

What is a "Visit Kyoto Ambassador"?

-Spreading the appeal of Kyoto throughout the world-

The City of Kyoto has appointed 58 individuals and 9 corporations as "Visit Kyoto Ambassadors".

They were selected from among those who live in or are well acquainted with foreign countries; have a deep knowledge of and attraction to Kyoto; and are very active in the fields of culture, arts, or business. Their knowledge of the city makes them excellent spokespersons in conveying the charms of this ancient capital.

Dates of appointment: April 1, 2014, October 28, 2014, and November 13, 2014

Date of ending service: March 31, 2017

Visit Kyoto Ambassadors (Friends of Kyoto)

Individuals

André Bishop:Owner of Bar Nihonshu, a Japanese Sake Bar



I have been to Japan over 20 times since 1996 and have visited Kyoto often to experience its Beauty, Food, and Culture. As a sake professional I have visited many SAKE KURA in Kyoto and promote sake from Kyoto in Australia.

Yves Bougon:Managing Director and CEO of Hearst Fujingaho



In addition to being CEO of HEARST FUJINGAHO, Mr. Bougon also runs Hearst Magazine' s international business in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea. 2015 will be FUJINGAHO' s 110th anniversary and the year in which the global ELLE and Harper' s BAZAAR magazines begin publication in Japan.

In 2013, he started "Kyo-to-Asu" (Today and Tomorrow), a Kyoto tourism information website that features all the Kyoto special features that ever appeared in FUJINGAHO. The Kyoto special features are popular among readers and there are 2 or 3 published annually in FUJINGAHO. The Kyoto tourism information

is also very popular overseas; therefore to meet the needs of non-Japanese, all content is translated into English. His aim is to transmit to the world the exquisite Japanese culture from Kyoto in hopes of conveying its appeal to millions of people.

Hiromi ICHIDA:Costume specialist(Resides in Kyoto)



Since 1971, she has been active in heading missions to other countries aiming to introduce Japanese culture, particularly Kimono. She organized cultural exchange programs in 104 cities across the world. In recent years, she is very active in organizing such events in Hawaii every year. At the Hokkaido Toyako Summit in 2008, she demonstrated the dressing of Juni-hitoe or 12 layers of Kimono to the spouses of the leaders of the summit countries. Meanwhile, she often appears in TV programs such as a TV drama "Kyoto Meikyu Annai" . At present, she is the vice president of Kyoto City Tourism Association.

Eugenio Alphandery:Manager and co-owner of Officina Profumo – Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella srl(Resides in Florence)



He is the manager and co-owner of Pharmacy of Santa Maria Novella, the oldest pharmacy in the world, that produces and sells perfumes, soaps, and other cosmetics across the world. He is also the President of the "Union Imprese Storiche Italiane." He actively supports business and cultural exchange programs so as to promote sister city relations between Kyoto and Florence. Especially, he has contributed greatly to the formation of partnership between Kyoto Association of Corporate Executives and Associazione Imprese Storiche Fiorentine. He continues to serve as a bridge between the two cities.

Shinji Osugi:Oil Painter



Osugi's Maiko painting is known for its distinctive brush stroke and use of color. He donated his work as part of friendship exchanges with Kyoto's sister cities, including the 50th anniversary ceremony of the sister-city relationship between Florence and Kyoto. In addition, through his collaboration in traditional craft products such as washcloths, folded fans, sake and more, Osugi promotes the beauty of Kyoto throughout Japan and abroad.

Masanori OHTANI:International project business organizer, President of Sydney Kyoto Society, Director of Australia-Japan Society of NSW(Resides in Sydney, Australia)



He was born in Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. After graduating from Waseda University, he joined Mitsui & Co., Ltd. Tokyo and worked in Tokyo, New York USA and Sydney Australia as a Mitsui staff and executive. Today, he is a business consultant and Principal of Ohtani & Co. P/L in Australia.

He is also an active member of several associations for promoting business and people to people's mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia.

He has established Inoue Yasushi Award, as the co-founder with Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation in 2006, to encourage the research and researchers of Japanese literature in Australia and NZ (It will have 7th award ceremony and special program in Sydney in 2013).

GUO Xin:Board member of Kyoto-Tsingtao Citizens Friendship Association(Resides in Kyoto)



Born in Tsingtao, Shandong Province, China. She came to Japan as an exchange student and graduated from Kyoto Seika University in 2003. She has a good command of Japanese language and has a deep knowledge about Japanese culture. She established "Kyoto-Tsingtao Citizens Friendship Association" in February 2011 which will serve as a center for friendship between the citizens of both cities. Since then, as a volunteer, she has supported several programs to promote friendship between the two cities. She also plays an important role in spreading the charms of Kyoto in China. She is also active in encouraging Chinese students

to study in Kyoto, and in promoting school excursions to Kyoto.

Kenichiro Kaneko:Producer - Japanese Cultural Inheritance



Kenichiro Kaneko has promoted tours of Japan (sponsored by JNTO), in China since 2015. He is involved in promotional activities relating to traditional culture and traditional industrial culture of Kyoto, for example, producing Japanese fashion performance events by the Visit Kyoto Ambassador Nobuaki Tomita.

