

The 78th Executive Committee

***Executive Committee Election
Candidates***





The Formation of the 78th Executive Committee

The British Chamber of Commerce in Japan enters its seventy-eighth year. To continue to uphold the traditions that have shaped its legacy, we are delighted to introduce this year's candidates for the formation of the FY2026-2027 Executive Committee.

This year, we welcome twenty-two candidates of stellar proportion to the election race and invite you to spend a moment with their applications.

To capture each candidate's motivation to stand, we inquired:

'What specific value will you provide to the BCCJ membership and how will you pro-actively contribute to the wider UK-Japan relationship?'

We ask you vote with precision and considered thought.

Voting commences 6 April 2026 13:00 JST, concluding 17 April 2026 17:00 JST.
All Primary Members are eligible to vote in the election.
Results will be released at the Annual General Meeting on 23 April 2026.



Executive Committee Election Candidates



Anna Iveson
Rugby School Japan
Director of Marketing and Admissions

As a dual-heritage British-Japanese senior leader, I work at the intersection of education, business and soft power. In my role, I strengthen reputation through clear communication of British excellence and turn interest into tangible growth in a highly competitive market. As British education plays an increasingly influential role in Japan, I bring insight into this UK sector at a time of rapid growth.

I would contribute as a Communications and DEI Champion - amplifying the BCCJ's message, broadening its reach, and ensuring members feel represented and engaged. I aim to support the Chamber in creating more meaningful opportunities between the UK and Japan.



Chris Horobin
Innovate KK
Founder and CEO

I am Founder and CEO of Innovate, based in Tokyo, and have spent over twenty years working between the UK and Japan building, scaling and turning around businesses, including CEO roles in billion-dollar companies and delivering work with firms such as McKinsey and Bain Capital.

I work directly at the point where cross-border business either succeeds or fails, engaging with government stakeholders, British and Japanese embassies and commercial entities in both countries. If elected, I will focus on advancing the BCCJ's role as a practical bridge, helping members access the right people and convert opportunities into tangible outcomes.



Dominic Sharman
Baker McKenzie
Partner

I have a genuine and deep rooted passion for strengthening the UK-Japan bilateral relationship. Through my role as the Tokyo lead of Baker McKenzie's 'UK-Japan Connect' and as a Partner, I lead and enable regular dialogues with both the public and private sectors, all aimed at further strengthening this bilateral relationship.

Through a role with the BCCJ, I would leverage both my communication skills and connections to support its members by facilitating conversations with other key stakeholders to increase business opportunities, the sharing of insights, and collaboration (including supporting the BCCJ's expansion into Kansai and other regions of Japan).



Eiji Imamura
AutoWear Inc.
Chairman, President & CEO

I founded my automotive import-export business in 1987 and established the Japanese corporation in 1990, bringing 39 years of executive leadership experience. As a member of Keidanren, I have long served on the Committee on Europe, engaging with European Presidents and Prime Ministers to strengthen ties with Japan.

I also maintain close relationships with European ambassadors and embassy representatives. I am now running for the Executive Committee. As one of the few Kansai-based members, I am committed to expanding membership and revitalizing activities in Western Japan. I would be honored to have your support.

Executive Committee Election Candidates



Francis Fung

KiFor
Founder

As a British entrepreneur building a purpose-driven business in Japan, I bring energy, community focus, and a strong belief in business as a force for good. I actively engage across BCCJ events and networks and would contribute by strengthening member connection, supporting responsible business initiatives, and encouraging collaboration between corporates, SMEs, and social organisations.

I am particularly passionate about elevating Responsible Business and helping position the BCCJ as a platform where commercial success and social impact align. I will proactively support outreach, thought leadership, and inclusive engagement to further deepen and modernise the UK-Japan relationship.



Grant Black

IAFOR
Vice-President

As a long-term resident and educational leader in Japan with deep UK roots, holding a Master's in Japanese Buddhist Studies from UCLA, a doctorate from the School of Business at the University of Leicester, and status as a Chartered Manager, I will bring unique value to BCCJ members through expertise in internationalisation, and UK-Japan business/academic linkages.

I will contribute by delivering guest panels and thought-leadership presentations, leveraging my academic experience to support initiatives enhancing bilateral ties in education, innovation, and trade. My multilingual fluency and global network help bridge UK businesses/academia with Japanese counterparts, fostering stronger economic and cultural relations.



