



Ireland Japan  
Chamber of Commerce

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

## Message from the President



Dear members and friends,

We have just started the new fiscal year 2021 and again I would like to thank you for your continuous support throughout the challenging 2020.

In Japan, COVID19 has been continuously a threat to our society and we again face a state of emergency declaration by the government in Tokyo from 25th April. We expect 2021 will be still a challenging year, but on the other hand, we have now established an effective way to deal with this situation.

Let me update you on some recent activities of IJCC.

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

- Global Shares (Corporate Member)
- Damien Naughton (Associate Member)

We held a “New Member Spotlight” networking event in which we invited our new members Mr **Karl Shine**, Mr **John Peavoy**, Mr **Paolo Nicholas** and his colleagues Mr **Kieran McBrien** and Ms **Hidemi Inagaki** and also Ms **Rachel Meehan** who introduced themselves and their business. This was followed by an informative discussion among the speakers and audience.

The fourth “Tales from the Region” event spotlighting Matsue City was held. I would like to sincerely thank Mayor Matsuura for his video message and Ms Satomi Miyazako, Director of the International Tourism Division of Matsue City and Mr Anthony Kelly, CIR at Matsue City and Mr David Murphy, The First Secretary, Economic and Trade Affairs at the Irish Embassy for their various insights on the deep relationship between Ireland and Matsue City and charm of Matsue City. Also a big congratulations to our member Mr Alan Fisher who recently opened Kyojin Stew House Matsue!

Soon we will hold our Annual General Meeting virtually on 14<sup>th</sup> May. On 28th April we will

hold an event with Irish racecar driver Lucca Allen. And various online events are being planned including an introduction to the exciting new Ireland House Project.

We welcome you to join the AGM as it's a key opportunity to hear the progress of your chamber and to give your feedback to the membership.

Finally, we wish you stay healthy and hope to meet all of you in person soon!

Best regards,

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

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## Member Focus

# ONODA

**ONODA Inc.**

From the interview with Mitsutaka Mitsui

### 1. What is your connection to Ireland?

We have an exclusive sales contract in Japan with a company called RATHBORNES 1488. Here is more information on Rathbornes: <https://rathbornes1488.jp/>

### 2. How did your company first become involved in the IJCC?

We learned about the IJCC through the booth of RATHBORNES 1488, which was exhibited at the exhibition "Maison & Object" held in the fall of 2017.

**For the rest of the interview please visit our website**

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## Partner Focus



### Japan Market Expansion Competition (JMEC)

From the interview with **Trond Varlid**, Program Director of JMEC

#### Q1 Tell me about your organisation?

Established in 1993 and supported by 18 foreign chambers of commerce in Japan, including the IJCC, JMEC is a unique business training program based in Tokyo in which participants learn how to conduct research and analysis and write a comprehensive professional business plan. It is aimed at mid career business professionals who want to improve their business planning skills. The program is now in its 27th edition and has grown into a diverse and dynamic community of some 3,000 business professionals, including participant alumni, project clients, lecturers, team mentors and many other supporters.

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

\*\* The IJCC is looking for members who are JMEC Alumni to collaborate to participate in our coming event "[Japan Market Entry Competition & IJCC member information and networking event](#)". Please contact [secretariat@ijcc.jp](mailto:secretariat@ijcc.jp) for more information.

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

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## IJCC News

### Welcome Global Shares to the Chamber

# Global Shares

Global Shares is a global fintech firm based in Clonakilty, West Cork with offices in Tokyo, Miyazaki and 14 other locations around the globe.

Mr. John Meehan, Global Business Development Director & CEO at Global Shares Japan, says *"We are delighted to become members of the IJCC. We are a fast-growing Irish Fintech company providing software, administration, and share-dealing solutions to help companies use equity as part of their employee compensation. Japan has become a strategically important market for us as an increasing number of Japanese companies look to harness the power of employee share ownership and follow global best practice regarding compensation practices. We look forward to meeting many new contacts and developing mutually beneficial relationships through our membership of the IJCC."*

Welcome Global Shares to the Chamber!

Global Shares is the winner of the Company of the Year Award at the [Ireland Japan Business Awards \(IJBA\) 2020](#). The recording of IJBA 2020 is available [HERE](#).