Mr. Kaneko continues to introduce traditional culture of Kyoto, primarily in Europe and Asian regions, and to produce interactive events. At the same time, he is planning and conducting collaborative creations that involve traditional industries of Kyoto and from abroad. While introducing traditional culture of Kyoto and the underlying traditional industries that support such culture, Mr. Kaneko is promoting the attractions of Kyoto outside Japan through activities that introduce fresh value into Kyoto's traditional industries.

HAN Meihua:Chief Representative, Hoshino Resorts Beijing Representative Office(Resides in Beijing)



She is the Chief Representative of Hoshino Resorts Beijing Representative Office which was the first office opened outside Japan in 2010. She has been working for Hoshino Resort inbound business for 8years and has a strong connection with media and travel agents, and devotes herself in sending Chinese tourists to Kyoto and other parts of Japan. Especially she devotes in developing the rich layer to let all know the charm of Kyoto.

Yasuo KITAYAMA:Gardener (Resides in Kyoto)



Born in 1949 in Kita-ku, Kyoto. Head of Kitayama Zoen, he was exclusively assigned as a gardener for Kodaiji Temple. After graduating from Kyoto Sangyo University in 1971, he was taught by Hiroyasu KOMIYAMA at Komiyama Gardening company. In 1975, he left the company and established Kitayama Zoen. In 1978, he undertook the renovation work of Entokuin Temple garden. After that, he was engaged in the renovation of Kodaiji Temple garden and Ryokoin (a branch temple of Daitokuji Temple) gardens. Furthermore, he has created other gardens at many places such as Kubota-Itchiku Art Museum, the Aichi Expo, Ken-ninji Temple, Tofukuji Temple and Hikosan Shrine. He has also created Japanese gardens in Florence (commemorating the 35th anniversary of sister city relation with Kyoto), South Africa and Saudi Arabia.

Hidetomo Kimura:CEO of H. I. D. INTERAQTICA Co., Ltd



Born 1972 in Tokyo, Hidetomo Kimura is the world's leading aquarist specializing in the harmonization of "art," "design," "interior decoration" and "aquarium." Establishing the unique field of "Art Aquarium," Mr. Kimura is now also engaging in a new endeavor to develop traditional industries of Japan as modern art. His "Art Aquarium Exhibition - Goldfish Series" is especially famous. In the same genre, the exhibition "Art Aquarium Castle: Kyoto - Dance of Goldfish" was presented at the World Heritage Site Nijo Castle from October 24 to December 14 in 2014. This exhibition drew 290,000 visitors. An Art Aquarium Exhibition was presented in Milan, Italy, in May 2015.

QIAO Bin:Student at Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University(Resides in Kyoto)



He is studying at the graduate school of Kyoto University. He is the president in Chinese Students and Scholars Association of Kyoto University, and also the Chairman of Chinese Students and Scholars Association of Kyoto Area. He is active in building friendship between Japan and China by holding international exchange programs. He also spreads information about Kyoto to China. He grew up while watching Japanese anime programs. He came to Japan in 2003 and settled in Kyoto in 2005. Since then he has been the avid fan of Kyoto calling it his “second home town” .

Yoshiyuki Gi:owner–chef of Chinese restaurant Ichinofunairi



Yoshiyuki Gi began training at renowned Chinese restaurants throughout Japan when he was 18 years old. Later, he travelled to China and obtained qualifications as a top-class chef. In 1996, he opened the Chinese restaurant Ichi No Hunairi, as owner–chef, near the intersection of Kawaramachi and Nijo Streets in Kyoto.

There, he presents the charms of Kyoto through creative Chinese cuisine that uses the distinctive Kyoto vegetables. In 2010, he opened the restaurant Gihan Ebisudo - Sanjo, which focuses on Chinese yum-cha and cuisine.

Yoshiyuki Gi is active internationally, as vice president of The International Exchange Association of Renowned Chinese Cuisine Chefs, as overseas director of Taiwan Michelin, and in other posts. He also serves as vice chairman of the Society of Taiwan Diaspora in Japan - Kyoto Branch

Chris Johnson:Restaurant and Japanese Sake Consultant



As a sake specialist, SAKE SAMURAI, I promote Kyoto sake, but having lived in Japan for 3 years and visiting Kyoto 5 times I love the culture, history, food, temples, shrines and people. I want to share that with other people so they will visit and enjoy your wonderful city!!

Clémentine:Singer (Resides in Paris)



She is the most popular French singer in Japan. After her debut in 1987, she has been singing various types of songs such as Jazz, Pops, and Bossa nova. She performs in European and some Asian countries such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Since 17 years ago, she has been visiting Japan every year. She is an avid fan of the landscapes and traditional culture of Kyoto. Whenever she comes to Japan, she often visits Kyoto.

