



# RADIO JAPAN NEWS

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## Long Awaited Sri Lanka Relay Starts

As reported in a previous issue, Radio Japan commenced its new relay service via the Ekala Relay Station in Sri Lanka on January 1st, 1991. In order to improve the reception of its programs in distant target areas, Radio Japan had already inaugurated relay broadcasting via three other overseas stations — the Moyabi Station in Gabon, Africa, the Sackville Relay Station in Canada and the Montsinery Station in French Guiana, South America. With the start-up of the new Sri Lanka relay, reception conditions in Southwest Asia and the Middle East have been considerably improved and it is now possible to pick up Radio Japan's signals clearly in virtually all parts of the world.

The new relay went into service following an agreement concluded last December between Radio Japan and SLBC (Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corpo-

ration). Radio Japan has leased the Ekala Transmission Station, which is located about 30 kilometers northeast of Colombo and was built with Japanese ODA (Overseas Development Assistance), taking one and a half years to complete.

This modern transmission station is equipped with two 300 kilowatt transmitters, four antennas and a control room. NHK is relaying broadcasts to Southwest Asia and the Middle East, where reception conditions have not been very good in the past. In addition to the General Service in Japanese and English, programs in Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Arabic are also transmitted for a total of 10 hours per day. Starting April 1st, broadcasts in Persian will also be added.

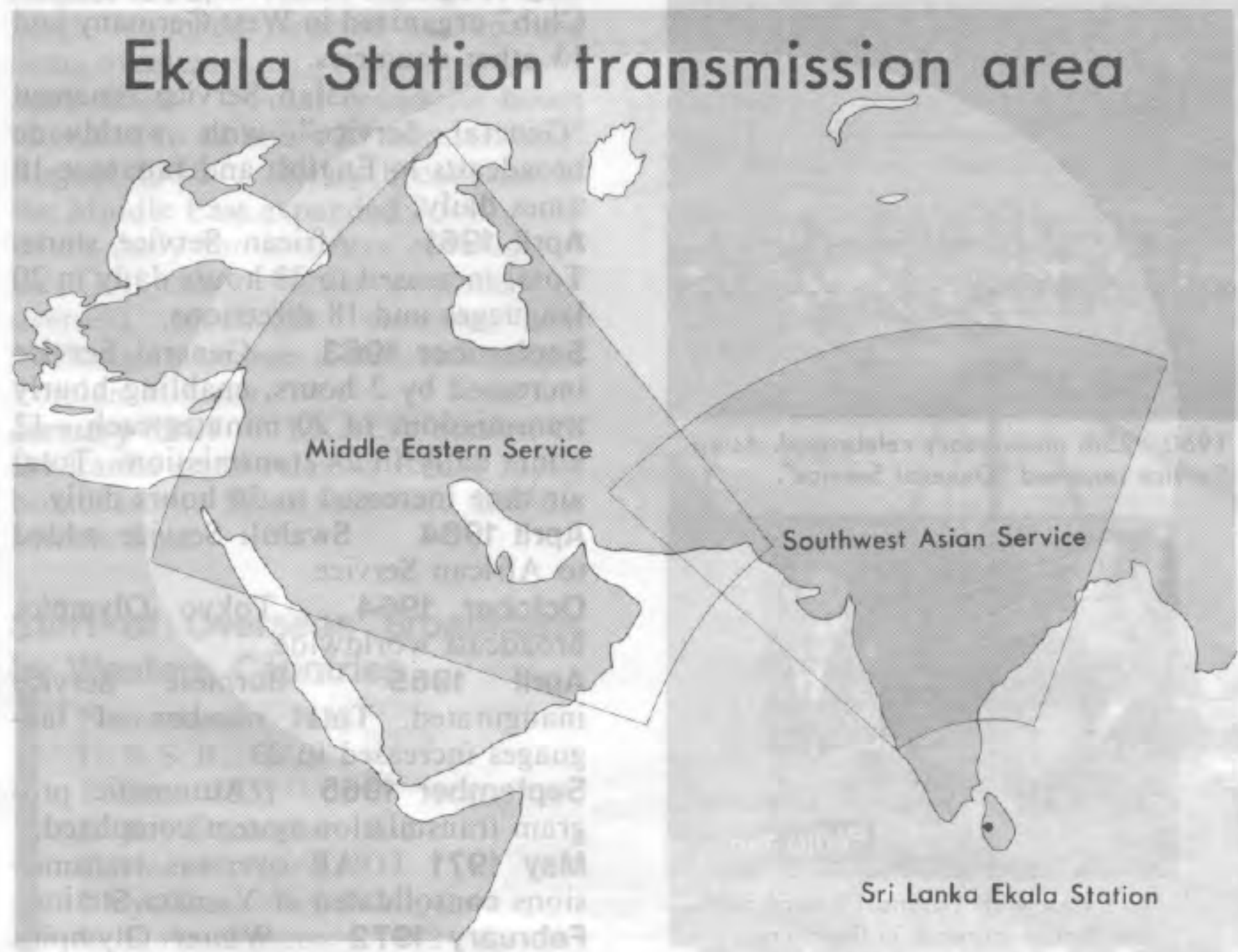
With the start of the Sri Lanka relay, NHK's overseas broadcasts now cover the entire world. Efforts will be con-



