

May 29th, 2019

Problem concerning characters appearing in an NHK WORLD-JAPAN program

NHK's internal investigation has found that there was an inaccurate description of characters in an episode of an NHK WORLD-JAPAN program, "Inside Lens," aired on November 19th, 2018.

The episode featured an agency in Japan dealing in a service to rent out stand-in family members, friends and else to clients in need. However, the two men and one woman described in the episode as clients of the service were found to be staff members prepared by the rental service agency, not the real clients. The owner of the agency told NHK in the investigation that he "asked the staff members to act as clients."

The production of "Inside Lens" has been contracted out by NHK WORLD-JAPAN to NHK's affiliate, NHK ENTERPRISES, which has adopted stories from among proposals presented by independent filmmakers active in Asia and Japan. The independent film director of this episode and the person in charge at NHK ENTERPRISES were both unable to detect the problem during the process of their coverage and production.

Regardless of this production system, NHK is responsible for the broadcast of the episode. We apologize our audience for having allowed this inaccurate description to go on air. In light of the problem, we will take thorough preventive measures as soon as possible.

[NHK's comment]

It is regrettable that we have broadcast an inaccurate description on our international service, and we apologize our audience for it. We will further improve the thoroughness in content verification and endeavor to prevent similar incidents.