KUNNA DASH:President of the India Japan Friendship Center (Resides in Wakayama)



Born in 1969 in Puri, Odisha, India, Mr. Dash is the president of the India Japan Friendship Center, founded in 2006. In order to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and India on topics such as food, culture, education, tourism and the economy, he lectures, organizes cultural events and appears on a variety of media in both countries.

He runs a hotel in India called “Hotel Santana” and exhibits Kyoto cultural artifacts at the hotel. In April of 2015, Mr. Dash opened his first hotel in Japan, “Santana Guest House Kyoto” , in Kyoto. He introduces Gion Festival and the culture of Kyoto at “Rath Yatra” , India’ s annual float festival held in July and also known as the origin of Gion Festival. In addition, he founded “Chandra Sekhar Academy” , an English school that provides lessons in Japanese language as well as Kyoto culture, such as the Kimono, to students from kindergarten through high school in India. Throughout Japan and abroad, Mr. Dash promotes the beauty of Kyoto.

Keiko Nelson:International contemporary artist(Resides in the San Francisco Bay Area)



Born in Kyoto, Japan. After working with traditional and contemporary Japanese art, an interest in western art techniques and concepts guided her towards studying in Europe. She did post-graduate work at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg, a school based on traditional Bauhaus principals. In 1972 she established residence in California.

Most of her works are abstractions of the inner landscape of her experiences... including memories of lifelong emotions mixed with extensive travel to North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. All are echoed in her work.

Keiko Nelson Tsukamoto works in many different materials: clay, bronze, glass, paper, mixed media painting, and installation pieces. She has shown at museum and galleries internationally, and her work is sought after by many collectors.

Keiko is the Chairman and founder of San Francisco Kyoto-kai, and Board member of the United Nations of America, San Francisco.

KONG Yi:TV and radio personality(Resides in Toyonaka City, Osaka)



Born in Shanghai, China. She is also appointed as a Visit Japan Ambassador. She is a member of the committee for drafting the new version of “Kyoto City Tourism Promotion Plan” . She produces various TV and radio programs for NHK, FM COCOLO, and some other broadcasting companies in Shanghai that promote mutual understandings between Japan and China. She contributes to spreading Kyoto culture in China as a reporter. At present, she is the representative of TEN-I Company which organizes and coordinates exchange programs in the fields of tourism, culture, education and business; and the promotion and multi-lingual

translation for such programs.

Shin KOYAMADA:Hollywood actor, producer and philanthropist(Resides in Los Angeles)



Upon his high school graduation in Japan, he moved to the United States alone. He became a U.S. national martial arts champion in Shaolin Kung Fu. He holds higher ranked Black Belts in numerous martial arts styles. He became best known to audiences after his co-starring role in the Hollywood blockbuster film “The Last Samurai” as Nobutada, with a worldwide box office of US\$456 million. Shin also starred in the Disney Channel hit feature movie “Wendy Wu Homecoming Warrior” as Shen, which received the highest TV ratings around the world, including Japan. He has acted in many more movies and also produced movies, shows, comics and events through his American production company Shinca Entertainment. He founded the Shin Koyamada Foundation (SKF) in the U.S. and Japan to support numerous charity programs, including international exchange programs and promoting Japan and Kyoto internationally.

Miho Sauser:Editor



Lived in Shanghai from 2005 to 2012 after working as a deputy editor for Esquire Japan. Currently based in Tokyo and Shanghai and works as a freelance magazine editor in both countries. As a contributing editor for LIFE MAGAZINE, GQ China and Esquire China etc., Sauser edits interviews related to Japanese architecture, design, art and traditional craft in order to promote coverage of Japanese high culture. She also works as a fixer, writer and interpreter for these interviews. To meet the increasing demand for covering Kyoto from Chinese magazines, she has visited Kyoto often in recent years and introduced various types of Kyoto oriented Japanese traditional culture to Chinese readers. She also promotes traditional craft and gourmet projects between Shanghai and Kyoto. Published Honest Craftsmanship, introducing Japanese traditional crafts, in China / Taiwan in the summer of 2016.

Kuranosuke Sasaki:Actor



Born in Kyoto in 1968. Soon after entering university, Sasaki was a founding member of theater company PLANET PISTACCIO and became its lead actor. Branching out to TV work after leaving the company, he found himself in the limelight for a role he had played in NHK’s morning drama series “Audrey” in 2000. He has since gone on to appear in many popular works, including films shown at international festivals. In 2015, Sasaki was honored with a Best Actor prize at the 38th Japan Academy Prize Association ceremony.

In addition to some of his films and TV series were shot in Kyoto, such as “ō-oku: The Inner Chambers” “A Boy Called H” “Samurai Hustle” and “Hancho”, he is from an old sake brewing family, Sasakisyuzo, in Kyoto. He also frequently travels overseas, including to Kyoto’s sister cities. And, as a Kyoto-born actor, Sasaki promotes the beauty of Kyoto with Sake and traditional culture throughout Japan and abroad.

