



BCCJ

**Executive
Committee
Election
Booklet**

2023-2024

OVERVIEW

For 75 years, the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BCCJ) has been at the heart of UK-Japan business. Thanks to the efforts of countless companies and individuals, the Chamber has developed into an exceptionally active, not-for-profit private membership organisation comprising of over 200 firms.

We charter into exciting territory for UK-Japan relations. Trade will be bolstered significantly by the UK's recent accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). May 2023 will mark the G7 Hiroshima Summit, where leaders of G7 member countries will exchange views around pressing global issues, providing an opportunity to find further unity and collaboration on areas of critical importance between the nations. And businesses in Japan and globally have been buoyed by the relaxing of border restrictions, allowing for increased cross-border trade opportunities, improved supply chain efficiency and face-to-face engagement. This has been evident from our recent visit from the UK's Trade Envoy to Japan, Greg Clark, and other upcoming visits such as the International Director of the Confederation of British Industry, Andy Burwell who will be joining us on April 19.

As a 21st century business development hub, the BCCJ has been finding new and creative ways to facilitate access to new connections, clients and customers for its members. Through the development of creative platforms for knowledge sharing and networking, the Chamber continues to deliver traditional member services, including events, promotion, business concierge and consultancy. All of the above will be achieved with the guidance and strategic direction from the 2023-2024 BCCJ Executive Committee (Excom).

WHAT IS EXCOM?

The Excom consists of a minimum of twelve (12) and a maximum of fifteen (15) members. The role of Excom is primarily a strategic one. The Excom decides the purpose and the overall goals of the BCCJ and sets a framework for their implementation and achievement.

The key responsibilities of Excom are to:

- Set suitable organisational aims and objectives
- Set a budget which allows the BCCJ to fulfil its purpose
- Agree policies, targets and priorities
- Monitor and review the performance of the BCCJ and the executive team

The Excom seeks an appropriate balance of members of the business community with specific skills and experiences that will benefit the BCCJ and its membership at large. Excom members serve for a one-year term (April 2023 - March 2024). The Excom meets 11 times during the year, excluding the month of August. Excom members are expected to attend the monthly Excom meetings and the BCCJ Annual General Meeting held in April.

Please find in this booklet, 16 Excom candidate pledges.



Pledge to Excom

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

*Candidates are displayed in alphabetical order of last name



ALISON BEALE
Director, University of Oxford Japan Office

I have been a long-standing member of the Chamber and have served on Excom for eight years, the last six as Vice-President. I have a strong commitment to developing links between the UK and Japan with the aim that the UK should be at the heart of the business, cultural and educational relationship with Japan. In the coming year I hope to contribute towards building an increasingly engaging programme of events, a wider membership and stronger networks to better serve the British Chamber of Commerce members.



ANDRIJANA CVETKOVIC
CEO & Founder, BrioNexus KK

I am excited to declare my candidacy for the Executive Committee. My involvement in the Digi-tech Innovation and External Affairs taskforces has provided me with valuable insights into BCCJ members' needs and objectives. I have been working alongside other Excom members to enrich membership benefits and achieve common goals. I am committed to fostering collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity, which are crucial for success. My digital proficiency, high stakeholder outreach, and board-level governance experience can benefit the broader membership. I am devoted to enhancing the chamber's operations with innovative digital solutions, responsible governance, and proactive participation in strengthening the UK-Japan relationship. Thank you for considering my candidacy.



ROBERT ENGLAND
Executive Practice Leader, Sales Team Manager, en world Japan

As part of the Executive search team at en world, I work with senior leaders and influencers in Japan, helping companies looking to develop and grow as well as individuals enhance their careers. A big part of my work, therefore, is to develop my knowledge, skills and expertise and I see this opportunity providing that. I would like to broaden my experience and gain different perspectives from the group, and grow my broader network. I pledge to use my experience, energy, passion and humour to provide something more meaningful to being a BCCJ member.

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KEN KATAYAMA
Individual Member

I became an Individual member over seven years ago because I truly believe in the BCCJ mission of “making great connections with people who matter” and now on the Excom for three years. My career started at JETRO, stationed both in London as well as New York. Then to Microsoft where I worked on digital policy issues. Now I am at Toyota Motor Corporation. With this background, I hope to continue to be able to contribute to the diversity of the Excom as well as focus on deepening engagement with our members who are former Japanese expats to the UK.



TOVE KINOOKA
Director, Global Perspectives K.K.

After several years on Excom I have gathered many insights into the challenges and interests of our diverse community of members. I want to use (and continue to build) this knowledge to ensure that the BCCJ brings value to everyone – from individuals and entrepreneurs like myself, to SMEs and major global organisations. I especially want to support our members in sharing and exploring ESG & sustainability best practices, connecting British and Japanese expertise to accelerate responsible business actions everywhere.



KENTARO KISO
President and Representative Director, Barclays

Thanks to the tremendous support of the BCCJ community, I have had the pleasure of serving the Chamber as a committee member since 2018. It has been a wonderful journey working with so many talented and passionate individuals from all diverse sectors and backgrounds. I have gained 34 years of experience in finance, working outside of Japan for 20 years in New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and London (for over 16 years). Working in global finance, I have mastered key skills that I believe will benefit the BCCJ, including critical thinking & leadership in navigating unpredictable environments. I hope to bring my experience and knowledge to the support of the BCCJ for another year.

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JUNKO KUBOKAWA
Representative Director & President,
Croda Japan K.K.

