

The magazine of the  
British Chamber of  
Commerce in Japan

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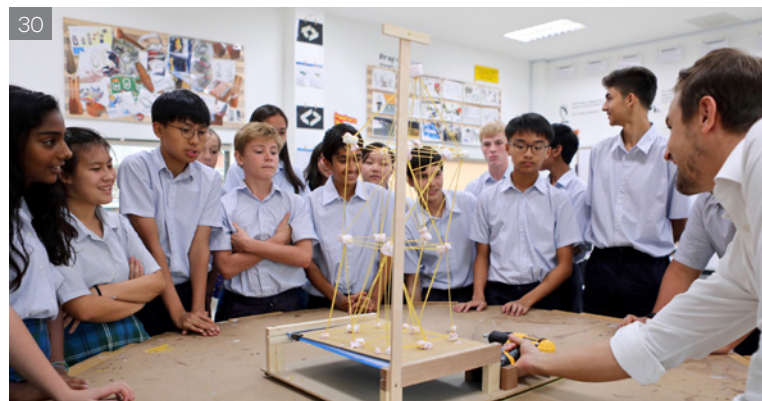
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To strengthen business ties between Britain and Japan, promote and support the business interests of all our Members, and actively encourage new business entrants into the Japanese market as well as Japanese investment into the UK.

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# Getting ready for a busy autumn

BY PAUL MADDEN CMG  
BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN  
PHOTOS: © BRITISH EMBASSY TOKYO



August was a month of finalising planning for the onslaught of events triggered by the Rugby World Cup, which starts this month, saying farewell to colleagues and some travels around Japan.



## Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorials

It is always deeply moving to attend the annual Peace Memorial Ceremonies in Hiroshima on 6 August and Nagasaki on 9 August in the company of other Ambassadors and Japanese

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (above), as well as many national and local dignitaries, and with impressive performances by local children's choirs. We had dinner with a *hibakusha*, an atomic bomb victim, who had been just a few weeks old when the bomb fell. In an interview with local media, I noted that the UK had halved its stocks of nuclear arms since the end of the Cold War.

En route to west Japan, we stopped in Okayama to visit the beautiful "Art Island" of Naoshima in the Inland Sea, with its stunning museums and artist communities, and also Kurashiki, with its well-preserved canal district.



As we passed through Kokura Station in Kitakyushu, where the Welsh Rugby Team will have their camp, we were very impressed to see massive posters saying "Go Go Wales". On the way back, we had a weekend in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture visiting the impressive museum to writer Lafcadio Hearn in the samurai quarter nestling under the famous "black castle" (though, frankly, it looked grey to me) and the Adachi Museum, with its prize-winning garden (below).

The summer is a time when a number of staff turn over, and I took my Defence Attaché, Captain Paul Casson RN, for a farewell call on Japanese Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya, and to introduce his successor, Captain Simon Staley RN. The past three years have been a very busy period for our Defence Section, with a significant step-up in the number of ship visits and other security collaborations. Simon has served in Japan before, on attachment to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force at Yokosuka, so he will hit the ground running.

On 17 September we will formally launch the year of UK in JAPAN 2019–20, GREAT for PARTNERSHIP.



### Prison visits

One of the less well-known roles of our consular team at the Embassy is regular visits to British citizens in Japanese prisons. Fortunately, there are only a small number, about 25, with a further 10 in detention pending investigation or trial, mostly incarcerated for drug offences. Our staff provide a vital lifeline for links with families back in the UK and checking up on prisoners' health and conditions. I decided to accompany consular colleagues on a visit to Fuchu Prison, where I met the Governor and officials from the Ministry of Justice, with whom we have an excellent relationship, as well as a British inmate, and toured the facilities. It was very clean and efficient, but somewhat spartan, with stricter rules than in the UK. My message to British visitors, including all those rugby fans, is please don't get on the wrong side of Japanese laws.

Fellow *ACUMEN* columnist Guy Perryman (page 42) invited me onto his InterFM897 radio show to chat and choose some of my favourite songs. My first choice was David Bowie's "Starman," linked to one of my earliest encounters with Japan as a teenager: I recall hearing it for the first time on my brand-new Sony transistor radio, which I had just received for my 13th birthday. I chose all British artists, and a song from each of the past five decades. Fortunately, thanks to Spotify, I can now access music from my kids' generation.

### Education ties

Tucked in the beautiful foothills of Fukushima is British Hills, an impressively attractive recreation of a British village, with castle, pub and half-timbered houses. It's a hotel and educational facility where junior high and high school students get the chance for "an overseas experience inside Japan." The teachers and many of the hotel staff are from the UK and Commonwealth countries, and there is a big focus on getting the children away from their grammar books and actually speaking English. We very much enjoyed sessions interacting with students from five schools.



The University of Tokyo asked me to give a lecture on their Executive Management Programme, which aims to broaden the experiences of fast track middle managers from the private and public sectors by exposing them to a range of speakers and topics. I talked about the similarities and differences between Britain and Japan, which flowed from both of us being *shimaguni* (island nations).

### A busy autumn

With several G20 ministerial meetings still remaining, at the end of August Japan also hosted the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Yokohama. At the opening reception, I watched Prime Minister Abe

One of the less well-known roles of our consular team at the Embassy is regular visits to British citizens in Japanese prisons.

welcome heads of state and government from 42 African nations. Our two prime ministers agreed in January that we would work more closely together in Africa on infrastructure development, bringing together our aid and trade ministries and business.

On 17 September we will formally launch the year of UK in JAPAN 2019–20, GREAT for PARTNERSHIP (page 18). Running from the Rugby World Cup 2019 through to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it will include a series of GREAT weeks promoting business and technology in key sectors relating to the grand challenges, such as climate change, ageing societies and the future of mobility, set out in the UK's industrial strategy. We will also have British food and drink promotions in various rugby host cities and a major cultural season, devised by the British Council's fantastic Japan Director Matt Burney, who has sadly just moved on to head up the Council's China operation. We will greatly miss Matt. It has now been announced that HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, will attend the Emperor's enthronement ceremonies in October. We are in for a very busy autumn. 🇬🇧



### Britain in Hokkaido

I was invited to Sapporo to give a speech to the Japan British Society. The Vice Governor and Deputy Mayor attended. Many of the JBS members were linked to Hokkaido University, which, as one of the old Imperial Universities, has a strong reputation and many international links. I visited the university and called on Acting President Masanori Kasahara to discuss academic collaborations. I was also taken on a tour of the museum of the 1972 Winter Olympics, a reminder that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games are now less than a year away. We stayed on for the weekend at the splendid Noboribetsu Onsen, then travelled to Hakodate—one of the 19th-century "*kaiko*" Treaty Ports, where you can visit the former British Consulate (above), now a museum, in the foreign quarter on the slopes of Motomachi.



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# Rugby fans take slow road to Tokyo

SIMON FARRELL | [simon@custom-media.com](mailto:simon@custom-media.com)

A number of hardy, eccentric, adventurous and generous British—and other—fans are steadily trickling from the UK to Japan for the Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2019 via Eurasia on two or four wheels such as vintage cars, off-road vehicles and even bicycles. Here's a brief wrap-up of the ones I have encountered. If you know more, please let me know:



PHOTO: CELEBRATETHETHE7

Flying the English eccentric flag is Chris Blakey, 68, a member of the Austin Seven Club. He is realising a long-held ambition by driving from Corsham, Wiltshire, to Japan in his 1937 three-seater Austin 7, coaching kids in rugby along the way. In Russia, he was feted by local rugby organisers, mobbed by the media and stopped by police more than 50 times to allow incredulous officers to take photos of themselves sat in the car. His mission is dubbed celebratethe7 and is being supported by Russian rugby clubs. He was last heard from in Vladivostok.



PHOTO: JOHN EVANS

John Evans, 62, is embarking on the trip from Aberystwyth, Wales, to Japan. He says that as you get older, you realise time's running out and you have to make the most of it.



PHOTO: CUSTOM MEDIA

British Ambassador Paul Madden CMG and his wife Sarah (left) accept a gift of beer at the British Embassy Tokyo on 11 September from Otter Brewery in Devon, delivered by Mark and Sue Farrell, who drove their Land Rover Discovery converted British Army ambulance

(called "Amber") from their home in Hemyock, Devon—which is near the Ambassador's home town of Ottery St Mary—for the RWC. The 27,835km trip across Europe, Russia, most of the "Stans", Mongolia and South Korea took four months.



PHOTO: CHILD FUND PASS IT BACK

Hong Kong-based rugby coach James Owens left Twickenham Stadium for Tokyo Stadium on 2 February with South African former rugby player and entrepreneur Ron Rutland. They hope to conclude their extraordinary quest to deliver the whistle for the first match and opening ceremony on 20 September by cycling 20,093km through 27 countries in 231 days.

Why? To promote the game and raise money and awareness for ChildFund Pass It Back, the official charity of the RWC 2019.



PHOTO: MOVEMBER UK / FACEBOOK

Known as The Hairy Handlebars, George Cullen, 25, and Ben Cook, 24, plan to cycle through 21 countries with little more than bikes, tents, utensils and cameras to raise funds for charities that support men's health. The two friends from Hertfordshire were quoted saying, "We're raising money for the Movember Foundation and the Ian Williams Foundation, and we are looking to raise £30,000". The Movember Foundation is a non-profit organisation that encourages men to grow moustaches in November to raise awareness of diseases such as prostate cancer.

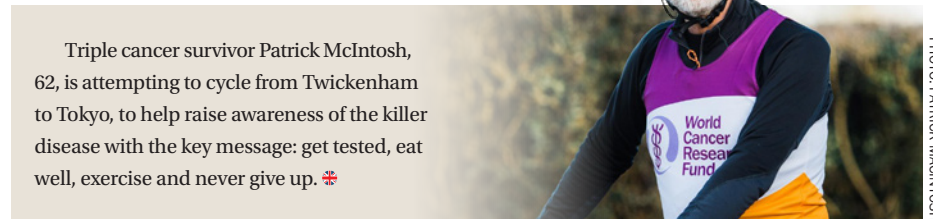


PHOTO: PATRICK MCINTOSH

Triple cancer survivor Patrick McIntosh, 62, is attempting to cycle from Twickenham to Tokyo, to help raise awareness of the killer disease with the key message: get tested, eat well, exercise and never give up. 🇬🇧

# MEDIA

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## LONDON VS TOKYO

### GEN Z LOVES UK CAPITAL

A September 2019 study by international online property platform *Nestpick* ranks London the best out of 110 cities for Generation Z (those born between the mid-1990s and the early-2000s). Tokyo is 48th. London’s compatibility with Gen Z principles, ability to meet educational needs and strong business opportunities were key. The study was conducted to determine which cities best meet the needs of Gen Z, “the creators, advocates and pioneers of tomorrow”.

### WORLD’S SAFEST CITIES

The *Safe Cities Index 2019*, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), lists Tokyo as the world’s safest city. The scale—which ranks cities based on personal, infrastructure, health and digital security—places London 14th. According to Irene Mia, the EIU’s global editorial director, European cities generally perform well in health security but “tend to struggle in the category of digital security”. London is the only European city in the top 10 in this area.



### MIZUHO IN LSE FIRST

Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. has become the first Japanese partner of the Paris arm of the London Stock Exchange Group’s London Clearing House (LCH), according to a 2 September story in *The Trade News*. “As a member of LCH SA, Mizuho will benefit from the largest pool of euro debt clearing in Europe. Clearing through the LCH SA enables us to maintain access to this important liquidity pool while managing our counterparty risk effectively,” said Amandine Triadu, head of credit and emerging markets repo in London, at Mizuho Securities.

