

# **Message from the Ambassador**



I am sure that many of you, like me, are in disbelief that a year has flown by again so quickly. But, as Christmas and year end approach, we can reflect on highlights in the Ireland-Japan relationship this year and look forward to 2016.

Ireland's strengthening economic recovery is spilling over into our economic relationship with Japan. This year Japan moved up one place to Ireland's 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner. Despite bigger neighbours in the region, Japan is Ireland's largest export market in Asia and our largest source of foreign direct investment from Asia.

Cultural highlights this year were the celebrations of St Patrick's Day all around Japan: parades in 13 locations around the country, the Emerald Ball and the incredible I Love Ireland Festival in Tokyo all introduced Ireland, its culture and way of life to a huge and expanding audience in Japan. We were honoured to have the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Brendan Howlin TD, visit during this time and he also attended the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Conference. We celebrated also in 2015 the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of WB Yeats, through music, song, dance and poetry in both Tokyo and Hiroshima.

On 3 December, Fr Dónal Doyle, a dear friend and wise counsel to many, was presented with the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. This was in recognition of his work to elevate the standing and reputation of the Irish people in Japan and to build bridges of learning and understanding between our two countries. Warmest congratulations to Fr Doyle.

A highlight for me in 2015 was my visit during my summer break to the wonderful Lafcadio Hearn Gardens which opened earlier this year in Tramore, Co. Waterford. The Gardens are a magnificent memorial to Lafcadio Hearn, writer and Japan's most celebrated Irishman. I recommend to all that you visit the Gardens on your next trip to Ireland. Meanwhile, the legacy of Lafcadio Hearn is being nurtured by the trip to Ireland of the San In Japan Ireland Association which held a series of events in Ireland in October and plan more in Matsue next year.

In 2016, in Ireland and around the world, including in Japan, we will commemorate 100 years of the Easter Rising. Plans are advancing for next year's St Patrick's Day. The Ireland Japan Alumni Network (IJAN) will be re-launched in spring 2015. And we will continue our work to build Ireland-Japan business links across all sectors, including through Research & Development collaborations.

I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Nollaig faoi shéan agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Anne Barrington, Ambassador

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Anne bamte

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# A Christmas and New Year's Message from President Michael D. Higgins December 2015

Christmas is a special time. For most of us, it is a time to be together with our loved ones, our families; a time to pause and reflect; a time to recognise and give thanks for the good people, and happy events in our lives.

If Christmas is a time to celebrate, it is also a time to share. We share each other's company, each other's achievements together with each other's pains, hopes and dreams.

For we must not forget that Christmas is also a time of hope. At this time, in the deepest darkness of winter, we celebrate the triumph of light over dark, of dreams over the setbacks of the past. We renew our sense of possibilities not yet realised. As we take stock over this



holiday period, we are given an opportunity to reflect on our lives and the world we live in. As we do so, we are reminded of the hardship experienced by countless people in Ireland and the suffering of millions of our fellow travellers on this vulnerable planet we call Earth.

As we reflect on the story of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, on the plight of the homeless Joseph and Mary anticipating the birth of their child, and how they were aided by complete strangers, we can perhaps draw inspiration from what they experienced for our own lives and times. More than anything, the Christmas story gives us guidance on how to shape our own shared humanity with a regard for future generations. This year in particular, we welcome the acceptance of new obligations by nation states in relation to global poverty and climate change.

During 2015 we learnt that 1 in every 122 people on the planet is now a refugee, a "displaced person" or otherwise forced to leave their homes. Wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people to flee than at any other time since records began. As people of a migrant nation we are perhaps uniquely placed to understand the great agony experienced by the 60 million displaced people.

In this context, it is heartening to see how countless people in Ireland have chosen to respond with warmth and real hospitality. Our NGOs, our medical services, and our uniformed services – both at home and overseas – are peopled by those who have chosen to take action, and to be the stranger that offers a helping hand, a shelter, a meal to those in need. How we treat the weakest among us is the finest test of us as a nation.

During the past year both Sabina and I have experienced and valued the warmth and friendship of people both at home and abroad – and it is something we deeply appreciate. In villages and towns around the country and on working visits abroad we have had the privilege of witnessing the contribution to community and the public world made by Irish people in so many different ways.

Together, we can strengthen that web of solidarity that binds us as a people and as a global community next year. As we prepare to commemorate the momentous events of a century ago that shaped the birth of our Republic, we are encouraged not only to recall those events, but also to re-imagine and take inspiration from the Republican ideals proclaimed almost a century ago. It is my sincere hope that those ideals can inspire each and every one of us on our shared journey where each step made by each citizen, in every generation, matters; a journey that we all make together, never alone.

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann, guím gach dea-ghuí oraibh go léir agus go raibh Nollaig agus Bliain Nua shona agus shíochánta agaibh.