Radio Japan Director General Katayama and SLBC Chairman Director General Samarasinghe at the signing ceremony

tinued, however, to further improve the reception conditions in Europe, which remain relatively poor.

In conjunction with the inauguration of the new service, some of the relay broadcasts to the Middle East via the Moyabi Station in Gabon have been discontinued, and relays to Europe in Russian, Swedish and Italian expanded.



Antennas at Ekala Station

### Reception Reports - Sri Lanka-Relayed Transmissions (As of January 7, 1991)

- \* Generally fair in Southwest Asia (From Mr. Shojiro Ohki in Nepal)
- \* Fair, although slightly poorer in the Middle East and North Africa than in Southwest Asia (From Mr. Yasumi Adachi in Sri Lanka and other listeners)



June 1, 1935 "Radio Tokyo" inaugurated.



1935 Kouta Katsutaro singing in an anniversary commemorative program.

Radio Japan has recently been attracting increasing attention both at home and abroad, particularly for its role in the coverage of the Gulf War.

Radio Japan's broadcasts to the region have been increased three-fold since the outbreak of the Middle East crisis. While Japanese citizens were still being detained in Iraq, this expanded schedule included the broadcast of personal messages from their families in Japan, a special service for which Radio Japan won high acclaim. It is generally true that these days more people than ever are finding shortwave broadcasts extremely useful and reliable, especially in times of emergency. Many of our listeners, however, may not be aware of just how old Radio Japan is, for its history dates back all the way to 1935.

Here is a chronicle of the major developments in that 56 year history.



January 3, 1951 First broadcast of "Kohaku" Year-End Grand Popular Song Contest, (Radio Japan began broadcasting this program overseas in 1957).



1964 Tokyo Olympics covered by Radio Japan.



1960 25th anniversary celebrated. Asian Service renamed "General Service".



Interview with Yasunari Kawabata, the Nobel laureate in literature.

**June 1935** Start of "Radio Tokyo", Japan's first overseas broadcasting service. 1 hour per day in Japanese and English beamed mainly to Canada, the West Coast of North America and Hawaii - areas with large Japanese populations.

**December 1941** Service expanded following the outbreak of World War II.

**November 1944** Broadcasts further expanded to 15 transmissions in 24 languages for a daily total of 32 hours 35 minutes.

**September 1945** War ends and Japan's overseas broadcasts suspended by the Allied Occupation Forces.

**February 1952** Overseas broadcasts resumed with 5 hours of programs daily in each of Japanese and English. "Radio Tokyo" renamed "Radio Japan".

**May 1954** South China and Near Eastern Services inaugurated. Total of 12 hours daily in 12 languages

**December 1956** First edition of the monthly publication "Radio Japan News".

**June 1957** Soviet and East Asian Services start. Total broadcast hours expanded to 15 hours daily in 15 directions.

**April 1959** Transmissions increased to 16 with start of Central American Service. Total broadcasting hours to 19 hours 30 minutes daily in 16 languages.