## BREXIT: UK FALLS TO LAST IN G7 GROWTH

As reported by *The Guardian* on 30 August, the UK has fallen to the bottom of the G7 growth league table. Japan, meanwhile, saw a boost of 0.4%, behind only Canada and the United States. Experts believe the drop was caused by stockpiling in the lead-up to the original Brexit deadline of 29 March, as well as weak car production. Firms are now probably stockpiling again on account of the government's no-deal preparations, which could boost growth. But economic prospects once the UK leaves the European Union remain unclear.

## AIM STARTUP TARGETS ¥5BN

Uhuru, the Japanese startup backed by SoftBank Group Corp., is expected to raise ¥5bn in the lead-up to its listing on London's junior alternative investment market (AIM) on 23 October. This will give the only Japanese firm on the AIM board an assessment of more than ¥30bn, according to a 30 August story on *Deal Street Asia*. The startup is appointing Andrew Rose, who recently retired from asset manager Schrodgers plc, as an outside director at the end of September. Arden Partners plc and SMBC Nikko are advising Uhuru.

### NEWS BRIEFS

## PRINTS INSPIRE POETS



IMAGE: PUBLIC DOMAIN

In collaboration with the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, hundreds of UK-based poets wrote haiku inspired by the Japanese prints on display as part of the *Masters of Japanese Prints: Nature and Seasons* exhibition. To kick off the show on 5 September, Bristol poet and emcee Bertel Martin and senior curator Kate Newnham hosted workshops and presented *haiku* from contributors. (Literary website Call of the Page)

## WEST COUNTRY BAKER AT HANKYU

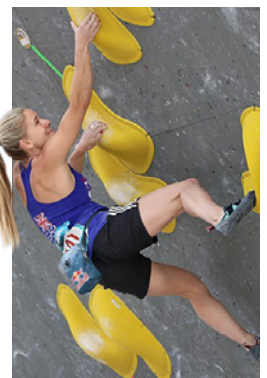
Bristol bakery Pinkmans will take part in Hankyu Department Store's annual "Best of British" fairs in Tokyo and Osaka from 5 to 20 October. As *British Baker* reported on 19 August, Pinkmans is planning to send their food and beverage manager and head baker to supervise. "It's a real honour to be invited," said co-owner Steven Whibley. "This is such a fantastic opportunity for our bakers and to put Bristol on the international culinary map".



“ At the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games ... climbing will make its Olympic debut. ”

## CLIMBER COXSEY GRABS BRONZE

Britain's Shauna Coxsey took home the bronze medal at the Climbing World Championships in Hachioji on 20 August. Despite placing third, the climber was in high spirits. "It is still not over". The same week saw Coxsey secure a spot at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Climbing is one of five sports that will make their Olympic debut. The others are karate, skateboarding, surfing and baseball, which returns after being dropped following the 2008 Beijing Games. (BBC Radio 2, 19 August)





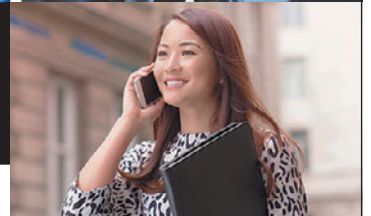
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# Positive impact

Defining the future of business

LORI HENDERSON MBE

**B**usiness responsibility can mean a lot of things. More and more, we are seeing firms taking ownership of their actions while striving for positive impact on their employees, customers, the community and environment. Some firms might call this corporate social responsibility or CSR. Others may prefer corporate citizenship, sustainable business or social performance. Whatever they choose, it makes business and societal sense.

## Evolving

Following our summer holiday break, the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BCCJ) Responsible Business Taskforce (RBT) has been quick out of the starting blocks, planning their next six months of activity. Members are:

- Will Farquhar (Aston Martin)
- Tove Kinooka (Global Perspectives)
- Kentaro Kiso (Barclays)
- Noriko Silvester (Candlewick)
- Trevor Webster (Taylor Brunswick)

The group has set two key performance indicators for this financial year. The first is to survey BCCJ members—about 1,000 people—on topics related to responsible business. This will ensure that we deliver the messages and

programmes which are relevant to your firm's interests. Armed with this information, they will deliver two more Responsible Business events by 31 March, 2020.

## Your views

Led by Kinooka, the group is working to define the BCCJ's definition of Responsible Business so that the chamber's work best represents our more than 200 BCCJ member firms. We would like to hear from you on matters such as:

- What does the term "Responsible Business" mean to you and your firm?
- What aspects of Responsible Business do you find the most difficult?
- What does your firm do to promote or support work-life balance?
- Are there any particular topics or speakers you would like to see at BCCJ Responsible Business or sustainability events?
- Would you be interested in sharing your firm's stories of success (or challenges!) related to Responsible Business for inclusion in BCCJ media?
- Would you be interested in nominating your organisation (or an organisation you admire) for the Positive Impact Award at this year's BBA?

Watch for the full survey, which will be sent to you by 18 September.

## BBA: a reminder

The 2019 British Business Awards (BBA) will be held on 8 November at Hotel Gajoen. One of our award categories is Positive Impact. Be sure to put your firm in the running for a trophy—particularly if you've made a notable contribution to society, communities or the environment. Learn more at: [www.bccjapan.com](http://www.bccjapan.com)

## Working for you

This is, of course, a constantly evolving field, and new research and tools are becoming available all the time. With so many resources at their disposal, the RBT is working so that you can stay ahead of the curve and discover the work of many other firms in the BCCJ network.

Responsible Business is a key pillar of our BCCJ 5.0 initiative, alongside Diversity and Inclusion and Digital Tech Innovation. Stay tuned for updates from the other two taskforces in future issues of *ACUMEN*. 🇬🇧



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# Stronger together

Teamwork matters in sport, business and research

DAVID BICKLE | @BCCJ\_President

**L**ongyfarchiadau! Congratulations to the Welsh national rugby team! In my column last month, I mentioned how close they had come to being ranked number one in the world. Subsequent to the August edition of *BCCJ ACUMEN* going to print, however, further impressive performances saw them reach that pinnacle. Together with the national teams of Scotland and England, which have also performed strongly in recent weeks, they head into Japan's Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2019 tournament in fine fettle.

I am pleased to note, too, that it is not only the Principality's rugby players who are stoking the fire in the Welsh dragon. In my *ACUMEN* column one year ago this month, I saluted the victory of Welshman Geraint Thomas in the Tour de France cycle race. One year on, sport fans will have again applauded another superhuman effort that took him to the finish line of the 2019 Tour, where he finished in second place.

Although the six-week RWC, which begins on 20 September, will undoubtedly be a fillip to the Japanese economy, it is critical to the success of the tournament that it be the catalyst of a lasting legacy for communities in Japan. To that end, the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BCCJ) is committed to supporting Japan's delivery of the tournament, fostering a legacy of more inclusive

communities and embracing opportunities for international business and exchange.

## Working together

Effective local collaboration is often a key ingredient in the recipe for success in the Japan market. Success, however, can be measured in different ways. For many businesses, it is progress toward financial key performance indicators (KPIs). Modern governance, however, has begun to place greater weight on non-financial KPIs, and for some—especially not-for-profit—endeavours it is community engagement and contribution that matters most.

One example is Japan's first lifeboat service at Nebama Bay in Iwate Prefecture, where the Kamaishi locals now operate a bespoke rescue craft designed and constructed by students at United World College (UWC) Atlantic College in Wales. As most readers will know, Kamaishi was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 11 March, 2011, and recovery is now being driven by the local community. These efforts have been catalysed by the hosting of two RWC rugby matches at the newly constructed Unosumai Memorial Stadium.

## Healthy activity

It is the spirit of collaboration that gives strength to the UK-Japan bilateral relationship. Such shared

Collaboration ... gives strength to the UK-Japan bilateral relationship.

endeavours are particularly prevalent in the field of science and technology, where UK Research and Innovation's Fund for International Collaboration is supporting projects announced in August between the University of Bristol and Kyoto University, in connection with the development of cancer treatments and promotion of cognitive health.

Grass-roots collaboration flourishes here, too, with notable September events, including the International Nanotechnology Symposium and a three-day series of meetings entitled Applying Neuroscience to Business. The first, to be held in Tokyo on 16 September and organised by former Trinity College fellow and Eurotechnology Japan KK founder Gerhard Fasol, features 21 researchers from the University of Cambridge. The second explores neuroscience as a catalyst for innovation at the Shiseido Global Innovation Center in Yokohama, and the BCCJ is delighted to be supporting in conjunction with NTT Data, University College London and Shiseido.

Provided that dialogue like this continues to flourish, the BCCJ believes that enhanced trust—and opportunities—will surely follow. 🇬🇧

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# GREAT WEEKS TO SHOW GREAT BUSINESS

One-year campaign highlights Britain–Japan ties

BY AARON BAGGETT



Ambassador Paul Madden CMG

Following Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to the UK in January, the British Embassy Tokyo, British Consulate-General and the British Council Japan began an ambitious, high-profile campaign entitled UK in JAPAN 2019–20. Running from September to September, and coinciding with the Rugby World Cup 2019 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the year-long campaign will showcase UK excellence while working to build a closer relationship between the two countries through experiences and collaborations.

UK in JAPAN 2019–20 will promote five "GREAT Weeks" that will examine mutual approaches to shared global challenges between the UK and Japan such as financial services, the ageing society, artificial intelligence and Big Data, climate change and the future of mobility (see next page). The first GREAT Week—Future of Financial Services—was held this month to promote both business and policy partnerships in finance.

To outline the campaign, the British Embassy Tokyo hosted an event at the Ambassador's Residence on 29 August.

## Shared challenges

British Ambassador to Japan Paul Madden CMG made the opening remarks. While discussing the UK in JAPAN 2019–20 campaign, the Ambassador said that, like Japan, the UK recently hosted the Olympics and Rugby World Cup, and that he sees this year as an opportunity to form a working partnership between the two countries. Together they can tackle some of the challenges currently facing modern society "through the strength of our business and R&D sectors, and also to showcase some of our artistic and cultural strengths".

He highlighted past and present bilateral relations. "Our two prime ministers agreed they would stage this UK in JAPAN 2019–20 year and, at the same time, the Japanese Embassy in London is going to be staging a cultural season in Britain", he said. "Prime Minister Abe met Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the G7 last week. They agreed

on the current strength of the UK–Japan relationship, and they committed to working together to strengthen it even further".

The Ambassador also commented on the prospects of UK–Japan relations following Brexit. "We have a strong trade and investment relationship, which continues to grow, and as we leave the EU, we will be working to promote a new bilateral trade agreement".

## Britain is GREAT

Before introducing the evening's presenters, he said that UK in JAPAN 2019–20 will highlight three main elements: GREAT Weeks, British cuisine and culture.

Chris Heffer, director of trade and investment at the British Embassy Tokyo, introduced the campaign's GREAT Weeks and Food is GREAT programmes. Five GREAT Weeks will showcase the UK's strengths and promote further collaboration between the UK and Japan through trade missions, seminars, receptions and panel discussions.

Greg Mulherin, counsellor Olympics & Paralympics at the British Embassy Tokyo, said these collaborations would also promote both household names and those not as well known. The Embassy will also be used as the UK House—or base of operations—for the events, receptions, conferences, performances and welcome ceremonies for athletes.

As for cuisine, rugby fans will have the opportunity to experience a taste of the UK in three Rugby World Cup 2019 cities hosting home nation games. At "Food is GREAT Gallery," patrons will be able to find UK-style food and drink such as gin, English sparkling wine, and British beef and lamb at matches in Sapporo, Kobe and Tokyo.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for Japanese audiences to see some of the UK's strengths—business, innovation, the culture of the arts and education.



### Culture is GREAT

Manami Yuasa, head of arts at the British Council Japan, mentioned several cultural and art collaboration projects between Japanese and British artists.

The British Council Japan and Ise City, Mie Prefecture, will co-host the Ise City Residency, in which six groups of British artists will be allowed to research the Ise Grand Shrine. This is a rare opportunity because the general public is normally not allowed beyond the wooden fences, this being Japan's most sacred shrine.

