



Ireland Japan  
Chamber of Commerce

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

## Message from the President



Happy new year to all of you! I hope everyone had nice and relaxed Christmas and New Year holidays.

Let me update you on some of our recent activities.

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

- Digitary (Corporate Member)
- Mr. Stephan Drinan (Professional Member)
- Mr. Robert Hennesey (Associate Member)

Secondly, we held our first on-line "Ireland Japan Business Awards (IJBA)" in December which was a new challenge for us. We received positive feedback from our members and it seems that it was well-received from the audience.

Congratulation again to the following winners:

- Company of the Year: Global Shares
- Entrepreneur of the Year: Mr. Niall Keegan (KEYCOM Associates)
- Exporter of the Year: ATA Tools
- Special Recognition Award: Mr. Pat O'Riordan (Enterprise Ireland)

Also, we held the 3rd in the "Tales from the Region" webinar series this month. We invited Ms. Katie Clancy, a Coordinator for International Relations at Nara Prefecture, who gave us a very interesting and informative talk about the CIR's role, an introduction of the various charms of Nara including food (such as Kakinoha-Sushi, Miwa-Somen and Persimmon), and an overview of key local businesses and industries. Ms. Shoko Tsuji, who coincidentally has her birthday on St. Patrick's Day, also kindly gave us remarks about Nara.

The IJCC will continue this series to introduce our community to Irish people and/or companies in the various regions of Japan. Hopefully, we can cover all the prefectures of Japan :-)

In addition, we have recently launched the following committees:

1. Market Entry Committee
2. Regional Committee
3. Sports Committee

We also plan to have additional committees later this year. The committees offer a great way for our members to participate in the chamber.

Finally regarding Covid19's latest situation, as you know, Japan and Ireland have been going through a tough time and the number of newly infected people is still very high in both countries. We expect the various tough restrictions on activities to continue until early Spring.

Also unfortunately it will be extremely difficult for us to celebrate St. Patricks Day events in person again this Spring. Nevertheless, we see some light in this darkness. Vaccines have been developed quickly and will become more available as we progress through 2021.

In this circumstance, we will continue to enhance our online events and hopefully start holding in-person events as soon as we find the situation allows us.

We wish you stay healthy during this time of "With Corona" and hope to meet all of you soon!

Best regards,

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

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## Member Focus



**Seiji Kasama**  
CEO of Bergman Limited.

**Bergman**

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

Bergman Limited was established in June 2020 as a trading company to promote Irish products here in Japan. Our current products start from electric heating and also include fire, air purifier and Irish meat products. We always try to enlarge the product lines from Ireland. Our operation was originally established as Globally Inc. in 1997 and reorganized as Dimplex Japan Limited in 2007.

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

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## Partner Focus



### IDA Ireland

1. Tell me about your organisation?

The Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Ireland, founded in 1949, is the government agency responsible for the attraction and retention of inward foreign direct investment into Ireland, not only into the major cities but also regional locations. Over the past 70 years, the IDA has partnered with over 1,500 clients, helping them not only establish but expand their Irish operations in order to compete in the international market.

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

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## Board Member Profile



### Richard Grehan

CEO at imageMILL, IJCC Director



What do you do in Japan?

I moved to Japan over 14 years ago for a creative director role at a local agency, since then I have established a sustainable and ethical communications agency called imageMILL. A regenerative and ethical branding agency that focuses on solving problems, helping clients transform their brands and organizations into impactful and improved forms of themselves.

We use the power of film & design to champion change. Working on 360 branding from corporate identity to content creation such as social media, film and television programs.

[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

### 3 New IJCC Committees Launched



A great way to get involved in your chamber is by joining a committee.

The Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce (IJCC) would like to share details on 3 new committees -

Market Entry Committee  
Regional Committee  
Sports Committee

They're looking for new members. We encourage members that would like to join a committee to contact the committee manager or [secretariat@ijcc.jp](mailto:secretariat@ijcc.jp).

[Read more about the committees](#)

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## In the Media

**Global Shares Article - IJCC Business Awards '21  
Company of the Year Award**

# Global Shares

Global Shares, the winner of the Company of the Year Award for Ireland Japan Business Awards 2021, released the news article on January 7th about their win.

John Meehan, the CEO of Global Shares for Japan says "Global Shares' journey from Clonakilty to Japan has been a remarkable one. We began supporting Japanese clients in 2016 and have now developed a unique solution for global Japanese companies to overcome complex technical equity trading barriers, as well as help them easily extend the international reach of their employee share plans."

[Read full article](#)

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## Latest EU-Japan News by EU-Japan Center for Industrial Corporation



[Check out EU-Japan NEWS - December 2020 - 4 VOL 18](#)

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## Enterprise Ireland's Must-Read Article



### 16,496 new jobs created by Enterprise Ireland supported companies in 2020

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar, TD, and Enterprise Ireland today announced that total employment in Enterprise Ireland supported companies was 220,613 at the end of 2020.

[Read full article](#)

### Better days ahead as Irish innovation fuels travel revival

Covid-19 hit the travel sector like a severe bout of turbulence on an otherwise smooth flight. The industry has been severely damaged but innovation, leadership and technology – especially Irish technology – will accelerate a global recovery in 2021. Here are six key trends to watch out for.

[Read full article](#)

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## The Latest Press Releases from IDA Ireland

[HERE](#) for English

or

[HERE](#) for Japanese

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## Event Information



### IJCC-ACCJ Joint Online Networking

Friday 5th, February 2021 19:00

Online

IJCC/ACCJ Members: Free / Non-members: 1,000 yen

We are delighted to announce that the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce (IJCC) will be hosting a joint online networking event with [the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan \(ACCJ\)](#) on Friday, 5th February. The event will be held online this year due to COVID-19.

We will be joined by the Ambassador of Ireland to Japan, Paul Kavanagh. Following a speech by the Ambassador, we will enjoy networking in breakout rooms. A great opportunity to get to know members from the ACCJ. There will also be a chance to win some fantastic prizes between the sessions with our digi-raffle.

Please join us. And invite your friends and colleagues. Looking forward to seeing you!

[Register](#)

Registration deadline: Monday, 1st February 9:00 AM 2021

Cancellation deadline: Monday, 1st February 9:00 AM 2021

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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.

[Sign Up Now](#)

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