Diplomacy in Action—Embassy Activities Quarter 4, 2015

#### **Education Outreach:**

The Embassy builds links between Ireland and Japan by actively engaging in outreach to schools and universities, meeting students to exchange ideas and talk about Ireland.

Universities visited this quarter include Kobe University, Kanda Institute of Foreign Languages and Kindai University, which has increasingly strong links with University College Cork (UCC).





In December, Ambassador Barrington visited Sapporo Nishi High School in Hokkaido and met with students there, a number of whom will visit Ireland for short study visits in 2016.

The Embassy also takes an active part in the EU outreach programme for schools, known as EU Comes to your School, which sends representatives from EU Embassies to high schools all around the country. They present information on the European Union and its Member States, as well as the strong links between the EU and Japan. At Kwansei High School in Hyogo Prefecture, Ambassador Barrington met students sporting Giant Shamrocks, while Deputy Head of Mission Diarmuid O'Leary visited Junten High School in Tokyo, one of Japan's designated 'Super Global High Schools'.



In November members of the Japan Association of Girls Education visited the Embassy for a briefing on education policy in Ireland, particularly education and career preparation for girls. The Association represents around 90 schools around the Tokyo area.

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# **Upcoming Events**

#### 1916

Ireland 2016 marks the centenary of the Easter Rising in 1916, a seminal moment on Ireland's journey to independence. A centenary programme of events has been launched and can be viewed on a dedicated website on commemorations <a href="www.Ireland.ie">www.Ireland.ie</a>. and on <a href="https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/our-work/casestudiesarchive/2015/april/ireland-2016-centenary-programme/">https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/our-work/casestudiesarchive/2015/april/ireland-2016-centenary-programme/</a>

A Symposium on Eastern Perspectives of 1916 is being organised by the Japan Ireland Society at Hosei University in December 2016. Detailed information on this symposium and other events which are being planned will be posted on the Embassy's website as they become available.

## St Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day will be marked with the usual fanfare all over Japan! Here are some confirmed Parade dates to pencil into your diary:

Yokosuka US Military Base—Sunday, 6 March

Ise—Saturday, 12 March

Yokohama—Saturday, 12 March

Fukuoka—12 - 13 March

Kumamoto—Saturday, 12March

Matsue—Sunday, 13 March

Chiba—Sunday, 13 March

Nagoya—Saturday, 19 March

Okinawa—Saturday, 19 March

Tokyo (Harajuku Omotesando and Yoyogi Park) —Sunday, 20 March

# Nara Irish Association, the Fuchsia Foundation

Celebrated Seanchaí and children's writer from Co. Clare, Eddie Lenihan, will be visiting Japan in February. For more information about his readings in Nara please see: https://ja-jp.facebook.com/TheFuchsiaFoundation

#### Film

Irish co-production, *The Lobster*, a science fiction drama, starring Colin Farrell and other well-known actors, is set in and around Co Kerry's famous Parknasilla House. *The Lobster* opens in To-kyo 5 March, before moving to other cities, see www.finefilms.co.jp

#### Music

The Intercollegiate Celtic Festival—a gathering of University-based traditional Irish music groups—will take place on 7 - 9 March, come along to hear some great tunes! For details, please see: http://icf-shamrock.com/



# News from Enterprise Ireland in Japan

Enterprise Ireland's Tokyo office runs a year round inward buyer programme from Japan to Ireland to facilitate meetings for Irish companies with prospective customers and partners. The volume and calibre of such buyer visits from Japan in 2015 reflects an increasing interest and awareness of Irish innovation and technology.

### MED IN IRELAND 2015 Convention Centre Dublin, 29th October 2015.

Seven leading Japanese life science companies, including Terumo, Medikit and Omron Healthcare, visited Ireland to participate in the Enterprise Ireland organised "Med In Ireland" event in October. Over forty meetings were organized for the visiting Japanese delegates across areas from surgical materials to wearable sensors and monitors. In addition site visits to Galway and Shannon were organized for buyers with particular interests. Ireland has the largest medical device cluster in Europe and is one of the biggest exporters to Japan in this industry. Low interventional products such as catheters, stents and smart health technologies are two core areas for near term future business for Irish companies in this industry in Japan.

# **JEITA (Japanese Electronics & Information Technology Association)**

Eleven senior executives from JEITA the Japan Electronics & Information Technology Association visited Enterprise Ireland in Dublin in early December to explore Irish applied research & spin-out



technologies. JEITA is the largest industrial organization in Japan in the ICT sector and includes major electronics manufacturers. The group that visited Ireland included Hitachi, Sharp, Panasonic, Yokogawa Electric, Oki, Mitsubishi Electric, JVC Kenwood and Seiko Epson. The objective of the group was to understand the applied research & technology landscape in Ireland for connected health, smart energy

management, smart cities and IoT (internet of things) platforms. The group were also hosted by IN-TEL's Ignition Lab which supports indigenous Irish companies to develop IoT solutions by integrating INTEL modules. JEITA selected Ireland as one of the leading European countries in the development of innovative technologies and business models in this area.

