



NHK 詳細分析

2026-05-05_radio_news_0500

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OVERALL SCORE

3.3/10

Slight imbalance

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	JCP	CDP	DPP	Komeito	LDP	JIP
CHES	1.50	3.50	4.80	5.20	7.00	7.80
Spectrum	<i>Left</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Right</i>

The overall tendency is presented on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favoring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favoring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favoritism of left vs. right parties (grouping per CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

6.0 / 10

Favouring right (mild)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Current Government: Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) + Komeito coalition government. Continuous since 2012 (excluding the Democratic Party government period from 2009 to 2012). Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (at the time of this broadcast).

Main Opposition Parties: Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP, largest opposition party), Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin), Democratic Party for the People (DPP), Japanese Communist Party (JCP), Reiwa Shinsengumi (Reiwa), Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Party	L-R Score	Seats (Lower House 2024)	Government/Opposition	Key Policies
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	1.5	8	Opposition	Uphold Article 9, immediate nuclear phase-out, anti-military expansion
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	2.5	1	Opposition	Pacifism, constitutional protection, welfare emphasis
Reiwa Shinsengumi (Reiwa)	2.5	9	Opposition	Abolish consumption tax, anti-military expansion, anti-establishment
Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP)	3.5	148	Opposition	Protect constitution, phase out nuclear power, separate surnames for married couples
Komeito	5.0	24	Coalition Government	Pacifism, social security, restraining LDP
Democratic Party for the People (DPP)	5.5	28	Centrist	Consumption tax reduction, pragmatism
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	7.0	191	Government	Constitutional revision, defence buildup, nuclear power restart
Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin)	7.0	38	Opposition	Deregulation, administrative reform, constitutional revision
Sanseito	9.0	3	Opposition	Ultra-nationalism, anti-globalism

Japan's major political fault lines can be summarised in four points: the question of whether to revise Article 9 of the Constitution (LDP and Ishin in favour vs. CDP and JCP opposed), nuclear energy policy (LDP and Ishin in favour vs. CDP, JCP, and Reiwa opposed), defence budget increases (LDP-led vs. dissent from various opposition parties), and correction of economic inequality (a common issue among opposition parties). In the 2024 Lower House election, the LDP suffered a significant loss of seats, destabilising the government's political base. The issues of separate surnames for married couples and selective same-sex marriage have also emerged as social fault lines.

NHK is a public broadcaster based on the Broadcasting Act, and is legally obligated to ensure political impartiality, accuracy in reporting, and the presentation of diverse viewpoints (Broadcasting Act, Article 4). Twelve members of the Board of Governors are appointed by the Prime Minister (with Diet approval), and criticism of NHK as being "pro-



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government" has been continuously raised by academics and civil society since the Abe administration. In the RSF Press Freedom Index 2024, Japan ranked only 70th, and structural disparities in information access caused by the press club (kisha club) system have also been noted.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Party-by-Party Scores

Party	Score (-5 to +5)	Broadcast Content vs. Party's Policy Position
LDP	+2	00:00:00–01:28 "Prime Minister Takaichi yesterday...held a summit meeting" — Policy position: promoting defence buildup and economic security — Positive coverage consistent with policy position, no critical examination
CDP	0	Not mentioned — Policy position: protecting constitution, phasing out nuclear power, prioritising diplomatic solutions — Completely absent (score 0 means "not mentioned")
Komeito	0	Not mentioned — Policy position: pacifism, restraining LDP — Completely absent
Ishin	0	Not mentioned — Policy position: deregulation, constitutional revision — Completely absent
JCP	0	Not mentioned — Policy position: protecting constitution, anti-military expansion, immediate nuclear phase-out — Completely absent
DPP	0	Not mentioned — Policy position: consumption tax reduction, pragmatism — Completely absent

Party Bias Summary

- Most accurately portrayed: LDP (Score +2) — Coverage consistent with policy position
- Strongest distortion: None applicable (other parties not mentioned)
- Average deviation from 0: 0.33
- Summary: This broadcast reports positively on the LDP's policy direction (economic security, strengthening Japan-Australia cooperation), while the positions of all opposition parties are completely absent. This should be assessed not as active positive bias towards the LDP, but as a structural problem of one-sided transmission of government announcements. From the perspective of political impartiality under Broadcasting Act Article 4, the complete absence of any mention of opposition positions is problematic.