London's National Gallery will also present an exhibition of its collection for the first time anywhere outside Britain.

In the area of education, the campaign will help students become successful global citizens. The Study UK Exhibition 2019 in October will launch in partnership with 45 UK-based educational institutions, seeking to introduce a new variety of study opportunities.

### Five GREAT Weeks will showcase the UK's strengths.

An academic conference entitled New Directions 2019 will also be hosted by the British Council to introduce original English-language assessment methods for university entrance exams in Japan.

#### Fantastic opportunity

Ambassador Madden shared his belief that the UK and Japan are natural partners. "We have shared values, interests and even shared characteristics", he said.

"This will be a fantastic opportunity for Japanese audiences to see some of the UK's strengths—business, innovation, the culture of the arts and education—and also to further deepen the partnership between our two countries" 🇬🇧🇯🇵

### GREAT WEEKS

#### September 2019

#### Future of Financial Services

Showcasing the UK's leading policy areas in financial services and introducing the UK as a global hub and partner for fintech and cybersecurity.

#### February 2020

#### Clean Growth

Promoting UK policy and technical expertise in offshore wind technologies and encouraging decarbonisation as part of a sustainable future.

#### March 2020

#### Healthy Ageing

Highlighting the challenge posed by ageing societies and the opportunities they present. Proposing UK-Japan collaboration and future partnership.

#### May 2020

#### Future Mobility

Placing a broad focus on mobility, such as autonomous driving, low emissions and smart cities, and exploring issues related to disabled people, linking through to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games.

#### July 2020

#### Creativity

Underlining the UK as a global leader for creativity through art and design, and examining how these disciplines intersect with new technologies.



Chris Heffer



Greg Mulherin



Manami Yuasa



# BATTERY BOOST

Japan link is key for Coventry plant

BY JULIAN RYALL

**W**ork is well under way at the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre, and the state-of-the-art facility, close to Coventry, is scheduled to open next year. Firms working on next-generation storage solutions for electric vehicles (EVs), researchers looking to make the next major breakthrough in the sector and the British government all have high hopes that this facility will help solidify the UK's position as a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of batteries for future EVs.

And the connection with Japan is critical, they emphasise.

## Japanese support

There are high hopes that the sector will build on the close ties that UK firms have established with Japanese counterparts in the auto sector.

"Our Japanese partners were instrumental in the rebirth and success of the UK automotive industry,

and we fully expect Japanese firms to continue to play a major part as our industry embarks on the historic transition to a zero-emission, connected and autonomous future," Slaughter said.

As part of efforts to build on existing relationships and forge new links with Japanese firms, a record 21 British firms exhibited at the spring congress hosted by the Japan Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan (JSAE). The exhibition was held at the Pacifico Yokohama convention centre in Yokohama over three days from 22 May and attracted more than 70,000 engineers, researchers and executives from around the world.

The British presence was organised by the Advanced Propulsion Centre, a privately owned, not-for-profit organisation that was set up by auto industry players in 2013 to operate between industry and the government to accelerate the development and introduction of low-carbon automotive technology.

The UK is a highly competitive and attractive business environment for the automotive supply chains of the future.

"Japan is important to UK business. We have long-standing business relationships and high levels of technical exchange," said John Beasley, director of technology and projects at the centre. "Japan is embracing low-carbon and environmental challenges, as is the UK, and working together can realise solutions far quicker".

## Power to export

"But we cannot rest on our laurels," Slaughter said. "That is why we are supporting businesses in the UK that are developing battery technology to export to overseas markets, and working hard at home and

through our overseas posts to bring large-scale battery manufacture and an end-to-end electrified supply chain to the UK.

“The UK is a highly competitive and attractive business environment for the automotive supply chains of the future, just as it has been for our highly successful existing automotive industry,” he pointed out.

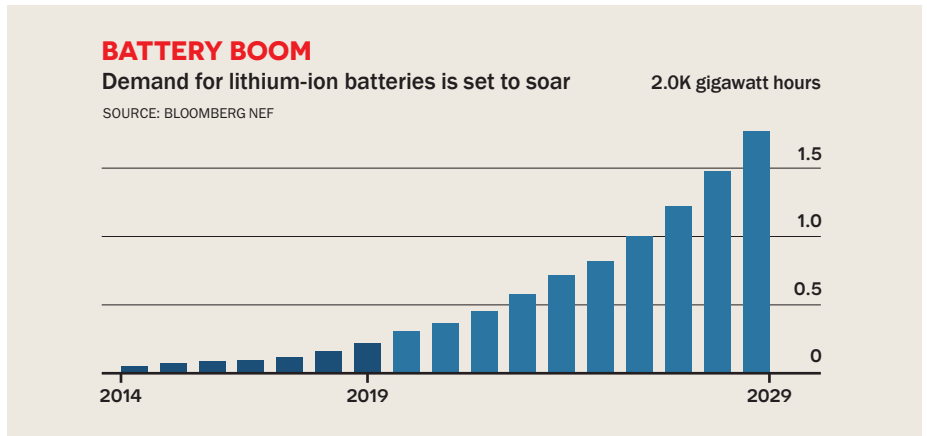
The government’s Faraday Battery Challenge is offering £274mn for firms to design, develop and manufacture batteries in the UK, with the robust domestic chemicals industry ready to supply the key materials needed for EV batteries at the same time as the nation’s “highly collaborative research ecosystem” provides battery makers with a competitive and technological edge, Slaughter said.

**Advancing innovation**

As recently as May, the government announced that an extra £28mn is being invested in the UK’s first gigafactory—a giant facility for battery production. That’s on top of the £80mn provided by the government through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

The aim is for the facility to serve as a new national centre of excellence in the sector that brings together industry and academia to develop innovative new battery designs. As demand for EVs increases, the centre will also help nurture a new generation of skilled technicians and attract additional investment in zero-emission vehicles.

Speaking exclusively to *ACUMEN*, Mark Slaughter (right), director general for investment, said Britain has a long and impressive track record in the auto industry and that the government is committed to building on the national know-how in battery technology.



“We are proud of our highly innovative, cutting-edge battery research and development and manufacture,” Slaughter said. “We invented the lithium-ion battery, which was then commercialised by Sony. We were the first European country to have volume battery manufacture for electric vehicles, thanks to Nissan’s Leaf battery plant in Sunderland, and firms such as Hyperbat, McLaren, AGM Batteries, Delta Motorsport and Intelligent Energy lead the way in advanced battery and fuel-cell technologies.”

And while the UK is recognised as the global home of motorsport, that is also now true of the all-electric Formula-E racing series.

“This is testament to the excellence and agility of the UK’s research community and its entrepreneurial spirit,” he added.

**Early market**

Firms that displayed at the UK pavilion were impressed by the number of visitors and the technical competence of the people who took part, Beasley said. Yet, there is still some way to go, he

agreed, before zero-emission automobiles are in the majority on the world’s roads.

“The race is by no means over,” he said. “We are seeing some early market adopters, purchasing and using vehicles such as the Nissan Leaf, the Jaguar iPace and Toyota hybrids, but we have some way to go before these vehicles are the majority of sales, in part because they are still expensive.

“We need to make the vehicles more affordable for mass market adoption, which requires working closely with supply chains around the world, and this will open up many new opportunities.”

Intelligent Energy Ltd. was among the firms represented in Yokohama, with Dr Lee Juby, chief sales officer of the Loughborough-based firm, applauding the British government’s decision to provide support for zero-emission fuel-cell electric vehicle powertrains.

“The UK government has taken the strategic approach of creating and sustaining a national expertise in low-carbon vehicles, along with an expertise in connected and autonomous vehicles, covering all aspects of design, engineering, develop-



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ment, testing and introduction into fleet operation,” he told *ACUMEN*.

“Intelligent Energy has received government support for its zero-emission fuel-cell system development, and has also been supported to take part and exhibit at international trade shows via UK pavilions,” he added. “This has provided a great opportunity to be able to showcase our products to relevant audiences and industries.”

The firm is the market leader in lightweight fuel-cell power, with its fuel-cell stacks the most power dense available. And the power modules, when combined with hydrogen storage, are at least three times more energy dense than an equivalent weight of traditional lithium batteries. That makes them very attractive to Japanese firms.

#### Building momentum

Other UK firms are similarly on the leading edge of this sector. According to Juby: “The UK has a rich history of technology innovation and a great record of technology transfer from universities. Intelligent Energy’s roots are at Loughborough University, from which it was originally a spin-out firm in the 1990s.”

A regular visitor to Japan for the JSAE show in recent years, Juby said there was a high level of interest again this year.

“The JSAE show has benefited Intelligent Energy in several ways,” he said. “The show enabled us to keep in touch with existing customers, to keep track of their product development and to inform them of our new developments. For ongoing prospects, we are able to keep in touch and keep the sales message moving.”

As a result of the connections made while in Japan, Juby said the firm is now following up

## This facility will help solidify the UK’s position as a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of batteries for future EVs.

on more than 50 solid leads that he expects “to transition into sizable new opportunities”.

#### Local presence

Avid Technology Group Ltd. was another of the British companies that came to Japan in May, with the Northumberland-based battery management and battery systems specialists looking to stand out in what is becoming an increasingly crowded global field.

“UK firms are at the forefront of electrification technologies, with a particular specialisation and expertise around eMachine, power electronics and battery systems development,” said Iain Young, director of sales for the firm, which works closely with major vehicle original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the UK, as well as battery manufacturers and academia to develop high-density, long-life battery systems for commercial and off-highway vehicles.

One thing that became apparent after the firm’s most recent visit to Japan was the need for a local presence if it is to grow the business here. The hurdles have already been identified:

- High cost of setting up a legal entity in Japan
- Language barrier
- Identifying and hiring suitably qualified technical and commercial staff

But Young insists, “Japan is a key high-growth market for electric vehicles and, therefore, is a natural market for Avid’s range of electrification products and systems”.

Marketing Manager Jordan Taylor concurs, pointing out that Japan has a large number of manufacturers that specialise in truck and off-highway vehicles, adding that this sector “has the potential to be a sizeable chunk of our business”.

The Yokohama exhibition was a “great platform for us to get our technology under the eyes of some of the key senior staff at the Japanese vehicle OEMs,” Taylor said.

#### Promising future

“The majority of our customers to date are mainly from Europe and North America. However, as Japan is also a forward-thinking automotive market that appreciates new technology, coupled with the fact that Japan also has many global vehicle manufacturers, it only makes sense that we enter the Japanese market to supply companies there as well”.

Young applauded the government’s decision to build the new battery testing facility near Coventry, which will complement Avid’s own in-house capabilities.

“The future for Avid is very exciting as we seek to significantly scale up our manufacturing operation from 2019 to meet the huge demands coming from our focus on EV market segments,” he added. “For Japan—and internationally in general—we see huge growth fuelled by the demand from major global vehicle manufacturers and tier-one OEMs.”



A charging station in London

# THE ENGLISH SAMURAI

New discoveries may shed light on the first Briton in Japan

BY C BRYAN JONES

In the December 2018 issue of *ACUMEN*, we reported on preparations by the William Adams Club to unveil a memorial to the first Englishman in Japan. In the nine months since, some fascinating developments have taken place and we had the opportunity to speak with Dr Richard Irving, an expert on Adams, who in July retired from Kwansei Gakuin University in Hyogo Prefecture and moved back to the UK.

Irving is a member of the club founded in 2015 to promote the life and times of Adams in the lead-up to the 400th anniversary of his death on 16 May, 2020. To honour the event—and the mark Adams left on Japanese culture—a memorial sculpture, which is being produced by Scottish sculptress Kate Thomson, will be unveiled and placed permanently on the grounds of the British Embassy Tokyo.

From a British perspective, he was very much involved in the negotiations for the first treaty of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Britain

Recently, remains were discovered in Hirado, Nagasaki Prefecture, near what has long thought to be Adams' grave. The William Adams Club is confident they are his.