**May 1959** Overseas Broadcast Deliberation Council established in accordance with the Broadcast Law.

**August 1959** "Asian Service" starts with programs in English and Japanese, broadcast 5 times daily (predecessor to General Service). One-hour East Asian Service remains unchanged.

**April 1960** Korean Service starts. Asian Service expanded to 10 transmissions daily. Total broadcasts in 18 languages and 17 directions increased to 29 hours daily.

**May 1960** "Radio Japan Listeners Club" organized in West Germany and 13 other countries.

Asian Service renamed "General Service" with worldwide broadcasts in English and Japanese 10 times daily.

**April 1961** African Service starts. Total increased to 32 hours daily in 20 languages and 18 directions.

**September 1963** General Service increased by 2 hours, enabling hourly transmissions of 30 minutes each - 12 hours daily in 24 transmissions. Total air time increased to 36 hours daily.

**April 1964** Swahili Service added to African Service.

**October 1964** Tokyo Olympics broadcast worldwide.

**April 1965** Burmese Service inaugurated. Total number of languages increased to 23

**September 1965** Automatic program transmission system completed.

**May 1971** All overseas transmissions consolidated at Yamata Station.

**February 1972** Winter Olympics

broadcast from Sapporo.

**April 1973** Broadcasts in Fukienese and Cantonese discontinued. Number of languages 21

**October 1979** Relay broadcasts to Europe and Middle East start via Radio Trans Europe in Sines, Portugal. One hour of General Service relayed twice daily.

**January 1982** "Radio Japan Calendar" photo contest starts.

**March 1983** A report by the Overseas Service Deliberation Council calls for the improvement and expansion of overseas broadcasts.

**April 1984** Relay service starts via Moyabi Station in Gabon.

With 6 hours of daily broadcasts to the Middle East, Africa and Europe, the total broadcast hours increase to 40 hours per day.

Renovation of Yamata Station starts.

**June 1985** Radio Japan's 50th anniversary celebrated. A commemorative exhibition held at a Tokyo department store.

**January 1986** Radio Japan receives a citation from the Foreign Minister for its special news broadcasts to Japanese in strife-torn Southern Yemen.

**October 1986** Start of relay broadcasts to North America via Sackville Station in Canada.

**April 1988** Yamata Station renovated and enters full-scale operation. Broadcast hours expanded to 43 daily (22 hours on General Service 21 hours on Regional Service).

**July 1988** Radio Japan logo and jingle decided.

**August 1988** Relay to Central and South America via Montsinery Station in French Guiana inaugurated. South African Service added to the Gabon relay.

**April 1989** Broadcasts further diversified with emphasis on information programs.

**August 1989** Radio Japan PR campaign launched targeted at Japanese firms overseas.

**April 1990** Total broadcast hours increased to 44 hours 30 minutes daily.

**August 1990** Relay broadcasts to the Middle East expanded 3-fold to 11 hours daily for intensive coverage of the Gulf crisis. Public awareness of overseas broadcasts increases and NHK again receives a citation from the Foreign Minister.

**January 1991** EKALA Station in Sri Lanka starts relaying Radio Japan broadcasts to Southwest Asia and the Middle East.

### Start of Overseas Broadcasts by Western Countries

- Netherlands : 1928
- U. S. S. R. : 1929
- France : 1931
- U. K. : December 1932
- Germany : April 1933
- Italy : December 1934
- U. S. A. : February 1942



1977 A Japanese language lesson program for China proves a great hit.



Studios opened to the public on the occasion of Radio Japan's 50th anniversary.



August 1986 Signing of agreement on Canada-relay for North American Service.



September 1987 Baseball commentator Tetsuharu Kawakami on the air.



April 1989 Audience invited to a live broadcast of "Weekend Wide" (Japanese) and "This Week" (English).



