



Ireland Japan
Chamber of Commerce

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

Message from the President

Dear members and friends,

We are approaching the end of our fiscal year 2020 and first of all, I would like to sincerely thank our members, friends and all our partners for your continuous and strong support of the IJCC. Special thanks to Team Ireland which consists of the Ambassador, the Irish Embassy, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Bord Bia and the Department of Agriculture.

This year has been a difficult and challenging year for all of us due to COVID19, but we have been able to continue our activities thanks to your support. I believe the challenges faced throughout this year have enabled us to enhance our activities and create the groundwork for future development.

Let me update you on some of our recent activities.

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

- Nikon Precision Europe GmbH (Corporate)
- Fexco (Corporate)
- Novaerus (Corporate)
- Cornerstone Recruitment Japan (Corporate)
- Mr. Trevor Allen (Associate)

We held a "New Member Spotlight" networking event this month and we invited Mr. Raymond Roche, Ms. Mary Honohan, Mr. John Casey and longstanding member Mr. Niall Keegan who introduced themselves and their company. This was followed by an active discussion with the speakers and audience. The IJCC will continue this series as a way for you to get to know fellow members.

We also enjoyed the various St Patrick's day activities held online this year. We hope you all had a great St Patrick's Day.

In April we have a Tales from the Region event, a new member spotlight and the IJCC Ireland Japan Golf Challenge Ambassadors Cup. The tournament has reduced numbers this year to ensure members' safety. There are still some spaces left so sign up today if you're interested.

Finally, we wish you good health and hope to meet all of you in person soon.

Best regards,

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

Member Focus



Hugh Kennedy

Director of Business Development and Innovation

NISHIMURA & ASAHI

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

Nishimura & Asahi is one of Japan's oldest law firms, also its largest, and we are today also the largest international law firm headquartered in Tokyo. We have more than 700 lawyers working in close collaboration at 18 offices around the world to offer comprehensive one-stop legal services to our Japanese and international clients. We have more than 120 non-Japanese lawyers and professionals across our global network of offices and we use the capabilities of our internationally-qualified lawyers to handle complex cross-border projects and transactions.

The *Financial Times* ranks us as the most innovative Japanese law firm, we have been named "Japan Law Firm of the Year" for the past two years by *Asian Legal Business*, and ours is a Top 10 law firm brand in the Asia-Pacific region.

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

Partner Focus



[European Business Council in Japan](#)

Valerie Moschetti, Executive Director / COO

Q1 Tell me about your organisation?

The European Business Council (EBC) is the trade policy arm of 15 European National Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations in Japan. It has been working to improve the trade and investment environment for European companies in Japan since 1972. The EBC was registered with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in 2008 as the European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

The EBC currently works for around 2,500 local European corporate and individual members. Some 200 companies participate directly in one or more of the EBC's 23 industry committees, whose work covers a wide variety of economic sectors.

The EBC cooperates with the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, the national European Embassies, and other business organisations to co-ordinate policy proposals and make suggestions to the Japanese Government on how to create an open environment for trade and investment in Japan.

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

Board Member Profile



Andy O'Doherty

General Manager, Japan at H+K International
IJCC Director

What do you do in Japan?

I am the Japan country manager for H+K International. An Irish owned company designing and importing kitchen equipment to quick-service restaurants chains such as McDonald's, Burger King, Subway.

We set up in 2013 in Osaka, originally only servicing western Japan, since 2018 we provide kitchen equipment to all 47 prefectures regularly. Currently we have a staff of 20 based here in Osaka.

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

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

IJCC News

We welcome 4 new corporate members



Nikon Precision Inc., located in Belmont, California, and Nikon Precision Europe GmbH, headquartered in Langen, Germany, are wholly owned subsidiaries of Nikon Corporation. Nearly 700 employees provide sales, service, and customer support for Nikon photolithography systems. Established in 1917, Nikon Corporation is one of the world's leading optical companies.

Mr. Karl Shine, Technical Recruiter of Nikon Precision Europe GmbH commented, "Whilst best known for our cameras, Nikon also operates in a number of different sectors. Nikon Precision is focused on high-tech semiconductor manufacturing and as the European arm of a Japanese company, Nikon Precision Europe (NPE) would like to maintain strong links with the business community in Japan. The IJCC was the obvious choice for us to meet and collaborate with organisations and individuals interested in doing business with and/or working in Europe."

Click [HERE](#) to check their LinkedIn page

Click [HERE](#) to check their latest job information



Fexco is an Ireland-based financial services and financial technology company focusing on bureau de change and payment card services. Their head office is located in Killorglin, County Kerry, and employ more than 2000 people across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, North America, Latin America and Australasia.

Mr. John Casey, Vice President APAC, commented, "Fexco have had a significant footprint in Japan for a number of years. Japan remains a key market for Fexco and we believe that working in collaboration with the IJCC and IJCC members we can develop new opportunities both for ourselves and other members via exciting initiatives on the horizon."