CHAPTER 2 — PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND TOPIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast Data

- Title: NHK Radio News (early morning news programme, estimated)
- Date: Estimated from transcript (estimated to be early May based on references to carp streamers, seasonal rain fronts, and Okinawa's rainy season onset)
- Presenters/Announcers: "Sana Announcer" (mentioned around 09:01), Weather Forecaster Akiko Yoshii
- Persons Appearing:

Actors	Position	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi	Prime Minister	LDP	Right-wing (hardline conservative within LDP)
Prime Minister Albanese	Prime Minister of Australia	Labor Party (AUS)	Centre-left (by Australian standards)
Finance Minister Katayama	Finance Minister	LDP	Right-wing
Yuichi Koido	DMAT Secretariat Director-General	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (administration)	Neutral (civil servant)
Hirohiro Arimatsu	National Astronomical Observatory researcher	National Astronomical Observatory of Japan	Neutral (scientist)
Akiko Yoshii	Weather Forecaster	NHK	Neutral (expert)

Main Themes

An early morning general news broadcast centring on Prime Minister Takaichi's visit to Australia and the Japan-Australia summit meeting, covering economic security, energy supply, the ADB Annual Meeting, DMAT expansion, an astronomical discovery, professional baseball, foreign exchange and stock prices, and weather information.

Ideological Context

The Japan-Australia summit meeting represents an important diplomatic milestone for Japan's security and energy policy in the context of the Indo-Pacific strategy. The strengthening of LNG and rare earth supply chains carries a geopolitical intent of reducing dependence on China, and is a policy area where assessments differ between the ruling and opposition parties. The instability in energy prices against the backdrop of the Iran situation is also linked to Japan's debate on decarbonisation and nuclear power restart. The expansion of DMAT is a cross-party issue in preparation for a massive earthquake in the Nankai Trough or the Chishima Trench, and political confrontation over it is low.

Perspectives Required for Balanced Broadcasting (Independent Assessment Based on World Knowledge)

- * The critical stance of opposition parties (CDP, JCP) towards the strengthening of Japan-Australia security cooperation
- * The environmental and decarbonisation perspective on continued dependence on LNG and fossil fuels
- * The diplomatic and legal implications of Prime Minister Takaichi's expression "quasi-ally nation"
- * The Australian side's interests and domestic political context (the position of the Labor Party government)
- * Critical examination of the conditions, transparency, and target countries of ADB funding



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- * The funding source, budget scale, and consistency with the existing system regarding DMAT expansion
- * The economic impact and policy background of the weak yen (around 157 yen to the dollar)
- * Analysis of the causes of the stock market decline (Dow down 557 dollars) and its impact on the Japanese economy
- * The international positioning and peer review status of the astronomical discovery
- * The relevance of Okinawa's rainy season onset to climate change

Confirmation of How Each Perspective Was Handled

[A] Not handled

Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: The opposition's critical stance was not mentioned at all; only the Prime Minister's statements were conveyed unilaterally.

[B] Not handled

Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: Environmental criticism of continued dependence on LNG and fossil fuels is completely absent.

[C] Not handled

Timestamp: 01:16 — Quote: "Partners at a level that could be called quasi-ally nations" — Assessment: No commentary or critical examination of the legal and policy implications of this diplomatically significant expression was provided.

[D] Not handled

Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: The Australian side's position and domestic political context are completely absent.

[E] Not handled

Timestamp: 02:53 — Quote: "Helping Asia is the same as helping ourselves" — Assessment: No critical examination of ADB funding conditions, transparency, or criticism.

[F] Not handled

Timestamp: 03:17–04:17 — Quote: "It has been decided to newly establish [bases] in Hokkaido and Fukuoka Prefecture" — Assessment: No mention of funding sources, budget scale, or consistency with existing systems.

[G] Partially handled

Timestamp: 09:03 — Quote: "1 dollar at 157 yen 16 to 18 sen" — Assessment: Only figures are presented; there is no analysis of the causes of the weak yen, its policy background, or its impact on daily life.

[H] Partially handled

Timestamp: 09:18 — Quote: "Down 557 dollars and 33 cents, at 48,941 dollars and 90 cents" — Assessment: Only figures are presented; no analysis of the cause of the decline or its impact on the Japanese economy.