As we delved into what this could mean for the club, Irving shared with us the historical significance of Adams and debunked some of the misconceptions surrounding his life.

## Shogun's trust

Born in Gillingham, Kent, in 1564, Adams was an experienced sailor. At the age of 12, he was apprenticed to a mariner who taught him the art of deep-sea navigation. His job description was master mariner. At the end of his training—aged 24—he was commissioned as captain of a merchant ship which had been requisitioned by the Queen's Navy to fight the threat of invasion by



the Spanish Armada in 1588. Ten years later, he joined a fleet of five merchant ships setting sail for Indonesian Moluku, commonly called the Spice Islands. The expedition was a disaster and in April 1600, after more than 19 months at sea, Adams and a handful of survivors dropped anchor off the Japanese island of Kyushu.

“Had he continued on to Holland, he’d have been one of the very early circumnavigators, and may well have been better known as such,” said Irving. “But, as it was, he stayed in Japan”.

About five years after his arrival, Adams had become not only acquainted but also friendly with



Excavation in July 2017 at the William Adams Memorial Park at Hirado.



Memorial to William Adams at Hemi, near Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture.





Map of Hirado, 1621

the shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. “He was appointed as an advisor and, not long after, an actual samurai with the title *hatamoto*—a samurai under the direct service of the shogun”.

Irving said the life of Adams is filled with points of historical significance—not only for the noticeable achievement of crossing the Pacific Ocean through the Strait of Magellan in the 16th century but, more importantly, his relationship with Tokugawa, particularly in foreign affairs. “From a British perspective, he was very much involved in the negotiations for the first treaty of

mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and England,” Irving explained. “The fact that a sculpture will be in the embassy highlights his importance with regard to his diplomatic efforts”.

#### Here lies Adams?

Through DNA testing, researchers know that the remains found near Adams’ grave marker in Hirado are from a person of European descent. But it is not yet conclusive that they are actually his.

Irving told *ACUMEN* that there has always been controversy about where Adams’ remains

Based on the DNA, carbon-14 and knowledge of other English that died at that time, we are very close to narrowing it down to William Adams.

actually are. “We know he died in Hirado and, therefore, certainly would have been buried there even though there is a purported tomb for him at his estate in Yokosuka”.

Unfortunately, only five percent of the skeleton remains due to the nature of the soil, which is very corrosive. “But based on the DNA, carbon-14 and knowledge of other English that died at that time, we are very close to narrowing it down to William Adams,” said Irving.

Pointing to the prestigious position of the grave as possible evidence, he added: “He, of course, as samurai—as *hatamoto*—would have been allowed his favourite burial place near or on the top of the hill”.

The bones have yielded enough to confirm what is already known about Adams, including his age and time of death. Based on DNA and the other evidence, we believe they can only belong to one of two individuals: Adams or another who is unlikely to have been buried in such a prestigious location. Further investigation at the site is being undertaken.

#### The future club

With the 400th anniversary just eight months away, the mission for which the William Adams Club was founded is nearing its end.

Regardless of whether the remains in Hirado are found to be those of Adams, Irving believes the club will live on, broaden its membership, and bring in younger people as it takes on a more educational role.

“It may become a society,” he said. “Not necessarily so focused on just William Adams—maybe other British individuals who would be the topic of further investigation”.

Readers interested in donating to the William Adams Club, please contact Robin Maynard MBE on: [rjmaynard126@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rjmaynard126@yahoo.co.uk)

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# MORE THAN LETTERS AND NUMBERS

BST prepares students for a world of opportunity

BY JAMES THOMAS, HEAD OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL



**A**t The British School in Tokyo (BST), students often attain outstanding examination results and go on to study at some of the finest universities in the world. But there is so much more to school life than examinations.

One of the first questions that I am usually asked by prospective parents is about the quality of our examination results and where students end up after life at BST. I am always very pleased to talk, albeit briefly, about our stellar performances. This past summer, for example, more than one-third of the results for our 16-year-olds at IGCSE were the highest possible grades, and well over half of our A-level results for 18-year-olds were in the top drawer. We also have alumni currently studying at the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, the University of Tokyo, the University of British Columbia, New York University and other laudable institutions around the world.

However, I swiftly move on to talk about other matters. Not that we take such results for granted—they are the product of highly dedicated staff and very focused students—but we do our very best to expose students to so many aspects of life, so that they are well-rounded global citizens ready to face the world beyond school.

## Service matters

A simple way to judge the priorities of any institution is to look at where they place their resources, be they in finance, time or deployment of personnel. We dedicate a great deal to life beyond the typical curriculum and classrooms—more than many schools that you will ever find. Beyond the great commitment to sport, music, art and drama that has become somewhat expected as standard—and is seen in all international schools—all our students, without exception, are involved in a vast

range of societies and service programs both locally and internationally.

They also experience at least two residential trips of four to five days each year to numerous locations in the great outdoors far from the concrete jungle of Sangenjaya. We value service to others and try to instil in the students that such service matters. For example, all our 15-years-olds take part in a weekly programme in which they:

- Teach younger children English
- Work at an allotment
- Volunteer in retirement homes
- Assist the homeless
- Care for people with disabilities
- Devote time to animal shelters
- Take part in other altruistic activities

They go on expeditions to extraordinary places, such as a remote village in Cambodia where we raised funds to build—and now support—a new school. We also support and often visit a community in Tohoku called Moriumius, which is still recovering

from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 11 March, 2011. Also, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award youth programme has grown considerably in recent years, and our students collect gold honours annually.

## So much more

I could likely fill a whole edition of *ACUMEN* with further tales of our work relating to award-winning programmes for the Rugby World Cup 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as student-led eco initiatives and partnerships in the local community.

I am now in my sixth year here and I am still inspired every day by the opportunities our students have, how they grasp them and how staff and parents support us so positively. This really is a very special place, and I would be more than happy to show you how and why, should you wish to visit us. 🇬🇧

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- IB accredited
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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Offering outstanding learning through an enhanced dual-language experience
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- Teaching through an enhanced UK curriculum inspired by the natural world
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- Focus on a healthy, balanced lifestyle
- Supporting pupils to independently follow their interests and passions



Laurus International School of Science  
FBR Mita Bldg, 4-1-27 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073

03-5422-6569  
information@laurus-school.com  
www.laurus-school.com

Laurus International School of Science gives students the opportunity to think scientifically and to acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Our mission is to create future innovators to change the world for the better.

—Mami Hioki, head of school

Laurus International School of Science began as an English language school in 2001. Since then, we have expanded to include six established preschools and kindergartens in the Tokyo-Kanagawa area, and in 2016 opened the Laurus International School of Science primary school.

Laurus International School of Science is the only international science primary school in Japan with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Our original STEM education curriculum gives students opportunities to think scientifically and nurtures their problem-solving skills as they are guided through exciting experiment-based educational experiences by our highly qualified educators. We provide students with numerous opportunities to use cutting-edge technologies, such as 3D printers, robots and drones, as well as virtual- and augmented-reality devices. This also attracts the attention of future-minded parents. Laurus is an accredited, Cambridge-assessed international school, and our educational programme follows international standards.

# The A-List of Education



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QUEST TOKYO offers professional educational services to families and schools in Tokyo, framed within the rigour and high standards of the British education system.

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Most recently, we commenced work on a long-term project, establishing the QUEST Special Educational Needs Hub to offer evaluative therapy and support services for children with learning challenges, as well as training and support to schools.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Tutoring across a range of subjects
- English phonics group programmes
- Consultation on schooling both in and outside Japan
- Entrance exam preparation
- Holiday programmes
- Coming soon: support for children with learning difficulties



Shinagawa International School  
4-8-8 Higashishinagawa Shinkan Bldg.  
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-0002

School Admissions Office  
03-6433-1531  
shinagawa@sistokyo.jp  
www.sistokyo.jp

Shinagawa International School (SIS) is an IB PYP-accredited school offering preschool classes (ages 3 and 4), a kindergarten and a primary school (G1-6).

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SIS Mission: To provide a multicultural learning community which nurtures a passion for academic, social, and personal success.

SIS Educational Philosophy: SIS aims at educating each of its students to be: inspired and independent life-long learners; academically, artistically, socially, and physically balanced; inquirers and problem-solvers; multilingual communicators; responsible and principled internationally-minded citizens; appreciative of our local community.

## PROGRAMME/CURRICULUM

- IB World School
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Summerhill International School  
2-13-8 Moto-Azabu  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0046

School Office  
03-3453-0811  
info@summerhill.jp  
www.summerhill.jp

Summerhill International School combines the joys of learning with the art of education. There is an environment of beauty and wonder, full of warm, flowing colours and objects that awaken the imagination and invite interaction through play.

At Summerhill, a child's unique character is fostered and allowed to blossom naturally, guided by caring and supportive teachers. The school environment stimulates curiosity, instils a desire to learn and develops attributes for becoming a global citizen.

Summerhill believes in the competencies and capabilities of young children and provides an enriched environment that supports their growth and development in all areas—physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially—while recognising the uniqueness of each child.

## PROGRAMME/CURRICULUM

- For children aged 15 months to six years
- Nurturing, high-quality environment
- Experienced and caring teachers
- Flexible, age-appropriate programmes
- Attractive after-school activities
- Extended Day Program for working parents
- Awarded candidacy status for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

# BOARDING SCHOOLS RAISE THE BAR

British-style education expands in Japan and abroad

BY JOHN AMARI

For parents in Japan seeking an international education for their children, Europe—the UK in particular—has been the destination of choice for decades.

But that may be changing. To find out why *ACUMEN* spoke with education experts and insiders to get their thoughts on recent industry trends, as well as the increasing appetite for international schools with boarding as an option in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

## New dragons

For the first time in Japan, a European- and British-style boarding school experience for primary school children will begin in 2020.

In spring of that year, Jinseki International School (JINIS) will open in Jinseki-gun, a remote mountainside location in Hiroshima Prefecture.

Headmaster Nicholas Gunn said that the not-for-profit school will seek to raise the bar for education in Japan. The school will not only deliver a European- and British-style boarding school experience, but also take advantage of its remote countryside location.

“We will be able to look at things from a theoretical perspective in the classroom, and then take it outdoors—on camping trips, for example—so that the children can live and breathe what they learn in a textbook or on an interactive whiteboard”.

To achieve its goals, the school is tapping the collective wisdom of two titans of the British boarding school system: John Baugh and Michael Robert Gray.



John Baugh



Michael Rob Gray

Many [students] have a goal to attend leading universities in the UK.

Baugh is the former headmaster of the Dragon School, a co-educational boarding school established in Oxford in 1877.

Gray has been the deputy head and director of academics at Institut Le Rosey, a North American and European-style boarding school established in Rolle, Switzerland, in 1880.

Both have advised Next Education Development Environment Inc. (NEED), a subsidiary of internet advertising company News2u Holdings Inc. NEED is the parent company of JINIS.

A dual-language, English-Japanese international boarding school, JINIS will have a focus on grades one to six and will offer the UK’s national school curriculum, Gunn said.

The school will offer the same hours of education as do domestic schools, including for the study of Japanese. This is in line with its accreditation as an Article 1 school, a definition under Japan’s Basic Education Act—legislation which falls under the remit of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

## Canadian schooling

JINIS is creating waves in the education system in Japan. But offering an international boarding school experience is not entirely new here.

Columbia International School (CIS), for instance, opened its doors way back in 1988.

Based in Saitama Prefecture, CIS offers the Ontario Curriculum, from the Canadian province of the same name. The school enrolls children—from kindergarten through grade 12 and offers boarding to those in grades nine to 12.

When CIS opened, there was not a lot of choice for international education in Japan,



JINIS is located in the remote mountainside of Hiroshima Prefecture.



Students at Marlborough College Malaysia

Barrie McCliggot told *ACUMEN*. McCliggot is the principal of CIS.