Hannah Perry

IHG Hotels & Resorts
Senior Manager, Corporate Affairs, Japan & Micronesia

As a BCCJ ExCom member, I would proactively support the UK-Japan relationship, which is both professionally and personally important to me. With a bicultural perspective, I bring a nuanced understanding of how to bridge cultural differences and foster meaningful business connections between the two markets.

Representing the hospitality industry, I would contribute direct insight into Japan's evolving tourism landscape at a pivotal time for inbound and domestic growth. I hope to support the Chamber by sharing industry perspectives, facilitating connections, and contributing to initiatives that highlight Japan's strengths while strengthening UK-Japan ties.



Heather Prosser

FGS Global
Partner

Having served on Excom for many years and as Vice President this year, I know what a special community this is. Through my work here I am engaged in strengthening UK-Japan business ties and supporting all BCCJ members.

I will leverage my expertise in communications, sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and events production to drive meaningful action—connecting members with innovative solutions, facilitating cross-industry collaboration, and advancing business. Our vibrant community has helped me learn and grow; I seek re-election to continue working on Chamber activities, empower entrepreneurs and SMEs, and ensure BCCJ remains a platform for collaboration, innovation, and responsible growth.

Executive Committee Election Candidates



Helen Iwata

Sasuga Communications K. K.
President & Representative Director

If reelected, I'd love to expand on the contributions I've made during my first year on Excom. As a bilingual Yorkshire lass with 35 years' experience in Japan primarily in leadership, communication, and professional development.

I'm passionate about serving as a sounding board on communication topics, actively participating in the DEI working group, facilitating workshops that help our members to build professional skills, chatting with members at events to help them feel welcome and supported, introducing new members to the Chamber, and sharing my perspectives and ideas at our monthly Excom meetings to contribute to the wider UK-Japan relationship.



Junko Kubokawa

Individual Member

I wish to continue contributing as an ExCom member, utilising my extensive leadership experience of running a UK specialty chemicals company in Japan and ensuring that our actions benefit the members.

As a senior female leader and a mother, I remain passionate in supporting the BCCJ's key pillars, particularly DEI, championing the great energy of the DEI Working Group, which gained strong momentum within the last 12 months. Through this Working Group and with key insights from our members, I will continue to turn ideas into action, energise our community, and help create a more inclusive workplace in Japan.



Kayo Osaka

Individual Member

Currently a Global Director at Google, I draw on more than 15 years of leadership at Amazon and Nielsen to help navigate today's AI-driven era. I aim to give back to the BCCJ by championing the Digital and Technology Innovation pillar with actionable AI readiness.

Drawing on my recognition for inclusive leadership in APAC and mentoring a circle of 40+ women leaders, I am equally committed to fostering a responsible business culture. I will support the UK-Japan relationship, ensuring the BCCJ remains a leading, inclusive resource for future-proofing, helping every member thrive through this fast-paced technological shift.



Keith Thomas

EY Japan
Associate Partner

I am passionate about Japan as a fantastic location for British businesses and believe we are entering into a time of greater potential for trade between the two great countries. My career in professional services began in the UK where I supported Japanese HQ multinationals with their European businesses.

Over the last 16 years my work has transitioned increasingly to supporting companies investing in Japan and it is a goal of mine to help UK companies, small or large succeed here.

I pledge to support BCCJ with my passion for the countries and for the BCCJ members.

Executive Committee Election Candidates



Ken Katayama
Individual Member

I have strived to provide diverse input in my five years on the Excom based on my personal experience in the UK and Japan as well as my professional background previously at JETRO, Microsoft and now at TOYOTA.

I strongly believe in the BCCJ mission to 'make connections with people who matter' and will continue to help our members to do so.

BCCJが皆様のネットワーク形成の一助になることを願います。どうぞよろしくお願いたします。



Kentaro Kiso
Barclays
President & Representative Director

I have served as a BCCJ Excom member since 2019 from Barclays, one of the UK's largest financial institutions, representing the long-standing history of collaboration between businesses in the UK and Japan.

As 'middle-sized' nations, our bilateral relationship is becoming increasingly important against an ever more chaotic geopolitical backdrop. I have spent 20 years in the UK, Singapore, and New York, bridging people and leading multiple transactions, and remain committed to strengthening UK-Japan business ties and supporting BCCJ members in navigating this evolving landscape.