[I] Handled

Timestamp: 04:39–06:12 — Quote: "This overturns the conventional understanding of celestial bodies at the edge of the solar system" — Assessment: The research content is appropriately introduced, but mention of its peer review status and international positioning is limited.

[J] Not handled

Timestamp: 10:04 — Quote: "Rain clouds from the seasonal rain front cover Okinawa" — Assessment: No mention of the relevance to climate change.



CHAPTER 3 — 15 Criteria: DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hard Facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. Expert Selection

5/10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Expert 1: Yuichi Koido (DMAT Secretariat Director-General)

Timestamp 04:22–04:33

Statement "We want to build a regional network, work in close cooperation, and enable faster and more effective operations"

Positioning: The DMAT Secretariat Director-General under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is a direct beneficiary and promoter of the DMAT expansion policy.

Missing counter-opinion: A critical assessment of cost-effectiveness and funding sources by an independent disaster prevention expert or fiscal expert.

Source Credibility Matrix (Source Traffic Light):

(a) Funding: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (national budget). There is a structural conflict of interest as a promoter of the DMAT expansion policy.

(b) Commission: As a promoter of DMAT expansion, compatibility with neutral assessment is difficult.

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — Direct promoter and beneficiary of DMAT expansion

D2 Personal risk: +1 — Speaking as a civil servant, personal risk is limited

D3 Expertise: +2 — Direct expert in DMAT operations

D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistent position as a civil servant

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Relatively fact-based statement

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source

TOTAL: +6 → Source Traffic Light: Green (but note conflict of interest)

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: The statement of a policy promoter is presented as neutral expert opinion, constituting a problem of Criterion 12 (source selection).

Expert 2: Hirohiro Arimatsu (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan)

Timestamp 06:02–06:12

Statement "This discovery overturns the conventional understanding of celestial bodies at the edge of the solar system. We want to continue observations in the future"

Positioning: A researcher at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. The direct researcher responsible for the relevant study.

Source Credibility Matrix (Source Traffic Light):

(a) Funding: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (public funds). Conflict of interest in astronomical research is low.

(b) Commission: As a report of a scientific discovery, compatibility with neutrality is high.

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- D1 Conflict of interest: +1 — Some tendency to exaggerate research results, but political conflict of interest is low
- D2 Personal risk: +1 — Scientist publicly announcing a discovery, appropriate risk
- D3 Expertise: +2 — Direct expert in the relevant field
- D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistent as a scientific discovery
- D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Data-based statement
- D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source

TOTAL: +8 → Source Traffic Light: Green

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: Appropriate expert selection as a report of a scientific discovery.

Missing Expert Groups:

- Independent diplomatic and security experts (critical assessment of Japan-Australia relations)
- Energy policy experts (pro-decarbonisation)
- Independent economic analysts (analysis of weak yen and stock prices)

Source Credibility Overview:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Yuichi Koido (DMAT Secretariat Director-General)	-1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+2	+6	Green
Hirohiro Arimatsu (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan)	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+2	+8	Green

Summary (Matrix Results):

- Yuichi Koido: Green (+6) — but note conflict of interest as a policy promoter
- Hirohiro Arimatsu: Green (+8) — appropriate expert selection
- In the political and economic fields, independent critical experts are completely absent



2. Source Selection

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Source 1: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (statement to the press corps)

Timestamp

01:12–01:24 — Statement: "As partners at a level that could be called quasi-ally nations, we powerfully confirmed further strengthening of cooperation"

- (a) **Funding and operating entity:** LDP government / Cabinet Office. A clear political conflict of interest exists.
- (b) **Structural conflict of interest:** As someone self-evaluating their own diplomatic achievements, structural neutrality is impossible.
- (c) **Missing counter-sources:** Opposition politicians, independent diplomatic experts, voices from the Australian side.
- Missing counter-sources: Independent diplomatic experts, assessments from opposition politicians.

Source 2: Finance Minister Katayama (press conference following the ADB Annual Meeting)

Timestamp

02:53–03:09 — Statement: "He stated that helping Asia is the same as helping ourselves, and that this is of very great significance"

- (a) **Funding:** Ministry of Finance (national budget). In a position to promote government policy.
- (b) **Structural conflict of interest:** As someone self-evaluating their own policy, structural neutrality is impossible.
- (c) **Missing counter-sources:** Beneficiary countries of ADB funding, critical NGOs, independent economic experts.

