

# **NHK English Broadcast Safe Until At Least 2008**

*by Mark Buckton*

Although concerns were raised in 2006 about the NHK English language broadcast lasting into and / or beyond this year, things are now apparently looking up at Japan's national broadcaster as at least one source has indicated the English sumo broadcast to be set to appear until at least 2008.

NHK has been beset by financial woes in recent years with some of the foreign language shows and news coverage on the channel

suffering as a result. Sumo coverage in the global lingua franca, unlike the Japanese language version, is broadcast from a TV equipped booth in NHK's studios in Tokyo as opposed to at any of the honbashi venues but was particularly hard hit a couple of years ago when long term, frequent guests were reduced to just single appearances during each of the fifteen day tournaments – usually on and around weekends.