

Yoshihiro Tsuchiya

IJCC Position: President

From: Japan

Industry: Insurance

About:

I have been working in the non-life insurance industry for almost 40 years specializing in marine insurance and reinsurance. My first experience of Ireland was in 2010 when I was seconded to a subsidiary called Mitsui Sumitomo Reinsurance in Ireland (Dublin based) of Mitsui Sumitomo insurance group as CEO for 3 years.

During my stay in Dublin, I enjoyed chairing the board of "The Japan Business Society in Ireland" for 2 years. The fantastic experience in Ireland encouraged me to continuously involve myself in contributing to the Ireland/Japan relationship after I came back to Japan and I immediately joined the IJCC in 2013.

Since then I have been working as the chairman of the organizing committee of I Love Ireland Festival held by the IJCC and also as Vice President of the board of directors for 6 years. From this year it is an honour for me to start serving as President of IJCC and I look forward to further contributing to enhancing the Ireland/Japan relationship and raising awareness of Ireland in Japan together with our board, supportive members, the Embassy, all Irish Government affiliated organizations and all Irish related groups/organizations.



Eamonn Murphy

IJCC Position: Vice President

From: Dublin, Ireland

Industry: Technology

About:

I'm originally from Dublin, Ireland.

My career first brought me to Japan in 2013. My company, at the time, had its Japan headquarters in Yokohama. I've spent my 20-year career working for multinationals in the Technology sector.

Since 2014, I've been a Program Manager with Rakuten. Based in Tokyo, I help Rakuten expand their e-commerce services to European and North American markets.

When I first moved to Japan, the IJCC were of great assistance to me – providing contacts, advice, encouragement and a support network. I'm excited for the future of Ireland Japan business relations. We have plenty to look forward to as business activity between the two countries continues to go from strength to strength.



Pat Ryan

IJCC Position: Vice President

From: Cork, Ireland

Industry: Entrepreneurship / Angel Investing

About:

Originally from Cork city, I came to Japan on the FAS Overseas Graduate Programme in 1992 as a Mechanical Engineer with ALPS Electric. I worked for four years with ALPS in Iwate prefecture in the Tohoku region of Japan.

In 1996 I moved back to Ireland with ALPS and two years later I started an outsourced service business with ALPS as my first customer. Two years later, I merged my start-up with another start-up and the other founders, and I grew the business to become Irelands largest indigenous Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) company serving Government, Utilities and Financial Services clients across Ireland and the UK.

I moved back to Tokyo in 2019 and now work with start-ups, growth focused companies and founders as a mentor and Angel Investor.





Ireland Japan
Chamber of Commerce

Breifne Ryan

IJCC Position: Director, Treasure

From: Dublin, Ireland

Industry: Aircraft Leasing



About: I graduated from University College Dublin (UCD) in 2014 with a BSc in Economics and Finance, and joined SMBC Aviation Capital in 2014, where I have worked in a variety of roles including in Strategy, Pricing and since 2017 in Aircraft Trading. SMBC Aviation Capital is an aircraft leasing company based in Dublin with two Japanese shareholders, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. (SMBC) and Sumitomo Corp (SC). Similar names but two very different companies. In 2018 I was qualified as a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), and in the summer of the same year I moved to Tokyo to manage the sales of aircraft into the Japanese Investor Market. In 2020 I took over the responsibility for the trading of aircraft into the Australian and Korean markets. I am from Dublin and live in Tokyo with partner Fiona. Hobbies include playing rugby and GAA in Japan.



Ireland Japan
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John Blakeney

IJCC Position: Director

From: Dublin, Ireland

Industry: Professional Services

About:

I have a long-standing relationship with Japan (I have childhood friends from Japan), and I first came here as a JET Programme participant in 2006, when I was placed in Kyoto Prefecture, and subsequently spent another few years studying for a Master's Degree in Urban Planning at the University of Tokyo under a Japanese Government scholarship scheme. I then trained as an accountant in the audit practice with EY in Dublin serving large indigenous and multinational clients across a range of sectors.

Since 2017 I have worked with EY ShinNihon in the Capital Markets Group with a broad scope of work including supporting clients with international debt and equity offerings, implementing audit quality initiatives for US audit clients and Japanese foreign private issuers in the US, providing technical accounting guidance for US GAAP, and addressing regulatory matters for clients and the EY ShinNihon firm. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as Treasurer of the Chamber and hope that my experiences and network here will help me contribute to the Chamber and Ireland-Japan business relations.



Richard Grehan

IJCC Position: Director

From: Belfast, Ireland

Industry: Branding and Film Production

About:

I've been working as a creative director in advertising and branding for over 20 years spanning the globe from London to Johannesburg and now Tokyo, picking up some awards on the way. I founded imageMILL the first ethical and sustainable branding company in Japan, creating high-end advertising and branding for some of the biggest and smallest brands in the world. We focus on branded journalism as a new form of advertising and communication. Whether working in print, digital or film we create inspiring brand stories that resonate with the targeted consumer and create meaning for the brand.