Summary: Government officials' statements are used as the primary sources, and independent critical sources are completely absent. This is problematic in relation to the obligation under Broadcasting Act Article 4 to present diverse viewpoints.



3. Time Allocation									3/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Estimated speaking time:

- Government and ruling party-related coverage (Prime Minister Takaichi, Finance Minister Katayama): Approximately 3 minutes (approximately 23% of total)
- Administration and experts (DMAT, Astronomical Observatory): Approximately 3 minutes (approximately 23%)
- Sports coverage: Approximately 3 minutes (approximately 23%)
- Weather information: Approximately 3 minutes (approximately 23%)
- Foreign exchange and stock prices: Approximately 1 minute (approximately 8%)
- Opposition parties and critical positions: 0 minutes (0%)

Summary: While government and ruling party-related coverage accounts for approximately 23% of the total, there is absolutely no mention of opposition parties or critical positions. However, given the nature of an early morning general news broadcast, the fact that sports, weather, and foreign exchange account for a large proportion can also be assessed as structurally within an acceptable range.



4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

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Omission 1:

Context

The critical stance of opposition parties towards the strengthening of Japan-Australia security cooperation

Relevant Timestamp: 00:00:00–01:28

Impact

The government's diplomatic achievements are presented one-sidedly in a positive manner, rendering the existence of democratic debate invisible.

Omission 2:

Context

Commentary on the diplomatic and legal implications of the "quasi-ally nation" expression

Relevant Timestamp: 01:16–01:24

Impact

Viewers cannot recognise the political significance of Prime Minister Takaichi's coined expression and are deprived of the opportunity for critical assessment.

Omission 3:

Context

Analysis of the causes and policy background of the weak yen at 157 yen to the dollar and the stock market decline

Relevant Timestamp: 09:03–09:44

Impact

Only a list of figures is provided, and the impact on citizens' daily lives and the connection to the government's economic policy are completely absent.

Summary: Politically important critical perspectives, counter-opinions, and policy context are systematically omitted, resulting in a structure where only the government's position is conveyed.

Missing Voices

- Opposition politicians (CDP and JCP representatives): Could have provided a critical stance on the strengthening of Japan-Australia security cooperation and continued LNG dependence.
- Energy policy experts (pro-decarbonisation): Could have pointed out the climate change problems of strengthening the LNG and fossil fuel supply chain.
- International law and diplomatic experts: Could have explained the legal implications of the "quasi-ally nation" expression and its relationship to the Japan-US Security Treaty.
- Australian researchers/journalists: Could have provided perspectives on Australian domestic politics and the position of the Labor Party government.
- Independent economic analysts: Could have analysed the causes and impact on the Japanese economy of the weak yen at 157 yen to the dollar and the stock market decline.
- Disaster prevention and fiscal experts: Could have critically examined the funding sources and cost-effectiveness of DMAT expansion.



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- Civil society and NGO representatives: Could have assessed the transparency of ADB funding and its actual impact on developing countries.
- Climate scientists: Could have explained the relationship between Okinawa's rainy season onset and extreme weather and climate change.



5. Numerical Manipulation

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Complete figures include: absolute value, proportion (%) and trend

Finding 1:

Timestamp 09:03–09:18

Figure: "1 dollar at 157 yen 16 to 18 sen"

Missing context

The causes of the weak yen (Japan-US interest rate differential, Bank of Japan policy, government response), its impact on citizens' daily lives (rising import prices, declining real wages), and any mention of the government's policy responsibility are completely absent.

Impact

The list of figures is presented as neutral fact, but their policy implications are rendered invisible.

Finding 2:

Timestamp 09:18–09:44

Figure: "Down 557 dollars and 33 cents, at 48,941 dollars and 90 cents"

Missing context

Analysis of the causes of the stock market decline (Iran situation, US economic indicators, spillover effects on the Japanese economy) is completely absent.

Impact

The stock market decline is presented as an isolated figure, and its policy context is rendered invisible.

Summary: Economic indicators are limited to a list of figures, and cause analysis, policy context, and impact on citizens' daily lives are systematically omitted. However, given the nature of an early morning news bulletin, it cannot be said to constitute serious numerical manipulation.



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6. Guilt by Association

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No technique of discrediting specific persons or positions by associating them with negative groups was identified in this broadcast.

Summary: The technique of guilt by association was not used in this broadcast.



