

Anne Barrington

Ambassador of Ireland to Japan

I am delighted to have the opportunity to celebrate this important landmark in the rich and vibrant bilateral relationship which exists between Ireland and Japan.

Japan is a very important partner for Ireland in Asia. We are likeminded, we share the same values both at home and abroad, and on the international stage we are committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Ireland – Japan relationship spans a wide area of activities in the political, business, economic and cultural spheres. On a people to people level we have thriving exchanges through a very successful working holiday programme and a variety of other schemes. Our tourist numbers in both directions continue to expand too.

60 years in the Asian Zodiac denotes the transition to a new cycle, or rebirth. I hope that the coming year of celebratory events taking place in both countries will give impetus to our ever growing links and increase even more the warm relations between our two countries.

November 2016

Ireland in Numbers

Population of Ireland: 4,757,976
Area of Ireland: 70,282 km²
Irish Residents in Japan: 1,300
Irish Visitors to Japan: 15,106
Working Holiday Visas to Japan: 37
Irish Exports to Japan: Medicines, contact lenses
Irish Companies in Japan: 50
Current Irish JET Participants in Japan: 102

Sources: Embassy of Japan in Ireland, Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice (Immigration Bureau of Japan), Embassy of Ireland in Japan, Central Statistics Office, Enterprise Ireland.



Experiencing, studying and working in Japan

If you are interested in living in Japan, there are many options available to Irish citizens, including the JET Programme, Working Holiday Scheme, Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships and more. For further information, please contact the Embassy of Japan in Ireland.

Contact Embassy of Japan in Ireland

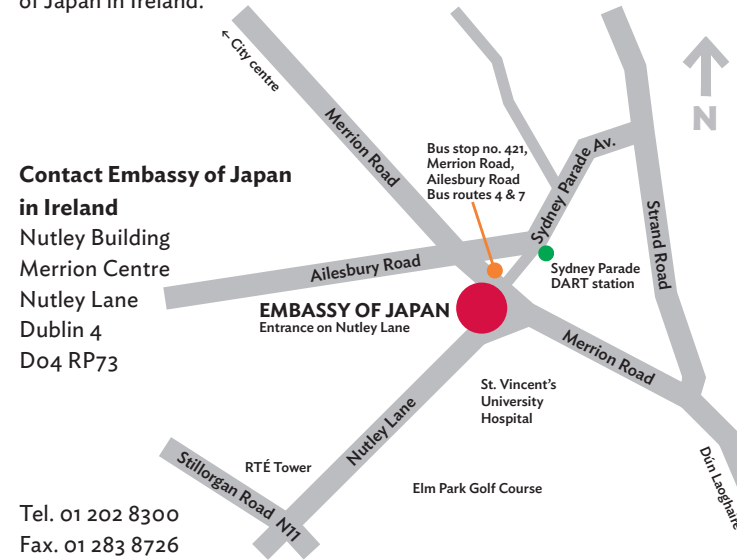
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Embassy-of-Japan-in-Ireland-176690562692523/>

Japanese Government Related Organisations covering Ireland

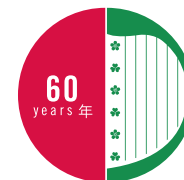
Japan Foundation
<http://www.jpfa.org.uk/>
Japan External Trade Organisation
<https://www.jetro.go.jp/uk/>
Japan National Tourism Organisation
<http://www.seejapan.co.uk/>
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
<http://www.jsps.org/>
Council of Local Authorities for International Relations
<http://www.jlirc.org.uk/en/>
Japan House Cultural Information Service
<http://www.japanhouse.jp/>

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60 Years & Beyond

1957–2017



The 60th Anniversary of
Diplomatic Relations between
Japan and Ireland

Mari Miyoshi

Ambassador of Japan to Ireland



After visiting many imaginary countries on his travels, in 1709 Jonathan Swift's famous fictional character Gulliver visited one real country – Japan. In the 19th century, Japan opened its doors to the world, embarking on the

path to modernisation. Takayoshi Kido, deputy leader of the Iwakura Mission dispatched to learn how to build a modern nation, visited Dublin in 1872.

Since then, Japan and Ireland have travelled a long road together. Close ties based on the shared values of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law, have flourished in fields ranging from science to business, and sport to literature.

In 2013, the reciprocal visits of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Taoiseach Enda Kenny became another springboard to further developing our relations. As a milestone, we look forward to celebrating the 60th anniversary of Japan-Ireland Diplomatic Relations in 2017.

I hope that this anniversary will strengthen our relationship for the benefit of both countries beyond 2017.

November 2016

Japan in Numbers

Population of Japan: 127,220,000
Area of Japan: 377,962 km²
Japanese Residents in Ireland: 1,935
Japanese Visitors to Ireland: 20,000 (approx. to island of Ireland)
Working Holiday Visas to Ireland: 400
Japanese Exports to Ireland: Medicines, cars
Japanese Companies in Ireland: 79

Sources: Embassy of Japan in Ireland, Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance, Embassy of Ireland in Japan, Tourism Ireland.

