



BCCJ

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
ELECTION
BOOKLET**

2024-2025

OVERVIEW

Since 1948, the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BCCJ) has been at the heart of UK-Japan business. Thanks to the efforts of the companies and individuals in the network, the chamber has developed into an exceptionally active, not-for-profit private membership organisation comprising of over 200 firms.

Over the next 12 months, we will charter into exciting territory for UK-Japan relations. Preparations are in full swing for the Osaka Expo 2025, in which the UK will focus on global collaboration with the world to save lives – human, wildlife and planet. Bigger picture, 2023 saw trade between the UK and Japan grow 2.9% (or £777 million) to £27.8 billion (exports plus imports) and we expect this number to continue its upward trend in the year ahead. The BCCJ is designing an inclusive programme with its membership positioned at the forefront, to take advantage of new opportunities and continue tell the innovative and successful stories of our members.

As a 21st century business development hub, the BCCJ has been seeking new and creative ways to facilitate access to connections, clients, customers and opportunities 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 2024-2025 BCCJ Executive Committee (Excom).

WHAT IS EXCOM?

The BCCJ's 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 elected candidates will decide 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 2024 - March 2025). The Excom officially 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, as well as other activities throughout the year to hear from members and feed back any suggestions to the BCCJ executive team.

Please find in this booklet, 24 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 first name



ALISON BEALE
Director, University of Oxford Japan Office

A long-standing member of the Chamber, including seven years as Vice-President, I am deeply committed to serving our members and furthering the interests and reach of the Chamber. In the coming year I would like to bring my long experience of the Chamber and contribute in particular to initiatives around growing our membership, improving our programme of events, and engaging more networks for the benefit of members. I aim to work closely with others to develop new opportunities to position the UK at the heart of the business, cultural and educational relationship with Japan.



AMIR KHAN
Individual Member

As a former lawyer of mixed heritage and the son of a former UK Commissioner for Racial Equality, senator and ambassador, DEI, advocacy and justice have always been fundamental passions throughout my life. Professionally, my company globally advocates for DEI hiring for over 40 years. I believe in social contribution and have sat previously on committees at the ACCJ, volunteered at my local animal shelter and have been a speaker at law schools and professional associations. As such, I hope to bring personal and professional experience to enhance DEI impact and advocacy initiatives through the BCCJ.



BENJAMIN CORDIER
RGF Executive Search Japan, Senior Director

I have been attending BCCJ events as a member since 2012 and am eager to give back to the Chamber by joining the Excom. With over 20 years' experience and network in Japan, I will bring energy and forward thinking to help set and achieve the Chamber's aims and objectives. As part of the Senior Leadership team at RGF Executive Search, I have developed a kaizen mindset supporting our clients, candidates and the job market in Japan and I am committed to bringing this ethos in support of the strategies and initiatives of the Excom.

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DANIEL BOLGER
Managing Director, FGS Global

As someone focused on strategic communications and having worked for many years as a financial journalist in different parts of the world, I hope to bring a fresh and very international point of view to BCCJ discussions and decisions. More specifically, my firm should be able to help the Chamber extend its media and brand presence in Japan. I am also excited by the opportunity to work with UK corporates, large and small, and learn about their strategies for succeeding in this market. Personally, I have had a long association with Japan, having first visited and lived here – ahem – during the Showa era.



EDWARD WEEKS
President and CEO,
Country Manager Japan, HSBC

Participation in the BCCJ Excom has formed a key part of my experience in Japan. As Japan Country Manager for one of the largest UK companies and one of the oldest banks in Japan, I'm passionate about supporting and promoting exchange between the two countries. During my three years on Excom, I have striven to use my experience, insights and position to strengthen the Chamber, bringing ideas and support, in addition to event content, leveraging my colleagues and connections in Japan and overseas. I hope to continue to contribute as we explore new opportunities to serve our members better.



HEATHER PROSSER
Managing Director, Head of Sustainability,
Japan, Morrow Sodali, Japan

As a BCCJ Excom member, I aim to leverage my diverse background and experiences to support the membership community's needs and endeavours. I have personally benefited greatly from the BCCJ's great work and want to continue giving back. I want to proactively support the UK-Japan relationship by leveraging my network and insights from my professional journey. Through my expertise in sustainability, DE&I, and new business growth, I can actively contribute to fostering the kind of strategic business development the BCCJ community appreciates. My dedication to bridging cultural gaps aligns with the BCCJ's mission, promising valuable contributions to its membership.