7. Timing

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Finding 1:

Position: 00:00:00–01:28 (opening)

Content: "Prime Minister Takaichi yesterday held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Albanese in Canberra, the capital of Australia"

Timing effect: Placing the government's diplomatic achievements at the opening of the broadcast has the effect of setting viewers' cognitive frame as a government success story. Critical information is not placed at the opening.

Finding 2:

Position: 06:15–08:59 (middle)

Content: Professional baseball results

Timing effect: Placing sports after political and economic news has the effect of relaxing critical thinking about political content (though this is also a standard news structure).

Summary: The structure of placing the government's diplomatic achievements at the opening has the effect of cognitively prioritising the government's position, but this is also the standard structure for Japanese news broadcasts, and there is insufficient evidence to conclude it is intentional manipulation.



8. Selective Outrage

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Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the finding. Score = outrage level (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Methodological Principle (v2.2): Record the triggering event before evaluation. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if an equivalent triggering event with another position did not produce a similar reaction.

This broadcast is in a news reading format, and no emotional reactions or expressions of outrage by the announcer were confirmed. The structural prerequisite for comparing emotional reactions to multiple positions does not exist.

Summary: The technique of selective outrage was not confirmed in this broadcast.



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9. COMPLETENESS								7/10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Share of covered perspectives

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = larger gaps).



Soft Facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. Framing

4/10

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Finding 1:

Timestamp

00:00:00–00:01:28

Quote

"As partners at a level that could be called quasi-ally nations, we powerfully confirmed further strengthening of cooperation"

Manipulation

The Japan-Australia relationship is framed as "quasi-ally nations," and this diplomatically significant expression is presented in a positive context without critical examination.

Problem: The expression "quasi-ally nation" is in tension with Japan's constitutional constraints and the framework of the Japan-US Security Treaty, and has the effect of causing viewers to accept it uncritically.

Finding 2:

Timestamp

00:00:30–00:00:47

Quote

"We compiled a joint declaration and other documents that serve as guidelines for cooperation, centred on partnerships aimed at strengthening supply chains for energy including LNG (liquefied natural gas), critical minerals, and food"

Manipulation

Continued dependence on fossil fuels (LNG) is presented with the positive frame of "supply chain strengthening," completely excluding the perspective of decarbonisation and climate change.

Problem: Continued LNG dependence contains contradictions with Japan's climate change policy and international commitments (Paris Agreement), but this tension is not conveyed to viewers.

Finding 3:

Timestamp

02:53–03:09

Quote

"He stated that helping Asia is the same as helping ourselves, and that this is of very great significance"

Manipulation

Finance Minister Katayama's self-evaluative statement is broadcast as-is without independent verification, framing the legitimacy of the policy as an established fact.

Problem: Presenting the government's self-evaluation as neutral fact is tantamount to abandoning critical journalism.

Summary: Throughout the entire broadcast, government foreign and economic policy is presented with a positive frame, and critical counter-frames are completely excluded. However, given the nature of a news bulletin, this can to some extent be assessed as within an acceptable range.



11. Word Choice and Terminology									3/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Finding 1:

Timestamp	01:16–01:24
Quote	<i>"Partners at a level that could be called quasi-ally nations"</i>
Manipulation	The announcer directly quotes and conveys Prime Minister Takaichi's coined expression "quasi-ally nation" without critical annotation.

Problem: A neutral alternative expression would be "close partner nation" or "quasi-alliance relationship," and the effect is to plant the political connotations of the expression "quasi-ally nation" in viewers uncritically.

Finding 2:

Timestamp	00:00:00–00:00:16
Quote	<i>"Agreed on strengthening cooperation across a wide range of fields"</i>
Manipulation	The expression "agreed" emphasises the completeness and unity of the agreement, rendering invisible any conflicts, compromises, or reservations during the negotiation process.

Problem: This has the effect of oversimplifying the complexity of diplomatic negotiations and causing viewers to overestimate the government's achievements.

Summary: There is a tendency to adopt the government's own terminology, and the establishment of an independent linguistic frame is insufficient. However, given the nature of an early morning news bulletin, it cannot be said to constitute serious linguistic manipulation.



12. Presenter Conduct									2/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Methodological Principle (v2.2): Record the triggering event before evaluation. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetrical if an equivalent triggering event with another guest did not produce a similar intervention.

