated in Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Broadcasting Act were disclosed on the MIC homepage.

This reveals the circumstances under which senior administration official at the time strongly and persistently lobbied the MIC for an interpretation of the Broadcasting Act that could cause atrophy in the press and infringe on freedom of expression.

This was in line with the reality that under the second Abe administration, Japanese television journalism has become extremely poor in reporting and commenting on war, human rights, and democracy, and in criticizing public power from the standpoint of citizens.

The nation's television networks had a string of resignations of influential anchors and hosts, and there was no harsh criticism of the administration's arbitrary interpretation of the Broadcasting Act or even of then Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Takaichi's statement that the government would suspend the broadcasting of waves if necessary ".

Thus, the restraint and atrophy of TV journalism became unnoticeable.

We believe that the cause of this situation is the lack of power within and outside of TV stations to resist the pressure from the administration, which wields the Broadcasting Act as the basis for the state of commercial broadcasting, which is a licensed business.

Sensing this crisis, we established the "Shine TV! Citizens Network" .

The Network aims to achieve the following two goals

- (1) Dialogue between executives and employees of TV stations and citizen viewers - holding symposiums, etc.
- (2) Become a shareholder of a stock company that operates a TV station and submit a shareholder proposal based on the Companies Act at a general shareholders' meeting and seek a response based on the legal right to do so.

The right to make shareholder proposals has achieved a certain level of success in the U.S. and Japan as a method of citizens' movements to demand responses to statements made by citizens to corporations that have a large influence on society.

This is the first time for citizens to speak out in this way against mass media companies in Japan.

The crisis of freedom of the press is a crisis of peace and democracy in this country. If the current situation is left unchecked, the government will further advance its war preparations, and the country's democracy may collapse.

We ask for your understanding of the above objectives and your cooperation in media coverage so that the activities of our network will be widely known to the public.

TV Shine! Citizens Network Secretariat

Attorney Tokuo Sakaguchi

Attorney Kazuyuki Azusawa

Attorney Hitomi Sugiura

Contact: Kazuyuki Azusawa (Tokyo Chiyoda Law Office) TEL03 3255 8877

Shareholder Proposal Summary

The formal proposal will be finalized by early April with the consensus of shareholders who support this move, but for now, the following outline is under consideration.

February 5, 2024 Text: Sakaguchi, Azusawa

<Outline >

Proposal 1

The following is proposed to be added to the Articles of Incorporation

The officers and employees of the Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries engaged in television broadcasting of the Corporation and the officers and employees of its subsidiaries engaged in television broadcasting of the Corporation shall observe the autonomy and independence as stipulated in the Broadcasting Act.

Without discernment, pandering, or acquiescence to interference from any person, when reporting the views of the administration, they shall strive to realize the role expected of television broadcasting in protecting citizens' right to know and freedom of the press by clarifying the issues from as many angles as possible, and thereby meet the expectations of the viewers of television broadcasting.

Proposal 2

The following is hereby added to the Articles of Incorporation

In the event of any suspected "intervention" by the administration, political parties, politicians, etc. in individual TV news programs, a third-party committee consisting of external members shall be established to verify the situation, and the results of the investigation shall be made public.

Proposal 3

Add the following to the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation

The tenure of members of the Program Council of a subsidiary company shall be limited to 10 years. The term of office of the chairperson of the committee shall be five (5) years. A new provision shall be added to the Articles of Incorporation to ensure the third-party nature of

the committee members by not appointing any person who is involved in the production of the Corporation's or its subsidiary's programs.

Proposal 4

Nominate Mr. Kihei Maekawa for outside director.

Date of Birth (January 13, 1955)

Career History

1979 Graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law. Passed the National Civil Service Examination (Class A - Administrative Service) and entered the Ministry of Education (assigned to the Deliberation Group, General Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat) and studied at the Graduate School of Cambridge University.

In February 1989, became First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in France.

In March 1992, he was assigned to the Ministry of Education (Minister's Secretariat, General Affairs Division).

July 2013, Director General of the Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau

June 2016, Administrative Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

January 2017, Retired on request

Part-time lecturer at the Department of Education, Nihon University College of Humanities and Sciences since April 2018.

Since retirement, he has been lecturing on various educational, social, political, and other issues from a citizen's perspective, while writing various articles

As Administrative Vice Minister, Mr. Kihei Maekawa underwent a variety of trials and tribulations in negotiations with government officials and politicians, and even after retiring from office, he has continued to give lectures to the public and has a deep knowledge of the state of freedom of the press, including television from the "viewer's perspective. The appointment of such a person as an outside director of the company will increase the credibility of our organization and encourage our staff members who are working hard to protect the freedom of the press within the company.