

March 2012

International Journalists Symposium 2012
The Great East Japan Earthquake and the Role of the Media—Perspectives of Japanese and Foreign Media

Invitation to a Public Symposium

Yutaka Yokoi

Press Secretary / Director-General for Press and Public Relations,
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Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host a public symposium on Friday, March 23, 2012, under the theme “The Great East Japan Earthquake and the Role of the Media—Perspectives of Japanese and Foreign Media.” (See the attached sheet for details.)

The Great East Japan Earthquake, which struck Japan on March 11, 2011, caused devastating damage over an extensive region. The consequent massive tsunami swept over settlements along the coast line, claiming many precious lives and causing the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. A year has now passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. With what kind of awareness has the Japanese media handled the situation of this national crisis? How has the foreign media reported the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear power station accident? What are the problems and limitations of the Japanese and foreign media coverage in regard to the earthquake and what should their role be? The main purpose of this symposium is to invite Japanese and overseas journalists who are active in the front lines of journalism to address the various issues that the earthquake presented and to hold an international exchange of opinions.

The symposium will invite a total of twelve journalists as panelists, eight from the foreign media, representing India, Indonesia, China, the Republic of Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Qatar, and four from the Japanese media. They will examine Japanese and foreign reporting on the disaster from their own perspectives and discuss the role of the media in the reconstruction process.

We sincerely hope you will attend this event for frank discussion on the subject.

We look forward to your attendance.