Finding 1:

Timestamp 00:00:00–13:16

Triggering event: This broadcast is not in an interview format but in a news reading format by an announcer, and structural comparison of questions and interventions directed at multiple guests is structurally impossible.

Quote (Presenter) "Prime Minister Takaichi yesterday held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Albanese in Canberra, the capital of Australia"

Comparison Not in an interview format, so no other guests to compare with.

Asymmetry: Structurally unverifiable due to format.

Summary: This broadcast is in a news reading format, and the structural prerequisite for assessing asymmetry in questions and interventions by the presenter does not exist. The score reflects the formal constraints.



13. Question Asymmetry

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Asymmetry 1:

This broadcast is in a news reading format and not an interview format, so the structural prerequisite for comparing hard and soft questions does not exist. Government statements are quoted as statements to the press corps, but no direct questioning by NHK announcers is recorded.

Summary: The structural prerequisite for assessing question asymmetry does not exist in this broadcast. However, the attitude of conveying government statements without critical annotation can be assessed as indirect "soft treatment."



14. False Balance									2/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Finding 1:

Timestamp

00:00:00–13:16

Structure: This broadcast does not create a false balance; rather, it does not even attempt balance. Only the government's position is presented unilaterally, and no counter-opinion exists.

Analysis

Rather than false balance, the complete absence of any attempt at balance is the problem. This should be assessed under Criterion 4 (omission) and Criterion 15 (agenda setting) rather than Criterion 14 (false balance).

Summary: The technique of false balance is not used in this broadcast. Rather, any attempt at balance is completely absent, and this is assessed under other criteria (omission, agenda setting).



15. Agenda Setting

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Finding 1:

Agenda element set: The strengthening of Japan-Australia security cooperation and LNG supply chains is treated as self-evidently the natural direction of policy.

Timestamp

00:00:30–00:00:47 — Basis: "We compiled a joint declaration and other documents that serve as guidelines for cooperation, centred on partnerships aimed at strengthening supply chains for energy including LNG (liquefied natural gas), critical minerals, and food"

Alternative agenda: Transition to decarbonisation and renewable energy, the climate change problems of continued fossil fuel dependence.

Finding 2:

Agenda element set: The concept of "quasi-ally nation" is presented as a self-evident diplomatic goal without critical examination.

Timestamp

01:16–01:24 — Basis: "As partners at a level that could be called quasi-ally nations"

Alternative agenda: Consistency with Japan's constitutional constraints and the principle of exclusively defensive defence, the critical stance of opposition parties.

Summary: The direction of the government's foreign and energy policies is set as a self-evident premise without critical examination, and alternative policy directions are systematically excluded from the agenda.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL EVALUATION

OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual Scores — All 15 Criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Rating
1	Expert Selection	5/10	Significant imbalance
2	Source Selection	5/10	Significant imbalance
3	Time Allocation	3/10	Slight imbalance
4	SELECTIVE OMISSION	6/10	Significant imbalance
5	Numerical Manipulation	3/10	Slight imbalance
6	Guilt by Association	0/10	Unremarkable
7	Timing	3/10	Slight imbalance
8	Selective Outrage	0/10	Unremarkable
9	COMPLETENESS	7/10	Pronounced imbalance
10	Framing	4/10	Slight imbalance
11	Word Choice and Terminology	3/10	Slight imbalance
12	Presenter Conduct	2/10	Unremarkable
13	Question Asymmetry	1/10	Unremarkable
14	False Balance	2/10	Unremarkable
15	Agenda Setting	5/10	Significant imbalance

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

3.6/10

Slight imbalance

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

3.0/10

Slight imbalance

OVERALL SCORE

3.3/10

Slight imbalance

Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts



KEY — Score Definitions

Individual Scores per Criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant anomaly detected.
1–2	Weak finding	Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognizable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance affecting the audience's opinion-forming potential.
6	Significant finding (threshold)	Scores of 6 and above are classified as 'significant findings.'
7	Significant finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with distinct impact relevance.
8–9	Severe finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated Deviation Index — Interpretation Ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No significant patterns detected; broadcast meets the impartiality standard.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but within tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Significant imbalance	Multiple significant findings; relevant impairment of perspective diversity.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation	Pronounced, cross-broadcast patterns; high impact relevance.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high bias degree	Maximum severity across nearly all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-Political Bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognizable but minor disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No detectable favoritism or disadvantage.
+1 to +2	Slightly favored	Recognizable but minor favoritism.
+3 to +5	Strongly favored	Party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL ASSESSMENT (BROADCASTING ACT, ARTICLE 4)

Assessment Based on Broadcasting Act Article 4

Broadcasting Act Article 4 requires political impartiality, accuracy in reporting, and the presentation of diverse viewpoints.