Barrie McCliggot

“That was really how the dorm got built in the first place. And around that time —25 years ago—was when we added the junior high school”

Thirteen years ago, CIS began offering elementary schooling. With two dozen or so students, the school has a strong sense of family and community, McCliggot said.

This means new entrants settle in quickly—even those who are not familiar with dorms or life in rural areas. Due to its proximity to Tokyo, it’s not unusual for students to visit urban areas in the metropolis.

“We’re in Matsugo, Tokurozawa, a little patch of rural Saitama, but we’re surrounded by major urban centres. Shinjuku, for example, is just 45 minutes away.

“Last weekend, our dorm supervisor took some of our students to Fujikyū amusement park in Yamanashi Prefecture”.

**Anglican down under**

While JINIS and CIS are spreading their footprint in Japan, schools with a similar profile are doing the same around the region—including in Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

Cranbrook School, for instance, is an Anglican independent day and boarding school for boys based in Sydney, Australia. The school caters to

students from pre-school to year 12 and offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) qualification.

Established 101 years ago, Cranbrook has offered “a rich and distinctive education to generations of young men, providing students with a truly world-class education,” said Headmaster Nicholas Sampson.

Students are supported to develop an international outlook at Cranbrook in many ways, including immersion “in different languages and cultures through student exchange programmes”.

To this end, “Cranbrook has enjoyed an association with the Nagoya-based Nanzan School, with

students from both having taken part in an annual student and staff exchange programme for the past 17 years,” Sampson added.

The school’s Director of Admission and External Relations, Meredith Stone, said, “While Cranbrook has traditionally only seen a modest intake of students from Japan, interest from families based in the country has been steadily growing in recent years”.

**Marlborough in Malaysia**

As in Australia, international schools in Malaysia have, for years, offered European- or British-style boarding school options for aspirational parents in the region.

“Here at Marlborough College Malaysia, our philosophy is based closely on our sister school, Marlborough College, in the UK,” Adam Stevens, the school’s master told *ACUMEN*.

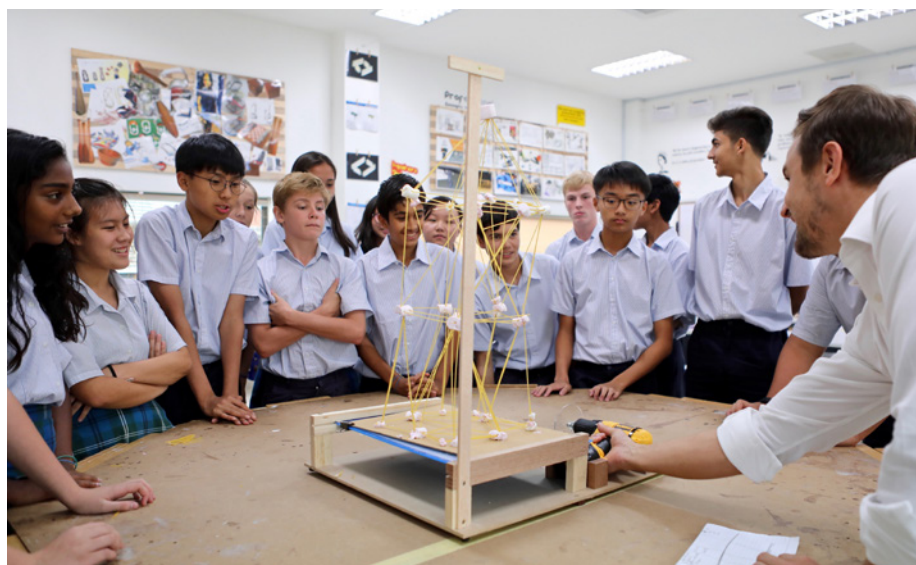


Adam Stevens

“In addition to the highest standards of conduct and achievement, we have a genuinely global outlook, welcoming children from over 40 nations and equipping them to attend many of the world’s most competitive universities”.

The academic and soft skills that Marlborough College Malaysia teaches—including music, drama and debating—are “further enhanced by the option to experience boarding”.

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## The ever-expanding landscape of international schools bodes well for Japan-originated students wishing to attend colleges such as Oxford.



It sharpens children's abilities to communicate and empathise," he added.

This leads to the question: Have Japanese students boarded at the school? And, if so, how have they fared?

"We are pleased to have approximately 50 Japanese children aged three to 18," Stevens said. "The intrinsic Japanese values of harmony, self-improvement and respect are a close match for those of Marlborough and its traditionally undemonstrative, understated British culture of honesty, courage, ambition and teamwork," he added, saying that the experience of Japanese enrollees has been positive.

### Passport to the UK

As Stevens and others noted, UK-Japan educational exchange and interaction—whether one is speaking about Japan, the region or Britain—is increasing across all levels of learning.

In many cases, parents based in Japan have looked to EF Academy, an international boarding school with campuses in New York and Pasadena, California, in the United States, as well as Oxford.

EF Academy has students from more than 75 countries. Five from Japan are based in Oxford, said Maiko Ozaki, the school's head of admissions for Japan.

In the UK, where the school has had a presence since 2006, students enrol from year 10 (age 14) up to when they sit for A Levels or IB.

Ozaki explained that there are three main reasons why Japanese students choose to attend the school:

- Many have a goal to attend leading universities in the UK.
- Some have had difficulty fitting into the domestic school environment—where free expression of opinions, for instance, is uncommon. They see study abroad as a viable alternative. A number of experts made this point.
- Others wish to improve their English language capacity, not to mention that they can choose, at A Level, a subject of their interest—something that is less likely to occur under the domestic curriculum in Japan.

### Tokyo to Oxford

Ozaki may have a point. When parents and students in Japan choose an international school education, they often do so not simply to gain English skills or broaden horizons, but also with the goal of attending elite universities in Europe and North America.

"For students who wish to study at the undergraduate level at Oxford, you need to have either

A Levels, IB or one of the other qualifying examinations. The Japanese high school leaving exam is not one of them," said Alison Beale, director of the University of Oxford Japan Office.



Alison Beale

"So, most of our students at the undergraduate level who are Japanese come from either an international school or may be from a boarding school in the UK".

For Beale, who sits on the Executive Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan, the ever-expanding landscape of international schools bodes well for Japan-originated students wishing to attend colleges such as Oxford.

"What I'm excited about regarding the rise of British- and international-style boarding schools is that, to get into universities in the UK, there are things that Japanese students find to be a big hurdle.

"One is English language. I think these schools will help because students get taken in from an early age and immersed in the language, so it will not be a problem for them". All the experts interviewed more or less shared the same sentiment. 🇬🇧



### Experience abroad

Miho Namatame graduated from Columba College, a day and boarding school for girls in New Zealand, from age 13 through high school. She then attended the University of Auckland.



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# CREATIVE GROWTH

Summerhill International School encourages curiosity and imagination in young learners



The early years are crucial in a child's education. Inspiring a love of learning at this age creates a foundation for a great academic future. One place where curiosity is nurtured in an internationally minded environment is Summerhill International School.

Known for its high-quality learning approaches, Summerhill, which is based in Azabu-juban, teaches children aged 15 months to five years. Stressing the importance of children's formative years, Anita Sutton, director of Summerhill, spoke about how the school guides children toward a lifetime of learning.

## Global minds

Summerhill focuses on basic skills to prepare students for International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes. Sutton explained: "In our junior infants' classes, we have a big focus on physical development, which is in line with international research as an area that is lacking in children under the age of three. To be able to read and write for extended periods of time, children need time to develop their fine motor and gross motor skills, and to be a part of environments that encourage their curiosity".

Summerhill children and their parents can expect the same type of challenging approaches to learning that would be offered in other countries. As Sutton said: "We do not make up a pretend curriculum. We understand developmentally appropriate practices in the early years and ensure that our children have the best start to meaningful development in their early years—the most formative years of their life". At the school, children aged 15 months to three years do not receive an official IB accreditation. However, the learning methods are inspired by IB techniques, which are practiced around the world and encourage a

collaborative approach. "The teachers are not teachers—they are seen as facilitators in the children's learning," Sutton explained.

## STEAM

Children have a natural disposition towards science, which they express through their sense of curiosity and creativity. Summerhill has incorporated science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) approaches into all of their classes. As Sutton pointed out: "STEAM is just as relevant in the junior infant classes as it is in the older classes. Following natural research, it makes sense to implement these concepts in the younger years. STEAM, however, is not delivered in set-out 'lessons'. Our approach to learning and exploration of STEAM concepts is through play, throughout the day.

"Mixing colours is a scientific approach to experimentation, because children are watching

STEAM is just as relevant in the junior infant classes as it is in the older classes.

and trying to process what is happening. They don't have to know what the names of the colours are, they just know that something happens when you mix two chemicals together. It is science—we just do it in a childlike way that is safe and that they're able to understand".

Sutton strongly believes in the importance of looking at young children's education with a long view in mind: "Childhood is not a race. It is a small window to explore the world in wonder, at your own pace". Summerhill, which encourages children to "learn how to learn" and grow into globally minded individuals, is a school that takes this spirit to heart with every student. 🇬🇧



Summerhill International School

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## EARLY ADVANTAGE

Aoba-Japan International School  
prepares young learners for bright futures

The importance of kindergarten classes can't be emphasised enough: children's experiences at this stage of school can shape the rest of their educational careers. A leader in early education, Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) offers learning opportunities that help young minds blossom.

### Natural learning

Explaining A-JIS's kindergarten curriculum, kindergarten three (K3) teacher Teresa Velez said that children are encouraged to learn in a natural way, motivated by their own curiosity. "We carry four themes throughout the entire year. These are: who we are; how we express ourselves; where we are in place and time; and how the world works. We teach children to enquire and to ask questions. It's not spoon-feeding; it's more experience-based. I think Aoba is a good place for them to learn because of this." Learning goals at the school are achieved using a variety of approaches, with literacy, numeracy and other skills being introduced at learning centres located within classrooms.

Kindergarten classes are grounded in enquiry-based lessons, where the teacher encourages

the students to learn through questions. Talking about some recent lessons, Velez explained how play-based learning was used to develop understanding. "The children discovered how to make toys out of recycled materials. Another example was when we were playing rock-paper-scissors. Instead of using their hands, the children used their bodies, so they were jumping around. That was really fun."

The kindergarten children at A-JIS spend plenty of time outside, and sessions to develop motor skills take place every morning. The children go outside to play, so they feel alert and awake before they enter the classroom. "Even if it rains, even if it's snowing, we still go outside," Velez said.

### Family friendly

In addition to providing ample opportunities for kindergarten-aged children to explore, gain knowledge and express themselves, A-JIS prides itself on offering services that give parents peace of mind. "One of the unique things we offer is our afterschool programme," Velez explained. The afterschool programme gives children whose parents are working, or who

are unable to pick them up, a place to stay and enjoy themselves.

Velez also spoke about an app called Seesaw, which the kindergarten teachers can use to keep parents informed about their child's activities throughout the day. "Whatever activity we have at school, we update it on Seesaw so parents will know what we are doing. It's really easy for them to access as well, because they can use it on their phones. We can send videos, pictures and updates on what we are doing. It is very effective."

### Building futures

The kindergarten teachers at A-JIS form strong bonds with their classes every year. As A-JIS teaches children from kindergarten to high school, teachers are able to watch children grow into globally minded learners. Velez explained that the most important part of kindergarten is setting the stage for children's development. "I think children should be enjoying their stay in kindergarten, so they can feel confident pursuing their studies in grade school. We prepare the children with life skills that they will need wherever they go—how to be independent and how to be global citizens". 🇯🇵



### Aoba-Japan International School

**Hikarigaoka campus:** (Age: 3–18 years old)

7-5-1 Hikarigaoka, Nerima-ku, Tokyo 179-0072 | 03-4578-8832

**Meguro campus:** (Age: 1.5–6 years old)

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# MIDDLE TEMPLE: PAST AND FUTURE

Chuo University sends law students to UK

One of the first Japanese lawyers to become a barrister in the UK was Masujima Rokuichiro. He entered the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, in London, in 1881 and returned to Japan in 1885 as a qualified barrister. Together with colleagues, he soon set up The English Law College, which became Chuo University. The Chuo Law School, in Ichigaya, is the direct training centre from that original focus, and the relationship between Chuo and Middle Temple has remained close.