Keiko SANO:Managing Director, Kyoto Center GmbH, Germany(Resides in Frankfurt)



Born in Kyoto. Former executive member of a special exhibition at National Museum of Ethnology, and a curator at the museum of Kyoto Saga University of Arts. She studied folk beliefs of Japan and the exporting business of holding fans of Kyoto for a long time. In January 2010, she opened an antenna shop com show room in Germany. There she sells Kyoto products and manages cultural salon and workshops for tea ceremony, Japanese dance, dressing of Kimono and some other activities in order to contribute to the promotion of Japanese and Kyoto cultures.

Jeff Berglund: Professor in Faculty of Foreign Studies, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies



Jeff Berglund: Professor of Faculty of Foreign Studies at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

Jeff has lived in Kyoto for 44 years. He is applying that experience and knowledge acquired through television work in diverse areas to presentation of Kyoto's attractions to the world in the English language. In late 2013, together with a Kyoto production company, Jeff launched a YouTube program titled [Jeff's Destination Kyoto].

<http://www.jeff-kyoto.com/>

In April 2014, the television station KBS Kyoto began broadcasting its first regular English-language program, [JEFF@KYOTO Omotenashi Kyoto Kanko Annai] (Kyoto Hospitality - A Sightseeing Guide). Kyoto expects to welcome a growing number of visitors from abroad over the coming years, and this program is designed to help residents of Kyoto learn various English expressions. The ultimate goal is to enable all Kyoto residents to offer foreign visitors the omotenashi (hospitality and much more).

Shime Shigeyama



Okura School Kyogen actor from Kyoto.

Second-eldest son of the 4th Sensaku Shigeyama who was designated a Living National Treasure. Assumed the name of the 2nd Shime Shigeyama in 1995.

Organizing Kyogen overseas performances almost every year, Shigeyama promotes the beauty of Kyoto through Kyogen throughout Japan and abroad. The workshop he hosted in the Czech Republic in 2000 contributed to an increase in the number of people who study Kyogen there and that led to the founding of the Czech Kyogen actors association "Nagomi Kyogen-kai Czech". He has been teaching Kyogen to

local groups in Prague for a long time, even to this day, and contributes to deepening the sister-city relationship between Kyoto and Prague.

Jamila URAYIM: Singer and Dancer (Resides in Osaka)



Born in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Came to Japan in 2003 to study at Doshisha University and the graduate school of Kyoto University of Education.

As a child she joined a youth performance group to get the skill of traditional Uyghur singing and dancing. After coming to Japan, she has been active in promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and China through her dance and singing performances and lectures.

In April 2011, she organized the "Charity concert for Great East Japan Earthquake victims" which was held in Kyoto, Osaka, Ashia and Takarazuka with

the cooperation of international students there. The profit earned by the performances was donated to the disaster stricken areas. In June 2012, she visited Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with the Liansheng erhu (a two-stringed Chinese instrument) ensemble based in Osaka and performed together with the music department students of Xinjiang conservatory. She is active in promoting cultural exchange programs between Japan and China.

Judith GLANCY:Writer /lecturer(Resides in Kyoto)

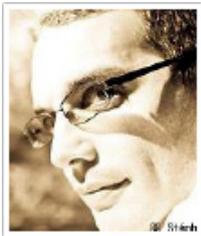


Born in the United States, Glancy has lived in Kyoto since 1970. After studying tea ceremony at Urasenke for six years, she worked in the overseas department of Kanebo in Osaka. At present, she teaches Kyoto history and culture at NHK Culture Center, and English at Otani University. She is the author of several books: “EXPLORING KYOTO” (in 1997 by Stone Bridge Press), “KYOTO MACHIYA RESTAURANT GUIDE (in 2012 by Stone Bridge Press), and “Kyoto: City of Zen” (in 2013 by Tuttle). She is greatly interested in the traditional architecture of Kyo-machiya town houses and their preservation as well as Kyoto’ s wonderful food culture. At present, she lives in a 120-year-old renovated town house in Nishijin.

John Frank:Vice President of Sidney Frank Importing Co., Inc



Stéphane BARBERY:Photographer and writer(Resides in Kyoto)



He has been a lover of Japan since early age. After arriving in Japan in 2008, he has been active in creating photo books of Japanese trees and beautiful landscape of Kyoto; and screen images under the theme of delicate beauty and Japanese chess. His interest in these months is to quest for the beauty of Kyoto which he thinks is the most beautiful city in the world. His other interest is to concentrate on studying Japanese.

Souoku Mushakouji:Mushakouji Senke

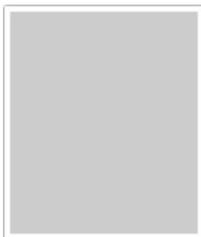


He is the 15th generation “Iemoto” (master) of “Mushanokōjisenke” (one of the great schools of Japanese tea ceremony) and Special Associate Professor at the Faculty of Policy Management of Keio University.

In 2003, he succeeded the hereditary title “Souoku” and later the priestly title of “Zuiensai” (Buddhism) at Daitokuji Temple under its former director the late Settei Fukutomi. From 2008 to 2009, he served as Special Advisor for Cultural Exchange by the Agency for Cultural Affairs reigniting his New York-based activities.