We act as a bridge between Western and Japanese communication, helping international companies customize their communications for the Japanese market and in return helping Japanese companies learn and leverage design and marketing principals from the west.

Personally, I'm a peace and sustainable life activist dedicated to promoting non-violence and preventing abuse; human, animal and environmental. Deeply committed to corporate social responsibility and the next generation of social business. We have a long history of Pro Bono work for NGOs and charities such as UNICEF, Greenpeace, Amnesty International and Peace Boat. At the IJCC, I plan to update and renew the brand image of the IJCC, which started with the new logo and then the redesign of the website, then extending into the different events and overall public profile of the chamber. At the same time, I hope to guide the chamber to engage effectively with sustainability and ethics.



Aisling Barry

IJCC Position: Director & Regional Committee Member

From: Cork

Industry: Government

About:

I first came to Japan in 2014 to study Japanese language in Sapporo. In 2017, I graduated from Dublin City University (DCU) with a BA in Japanese and German Language and Translation Studies. Currently, I am based in Iwate Prefecture and am on my fifth years as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) . My duties included preparations for the Rugby World Cup 2019 and Olympic Games 2020, as well as interpretation and cultural exchange.

I first joined the IJCC in 2020 and was the first speaker in the Tales from the Region series. Soon after, I joined the Regional Committee as the regional representative for Tohoku. Now, as a director, I hope to raise awareness of the regions outside Tokyo and use my connections to involve more young people in IJCC activities. Please feel free to get in touch!



Sarah Hickey

IJCC Position: Director

From: Killarney, Ireland

Industry: Spirits Industry

About:

Following my graduation from University College Cork in 2008, I arrived in Fukushima on the JET Programme aiming primarily to promote grassroots internationalization and to help build the bridge between Ireland and Japan.

Since 2012, I have been residing in Tokyo working in marketing firstly for Pernod Ricard and then Bacardi. In 2018 I joined Japan's leading premium spirits import company, Whisk-e as their Marketing Manager. My main role is to lead a team to develop brands to grow in the Japanese market by creating solid business plans which ensure that all activation's across the line are aligned with the brands strategy, budget and business goals. In addition I am working alongside the top management in developing the organization's vision, mission, strategic planning goals, brand portfolio and human resources.

At the IJCC, I plan to use my current networking skills to raise awareness for ongoing and future activities of the chamber, create engaging interactive content for social media, improve brand materials, also utilize my experience to enhance events ensuring they are executed to the highest quality from content, entertainment to social bonding while always encouraging the use of sustainable food and beverages.





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Akira Shimura

IJCC Position: Director

From: Tokyo

Industry: Hospitality

About:

I have spent most of my vocational career engaging with developing countries working for Japanese governmental aid agency. My primary field was Indian subcontinent countries and had opportunities to station in Pakistan (1996-99) and Sri Lanka (2009-12). Taking early retirement, I went to Yamaguchi ken to rebuild a distressed local construction company and spend four years to reorganize it. I have been working for Toyoko Inn Group since 2017 to supervise overseas projects mainly in US and European countries. I also look after Toyoko Inn hotels located in Tohoku Area as a regional manager.

I went to Ireland a few times after joining Toyoko Inn as its parent company is registered in Dublin and it did not take time to be a big fan of Ireland. Obviously, my goal is to build the first Toyoko Inn in Ireland at the earliest possible collaborating with my predecessor Hashimoto san.

I look forward to contributing to enhancing the Ireland/Japan ties with respectable board members and all supportive members.



Philip Greenan

IJCC Position: Director

From: Monaghan, Ireland

Industry: IT

About:

As a 30+ year resident of Tokyo, involved in business (mostly technical, in mobile technology area) my experiences include: courting, marrying, fathering, rearing two bilingual Irish-Japanese children, have bought several residential properties (for my own use), working for large and small companies, and starting my own small business.

Specifically, I've spent the last 20 years in the mobile infrastructure industry, selling mainly software solutions to the large Japanese mobile operators – NTT Docomo, KDDI and Softbank. The last 8 years have been my company providing business development services mainly to Irish technology firms entering and growing in the Japanese market, coupled with a software development business providing customized software solutions to KDDI and Softbank in the areas of charging, messaging and roaming.

In the chamber, my focus is on planning events. From networking opportunities with the American and British chambers to guest speaker events to Spring and Autumn golf outings. If you think I can be of some assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Andy O'Doherty

IJCC Position: Director

From: Wicklow, Ireland

Industry: Foodservice/Manufacturing/Logistics

About:

I came to Japan in 2004, and after spending several years in Mie Prefecture and Tokyo, I moved to Osaka in 2013 to join a new Irish company setting up in Japan. IJCC members were able to give plenty of invaluable advice as we established our office and warehouse. After setting up ground operations here with our Dublin team, I took up Japan General Manager role in 2014. Very happy to discuss my experiences of setting up a business in Japan to anyone facing a similar challenge. My main role in the IJCC is the board member with responsibility for Kansai. We have fewer members than the Tokyo area, but keep active with an annual dinner, some smaller events and sharing of information.