Masujima provided immense service in the late 1800s and early 1900s to diplomat and renowned Japanologist Sir Ernest Satow and the British Legation. He also fostered much of the adversarial approach in the Japanese courtrooms of the time.

It is a journey back to our roots, but for the students it is an invitation to their future as advocates not just here in Japan, but overseas as well.



## UK experience

Since 2017, Chuo has been actively working with Middle Temple—first by providing a Legal Forum here in Tokyo. This focuses on the internationalisation of the Japanese courtroom lawyer and the live advocacy that is essential to the client.

By developing this long-standing friendship further, Chuo Law School is sending a small party of elite students to London this month to attend a specially prepared week-long law course at Middle Temple. It will focus on criminal practice and be taught by a number of Queen's Counsels of the

Middle Temple. The programme is whole-heartedly supported by the Director of Education at Middle Temple, Christa Richmond, and the Dean of the Chuo Law School at Chuo University, Ryo Ogiso.

## Unique opportunity

Asked recently for his opinion of the collaboration, Ogiso said: “We really are delighted to be able to send our students to Middle Temple like this. It is a journey back to our roots, but for the students it is an invitation to their future as advocates not just here in Japan, but overseas as well. We want to showcase our most adventurous students and hope that private firms and law practices—Japanese and international—will see the benefits for the students and join us in the future by helping us sponsor as many students as possible to access this unique opportunity on an annual basis.”

Chuo Law School (Tokyo)  
<http://global.chuo-u.ac.jp/english>

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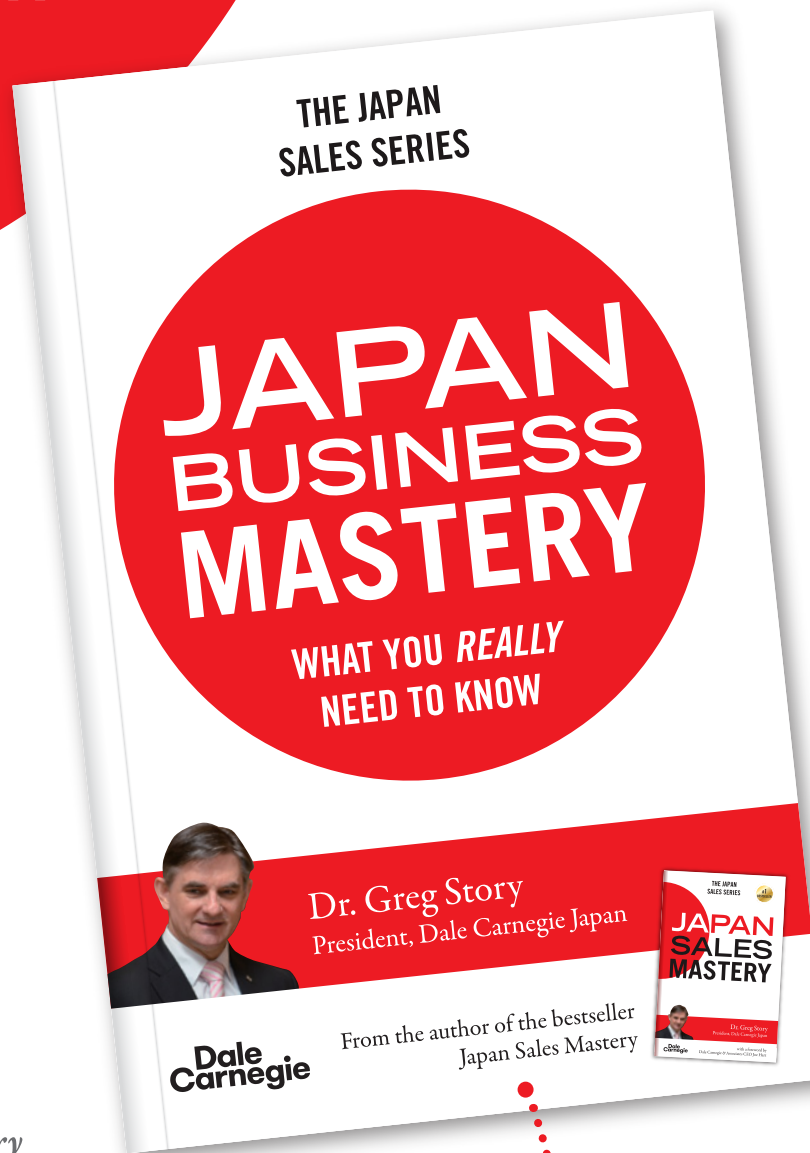
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# CAREER BOOST

Sally Army team consultant recounts JMEC experience

BY AARON BAGGETT

**W**hy do people join the Japan Market Expansion Competition (JMEC)? For London-raised Luis Costigan, it was to gain skills that would open up many paths and help him build a career.

Never sure exactly what he wanted to do, Costigan had studied Japanese and Spanish at Cardiff University before moving to Tokyo. He realised he needed something more than “not bad Japanese” to carve out any semblance of a career, so the first step seemed to be to learn something practical. He found a position at bilingual job board Daijob.com, and about a year later found himself in a position to join JMEC. He saw value in a practical approach to building a business plan, so decided to give it a go. That was in 2015.

In this year’s competition, Costigan served as a consultant for the team charged with creating a market expansion plan for the Salvation Army. Under his guidance, the group won the “Tell It Like It Is” Award, recognising their bold strategy of redefining the Salvation Army’s initial scope of work and proposing a feasible plan.

ACUMEN spoke to Costigan about his long history with JMEC—particularly his experience as a participant—and how it changed his life.

## What skills did you hope to gain from JMEC?

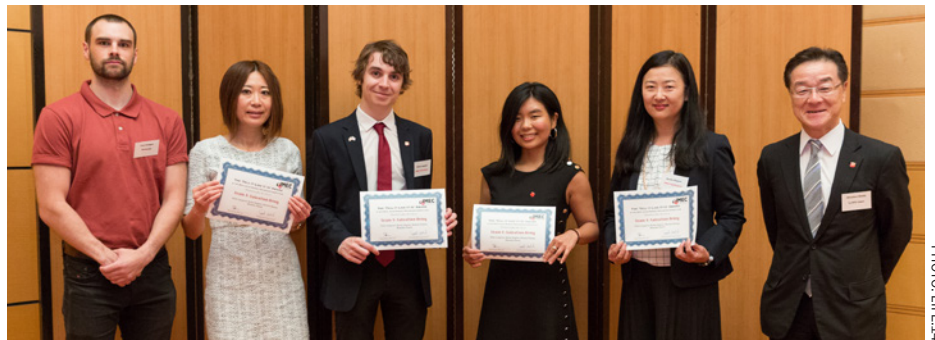
I was 26 years old when I joined JMEC, and I don’t remember having any particular goal. I knew JMEC offered practical experience in creating a business plan and the elements that comprise that, such as market research and competitor analysis. Given that I was unsure what I wanted to do, it seemed wise to learn something that could be of practical use.

It’s a cliché these days, but the lecture on entrepreneurship turned out to be useful. Understanding the lean approach to building a business or product in the face of uncertainty is a hugely transferable skill, and I seem to hear about building an MVP—a minimum viable product—whenever I start a new project, even if it isn’t starting a business from scratch.

## How did you overcome the biggest challenge?

Our client had an innovative product that allowed for an easier transfer of chemicals from one

Understanding the lean approach to building a business or product in the face of uncertainty is a hugely transferable skill.



Consultant Luis Costigan (left) and mentor Mitsuhiko Honda (right) with Team 4 members Harumi Oyama, Elliot Langston, Momoko Ozawa and Kyoko Nagano, who developed a strategy for the Salvation Army in this year’s competition.

container to another. It was an adaptation of a previous product and had seen some initial success in the US—so they wanted to scope out the Japanese market. Coming up with feasible steps our client could take for market entry was by no means a simple process.

Two of the main target markets for their product were large-scale farm owners and chemical logistics firms, both of which have a long history and entrenched practices. We eventually decided to focus on getting to these customers by partnering with chemical container firms. This was done for two reasons.

First, the three main chemical container firms in Japan could access a large proportion of these customers. Second, a large part of the operations for these firms were out of Japan, so there would be fewer hurdles to building that partnership.

## What was your most valuable JMEC lesson?

More so than any specific lesson, I met a bunch of very good people through my JMEC experience. I enjoyed meeting people in the JMEC community so much that I ended up staying with JMEC as part of the Alumni Association (JMECAA) for four years after graduating, organising monthly events for the Tokyo business community.

I also helped one of the teams in the last JMEC programme as a consultant.

I left JMECAA in June of this year to focus on running the Japan chapter of a growing social movement called Effective Altruism. We have a small team here in Japan, and our goal is to make the world a better place using evidence and careful reasoning.

## How has JMEC prepared you to succeed?

Just getting to know so many people in the community has no doubt helped my career. I don’t like networking for the sake of networking, but I know providing value to people in some way, shape or form always seems to lead to something positive.

Special shout-outs to Jeff Char for providing tough advice when I needed it, Kaori Tomita for being incredibly reliable and Justin Dart for introducing me to a great place to work.

Other than that, I still find myself using what I learned at JMEC on a fairly regular basis. If you have a sudden flash of an idea, sometimes you wonder where it came from. While it’s tempting to think of yourself as some kind of brilliant idea generator, 99% of the time it’s because you made the effort to think about something at a deeper level in the past.

Nearly five years have passed since that first JMEC experience. Costigan now keeps himself busy as a freelance marketing specialist four days a week across two firms and spends his Fridays running Effective Altruism Japan. Any remaining time is spent trying to learn something useful. 🇬🇧

PHOTO: LIFE3A

Interviewing artists at summer music festivals takes a few weeks of liaising with record labels, artist management and radio station programmers, and things can change right up to the moment of the scheduled interview. The artists are usually on the summer circuit and travel non-stop from festival to festival and country to country for a number of weeks. Understandably, they might not want to spend valuable private time with press before their shows, and sometimes they cancel media at the last minute.

At one of Japan's biggest music festivals—Summer Sonic 2019—I met up with British rock stars The 1975, as well as Northern Irish rock legends Snow Patrol and fellow countrymen Two Door Cinema Club, the indie dance band from Bangor and Donaghadee, County Down.

### The 1975

All four members of The 1975 joined the interview backstage, but lead vocalist Matt Healy did all the talking. I opened our conversation with a big thank you for the “Dubai kiss.” Two days before the Manchester-based pop-rock band arrived in Japan, they had performed in Dubai. During the concert, in protest of the UAE's strict anti-homosexual laws, Healy kissed a male fan in the audience while performing “Loving Someone.” The small gesture turned into big news. He said, “Well, yeah, whatever it is—a thank you or a celebration or a terrifying couple of days, I dunno—but it's happened now.”

I said I hope it can prove that love is possibly more powerful than hate. “You know what? It was a weird time,” he replied. “But I think it's not me that needs to change. It's the world that needs to change.” One kiss at a time, I thought.

The 1975 has shied away from the big issues, and on their latest album they invited teenage environmental disrupter Greta Thunberg to talk over the instrumental opening track.

“The first track on every album has always been the same thing—the same piece of music—and it's become a platform,” Healy said. “I think that we wanted to utilise that platform in the most important way. I think that her voice, at the moment, is the most important voice, and we're incredibly proud to be even friends or associated with her because she's a real force of nature.”