Mr. Mushakouji won the Kyoto Prefecture Culture Prize in January 2013 and, since 2008, has been participating in the international cultural exchange activities of Jishoji (“Ginkaku” - Silver Temple) every year. Particularly in Europe, the U.S. and Hong Kong, he is working to introduce and disseminate Japan’ s “cha-no-yu” (tea ceremony) culture.

Vicky Chen:Model and Japanese Sake Sommelier



Ms. Chen was chosen one of the “New Taiwan Superstars” in BEAUTY, a famous women’s magazine in Taiwan. She also appeared as the main model in “THE WOMAN IN KYOTO” in the global magazine Prestige International Chinese Edition. Currently, she participates in events and works as a brand image character, among other activities. This year, she acquired Japan’s “Kikisake-shi” (Master of Sake) certification and is now involved in Japanese sake educational activities.

Hoshino Tsuji:Board Member of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation(Resides in Kyoto)



Born in Kyoto. In her family business, Tsuji has carried on Japan’s history, culture and ceremonies, primarily in the form of Japanese style weddings, in affiliation with about 80 shrines and temples throughout Japan. She is the Japanese representative of Life Beyond Tourism Expert Member of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation, a non-profit organization whose headquarters are in Florence, Italy, Kyoto’s sister city, and she has been a board member since 2007. Tsuji organized an exhibition with art works from Kyoto as part of the Kyoto – Florence sister city affiliation anniversary project. Bridging Kyoto and Italy, she promotes the beauty of Kyoto with art works and traditional culture such as Kimono, throughout Japan and abroad.

Stomu Yamash’ ta:Percussionist, Composer and Music Director



Percussionist, songwriter, music director and Kyoto native. Mr. Yamash’ ta moved to the U.S. at the age of 17, studied at the world renown Interlochen Arts Academy, the Berklee College of Music and others and performed in the Berlin Philharmonic, Philadelphia and other prestigious orchestras. He made soloist performances in the percussion work “CASIOPEA” written by Toru Takemitsu and conducted by Seiji Ozawa for the Chicago Orchestra, among others, and established a unique percussion sound with the 20th Century’s premier musicians. In 1972, he won the Best New Artist Award of the Japan Minister of Education Awards for Fine Arts. In his 20s, he was lauded by media outlets both in Japan and overseas as a “Maestro Percussionist.” After returning to Japan in 1980, he was bestowed the Japan Academy Award for Music (1984) for the movie “Kukai” (Air and Sea) and participated in wonderful endeavors such as searching for “Sanukite” music created using rock instruments as well as Buddhist music, and practiced “On Zen.” In 2013, he was designated as a Kyoto City Distinguished Person of Cultural Merit. He now works as a special advisor at Sacred Bridge Foundation and is involved in international activities including as art coordinator.

David Atkinson:CEO of Konishi Decorative Arts and Crafts Co.



David Atkinson is from England, and has lived in Japan since 1990. After working for Andersen Consulting and the investment bank Salomon Brothers, he joined Goldman Sachs in 1992. Having worked as a financial analyst and then as a director and partner, he left the company in 2007.

That same year, he purchased a Taisho-era Kyo-machiya (merchant townhouse in Kyoto), and spent a year restoring it for use as a residence. Since 2011, as CEO of Konishi Decorative Arts and Crafts Co., Mr. Atkinson has devoted his energy toward the repair of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties.

Furthermore, he is advocating a growth scenario of “Employment for 4 million people and GDP 8% growth” by increasing the budget for protection of cultural properties. He has been featured in The Asahi Shimbun (Newspaper) column “Nobuyuki Omine’s Town Topics” and has spoken out on matters relating to the restoration of Kyo-machiya. In 2014, Mr. Atkinson published An English Analyst on Safeguarding Japanese National Treasures (in Japanese). He participated as a panelist in “Kyo-machiya Symposium” (February 2014), and in the seminar “Kyoto Sousei Renzoku Koza in Tokyo” as part of the event “Kyo-aruki in Tokyo 2015” (February 2015).

Nobuhiro TERADA:Artistic Director - Ballet Dancer(Resides in Kiev)



Born in Kyoto in 1976. At the age of 11, he moved to Kiev as the first Japanese student under the Japanese government scholarship to study at Kiev National Ballet School. After graduating from that school in 1995, he joined the Kiev Ballet Company and performed as a soloist. In 1999, he graduated the Ukraine Academy University. In 2002, he was awarded the Order of Saint. Stanislav from Russian Orthodox Church. The next year, he was honored by receiving the title of Merited Artist of Ukraine. As the artistic director of both Kiev National Ballet School and Kyoto Ballet Theater, he contributes to the friendship and interaction

between Kyoto and Ukraine.

Nobuaki Tomita:Japan Cultural Legacy Art Producer / Kimono Meister(Resident of Kyoto)



Born in Kyoto in 1963. After working for a kimono wholesaler in Kyoto’s Muromachi district, Nobuaki Tomita became independent and at 27 years of age established Kyokaori Co., Ltd.