### **Agricultural Machinery**

Large scale dairy farmers from Hokkaido visited agricultural machinery manufacturers in Ireland on an Enterprise Ireland supported itinerary in mid-November. The Hokkaido region is the leading producer of Japanese dairy products and the purpose of the visit was to study Irish dairy farming production processes and equipment. The Japanese farmers visited Dairymaster's facility in Kerry and examined its intelligent milking machines and wireless sensors which monitor herd health. In addition, they visited bale wrapper and handling equipment manufacturers, Tanco Engineering and McHale, which are also used in Hokkaido.



# **Message from IDA Japan**

Over the last number of months, IDA Ireland has continued to attract FDI into Ireland. Some of the highlights include an announcement by Medtronic to build a new high tech facility in Galway for the manufacture of Drug Coated Balloons and Apple's 1,000 person expansion in Cork to bring their employment now to 6,000 people. There was also some exciting news involving Asian companies, such as the announcements by Huawei of China hiring 120 people in R&D, InfoSys of India hiring 250 people and Indeed.com, whose parent is the Japanese company Recruit, hiring 300 more people to bring their footprint to over 500 people in Dublin. There were many more, comprising investments in Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, High Tech and ICT, and Financial Services. http://www.idaireland.com/newsroom/

During the last 3 months, IDA helped in organizing both a Keidanren (their first in over 10 years) and a JEITA (Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association) visit to Ireland. Keidanren were interested in looking at Ireland's economic recovery and JEITA at Ireland's technology capability in areas such as IoT, sensors, etc. Here in Tokyo, IDA presented at an ISCA Japan programme seminar organized by the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI) and Hoshi University in the pharmaceutical space. In November, with the support of Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank and PWC, we held a seminar promoting the Irish funds industry to Japanese fund managers. The event was very well received with over 200 people attending at the Palace Hotel. The last event was a seminar where Mr. Dan O'Brien, Chief Economist at Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA), one of Ireland's leading think tanks, presented on "Europe and Japan in the Asian Century".

The Japan team wishes to thank everyone for their support during 2015. We wish you and yours a very merry, peaceful and restful Christmas, and a Happy New Year. We look forward to your continued guidance and support in 2016.

Derek Fitzgerald, Chris Alderson, Tomomi Takahashi



# **Message from the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce**

The IJCC would like to thank you for your support in 2015 and helping us continue to develop and strengthen the Ireland Japan relationship. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the Chamber held 6 events and participated in 3 joint events with other Chambers













# Speaker event with Mr. Terry Christian, Headmaster at Nishimachi International School

On 14 October, the Chamber welcomed Mr. Christian from Nishimachi International School as a guest speaker. Around 30 people attended to hear insights on international education for children.

# Ireland Japan Golf Challenge 2015 - Ambassador's Cup

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, the Chamber hosted the **Ireland Japan Golf Challenge 2015 Ambassador's Cup** in Haruna no Mori Country Club in Gunma Prefecture. Around 60 IJCC members and guests attended and enjoyed playing on this beautiful golf course in the lovely autumn weather. The event was followed by a BBQ party and Awards Ceremony. For the second year in a row we've had a female champion!

### **Message from the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce**



#### **Irish Chamber Business Awards 2015**

The IJCC hosted the annual **Irish Business Awards** Dinner on 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Roppongi Hills Club. Over 110 guests attended including H.E. Ms Anne Barrington, Ambassador of Ireland. Guests enjoyed a wonderful meal accompanied by lively Irish music performed by "tricolor", while enjoying a fantastic view of the Tokyo nightscape from the 51<sup>st</sup> floor. This year we were delighted to recognize Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Openet and Plankton for their respective contributions to the strengthening of the Ireland Japan business relationship over the years.

# Breakfast meeting with Mr. Dan O'Brien, Chief Economist of the IIEA (Institute of International and European Affairs)

Around 20 IJCC Members attended a breakfast meeting with Mr. Dan O'Brien, Chief Economist of the IIEA on 4<sup>th</sup> December. The seminar was entitled "Ireland: economic outlook to 2020 and beyond" and Mr O'Brien updated us on current state of both Irish and European economies. This was followed by an active Q&A session between Mr O'Brien and IJCC Members.

### Kansai IJCC - Dinner with Ambassador

The IJCC organised a dinner reception with Ambassador Barrington in the Kansai area on 4<sup>th</sup> December. The Chamber is keen to grow our activities in outside of Tokyo in coming years.