Does Healy think music can change the world? “I do! I grew up seeing politicians and seeing world leaders and knowing them, but I think the people who shaped my view—or pointed me towards a



utopia that I would like to see—were artists. And I think that artists do have power and do have a responsibility. That was why it was so important to incorporate Greta in what we were doing, because I think that pop culture—soft power, whatever it is—is an incredibly powerful device to spread important social issues.”

He continued discussing what inspires his songwriting. “I think it's a trait of most artists where they feel like they are living on the edge of the Apocalypse. I think that's been the case a lot of the time. If you look back at the Cuban Missile Crisis, there have always been times when people have felt like, ‘This is it. I don't see a point, really, in art that doesn't have a purpose. I don't think that every song needs to be a political didactic message. I just think that songs need to be about stuff, because I think that we need to point toward where we need to go. It's just very important for us to stand by who we are, and our art is a reflection of who we are. So, it's kind of inevitable that it comes out like that.”

I always like to talk with musicians about the power of music, and I asked Healy if music

is the most powerful force in his life? “That's a profound way of putting it. I can't really express the importance that I feel about music. In 2,000 years' time, they'll look at our cities and our social structures, and they'll probably see the how. But when they hear our music, they'll see the why. That's how I've always felt about music. It's my purpose. It's our purpose.”

Recently, on my radio programme, we had a poll asking the listeners who they would like to perform the theme song of the next James Bond film, *No Time to Die*, due for release in April 2020. Following power ballads from Adele and Sam Smith, I love the idea of a rock-inspired theme this time around, and I think The 1975 could pull off a classic in the vein of Paul McCartney and Wings' “Live and Let Die.” This thrilled Healy. “You know what? We've spoken about that for years,” he said. “I love juxtaposition. I love brilliant casting. I love Cate Blanchet as Bob Dylan. I love stuff like that. So, yeah, let's promote that message. You've really got me inspired there!”

As the band left, I called out, “Keep kissing people!” Healy turned around with a grin. “Yeah!”

### Two Door Cinema Club

Having been to Japan a number of times and performed previously at Summer Sonic, Two Door Cinema Club have built a solid local fanbase and were thrilled to be back. As lead vocalist Alex Trimble told me: “We love performing at Summer Sonic. There’s no other festival like it. I think, even from a line-up perspective, you’d never see that in Europe. Just the variation of huge artists from all over the world, while also having really strong local artists at the same time, is just amazing. We love to come and just experience it for a couple of days. Summer Sonic has been really good to us. We’ve been coming since 2010”.

Trimble was also thrilled to be on the same stage as fellow Northern Irish band Snow Patrol. “I think there might be a lot of very confused Japanese people who spend their time at the same stage going, ‘These English accents are a bit strange, aren’t they?’ It’s very nice. We did a show in our hometown together supporting them doing a big return touring show at home, which was cool, so it’s nice to be sharing some festivals with them”.

We might be at the end of summer, but for some bands the tour bus does not stop. What is Two Door Cinema Club up to for the rest of 2019?

### Snow Patrol

Their slot at Summer Sonic was billed as an “acoustic set,” and I asked Snow Patrol’s lead vocalist Gary Lightbody about this. “It’s sort of acoustic, a little bit by necessity,” he said. “We do enjoy playing acoustically, but John McDaid, our keyboard player and guitar player, is still recovering from his surgery, so it’s myself and Nathan Connolly and Iain Archer, both on guitars and backing vocals, who have been long-time cohorts of ours. He’s filling in for Johnny. We have been playing acoustic a lot over the past few years. There’s been a great response to it, and this three-piece setup has kind of evolved as well. It’s stripped back more than acoustic”.

I said that I could definitely imagine hearing their biggest hit, “Chasing Cars,” in an acoustic format. “Yeah, it’s certainly the way everything is written. Songs are written on an acoustic guitar or a piano. In their simplest form, that’s what they are,” Lightbody explained. “I think a song has to stand up to being pulled apart and played



Trimble was also thrilled to be on the same stage as fellow Northern Irish band Snow Patrol.

“We were just talking about it in the van coming over here from the hotel. It’s quite sad that you can condense six months into one sentence. We know exactly what we’re doing until 4 December! We’ve got some really good stuff. We’ve got some more festivals—one in England, one in France and one in Spain—and then we’re finally starting some headline touring, because we really just started this campaign before festival season. Some really good stuff in America, the UK tour and Australia, and that takes us up to Christmas”.

I asked if it is possible to be creative while on the road? “It’s very difficult to do both at the same time, but I would say travelling certainly serves a purpose creatively. We end up having experiences

that hardly anybody gets to have. The places we go, the people we meet, the things we do—it’s a very, very strange life. So, it’s definitely like stocking up on ammunition for when we get into the studio”.

And does the band have a favourite festival moment? Bass player Kevin Baird answered enthusiastically. “I’m a big football fan, so I think one of my favourite moments was looking out into the crowd and seeing Ronaldo watching us in São Paulo—you know, Brazilian Ronaldo—that was pretty spectacular. And then trying to play it cool, because you’re like: ‘I’ve noticed him watching. Don’t look too much, don’t over analyse. He’s enjoying this, is he not?’ Yeah that was pretty special!” 🇬🇧

sparingly or it’s not a good enough song. I hope they do stand up!” he said with a laugh.

I mentioned that the audience might enjoy the intimacy of a show performed acoustically? “Yeah, we just did Australia—five or six shows—and people seem to be embracing that intimacy, but also getting excited by the songs as well. I thought it would be way more intimate, but it does explode as well. It’s how far you can stretch that in terms of people in a big room at a festival. How far does it stretch? What is the breaking point? I think we’ll find the tensile strength of it today!” He laughed again.

I asked Lightbody how healthy the Belfast music scene is? “It’s healthier than it’s ever been. It’s just amazing. We just did a huge show at home and it was all Northern Irish acts. Eleven acts. And the night before we put on a free show with 18 other bands from Northern Ireland, so the scene is in good health. One of the best bands ever from Northern Ireland is on after us at this very festival: Two Door Cinema Club. Two bands from Northern Ireland closing out a stage at a Japanese festival is a pretty good sign that it’s in good health!”



PHOTO: MARKUS FELIX [CC 3.0]

PHOTO: FOCKA [CC 2.0]



**H**igh-quality whisky is like a symphony of the senses, as an array of flavours and aromas come together in an artful blend. So, what better to pair it with than classical music?

That's what's on offer at the latest edition of Suntory Hall's *Classic Bar in Blue Rose* series on 26 October. Guests will have the chance to taste some of Suntory Holdings, Ltd.'s finest whiskies while listening to acclaimed pianist Kyoko Tabe.

**Blue Rose**

The venue is none other than Suntory Hall, known not only as one of the finest concert halls in Japan but a world-class location in its own right. *Classic Bar in Blue Rose* will be held in the small hall, which is known as the Blue Rose. The name comes

**Whisky and classical music were truly made for each other!**

from a little-known project of Suntory: the cultivation of flowers.

Through their exploration of horticulture, Suntory's experts have managed to achieve what might seem impossible: the creation of a blue rose. The small hall at Suntory Hall was named in recognition of the impressive botanical feat and serves as a symbol of Suntory's dedication to creating rare beauty of all types. This pursuit of aesthetic perfection in a variety of endeavours makes the Blue Rose an ideal venue for this combination of fine music and whisky.

Before the tasting, there will be an informative lecture in English by Suntory's chief blender

Shinji Fukuyo. He will talk about the firm's long tradition of excellence in distilling and blending, as well as the flavour profiles of the three whiskies guests can sample during the evening.

**Sublime spirits**

*ACUMEN* spoke with Fukuyo to find out more about Japanese whisky in general and the specific whiskies that will be on offer at the event.

Japanese creations have been taking the whisky world by storm over the past several years. Even given his expertise, Fukuyo is surprised by this considerable success. "I would like to know why myself! My guess is that the characteristics of Japanese whiskies are unique, and the quality of the whisky tends to be quite high. As a result, Japanese whiskies have received many awards in international spirits competitions. This has helped



Kyoko Tabe  
PHOTO: AKIRA MUTO

Japanese whisky to become well recognised around the world”.

In general, Fukuyo seeks to impart unique aromas and flavours that reflect the nature of Japan in Suntory’s whiskies, and *Classic Bar in Blue Rose* offers an ideal opportunity to sample some of Suntory’s most impressive creations.

The first is Hibiki Blender’s Choice. As Fukuyo explained, the Hibiki brand is known for its floral, well-balanced aromas, which emerge from the maturation process. What makes Blender’s Choice stand out are its milder and sweeter flavours—a result of the whisky being finished in wine casks.

#### Complex choices

Another whisky on offer is Yamazaki 12 Years Old. Fukuyo pointed out that this variety has a number of unique characteristics. “Yamazaki has a multi-layered flavour. Even though it is a single malt, it is very complex. The reason for this is that we use different types of Yamazaki malts that have been aged in different casks, such as American oak and Japanese oak”.

The final variety of whisky guests can enjoy is Ao, Suntory’s first-ever world-blended whisky. About this blend, Fukuyo explained that Beam Suntory, Inc. is the only whisky company that produces the “big five” whiskies—Irish, Scotch,

American, Canadian and Japanese. This provided Suntory with the seed of the idea. “We had a concept of the blend, which was that it would be possible to find the characteristics of each of the five countries’ whiskies and create a blend that was truly delicious”.

#### True classic

The tasting will take place during the lecture, and the whisky will be accompanied by hors d’oeuvres. This is a rare opportunity, as guests are usually not permitted to drink in the concert halls at Suntory Hall.

While savouring the whisky and the hors d’oeuvres, guests will be able to enjoy a performance by Kyoko Tabe. One of Japan’s most distinguished concert pianists, Tabe is known for her sensational performances—both live and recorded. She regularly appears with all the major Japanese orchestras—as well as those overseas—and is celebrated for her sensitive interpretations of traditional repertoire as well as for being a champion of contemporary composers.

Fukuyo admits that he is not a classical music aficionado. But when he first heard about the upcoming event, he thought that it sounded like a match made in heaven. “Whisky and classical music were truly made for each other!” 🍷



#### REGISTRATION

Although tickets are free, space is limited. To register, please go to:  
[www.custom-media.com/suntory](http://www.custom-media.com/suntory)



 **SUNTORY HALL**

**Saturday, 26 October, 8pm**  
**Suntory Hall, Blue Rose (Small Hall)**

Shinji Fukuyo



# ARTS

## UK CULTURE IN JAPAN

COMPILED BY:

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### 1 10 SEPTEMBER–15 DECEMBER

#### *Masterpieces of Impressionism: The Courtauld Collection*

This beautiful exhibition displays 60 works from the renowned London Courtauld Gallery and showcases masterpieces by artists such as Manet, Renoir and Gauguin. After Tokyo, the collection will move to the Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art (3 January–15 March) and the Kobe City Museum (28 March–21 June).

PHOTO: ÉDOUARD MANET, A BAR AT THE FOLIES-BERGÈRE, 1882  
© COURTAULD GALLERY (THE SAMUEL COURTAULD TRUST)

#### Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

8-36 Ueno-Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007

Price: ¥800–1,600

03-5777-8600 | <https://courtauld.jp/english.html>

☉ FREE TICKETS: We have **five pairs of free tickets** for this event.



1

### 2 21 SEPTEMBER–6 OCTOBER

#### *Jill Fanshawe Kato's Solo Exhibition*

Chelsea School of Art graduate Jill Fanshawe Kato is a master potter who studied in Japan under Yesei Itaka. After returning to London in 1977, she established her first studio in North London with a grant from the Crafts Council, the UK's national development agency for contemporary craft. Kato will be present at the opening viewing party on the first day of the exhibition.