Today, as a “Kimono Stylist,” he is responsible for production of kimono not only in Japan, but also for Hollywood actresses and actors. In a commemorative edition, the publication Fujingaho selected Nobuaki Tomita as one of “Four Kimono Masters.” He has produced exhibitions on the intricacies of wearing kimono and given talks at the official residence of the Consulate-General of

Japan in Los Angeles, the Embassy of Japan in China, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, and many other places all over the world. Furthermore, Nobuaki Tomita is active as a producer and designer involved in collaboration of regional traditional cultures and corporations within and outside Japan.

Noriko CARPENTIER-TOMINAGA: Directrice, Comité d'Echanges Franco-Japonais / CCI Paris

Ile-de-France



Noriko CARPENTIER-TOMINAGA: Director of the Japan-France Economic Exchange Committee, in the (Paris) Ile-de-France Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Noriko graduated from the University of Angers (France), [Faculty of Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences, (Department of Tourism)] After working for the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, Noriko began working as Section Chief in the Secretarial Office of Nissan Motor Company's president, Carlos Ghosn. Due to family circumstances, Noriko now lives in Paris.

As director of the Japan-France Economic Exchange Committee in the (Paris) Ile-de-France Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (an organization of which all companies automatically become members), Noriko undertakes activities that promote exchange between Japanese and French companies. She is involved in promoting Japan-France dialogue for heightening awareness of problems relating to building an environment focused on the status of women in companies and balance of work and life for women. Alongside her work, Noriko obtained an Executive MBA from HEC, one of Europe's leading business schools.

Etsuko Nakamura: Pioneer of Sake brewery tourism, National Licensed Tour Guide



She is a pioneer in inbound sake brewery tourism in Japan. As an interpreter guide, she plans and operates "Sake Brewery Tours" for foreign Japanese sake fans (<http://saketours.com>). In 2013, she conducted a 5-day tour of sake breweries centered around Kyoto. Her hope, as an interpreter guide, is to showcase to the world the wonder of Kyoto through its sake, food, pottery, etc. She was named "8th Sake Samurai," she is a member of the Japan Tourism Agency's Sakagura Tourism Promotion Council and a Private Sector Specialist for Regional Human Resources Net Tourism Promotion and Exchanges under the Ministry

of Internal Affairs and Communications, as well as a Sake Advanced Specialist designated by the Sake Education Council.

Mika Ninagawa: Photographer / Film Director



Photographer and film director, Mika Ninagawa is bringing broad perspectives of arts and culture into the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as a member of the Executive Board. Ms. Ninagawa is drawing attention the world over, to say nothing of Japan, through creation of fascinating works that attract the eye and mind with dynamic use of vivid and beguiling colors.

Geiko (geisha) district culture, geiko (geisha) and maiko are part of the traditional culture for which Kyoto is renowned. High expectations are held for the broad appeal of Kyoto's attractions, through photographic exhibitions and other events focusing on this aspect of Kyoto culture.

PETER GRILLI:President, Japan Society of Boston(Resides in the town of Harvard, MA)



Mr. Grilli grew up in Japan as a child, living in Tokyo from 1947 (age 5) to 1959 (age 17). After graduating from high school in Tokyo, he went to the U.S. to enter Harvard College as a freshman. He returned to Japan in 1961, after his sophomore year of college, and attended Waseda University for two years. Then he returned to Harvard and graduated college in 1965. He continue to do graduate work at Harvard in the MA program and PhD program. In 1970, he returned to Japan for PhD research at Tokyo University. In his professional life, he has worked a book editor in Tokyo in New York and in various cultural exchange activities. In 1974, he joined the staff of the Japan Society of New York where he served as Director of Education and later as Director of Education, Film, and Performing Arts. In that capacity, he produced major Japanese performance events in New York, including Grand Kabuki at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1982, 1985 and 1989, and Bunraku at City Center Theater in 1992. Mr. Grilli is also known for his writings about Japan and for producing a number of documentary films about Japan, including SHINTO: Nature, Gods and Man in Japan; DREAM WINDOW: Reflections on the Japanese Garden; and TORU TAKEMITSU: Music for the Movies. From 1995 to 2000, Mr. Grilli served as Director of the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture at Columbia University. Since 2000, he has been President of The Japan Society of Boston, which is the oldest of more than forty-five Japan-America Societies currently active in America. The Japan Society of Boston was established in 1904. In 1959, Boston became sister-city to Kyoto, and Mr. Grilli works often on sister-city – related affairs. The Japan Society of Boston is a not-for-profit American organization dedicated to strengthening ties of friendship and mutual appreciation between the people of Japan and the United States. He makes his home in the town of Harvard, outside Boston, and visits Kyoto frequently.

Hybl Ondrej



Born in Pardubice, the Czech Republic in 1977. Enrolled in Charles University Department of Japanese Language in Prague in 1996. In 2002, the year in which he entered the Japanese Literature Department at the Doshisha University Graduate School of Letters, Ondrej started to study under Shime Shigeyama, the Kyoto based Okura School Kyogen actor. After finishing his master' s degree, he went on to study Noh and Kyogen further in the PhD program of Osaka University Graduate School of Letters. He was one of the founding members of “Nagomi Kyogen-kai Czech” , a semiprofessional theater group in the Czech Republic, and currently serves as its representative. While continuing his apprenticeship with Shime Shigeyama till today, Ondrej organizes Kyogen performances around Europe including in the Czech Republic and promotes the beauty of Kyoto through Kyogen, Kyoto' s traditional performing art.