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### IJCC Vice President Eamonn Murphy featured in The Irish Times



The Irish Times published an article featuring the IJCC Vice President Eamonn Murphy titled: 'I fell in love with the city when I came on a short-term posting'. Eamonn talks about living and working in Japan.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

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### Dr. Peter MacMillan will Appear on "Magical Japanese" by NHK

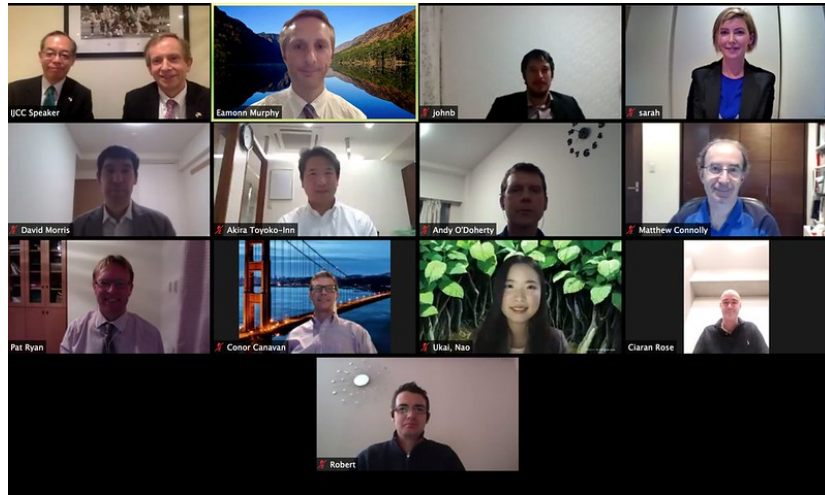
A prize-winning translator, scholar, poet, artist and IJCC member Dr Peter MacMillan will appear on NHK's TV programme "Magical Japanese" on April 28th (Wed) @10:45, @15:45 and on 29th (Thu) @2:45, @7:45.

Watch live [HERE](#).  
Watch OnDemand [HERE](#).  
Dr MacMillan's profile is [HERE](#).



## Event Info

### IJCC Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting of the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce will be held on Friday, **14th May 2021 from 19:00**. The meeting will be held online this year due to COVID-19.

This is a members-only meeting. Only members who have a confirmed booking will be permitted entry.

Please note that Corporate, Professional, and Regional-Professional Members have a right to vote. If you would like to upgrade your membership to the abovementioned categories, please contact [secretariat@ijcc.jp](mailto:secretariat@ijcc.jp).

Additional information and documentation will be sent to attendees later.

RSVP



## Racing in Japan - How Irishman Lucca Allen is navigating the world of Japanese motorsport

Join us as we chat with **Lucca Allen** about his career, racing in Japan and how IJCC members can get involved in the world of motorsport. Lucca is a champion Irish racing driver currently in his second season racing in Japan for the **Albirex team**.

The event will be an interview between the MC and Lucca, followed by a Q&A session with the attendees

[Register](#)

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## In the Media

Japan Airlines trials Daon's VeriFLY



Japan Airlines Launches Trials with Three Health Credential Apps - Commonpass, Verify and IATA Travel Pass - For Safe, Seamless Travel - [Read More](#)



## Veryan Medical announces multimillion-euro investment in Galway operation

Veryan Medical, a subsidiary of Otsuka Medical Devices, invests in Galway, Ireland. [Read More](#)

[IDA Ireland Facts about Ireland 2021](#)

IDA Ireland have release the latest version of their Facts about Ireland.

[Read More](#)

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## Tokyo 2020 Updates



### Ireland and the World of Sports

As Tokyo 2020 approaches, the IJCC Sports Committee would like to reflect upon and commemorate the contributions made by Irish individuals to the world of sport by introducing a series of articles called, 'Ireland and the World of Sports'.

#### Vol 2. William T. Grey

The Reverend William T. Grey is remembered as the man who brought hockey to Japan while working as a pastor in Keio University. It is unfortunate that the Japan Hockey Association notes him as an Englishman owing to the fact that the Keio Hockey Club was established in 1906, prior to Irish independence, but he was in fact born and raised in Ireland. - [Read More](#)

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## Special Offers for IJCC members

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

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

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

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

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