Novaerus is part of WellAir, an Irish company on a mission to create productive, healthy, energy-efficient indoor spaces free of pollutants that cause infection, allergies, asthma, and irritation.

In deciding to join the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce, Mr Paolo Nicolas, Vice President APAC, said "Being a part of the IJCC is an important step for Novaerus as we continue to grow our network and presence in the Japanese market. We are looking forward to meeting and interacting with other companies, both local and foreign, and contributing to the growth and success of this chamber."



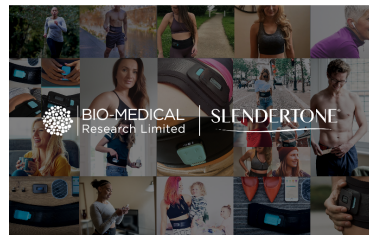
Cornerstone Recruitment Japan is focused on placing bilingual professionals in a wide range of market leading companies.

In deciding to join the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce, Mr Mark Griffin, Senior Manager of Life Sciences at Cornerstone Recruitment Japan, said "As a long term resident of Japan and having some interaction with the chamber over the years, I'm delighted to officially get involved. As a growing company, networking will be important for our expansion plans, and being part of the chamber will give this platform as well as the opportunity to help others. Looking forward to meeting everyone (physically or virtually) and contributing to the great work already being done by the Chamber and its partners."

Bio Medical Research Launched Their New Online Store

Our corporate member **Bio-Medical Research Ltd** launched their online store for Slendertone Japan this month. Bringing their innovative products to Japan from their headquarters in Galway, Ireland.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the store.



Catherine O'Connell Launched "Lawyer on Air" Podcast



Our professional member **Catherine O'Connell** has launched a new podcast. The first few episodes are available.

Click [HERE](#) to download on Apple Podcast

Click [HERE](#) to listen on Spotify

April's Events



**IJCC Ireland Japan Golf Challenge
Ambassador's Cup 2021 Spring**

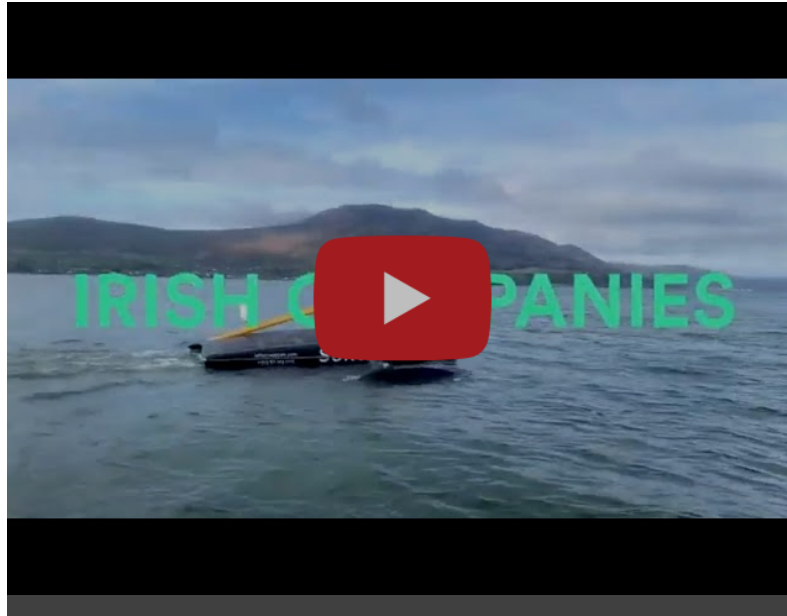


Tales from the Regions - Matsue
April 8th (Thu) 19:00- @Zoom
Click [HERE](#) to view the details

In the Media



Watch Enterprise Ireland's latest video,
"Ready for a Green Future"



Enterprise Ireland marked St. Patrick's Day with the launch of an international Green Innovation campaign

To mark St. Patrick's Day and the positive impact that Irish businesses are delivering across the world, Enterprise Ireland, the Irish Government's trade and innovation agency will host over 50 virtual trade events across the world to engage international partners and support the growth of Irish enterprise internationally. Enterprise Ireland today also launched an international campaign 'Ready for a Green Future' promoting Irish green innovators who are delivering sustainable and low carbon solutions to tackle climate challenge.

[Read More](#)

Enterprise Ireland ranked first in the world of venture capital investors by deal count

The 2020 global ranking by PitchBook, a leading Venture Capital (VC) and Private Equity Investment Platform, has put Enterprise Ireland first in terms of top VC investors in global funding. Pitchbook ranks the most active global investors by VC deal count.

The 2020 rankings saw Enterprise Ireland secure the number one position globally and in Europe. In 2019 Pitchbook ranked Enterprise Ireland first in Europe and second globally.

[Read More](#)

The Latest Press Releases from IDA Ireland

Special Offers for IJCC members

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

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

Join one of the most active business networks in Japan.

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

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