Violation 1:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political impartiality)

Fact: In the coverage of the Japan-Australia summit meeting, only the position of the LDP government is conveyed, and the critical positions of opposition parties (CDP, JCP, Reiwa, etc.) are completely absent.

Basis: Timestamp 00:00:00–01:28 — Quote: "Prime Minister Takaichi yesterday held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Albanese in Canberra, the capital of Australia"

Assessment: Conveying only one political position (the ruling party) on security and energy policy, which are politically contested issues, may not satisfy the requirements of political impartiality under Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2. However, achieving complete balance within a single news bulletin is formally difficult, and a comprehensive assessment together with other programmes from the same broadcaster is necessary.

Violation 2:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 4 (presentation of diverse viewpoints)

Fact: No critical or counter viewpoints are presented at all regarding the diplomatically significant expression "quasi-ally nation," continued LNG dependence, or ADB funding.

Basis: Timestamp 01:16–01:24 — Quote: "As partners at a level that could be called quasi-ally nations, we powerfully confirmed further strengthening of cooperation"

Assessment: Failure to present diverse viewpoints on matters that are policy-wise contested is problematic in relation to the requirements of Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 4.

Broadcasting Act Article 4 Overall Assessment

This broadcast, as an early morning general news bulletin, reports primarily on the government's diplomatic achievements and administrative measures, but the complete absence of opposition parties' critical positions and counter-viewpoints on politically contested matters (security cooperation, energy policy, the "quasi-ally nation" expression) is problematic in relation to Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political impartiality) and Paragraph 4 (presentation of diverse viewpoints). However, as the overall score of 2.8 indicates, no use of serious manipulation techniques is confirmed, and taking into account the formal constraints of an early morning news bulletin, there is insufficient evidence to conclude a Broadcasting Act violation based on this single broadcast alone. The requirements of Broadcasting Act Article 4 should be assessed in terms of the editorial policy of the broadcaster as a whole rather than individual programmes, and there are limits to making a legal judgement based on this broadcast alone. A comprehensive assessment of NHK's overall editorial policy in terms of the practice of political impartiality and the presentation of diverse viewpoints would form a more appropriate basis for legal judgement.

Detailed Source Credibility Check (Covering All Cited Expert Institutions, NGOs, and Consulting Bodies)

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (statement to the press corps)

- 1. Funding:** Cabinet Office / LDP (public funds, party funds). A structural political conflict of interest exists.
- 2. Commission:** As someone self-evaluating their own diplomatic achievements, structural compatibility with neutral assessment is impossible.
- 3. Conflict of interest:** There is a direct political interest in asserting the legitimacy of their own policies.
- 4. Credibility Matrix (6 dimensions):**
 - D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Self-evaluation of own policy



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- D2 Personal risk: 0 — Speaking as Prime Minister, standard risk
- D3 Expertise: +1 — Some expertise as an implementer of foreign policy
- D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistent as LDP policy
- D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: 0 — Some emotional expressions such as "powerfully confirmed"
- D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source

TOTAL: +2 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (note conflict of interest)

5. Counter-opinion: Assessments from opposition politicians and independent diplomatic experts are absent.

Important: The fact of being "the Prime Minister's statement" is not proof of neutral authority. It is an expression of a political position and should be presented within a critical context.

Finance Minister Katayama (press conference following the ADB Annual Meeting)

- 1. Funding:** Ministry of Finance (national budget). In a position to promote government policy.
- 2. Commission:** As someone asserting the legitimacy of their own policy, structural compatibility with neutral assessment is impossible.
- 3. Conflict of interest:** There is a direct political interest in emphasising the achievements of their own policy.

4. Credibility Matrix (6 dimensions):

- D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Self-evaluation of own policy
- D2 Personal risk: 0 — Speaking as a minister, standard risk
- D3 Expertise: +1 — Some expertise as an implementer of fiscal policy
- D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistent as LDP policy
- D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Emotional expressions such as "the same as helping ourselves"
- D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source

TOTAL: +1 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (note conflict of interest)

5. Counter-opinion: Assessments from beneficiary countries of ADB funding, critical NGOs, and independent economic experts are absent.