Radio Japan

# I Listen to Radio Japan

I very much enjoy listening to Radio Japan. Although I sometimes hear other stations, too, their announcers often read the news so fast that I sometimes can't clearly catch some of the names I'm not familiar with. In your news broadcasts, domestic and overseas news stories are always well balanced. Presentation is smooth and skillful. It's easy to follow. "Radio Japan Magazine Hour" is one of my favorite programs. It enlightens me on what's happening in Japan. "Japan Diary" is a unique segment in this program. Thank you for all your news and other interesting programs.

**Michael Moffatt, 33, Madison, WI, U. S. A.**

I am a teacher in Oakbank, situated about the middle of Canada in terms of latitude. I teach 12- and 13-year-old children at school. I listen to Radio Japan not just for my personal pleasure. I want my students to have more interest in the latest news in the world. In fact, I take a shortwave radio into my classroom to listen to your broadcasts with them. The children help me set the dial for your station. I will continue tuning in to your broadcasts with the children.

**Greg Humphries, 35, Oakbank, MB, Canada**

The "Radio Japan Diary" in your "Radio Japan Magazine Hour" of October 8th last year dealt with the "Sento" (public bathhouse). I was particularly interested to hear of the experience of Mr. Brian Powle of Aoyamagakuin University because I myself had a similar experience while staying in Japan several years ago. I agree with Mr. Powle that the Japanese are one of the cleanest peoples in the world. The high hygienic standard is also obvious from their public restrooms. "Crosscurrents" and "Japan Diary" are among my favorite programs. **Nani Halim, 35, Jakarta, Indonesia**

I have been listening to Radio Japan for more than 10 years and have heard many interesting, impressive programs over the years. Of all the shortwave news reports coming from the Far East, I find yours the most reliable. One reason I listen to Radio Japan is that you keep me up-to-date on various issues in Japan and the rest of Asia, particularly political and economic issues. You also give us useful information about Japanese culture and traditions we don't have easy access to here in Nigeria. I appreciate your hard work and thank you for all your programs.

**Adamu B. Gamawa, 23, Bauchi, Nigeria**

I think of myself as a cosmopolitan person. So, I listen to overseas broadcasts whenever I can to obtain the latest information on international affairs. But I don't know enough foreign languages to understand everything I hear on the radio. So, I usually tune in to the Korean Service of Radio Japan. Listening to your broadcasts, I no longer feel the distrust I once had about overseas broadcasts. I'm very pleased with your objective, unbiased reports and, above all, your impartiality and promptness in news reporting. It's interesting to hear various views expressed in your press comments which are different from ours, particularly with regard to our relations with North Korea. I would like to hear Japanese press comments about some of your domestic issues as well. As for the themes for "Crosscurrents", I would propose issues of international concern which call for further dialogues and understanding between the parties concerned - such as the relations between South Korea and Japan. **Choi Jinha, 17, Seoul, South Korea**



The parties concerned in the awarded program

## NHK Documentary "Postcards from the Battlefield" awarded ABU Prize

"Postcards from the Battlefield", an NHK documentary broadcast by Radio Japan, was awarded the 1990 ABU (Asian Broadcasting Union) Grand Prix in the overseas program division.

This heartwarming story tells how

postcards found on the battlefield forged a lasting link between an American family and the Japanese family of a soldier who had been killed in action. This program was first broadcast in August 1989 and again in the summer of 1990.

GENERAL SERVICE		March 3, 1991 (0100 UTC)~March 31, 1991																								
		Japanese												English												
UTC	JST	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	0
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>ASIA</b>																										
Southeast Asia																										
Asian Continent																										
South Asia																										
<b>AMERICA</b>																										
North America																										
Central America																										
South America																										
<b>OCEANIA</b>																										
<b>EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST &amp; AFRICA</b>																										
LOCAL TIME																										

UTC : (Coordinated Universal Time)  
JST : (Japan Standard Time)

Ⓔ RELAY TRANSMISSION FROM MOYABI, GABON  
Ⓒ RELAY TRANSMISSION FROM SACKVILLE, CANADA  
Ⓕ RELAY TRANSMISSION FROM MONTSINERY, FRENCH GUIANA  
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