Mark Dytham MBE
Klein Dytham architecture
Founding Partner

Having served two years on the BCCJ Event Task Force, I would be delighted to continue contributing to the BCCJ by bringing my experience as an architect, cultural connector, and long-term member of the UK-Japan creative community.

Through Klein Dytham architecture, PechaKucha and DESIGNART Tokyo, I create platforms that connect British and Japanese businesses, designers and institutions. My involvement in the Home-for-All reconstruction initiative in Noto reflects a commitment to meaningful, socially impactful collaboration, supporting inspiring events, strengthening industry ties, and expanding UK-Japan collaboration across business, design and innovation.



Peter Harris
Clifford Chance
Partner

I've been working in and out of Japan since 2003 and I currently lead the Dispute Resolution practice at Clifford Chance's Tokyo office.

Serving on the BCCJ Excom last year was a privilege and I have enjoyed the opportunity to support the BCCJ in delivering the significant benefits it provides to its members and the wider UK-Japan relationship. In this capacity I have supported events, helped attract new members, and assisted on legal matters.

If re-elected, I plan to deepen my contribution, for example, by working with others to increase connectivity between Tokyo-based initiatives and the rest of Japan.

Executive Committee Election Candidates



Rachna Ratra
Robert Walters Japan K.K.
Managing Director, Tokyo

Building on my service on the 2025–2026 Executive Committee and several years of active involvement in the Chamber, I am eager to continue contributing to the BCCJ at a strategic level.

Over the past year, I have seen first-hand how strong collaboration with the Chamber and the British Embassy, including sponsorship of the UK Pavilion at the Osaka Expo, can deliver tangible value for our members and strengthen UK-Japan ties. In FY2026, I would bring continuity, sector insight, and a collaborative mindset to support inclusive growth, deepen member engagement, and ensure BCCJ programming remains relevant, commercially focused, and trusted.



Richard Lyle
Intralink KK
Deputy Managing Director

My four years as President have prepared me well to continue leading the Chamber's growth and prosperity in the coming year. If re-elected, I would like to continue developing our membership beyond Tokyo, notably in Kansai and the UK, helping members based there who are keen to explore the Japanese market.

We continue to see the UK-Japan relationship flourish, and it's now time to capitalise on the numerous bilateral agreements to ensure our members benefit from the goodwill between our nations. The ray of light in all the geopolitical turmoil is the strong bond between our countries.

Richard is standing for President



Rob Peer
BAE Systems Japan
President

With over 23 years of international experience for BAE Systems who has had a presence in Japan for over 40 years, I would continue to bring a Defence, Aerospace & Security perspective to the work the BCCJ Executive Committee performs.

The UK & Japan relationship continues to grow in the defence and security environment. The BCCJ should continue to build on these relationships which I would continue to proactively support as an Executive Committee member.



Robert Williams BEM
AP Advisers Ltd
Executive Investment Adviser

Should I be fortunate enough to be given a third term serving on Excom, I will strive to maintain and improve the Chamber's value to Members in terms of offering quality events and networking opportunities.

I firmly believe that the connections made at the Chamber's wonderful programme of events helps to strengthen the UK-Japan relationship at a time when the partnership is already very strong. There has never been a better time to be a BCCJ member and I hope my contribution can help build further on this.

Executive Committee Election Candidates



Toby Truscott
Michael Page
Managing Director

As Managing Director of Michael Page Japan, I have spent years building and leading a major British business here, including expansion into the domestic market and helping organisations navigate growth, talent management and change.

I would bring to the Excom a practical commercial perspective, broad cross-sector insight and networks, and a strong commitment to driving membership value. I hope to serve as an energetic, active and thoughtful contributor to the Chamber and its members—working together to deepen engagement, support ongoing growth and success, and help ensure the BCCJ remains closely connected to members' needs.



Vivian Tokai
Individual Member

Since 2023, I have been honored to serve the BCCJ Executive Committee, notably spearheading an inaugural roundtable series with Japanese parliament members. Drawing on over 20 years of leadership and global affairs experience, including Intel, Honeywell, and GE,

I bridge the critical gap between international business and Japanese public policy. My extensive network across key ministries and the Diet enables me to advocate effectively for our members. I am committed to elevating the Chamber's influence, fostering sophisticated regulatory dialogue, and ensuring the BCCJ remains a preeminent voice in Japan's evolving economic landscape.

This concludes the candidates for the
FY2026-2027 Executive Committee Election.