I have served as a member of Excom since 2020 and as the DEI taskforce leader for the past year. My time on Excom has enriched my thoughts and perspectives. I have enjoyed making a conscious effort to proactively contribute to the Committee, lending my first-hand experience in not only leading a UK group company in Japan, but also in being a Japanese female juggling a career and family. My personal passion and what I strive to continue doing, is encouraging our members to be themselves, regardless of things like gender, age, race, etc. I also encourage members to be alert to unconscious biases in themselves and in their communities, and to make progress whilst being considerate of society as a whole.



JAMES LITTLEWOOD
Partner, EY Strategy and Consulting Company

With thanks to the support of the BCCJ community, I have had the pleasure of serving as an Excom member and BCCJ Treasurer for the past year, and have enjoyed working with the Executive team on understanding members' current needs and crafting a new agenda around these. My career at EY has allowed me to work with clients in 35 countries and I have significant cross-border experience across multiple cultures and industries. I enjoy working with diverse teams of people and try to bring energy and enthusiasm. I hope to bring my understanding and connections within Financial Services in Japan and across APAC to further support and contribute to the BCCJ's events calendar in the year ahead.



RICHARD LYLE (Presidential Candidate)
VP Trade & FDI, Intralink KK

It has been an honour and privilege to serve the BCCJ membership on Excom and as President this past year. Recently, we sought feedback from the membership to enhance and develop the Chamber. I want to continue this work in the coming year, to bring the BCCJ new and exciting opportunities to connect and stay informed. With recent UK-Japan partnership announcements in digital and defence and the imminent accession of the UK to the CPTPP, there is an opportunity to develop the relationship and generate stronger business ties. To achieve this, I intend to work tirelessly with Excom, the membership, and our partners.

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MARK MCFARLANE
Representative Director, TACCHI K.K.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve my first term on the BCCJ's Executive Committee last year. My goals for the year included furthering the BCCJ's efforts to support and grow its SME and startup membership, and to help the organisation better use technology and platforms as an enabler. Co-founding the BCCJ SME and Startup Night with my colleague Sven Palys, and spearheading the BCCJ official LinkedIn group were key outcomes that I'm proud of. However, I feel I have a lot more work to do, and so hope to serve again for the coming year.



JAMES NEPAULSINGH
Individual Member

I'm Senior Legal Counsel at a well-known Japanese trading house and I've worked in Japan for over 15 years. I'm proud to promote the benefits of English law and I look forward to further encouraging business links between Japan and the UK through the law. Excom achievements include:

- arranging the E&W Law Society President to speak to the Chamber for the first time;
- creative design thinking in Excom meetings (graduated from RCA with Distinction in Art & Design); and
- driving through transformative change in DE&I Taskforce, amplifying voices of historically-marginalised groups (BCCJ membership and BBA significantly more diverse as a result).



TAKUJI OKUBO
Individual Member

In 2022-23, I was happy to organise and moderate two events for BCCJ members, "A Tale of Two Cities with the Lord Mayor of London", and "Shifting Supply Chains in the Indo-Pacific Region" with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. As a BCCJ Excom member, I will continue my efforts to keep bridging the relationship between Japan and the UK, utilising my extensive network crossing both international and Japanese corporate and government communities.

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SVEN PALYS
Founder & Co-CEO, Yuzu Kyodai

A young entrepreneur, over ten years in Japan, I pledge to be energetic, creative and collegiate if offered this role. My market research and branding agency is entirely predicated on understanding what is happening in Japan, and I would welcome sharing this knowledge productively and generously. This year I want to focus on fostering dialogue between the BCCJ and the Japanese business community as well as continue to push for greater inclusion of SMEs and Start-ups in the chamber's activities. I hope to bring different people around the table to make it possible to learn from each other.



VIVIAN TOKAI
Director, North Asia, The Economist Group

I can contribute to enhancing the BCCJ's name recognition among Japanese business executives and government/parliament senior officials by utilizing my own network, which was established as Head of Government Affairs at foreign-based global corporations and as Network Director at the Economist Intelligence Unit. Also, I would like to establish a framework where the Chamber, the Embassy and the Japanese government can develop mutually beneficial dialogues. My experience as Board of Governor and Co-Chair and Vice Chair of multiple Committees at the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan might help me to add values to the Excom.



EDWARD WEEKS
President and CEO, Country Manager Japan, HSBC

I'm proud to have completed two years as a member of the BCCJ Excom and the Responsible Business Task Force. I've thoroughly enjoyed my participation, and believe I've made a meaningful contribution to the Chamber, including leveraging senior work colleagues for key initiatives. I continue to believe passionately that the BCCJ offers a unique platform of support and exchange opportunities for companies, entrepreneurs and individuals in Japan. I hope to continue to use my experience and my organisation's resources to assist in driving the BCCJ's future efforts and help it explore new avenues for growth.

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



TAISUKE YOKOTA
Managing Director, Camping with Soul Japan Ltd

I am submitting this application as a commitment to support UK businesses to thrive in Japan. In my 8 years of importing uniquely British products and helping grow UK markets in Japan, I have grown a nationwide network that could be harnessed to work mutually with Chamber members to great effect. I also wish to use my experience to provide practical support for SMEs. One of my goals is to support the BCCJ's presence outside of Tokyo, starting with a BCCJ Forest in collaboration with the C.W.Nicol AFAN Woodland Trust in Nagano which will hold numerous benefits such as offsetting carbon emissions.

BCCJ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - VOTING

On April 4, all BCCJ Nominated Representatives will have received a unique, encrypted electronic voting link by email. Election candidates are displayed in a randomised display order, also unique to each voter. The electronic voting ballot will allow BCCJ Nominated Representatives to vote for up to 15 out of the 16 BCCJ Executive Committee candidates for the 2023-2024 financial year.

All votes are submitted anonymously and cannot be accessed by BCCJ staff. If you would like to learn more about the voting process, please contact the BCCJ at info@bccjapan.com



The British Chamber of Commerce in Japan

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