



Ireland Japan  
Chamber of Commerce

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

## Message from the President

Dear members and friends,

Firstly I am very pleased to introduce the following new members to the IJCC. Welcome!

- PwC (Corporate Member)
- Connect Academy (Corporate Member)
- Mr Raymond Roche (Professional Member)

Earlier this month we held our annual joint networking event with the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. We were delighted to receive positive feedback from the participants and to be joined by members located in Ireland and the USA. Mr Paul Kavanagh, the Ambassador of Ireland to Japan and Mr Eric Sedlak Vice-Chair of the ACCJ gave us entertaining and warm welcome remarks.

We held a "New Member Spotlight" event in February. We welcomed Mr. Robert Heldt, Mr. Jon Murray, Mr. Stephan Drian and Mr. Patrick Jordan who gave us their self-introduction. This was followed by a panel discussion on various topics with the guests. We'll be holding another New Member Spotlight event in March so keep an eye out for the invitation.

Regarding the COVID19's situation, the number of infected people has been decreasing in Japan but the medical system in the Tokyo area is still facing difficulties and the state of emergency in this region will continue until at least 7th March.

The vaccine has started to become available but it will take a long time to be available for normal citizens and there is still uncertainty surrounding holding the Tokyo Olympic/Paralympic Games this summer. Nevertheless, we strongly hope that the games will be safely held and IJCC would like to warmly welcome Irish Teams to Japan.

Finally, we wish you stay healthy during this time of "with Corona" and hope to meet all of you in person in Springtime if the situation allows.

Best regards,

Yoshihiro Tsuchiya  
President, Irish Japan Chamber of Commerce (IJCC)

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## Member Focus



## Jeremy Laughlin

Business Development Manager  
Santa Fe Relocation  
[Jeremy.Laughlin@santaferelo.com](mailto:Jeremy.Laughlin@santaferelo.com)

1. Could you give us an overview of your company?

Santa Fe Relocation is a global mobility company specializing in managing and delivering high-quality relocation services worldwide. Our core competence is providing services that help corporations and their employees as well as individuals and their families to relocate and settle in new places. These services are delivered to a consistently high standard, locally and globally, and managed through our own operations around the world. The company has been active in Japan since 1982 and we also have an office in Dublin.

[For the rest of the interview please visit our website](#)

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## Partner Focus

# Support Our Kids

## Support Our Kids

An interview with Ms. Sumie Takazawa from Support Our Kids, NPO Jidai no Souzou Koubou

**Q1 Tell me about your organisation and the Support Our Kids project?**

We started the Support Our Kids project in 2011 to help the youth victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake to increase their self-reliance through our overseas homestay

programs. In order to operate the programs, we hold charity events and charity auctions for fundraising and raising awareness.

We have had 42 programs in 10 countries since 2011. And a total of 455 teenagers from the Tohoku region have participated. Our first program in Ireland was operated in 2013 with the support of the former Ambassador Mr. John Neary. Since then, it has become an annual program and a total of 59 students have visited Ireland through Support Our Kids. The previous Ambassador Mrs. Anne Barrington became the chair of the Support Our Kids Executive Committee in 2015 until she left Japan in 2018. The Ambassador Mr. Paul Kavanagh is the current chairman.

We receive grants every year from the Ireland Funds (The Emerald Ball) 2013-2019 and the Emerald Cultural Institute in Dublin has supported our program in Dublin.

[For the rest of the interview please visit our website](#)

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## Board Member Profile



**Eamonn Murphy**

Vice President, IJCC

### What do you do in Japan?

My career has been in business transformation and program management for technology companies. About 10 years ago I came to Japan to work on a project for my then company. I got to know and appreciate the country and I moved to Japan 2 years later. And since then I've worked for Rakuten at their headquarters in Tokyo. Helping expand the Rakuten e-commerce businesses overseas.

[For the rest of the interview please visit our website](#)

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We'd like to feature our corporate and professional members in this newsletter. If you want to be featured please contact [secretariat@ijcc.jp](mailto:secretariat@ijcc.jp)

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## IJCC News

### Welcome PwC to the chamber



The IJCC is delighted to welcome PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) as our newest corporate member.

In deciding to join the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Mary Honohan, Partner of PwC, said "We work closely with our colleagues at PwC Japan on businesses investing in Ireland and in Japan. We see a big increase in activity with Japan & feel that the time is right for us to join IJCC."

Welcome PwC to the Chamber!

To find out more about them, please visit their website <https://www.pwc.ie/>.

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### IJCC Sustainability Committee Launched



We are pleased to have launched the IJCC Sustainability Committee.

The host town for Irish Olympic Hockey Team, Iwate-Town in Iwate Prefecture, will hold an Ireland Exhibition (アイルランド展) in **Ishigami Museum of Art** from Saturday 6th March 2021 to Sunday 11th April 2021. This exhibition is supported by the Embassy of Ireland to Japan, Japan GAA and the IJCC.

[Check the details about the exhibition](#)

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## Online Ireland Festival in Fukuroi



The poster for the 'Online Ireland Festival in Fukuroi' features a green background with a white shamrock pattern. At the top, the title 'オンライン アイルランド・フェスティバル' is written in white, with the 'in' logo and 'ふくろい' below it. The event date and time, '2021年3月14日(日) 19:30 ON AIR', are prominently displayed in white on a black background, along with the note '無料で視聴できます。(3月21日まで視聴可能)'. Below this, a section titled '連続テレビ小説『マッサナ』や、大河ドラマ『西郷どん』の音楽に参加するアイルッシュバンド' features a photo of the band 'tricolor' and three circular portraits of individual musicians: Fiona, Yuika&Dai, and 高梨喜子. A YouTube logo and the text 'YouTube 3/14 19:30 ON AIR!' are also present. At the bottom, two green boxes provide additional information: the left box describes the festival as a chance to experience Irish culture through music and dance, and the right box provides the YouTube channel link 'https://www.youtube.com/user/fukuroicityoffice/videos' and a QR code. Logos for the Japanese Embassy in Ireland, Ireland Japan, and Irish Network Japan are at the very bottom.

One of the training camps for the Irish Olympic Team is in Fukuroi-city in Shizuoka Prefecture. They will hold an online Ireland Festival on Sunday 14th March 2021 on YouTube. This event is supported by the Embassy of Ireland to Japan, the Irish Network Japan and the IJCC.

[Check the details about the event](#)

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## The Latest Press Releases from Enterprise Ireland



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## The Latest Press Releases from IDA Ireland

[HERE](#) for English / [HERE](#) for Japanese

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## Special Offers for IJCC members

Our members provide special offers to fellow IJCC members. Please see our website for the latest.

<https://www.ijcc.jp/members-only/offer-ijcc-members>

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## Join one of the most active business networks in Japan.

If you're interested in the Ireland Japan business community, we'd love to meet you. We welcome members from all countries.

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