Soji HIRAIDE:Owner of 30 chain restaurants in Taiwan



He was born in Tokyo in 1974 of a Japanese father and Taiwanese mother. After finishing high school in Japan, he moved to Taiwan. He established “Kanpai Yakiniku” restaurant in Taipei in his 3rd year of college, a business that grew to 29 locations as of March 2014 including “yakiniku” (Japanese barbeque) restaurants and “ramen” (Japanese noodle) shops, among others. He became “Sake Samurai” in October 2013 upon his investiture in the Japan Sake Brewers Association Junior Council in recognition for his Japanese sake information dissemination activities in Taiwan over the span of his career. He hopes to convey the appeal of Kyoto, the pride of Japan, to as many people as possible in Taiwan, the world' s No. 1 Japanophile country.

Bill TOTTEN:Chairman, K. K. Ashisuto(Resides in Kyoto)



Born in California, USA. After receiving a PhD in economics from the University of Southern California, Dr Totten came to Japan in 1969. In 1972 he established K K Ashisuto, now a leading software distribution company in Japan. He was nationalized as a Japanese citizen in 2006, and has written eighteen books on social and economic issues including "Nihon wa Warukunai" (Don't Blame Japan). In addition to helping manage Ashisuto, he gives lectures throughout the country, walks ten kilometers daily, reads extensively, and raises fruit, vegetables, honeybees and chickens in his Shimogamo garden.

Priyanka Yoshikawa:Miss World Japan 2016((Resides in Tokyo))



Growing up in America and India, Yoshikawa speaks English, Bengali and Japanese. She started her career in modeling in her teens, and was chosen to be Miss World Japan in 2016. While working as a freelance interpreter, she is also a nationally certified elephant driver in Laos and a certified art therapist. Her hobbies are kickboxing, watercolor painting and she is a fan of interior design. Appearing on TV programs and gaining international attention, Yoshikawa, as well as being a bridge between Japan and India, promotes the beauty of Kyoto throughout Japan and abroad.

Pauline Chakmakjian:Founder of The Japan Room



Pauline visits Kyoto often because she thinks it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world due to its relaxed, peaceful and aesthetic ambiance. Moreover, the city is attractive as one of historical importance since it was the capital of Japan for over one thousand years. She was a Board Member of The Japan Society of the United Kingdom in London and is currently on the Board of Directors of The Japan–America Society of Hawai'i in Honolulu. Pauline frequently gives lectures and study days on a variety of subjects including The City of Kyoto and Machiya as well as Kyoto matsuri, shrines, temples, Heian-period

courtly life, Noh, gagaku and the traditional handicrafts of Kyoto. The Japan Room is a cultural salon that aims to promote Japanese culture through lectures and other elegant events.

Yoshiyuki Hosomi:Director of Hosomi Museum



Born in Kyoto on August 15, 1954, and graduated from Doshisha University in 1977. In 1994, having received authorization from the (then) Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Yoshiyuki Hosomi established the Hosomi Art Foundation, based on the Japanese fine art collection assembled by his grandfather. In 1998, he opened Hosomi Museum in Okazaki, Kyoto, and was appointed museum director. Aside from involvement in planning and presentation of exhibitions, Mr. Hosomi is making good use of his interests, presenting tea ceremony events at the museum and in other ways working to spread interest in traditional culture.

Since July 2008, Mr. Hosomi has served as chief secretary of Kyohakuren, an association established to promote cooperation on further development of cultural activities, among museums and galleries in Kyoto. Since June 2014, he has also served as a specialist member of the Rimpa 400 Year Celebration Festival Committee.

Eiji Horiuchi:President of Regency San Marino Travel Agency(Resides in Florence)



Born in Kyoto in 1961. In 1987, after graduating from Doshisha University, Mr. Horiuchi moved to Florence, Italy, a sister city of Kyoto City. Since 1990 his travel agency, Regency San Marino, has offered European tourists a travel experience with a sense of the deep culture and spirit of Japan, with a particular focus on Kyoto. Regency San Marino is the first agency to practice legal marriage services for Japanese couples in Italy.

In addition to founding the JoFuKan training hall for Kendo in 2009, he hosted a Kimono Meeting in 2015. From Florence, he promotes beautiful aspects of Kyoto such as Japanese spirituality and Kimono culture.

Yoshiaki HOMPO:The first commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency, Professor of Tokyo Metropolitan University(Resides in Tokyo)



After finishing the graduate school of Tokyo Institute of Technology, he started working at the Ministry of Transport. He served as the councilor at the Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD, the board member of Japan Post, Councilor for general tourism policy at the Minister's Secretariat of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. He was appointed as the first commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency. He has contributed to designing the tourism policy of Japan. At present, he teaches tourism policy at Tokyo Metropolitan University.