Highlighted Japan-Ireland Influences



Charles Pfoundes

Research by Profs Brian Bocking, Laurence Cox and Yoshinaga Shin'ichi in 2014 revealed that Irish man Charles Pfoundes led the first Buddhist mission to the West, launched in London in 1889. Photo: Public Domain



Seamus Heaney & Haiku

Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney revered the Japanese haiku form, comparing it to traditional Irish poetry, and wrote haiku of his own. Photo: Jemimah Kuhfeld



Dr Aidan MacCarthy

Dr Aidan MacCarthy survived the Dunkirk landings and the atomic bomb in Nagasaki. His story of survival, compassion and bravery is told in the documentary and book called *A Doctor's Sword*. Photo: MacCarthy Family



Jimmy T. Murakami

Jimmy T. Murakami moved to Ireland in 1971. His active involvement and guest lectures in Irish animation colleges led him to be known as the father of the Irish animation industry. Photo: Barry Moore, Photogenic



William Butler Yeats & Noh

After being introduced to Japanese Noh Theatre, WB Yeats was inspired to write two works which show its influence: *At the Hawk's Well* and *The Death of Cuchulain*. Photo: Public Domain



Lafcadio Hearn

Lafcadio Hearn is most famous for writing 12 books about Japan while living there. His most famous works are about Japanese ghost stories and legends. Photo: The Koizumi Family Collection



John Philip Holland

Born in Co. Clare, John Philip Holland was an engineer famous for inventing the modern submarine. He was decorated for designing Japan's first submarines. Photo: Public Domain



Irish Missionaries in Japan

Irish missionaries have played an important role in Japan-Ireland relations. Reverend William Grey is the father of Japanese hockey, while Sister Paschal O'Sullivan spent 75 years teaching in Japan. Photo: O'Sullivan Family



1957

Diplomatic relations between Japan & Ireland established.

1964

Embassy of Japan in Ireland opens.

Tokyo hosts 1964 Olympics and Paralympics.

1966

Japan and Ireland sign Visa Exemption Agreement.

1973

Embassy of Ireland in Japan opens.

Ireland joins the EU.

1983

President Patrick Hillery makes state visit to Japan.

1987

Ireland joins Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.



1996

Japan GAA founded in Tokyo.



1995

President Mary Robinson makes state visit to Japan. Photo: Kyodo News



2005

Their Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko make second visit to Ireland, following their first visit in 1985. Photo: Kyodo News

2007

Japan and Ireland celebrate 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations.



Launch of Working Holiday Scheme.

2008

Izumo City and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council sign Friendship Exchange Agreement.



2009

Japan-Ireland Social Security Agreement signed. Photo: Maxwell Photography



2013

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny make reciprocal visits and sign Partnership for Innovation and Growth Joint Declaration. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office, the Government of Japan



2015

Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens open in Tramore, Co. Waterford.

2017

Japan and Ireland celebrate 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations.



2019

Japan will host first ever Rugby World Cup to be held in Asia.



2020

Tokyo will host 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Active Japan-Ireland Initiatives in Ireland



Japanese Gardens in Ireland

Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens, Tramore, Co. Waterford

Japanese Gardens, National Stud, Tully, Co. Kildare

Japanese Garden, Cabinteely Park, Co. Dublin

Japanese Garden, Powerscourt Estate, Co. Wicklow

Glenavon Japanese Garden, Gorey, Co. Wexford



Ireland Japan Association

The IJA aims to promote greater economic, business and cultural ties and to foster mutual understanding between the peoples of both countries, in particular, to encourage and assist in improving the knowledge of the culture of each country, by hosting an array of business and cultural events throughout the year. <http://www.ija.ie/>



Experience Japan

EJ is a celebration of Japanese and Japanese-Irish culture with music, dance, cosplay, calligraphy, martial arts, food stalls and much more. EJ is Ireland's largest Japan related event, with around 20,000 attendees at the main event at Farmleigh House every April. <http://experiencejapan.ie/>



Chester Beatty Library

The Chester Beatty Library is the pre-eminent Irish institution promoting the appreciation and understanding of world cultures. It contains a significant Japanese permanent collection, and often hosts exhibitions and events connected to Japan. <http://www.cbl.ie/>



Japanese Business Society in Ireland

The main purpose of JBS, established in 1977, is to support the Saturday Japanese School, to promote fellowship among Japanese companies operating in Ireland and to encourage mutual information exchange.



Japanese Film Festival

The JFF aims to introduce Japanese culture to Irish audiences through Japanese films. In 2016 the festival showed 22 films in 10 different venues in 7 cities around Ireland. <http://www.jff.ie/>



Irish JET Alumni Association

IJETAA exists to maintain and develop interest in Japan and Japanese culture among former JET participants. IJETAA provides a social network for JETs living in Ireland. <https://ijetaa.wordpress.com/>