This analysis was prepared as a Broadcasting Act Article 4 compliance review based on Version 2.7 Detailed Edition. The analysis is based solely on the provided transcript; direct confirmation of video or audio has not been conducted. Additional evidence collection is necessary for legal judgement.

Legal and Methodological Notes

No factual determination

The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams, or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardized operationalization, not a finding of individual responsibility.

No legal judgment

The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under 放送法 第4条. The determination of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular 総務省).

No proof of causation

Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news environment, political controversy, or format logic.

No judgment of intent

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means a significant imbalance was detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motives or strategic objectives.

Heuristic comparison tool

The index serves comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not precise metric measurement of individual segments. Threshold values serve heuristic orientation, not sharp legal qualification.



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APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL BROADCASTING LAW

Legal Basis Japan — NHK

Legislation

- Broadcasting Act (放送法, Act No. 132 of 1950, last amended 2024)
- NHK Reception Agreement (NHK受信規約)
- Radio Act (電波法)

Broadcasting Act Article 4 (Editing Standards)

Original text (Japanese):

放送事業者は、国内放送及び内外放送の放送番組の編集に当たっては、次の各号の定めるところによらなければならない。

- 一 公安及び善良な風俗を害しないこと。
- 二 政治的に公平であること。
- 三 報道は事実をまげないですること。
- 四 意見が対立している問題については、できるだけ多くの角度から論点を明らかにすること。

Official English translation:

(1) A broadcaster must comply with the following when editing domestic broadcast programs:

- (i) It must not negatively influence public safety or good morals.
- (ii) It must be politically fair.
- (iii) Reporting must not distort the facts.
- (iv) It must clarify the points at issue from as many angles as possible where there are conflicting opinions concerning an issue.

Ref: e-Gov (laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/325AC0000000132), Japanese Law Translation DB

Four Pillars of Bias Analysis

No.	Provision	SVFAB Analysis Reference
1	Must not harm public safety or good morals	Editorial baseline
2	Must be politically fair	Core bias metric — analogous to Swiss RTVG Art. 4
3	Reporting must not distort the facts	Factual dimension
4	Controversial issues: as many angles as possible	Multi-perspective / balance

Comparison Switzerland — Japan

Aspect	Switzerland (SRG)	Japan (NHK)
Law	RTVG Art. 4	Broadcasting Act Art. 4
Independent regulator	UBI (binding)	BPO (non-binding)



State regulator	BAKOM/UVEK	MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
Enforcement	UBI can uphold complaints; BAKOM can sanction	BPO recommends; MIC can issue administrative guidance
Funding	Serafe fee	NHK reception fee (~1,100 JPY/month)
Self-regulation	Moderate (UBI independent)	Weak (BPO co-funded by NHK)

Regulatory Authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (総務省)

- Government ministry with jurisdiction over broadcasting
- Issues broadcast licences
- Can issue administrative guidance (行政指導)
- Approves NHK budget, business plan, and reception fees
- Theoretically has authority to revoke licences
- Recent action: September 2024, administrative guidance after Senkaku incident on NHK Radio International

BPO (Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organization)

- Founded 2003, non-governmental, self-regulatory
- Jointly operated by NHK and JBA (Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association)
- Three committees: Ethics Verification, Human Rights, Youth Protection
- Decisions are NOT legally binding — rely on voluntary compliance
- NHK co-funds BPO — structural independence compromised

Key BPO Decisions Regarding NHK

Year	Case	Ruling
2015	Close-up Gendai — staging allegations	Serious breach of broadcasting ethics
2022	BS Olympic Documentary (Naomi Kawase)	Serious breach — false subtitles
2023	News Watch 9 — COVID-19 reporting	Breach — vaccine families misrepresented

International Reference

- RSF Press Freedom Index: Japan 2024 Rank 70 (far behind CH: 9, NO: 1)
- Freedom House: Japan classified as "free", but media freedom under pressure (kisha clubs, government proximity)

Structural Background

NHK is the world's largest public broadcaster by budget (~720 billion JPY / ~4.5 billion EUR). Formal independence is structurally limited through the Board of Governors (12 members appointed by the Prime Minister with parliamentary consent). The kisha club system restricts access to government information to accredited media and fosters proximity between journalists and government.



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

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