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HIDEO TOMITA
Senior Site Representative, Japan, LSEG

As a leading global financial markets infrastructure and data provider, London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) builds partnerships across financial and related industries that facilitate innovation, build trust and improve efficiency. As the Representative Director in Japan, I hope to apply LSEG's values of Partnership, Integrity, Excellence and Change to further support the BCCJ. As a FinCity Tokyo board member, I believe I am in a good position to drive UK-Japan partnerships further. At a time where Japan's Nikkei 225 index is at an all-time high, I hope to do my best to also bring the UK-Japan relationship to a record high.



JAMES NEPAULSINGH
Individual Member

I'm Senior Legal Counsel at a famous Japanese trading house, lecturer, and artist deeply rooted in Japan for 15+ years. I enhance Japan-UK business ties across corporate, legal, educational, and artistic spheres.

Plans if re-elected include:

- (i) tailoring events for legal/financial services members;
- (ii) empowering rural communities through education, art/design; and
- (iii) hearing needs and expectations of those seeking more from the BCCJ.

Excom achievements to date:

- established relationship between E&W Law Society President and BCCJ, led event with President and Embassy;
- Anglo-Japan Culture Club inaugural speaker; and
- drove membership diversity across all levels, exemplified at BBA.



JONATHAN INGRAM
President and Representative Director, Kyndryl

The team and the company I lead is one of the largest IT service providers in Japan, providing the essential IT infrastructure for many of the largest Japanese companies. Through my role, I understand the perspectives of senior Japanese business leaders and government officials on the role of IT and the national imperatives to improve digital capabilities, adopt AI responsibly and to improve cyber resilience. Working for a US multinational, I also have insight on how US companies approach the Japanese market. I hope that the BCCJ ExCom would find such insights and perspectives valuable in advancing UK trade and interests in Japan.

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

Being brought up in a traditional Japanese family and enriched by international exposure, one of my wishes professionally and personally is to contribute as a bridge to the UK-Japan business society through BCCJ activities. I joined the BCCJ's ExCom in 2020, working actively in the DEI task force. This experience led me to recognise the unconscious biases within both myself and our business community, fostering a deep appreciation for diversity, equity awareness and real inclusion efforts. I am committed to effecting positive change within the Chamber, and making meaningful strides in promoting DEI in Japan alongside fellow members.



KEITH THOMAS
Associate Partner, EY Japan

Japan is my home now and I am passionate about contributing to the UK-Japan relationship. I have been a member of and attended various BCCJ events for the last 14 years and it has been a privilege to serve on the BCCJ Excom as treasurer this last year. If elected, my mission is to help drive forward the value you gain from your membership. I look forward to meeting you at the various events, to support you making connections with people who matter and listen, to understand how the BCCJ (and I) can help you further.



KEN KATAYAMA
Individual Member

For over seven years I have been a BCCJ Individual Member for four years on the BCCJ Executive Committee. I have strived to provide diverse input based on my personal experience working in the UK as well as my professional background previously at 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.

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KENTARO KISO
President and Representative Director,
Barclays Securities Japan

Having accumulated more than thirty years of professional experience across Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom (including sixteen years in London and twenty years at Barclays), along with additional experience in Singapore within a global financial institution, I am confident in my ability to bring forth a distinctive blend of insight and connectivity to enhance UK-Japan business relations. Specifically, I am well-positioned to contribute to leadership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives within multicultural environments.



MARK DYTHAM
Founding Partner, Klein Dytham architecture

With over three decades of leading Klein Dytham architecture in Tokyo and designing iconic landmarks like Daikanyama T-SITE and Ginza Place, my commitment to advancing UK-Japan business collaboration is resolute. I recognise the pivotal moment as Japan ascends as a global destination, and I'm eager to share my expertise, knowledge, and extensive networks with the BCCJ. Our firm's specialisation in hospitality, retail, and cultural events aligns seamlessly with emerging opportunities for cross-border ventures. Furthermore, the expansive reach of our PechaKucha presentation format across 1300 cities globally and 48 in the UK offers an unparalleled platform for fostering new collaborations.



MATTHEW TAPPENDEN
Individual Member

Although only having been with the Chamber for a short time, I have both thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the numerous events and networking opportunities presented to members. To that end, I would like to serve as a committee member by furthering the breadth and reach of the chamber, as many Japanese, expatriates and foreign residents remain unaware of the tremendous opportunities' membership offers. Moreover, as current Chair of the Culture, Community and Entertainment Committee at the Tokyo American Club, I'm well versed in committee processes and achieving equitable outcomes, bringing together individuals from a multitude of backgrounds.