# **IJCC Family Christmas Party 2015**

Our third **Family Christmas Party** was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Roppongi Hills Club-French Cellar. Around 15 families attended and enjoyed the great Christmas food and drinks and the view from 51st floor. Mr. Magicio entertained the children with Christmas songs and dance, magic tricks, quiz and balloon art, and all the children received gifts from our special visitor "Santa Claus"!

#### **Third Thursday Networking Event**

On 22 October, we held our **Third Thursday Networking Event** at HUB Roppongi. This was the first time at this location. Around 40 people participated and enjoyed the night.

The IJCC also participated in 3 joint events with other Chambers; the European Joint Chamber Cocktail Party at ANA InterContinental Hotel, a Luncheon meeting with Vice President of Nissan Motor at Shangri-la Hotel, and a Joint Chamber Bonenkai at Canadian Embassy. This was an excelent opportunity for IJCC members to expand their network. The IJCC is keen to collaborate with other Chambers in the coming year too!

All past event photos can be found at the IJCC website: <a href="http://www.ijcc.jp/event-photo-gallery/">http://www.ijcc.jp/event-photo-gallery/</a>



This years INJ Tokyo Christmas party was a great bit of craic according to all who attended. From 6pm people piled into Finn McCools in Kasumigaseki wearing the green. They were greeted at the door and given a special gift and in they went. The night kicked off with a pub quiz hosted by our own Declan Somers. This was followed by a stunning performance of Irish dancing by the children of the Ardagh School of Irish Dance. Irish trad group Loup-garou followed the dancers with some tremendous jigs, reels and polkas. Then it was on to the main event, the raffle. Prizes included make up sets from Givenchy and Christian Dior, tickets to the Trinity Irish Dance show, copious bottles of booze and, of course, the Christmas hamper which was won by one of the young ones who attended what was truly a family affair.







**The Emerald Ball** will mark its 24th year in Tokyo on **Friday**, **18 March**, **2016**.

This black tie event is a celebration of the ties that bind Japan and Ireland. And it is an important means for the Irish community to help others via the various charities we have supported over the years.

For more information, see our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/ TheEmeraldBallTokyo/

For tickets for this amazing night, contact us on: theemeraldballtokyo@gmail.com

Ticket Price: JPY 23,000 (Early Bird, book before 18 February)

JPY 27,000 (Normal price)

# Teachtaireacht Ón gCumann Lúthchleas Gael (GAA)



The All Asian Games were held in Shanghai, China from 24-26 October. More than 700 players gathered from all over Asia and gave all they had worked for throughout the year to the tournament. Japan GAA participated with one men's team and two ladies' teams with 8 new members. It was a challenging tournament, especially for one of the ladies' teams. One of the ladies' teams was selected to play at intermediate level this year because of their great achievements last year. Well –known Gaelic football teams from Dublin City University and Queen's University also participated at intermediate level, so there were no easy games. However, the ladies' team made it to the final and, in fact, we are very proud that our men's and both ladies' teams made it to their respective finals.



#### **Our Achievements in 2015:**

Men's team: Intermediate Plate Winners

Women's Team A: Intermediate Cup Winners Women's Team B: Junior Plate Runners Up

In addition, 5 of our players were chosen for ALL STARS, which are given to the best players.

All our hard work paid off!!

All our teams brought home silverware!



This was one of the best years in JAPAN GAA history and we are all immensely proud!

We were able to practice twice a week and renew our playing kit this year. We could not have done so without our sponsor, **Toyoko Inn.** Words cannot describe how much we appreciate your support; thank you so much for believing in us!

We are now off-season but our activities in spreading Gaelic Games to the world do not stop. All ages, genders and nationalities are always welcome as new members. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in Gaelic Games - email at <a href="mailto:japangaa@gmail.com">japangaa@gmail.com</a>





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The Embassy of Ireland is responsible for promoting and strengthening links between Ireland and Japan. It represents the interests of the Irish Government in Japan in politics, trade, economics and cultural relations. It looks after the welfare of the Irish community in Japan and provides support to Irish citizens. It is also responsible for issuing Irish visas. Please register with the Embassy at http://www.irishembassy.jp/home/index.aspx?id=81055

Season's greetings from the Embassy Team:
HE Ms Anne Barrington (Ambassador)
Mr Diarmuid O'Leary (Deputy Head of Mission)
May Aighing Project (Press, & Culture)

Ms. Aisling Braiden (Press & Culture Attaché)

Mr Shingo Tsuda (Office Manager)

Ms Nobuko Hirai (Secretary to Ambassador)

Ms Tomomi Nagoshi

Ms Tomoko Kamimura

Ms Chisato Fujimoto





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The Embassy visa office is open each Wednesday from 14:00 – 16:00.

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