#### Gallery St. Ives

3-5-13 Fukasawa, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-0081

Price: Free

Open hour: 11:00 – 18:00. Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

03-3705-3050 | [www.gallery-st-ives.co.jp/e](http://www.gallery-st-ives.co.jp/e)



2

### 3 28 AND 29 SEPTEMBER

#### *Puzzle Creature—Island Encounter*

Having already made waves in Europe, choreographer Adrienne Hart brings her latest dance work to Japan. Utilising fabrics along with English and Japanese sign language, Hart asks the audience to become immersed in the magic of movement. The event will be part of the Setouchi Triennale art festival on beautiful Teshima Island, Kagawa Prefecture.

PHOTO: CAMILLA GREENWELL

#### Teshima Island, Ko Beach

Teshimako, Tonosho, Shozu, Kagawa 761-4663

Adults: ¥2,500 | Children (aged 7–18): ¥1,000

Setouchi Triennale Information Centre: 087-813-2244

[www.setouchi-artfest.jp/en/event/detail373.html](http://www.setouchi-artfest.jp/en/event/detail373.html)

☉ FREE TICKETS: We have **two pairs of free tickets** for this event.



3



**To apply for giveaways**, please send an email with your name, address and telephone number by 30 September to: [coordinator@custom-media.com](mailto:coordinator@custom-media.com)  
Winners will be picked at random.



4

**4**  
**7–27 OCTOBER**

*Bunkamura 30th Anniversary*  
*Discover World Theatre vol. 7 Oedipus*

This adaptation of *Oedipus Rex*—considered by many to be the height of Greek tragedy—features an all-Japanese cast that includes Kabuki actor Ebizo Ichikawa in the titular role and Hitomi Kuroki, from the all-female Takarazuka Revue. Lancashire native Matthew Dunster, an Olivier nominee for Best Director, will be making his Japan directorial debut.

**Bunkamura, Theatre Cocoon**  
2-24-1 Dogenzaka, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8507  
Price: ¥5,500–12,500  
03-3477-9999 | [www.bunkamura.co.jp/english/cocoon](http://www.bunkamura.co.jp/english/cocoon)



5

**5**  
**9–14 OCTOBER**

*2019 Barakura Harvest Festival*

Enjoy concerts by Her Majesty's Royal Marines Concert Band, a world-renowned military ensemble, in one of Japan's most beautiful English gardens. The harvest festival, which will also feature an exhibit of ornate container plants, is one of Barakura's largest events.

**Barakura English Garden**  
5047 Kuridaira, Kitayama, Chino, Nagano 391-0301  
Price: ¥1,400  
0266-77-2019 | [www.en.barakura.co.jp/events](http://www.en.barakura.co.jp/events)

🎟️ **FREE TICKETS:** We have **five pairs of free tickets** for this event.



6

**6**  
**19–27 OCTOBER**

*Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet*

The first full-length ballet by the late Sir Kenneth MacMillan (1929–93)—one of Britain's most influential choreographers—returns to Tokyo. This beautiful interpretation of the greatest love story ever told features National Ballet of Japan dancers and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, led by British conductor Martin Yates.

PHOTO: TAKASHI SHIKAMA

**New National Theatre, Tokyo**  
1-1-1 Honmachi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0071  
Price: ¥3,240–12,960  
03-5352-9999 | [www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english](http://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english)

🎟️ **FREE TICKETS:** We have **two pairs of free tickets** for the Sunday, 20 October (18:30) performance.

# JAPANESE COMEDIAN'S TOP TIPS FOR FANS TRAVELLING TO THE RUGBY WORLD CUP

Comedian Yuriko Kotani is offering advice to help British fans avoid running into trouble in Japan during the Rugby World Cup.

Award-winning UK-based Japanese comedian Yuriko Kotani has teamed up with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to produce some special advice for fans travelling to the Rugby World Cup in Japan this autumn.

Yuriko's humorous tips are designed to help the 50,000 or more British fans expected to attend the tournament to support Wales, Scotland, England and Ireland to avoid pitfalls.

In a series of short videos the comedian uses her knowledge of both cultures to provide answers to some vital questions like: 'do people sing and dance in public in Japan?'; 'can I use my credit card?'; and should rugby fans 'hug, bow or shake hands?'

## Here are Yuriko's six top tips to help British rugby fans stay out of trouble in Japan:

1. Japanese people are very friendly and welcoming but can be reserved. Loud, boisterous behaviour in public is not the norm, and is likely to cause alarm or offence
2. Japan is a cash society, so ensure you carry plenty with you when out and about at the tournament
3. Tattoos have an historical association with organised crime in Japan. Visitors with a tattoo may be refused entry to hot springs, gyms or swimming pools
4. The use or possession of some common prescription and over-the-counter medicines are banned under Japan's strictly enforced anti-stimulant drugs law. Check with your local Japanese Embassy or Consulate before you travel.
5. There is a zero tolerance policy towards all drugs in Japan. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs can result in long jail sentences and heavy fines.

6. Bowing is the common way for Japanese people to greet each other and show respect. Public displays of affection are not common, and are better avoided

Fans can find all our advice and guidance on the Foreign Office Rugby World Cup Travel Advice page.

Travelling supporters can also sign-up for email alerts which will mean they receive essential updates straight into their inbox.

### Yuriko Kotani, stand-up comedian, said:

- "I've been living in the UK for a while now and see the similarities as well as differences between Japan and the UK. I'm really excited to be part of this project."
- "I thought about what would be helpful to know before going to Japan especially for many of whom might never have been to Japan before, and I did my best to make the messages as fun as possible."
- "I hope that they are useful and everyone has a fantastic time at the Rugby World Cup in Japan!"

### Julia Longbottom, Director for Consular Services, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, said:

- "The Rugby World Cup in Japan provides an amazing opportunity for fans from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales to explore Japan and experience a new culture".

- "Along with the basics of taking out travel insurance and looking after your passport, we know that doing some research into the culture of your travel destination can make all the difference when it comes to staying out of trouble".

- "In the last year, our consular teams around the world have helped over 20,000 British people from all four of the Home Nations when things have gone badly wrong".

- "We want all of our proud Welsh, Scottish, English and Irish supporters to have a safe trip, and to know that we will have teams on the ground at each Home Nation game to help anyone in difficulty".

### British Ambassador to Japan, Paul Madden CMG, added:

- "As the British Ambassador I am privileged to have four teams to support; England, Scotland, Wales and together with the Irish Ambassador, Ireland, and I look forward to welcoming all Home Nation fans to Japan".
- "I know that the Rugby World Cup will be a huge success and the travelling fans will enjoy the fantastic Japanese hospitality".
- "We want to draw rugby fans' attention to some of the differences in local laws and customs to ensure their trip is enjoyable and without incident. I'm really grateful to Yuriko Kotani, the comedian, for helping to get these messages across." 🇬🇧

### Further information

The videos and other travel advice about the Rugby World Cup can be found on the following channels:

British Embassy Tokyo Twitter  
British Embassy Tokyo Facebook

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel Aware YouTube  
England Rugby supporters Facebook group





## UK-JAPAN EVENTS

**1**  
The British Chamber of Commerce in Japan and the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce teamed up for their annual “Night with the Irish” on 4 September at Living Room Café Shibuya. The night was made particularly special by the imminent start of the Rugby World Cup 2019 and was a great chance to host clients, meet new professional contacts and enjoy Irish food, drink and cheer.

**2**  
The Rugby Alliance, bringing together World Rugby, the Rugby World Cup Organising Committee, international chambers of commerce and Child Fund, met on 20 August—exactly one month before the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup 2019.

**3**  
The 31-man England Rugby squad departed for Japan from Heathrow Airport on 8 September aboard their British Airways aircraft. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner has #SweetChariot emblazoned across the fuselage. PHOTO: BRITISH AIRWAYS

**4**  
British School in Tokyo (BST) Year 7s visited the site of the Nagano 1998 Winter Olympics on 13 September as part of the BST Outdoors residential programme, which generates much enthusiasm and excitement for all students from Years one to 13.

**BCCJ ACUMEN readers are welcome to email recent UK-Japan event photos with captions and credits for the editor to consider: [publisher@custom-media.com](mailto:publisher@custom-media.com)**



Last month, the G7 summit in Biarritz, France came and went. With little fanfare. But, also, without much in the way of the disaster that people had anticipated. US President Donald Trump kept largely silent when he should have and smiled for the cameras more or less on cue. The G7 Leaders' Declaration was merely a scrap of paper, the contents of which just managed to reach the bottom of the page thanks to plenty of wide spaces between the lines. But at least it did go on paper. The predictions beforehand were that nothing might come out of the meetings.

French President Emmanuel Macron was seen to have done, on the whole, a good job as host. One might well give him credit for managing to snatch mediocrity from the jaws of chaos. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's surprise visit, which Macron engineered, was quite a coup. That he was able to keep Trump from tweeting abuse at the plan to offer emergency aid to help battle wildfires in the Amazon rainforest was also not without merit. It may all have been for Macron's own self-promotion, but still the global community needs all the help it can get to keep it together nowadays. This is no time to grimace at ulterior motives to the extent that they are kept well ulterior.

**Missing G**

Yet, for all this, the summit still felt rather futile. One wonders if the participants remember what the G in G7 stands for. There was pitifully little group feeling to the proceedings this year. To be sure, Macron deserves credit for his efforts, but he looked extremely alone. The others just seemed to watch with glazed eyes, wishing they were somewhere else. There was nothing remotely approaching a one-for-all spirit. No solidarity. No chemistry. No comradeship.

Would BoJo say M for “Magnificent” and Lady Thatcher say I for “Iron Lady”?

Things were very different at the time of the first summit of major states in 1975, which also took place in France. Presided over by then-French President Valéry Giscard D’Estaing, the meeting unfolded in the Château de Rambouillet with much gravity and a sense of common purpose. The world economy needed urgent fixing before it descended into synchronised depression. It was a G6 summit at the time, but everyone definitely knew what the G stood for. And how wildly proud Japan was to have been chosen as a member of the club. Memories return of very blurry TV images from that first press conference. While those glimpses were wobbly, the minds there certainly seemed to be concentrating intensely. The six were indeed a group back then.

**Seven Gs**

The Biarritz seven were a considerably altered bunch. In fact, they were a bunch no longer. Clearly the G stood for different things to different people. “Great” is probably the only G word that president Trump can come up with out of his less-than-extensive vocabulary. Or perhaps “Gee!” Macron’s choice must surely be “glorious,” after his hero Charles de Gaulle. Or just possibly “grandiloquent” or “grandiose,” with the same hero’s image in mind.

Not to be outdone by continentals, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson would, most likely, argue that the G ought to be changed to M—for “magnificent”. That should be Churchillian enough for him. This is assuming Johnson is knowledgeable enough of the cinema world to know that *The Magnificent Seven* is the Hollywood remake

of Japanese filmmaking maestro Akira Kurosawa’s *Seven Samurai*.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, meanwhile, might say G stands for “gi-suberi”—Japanese for landslide. Apart from golfing with Trump, there is nothing Abe loves more than landslide victories at election time.

**Oh G**

How nice it would be if everyone could agree that the G stood for “good,” as in the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan is always ready to help anyone and everyone. He never passes by pretending not to notice when someone is in trouble. He goes to great pains to ensure that the person he rescued is well looked after even when he himself has left the scene. He will gladly do the same for both friend and foe. He does not discriminate against aliens. Indeed, his help is on offer even for those who despise him as an alien.

Having got this far, I seem to remember reading somewhere about observations on the subject of the Good Samaritan which were made by one of Johnson’s formidable predecessors, Margaret Thatcher. If memory serves, Lady Thatcher remarked that the Samaritan would have to be rich first before he could become good. Jesus Christ does seem to indicate that the Samaritan was, indeed, rich. But had that not been the case, he would surely have found ways other than the monetary to support the poor guy he rescued. In any case, Lady Thatcher would, no doubt, have it that the G be changed to R. Or maybe I. For Iron. 🇬🇧



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