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NICK HEALD
Country Director, Turner & Townsend KK

Now in my 6th year in Japan, as my understanding of the unique qualities of Japan deepens I have become increasingly interested in the UK-Japan relationship. Turner & Townsend KK has seen great success in fostering successful collaborative working between the UK and Japan both culturally and operationally, with headcount quadrupling in the past 3 years. We have balanced our global values with local nuances, bringing together an international team that deliver solutions that take the best of both worlds. I am keen to bring this experience to the BCCJ to advise, develop and further improve the wider UK-Japan relationship.



NICOLA VOTE
Individual Member

Having been an active BCCJ member for three years, I hope to further support the community by leveraging my 20+ years' experience working in Japan for the Japanese government, NTT Docomo and in the technology industry. Following 18 years at McAfee in cybersecurity, global business development and leadership roles, I have recently started my own consulting business. This gives me the flexibility to dedicate more time to the BCCJ community, where I wish to encourage diversity of ideas and foster opportunities for collaboration among UK and Japanese businesses. Originally from the UK, I am fluent in Japanese.



NORA YAMADA
Assistant Head, Development, Partnerships and Alumni at The British School in Tokyo

Having studied and worked in Japan for over 18 years - both in rural Fukushima and latterly in Tokyo; having raised a family here and observed how organisations, companies and local government works, I think I have a confident yet nuanced knowledge of Japan and Japanese business and cultural practices to bring to the role. In my current position as Assistant Headteacher at The British School in Tokyo, I am responsible for forming and sustaining our corporate partnerships. This has given me insight into the kind of exposure companies seek through such partnerships and the potential commercial value for them.

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RICHARD LYLE (Presidential Candidate)
Deputy Managing Director & Head of Government Services, Intralink KK

My experience on Excom, and President for two years, has placed me well to continue spearheading the Chamber's efforts to grow and prosper. With the recent signing of the Hiroshima Accord and accession to CPTPP, I would like to explore practical ways the membership can benefit from stronger trade ties between the UK and Japan. Moreover, I intend to use events like Expo to grow our networks and presence outside Tokyo and form new opportunities for our members in Kansai and beyond. The hard work continues and with passion and enthusiasm I will diligently serve the membership and our partners.



ROB PEER
President, BAE Systems

With over 22 years of international experience for BAE Systems who has had a presence in Japan for over 40 years, I would bring a new 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 with the Hiroshima Accord continuing commitments and I believe we should seek to build on these relationships.



ROB WILLIAMS
Senior Investment Adviser, AP Advisers

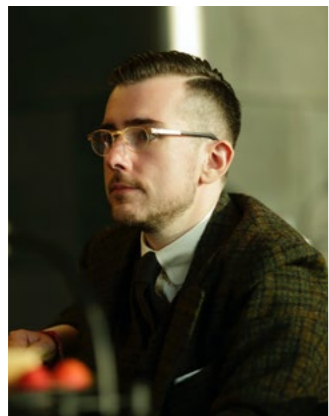
I would like to bring my 25 years of business and personal experience in Japan to the BCCJ Executive Committee. In particular, I would like to leverage upon my many years of philanthropic experience in Japan, to raise awareness of social issues and foster greater relations between the UK and Japan in society as a whole, particularly supporting the BCCJ's efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion, and in responsible business to create equal opportunities for all. In addition, my vast experience of event organisation and management both professionally and socially, could bring support to the BCCJ's event programme.

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SIMON FARRELL
Individual Member

I would be greatly honoured to rejoin Excom and continue learning and sharing my experience and network to benefit the BCCJ's vision, meetings, events, diversity, advocacy and connections. Since serving on the BCCJ Executive Committee in 2012-2017, including as BBA leader for three years, I have volunteered on other boards as chair of the South African Chamber of Commerce in Japan and Tokyo American Club's TAC Talk speaker series, and currently as statutory auditor of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, and executive committee member of the William Adams Club, Animal Refuge Kansai and Japan Market Expansion Competition.



SVEN PALYS
Founder & Co-CEO, Yuzu Kyodai

A young entrepreneur, over ten years in Japan, I pledge to be energetic, creative and collegiate. 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 continue to foster dialogue between the BCCJ and the Japanese business community as well to push for culture as part of the BCCJ remit through the Anglo-Nippon Culture Club, I co-initiated last year. I hope to bring different people around the table to make it possible to learn from each other.



VIVIAN TOKAI
Individual Member

My experience and knowledge in public policy, which has been accumulating for more than 2 decades in working at global companies, could help the BCCJ members to grasp the business environment in Japan. Also, I could contribute to the Chamber in enhancing its recognition and developing dialogues among stakeholders in the business community, government and parliament through my broader network. The UK and Japan needs to cooperate in various areas such as trade, defence and cybersecurity along with US and Indo-Pacific nations. It would be great if I could energise the initiative from the private sector.

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 24 BCCJ Executive Committee candidates for the 2024-2025 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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