He also serves as the President in Inbound Research Council and policy advisor devoting himself for the promotion of industry-government-academy cooperation programs.

Tokubee Masuda:President of Fushimi Sake Brewers Association(Residing in Kyoto City)



Tokubee Masuda was born in Kyoto Prefecture. In 1991, he became the 14th-generation master of sake brewery Tsukino Katsura, founded in 1675 and one of the oldest breweries in the Fushimi district of Kyoto. Tsukino Katsura is the oldest sake produced by the brewery. Over the years, Mr. Masuda has worked to highlight the attractions of Kyoto through Japanese sake and cuisine, all over the world. Aiming to spread awareness of Kyoto, he is involved in and promoting diverse events and activities in Kyoto, including the Kyoto Sake Summit 2015, Japan Sake Festival, and study tours with participants from around the world. He has also

sponsored sake-tasting and traditional events at consulates and embassies of many countries. Mr. Masuda is undertaking broad-based public relations for Kyoto through the medium of Japanese sake. Since 2008, he has served as president of the Japan Sake and Shochu Makers Association, as well as chair of the association's Overseas Strategies Committee. In 2010, he was appointed president of the Fushimi Sake Brewers Association

Machadango: Author, Interpreter, Translator (Currently living in Kyoto)



Born in Taipei, Taiwan, grew up in Taiwan, and spent two years in the USA. Has travelled extensively in Japan, experiencing culture and customs of many places. Discovered an interest in Japanese folklore, and began studying the Japanese attitude toward gods and ancient history of Japan, thereby deepening awareness of the way of thinking underlying Japanese culture and civilization from various perspectives.

Currently engaged in writing, as an author, translator and interpreter. Works translated in Taiwan include the anime series Kiteretsu Daihyakka [Kiteretsu Encyclopedia] by Fujiko F. Fujio, Mitsume ga Toru [The Three-Eyed One] and Janguru Taitei [Jungle Emperor / Kimba the White Lion] by Osamu Tezuka, among other works.

[2012 March 28] Wrote a book of essays introducing culture and customs of Kyoto, published by Kadokawa Taiwan

[2012 August 06] Passed Level Three of The 1st Shrine Certification Test

[2012 September 24] Two entries were awarded prizes in The 3rd Hankyu Ee-hagaki Contest - Kyoto [Great Picture Card Competition]

[2013 January 23] Passed Level Three of The 9th Kyoto Tourism & Culture Certification Test

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/machadango>

Blog: <http://machadango.com/>

Madeleine WARDENAAR: Japan expert, Art history specialist (Resides in Amsterdam)



She has been an ardent fan of Kyoto since her first visit here 20 years ago. One of her ancestors used to be the Director General of the Dutch Trade Mission Dejima, Nagasaki. She studied East and West Asian cultural histories and anthropology at university. She served as the communication advisor at the World Water Forum 2003 in Kyoto for the Dutch delegation. As the director of Netherlands-Japan 400 Years, she coordinated the cultural events to commemorate the four-century relationship between Japan and Netherlands in 2009. Over the past 20 years, she has been a professional intermediary for cultural affairs in the Netherlands and Japan. At present, she is the vice chair of the Japanese Dutch Shinzen Foundation, Advisor of Japan at Van Gogh Museum and the guest curator at National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto.

Marco Massarotto: CEO of HAGAKURE



Born 1971 in Bassano, Italy. Now CEO of HAGAKURE, the largest digital marketing company in Italy. (The official IT social media broadcasting company for Expo Milano 2015.)

In 2011, Mr. Marco Massarotto established La Via del Sake (The Sake Path), an NPO that aims to spread Japanese dining culture through Italy and Europe. Mr. Massarotto has organized cooking classes for Japanese foods and tasting parties for Japanese sake. He lectures on Kyoto culture through twice-yearly visits to sake breweries, upmarket Japanese restaurants and Japanese confectionery shops in

Kyoto. Mr. Massarotto is also working on marketing traditional industry products of Kyoto, by expanding sales networks, and using his company's website to sell products, introduce buyers, etc. Through his business in digital communication, Mr. Massarotto is broadcasting attractions of Kyoto in such areas as traditions of Japanese dining and products of traditional industries.

Muriel BARBERY:Novelist(Resides in Amsterdam)



Her first novel “Gourmet Rhapsody” , published in 2000, won the Best Gourmet Novel Prize in France. It was translated into 15 languages. Her second novel “The Elegance of the Hedgehog” , published in 2006, won many awards in France. It has been translated into more than 40 languages and sold over 6 millions copies. She lived in Kyoto for two years which inspires her current writing. She comes back to Kyoto as often as she can.

Mikio Mori:CEO of Crown Line Group / Comm Group



Mikio Mori hails from Kyoto and has lived in Singapore for 40 years. After working for an American transportation company, in 1980 he set up an international removal company that also provides local support services for daily life. His businesses include publication of subscription-free magazines and lifestyle information guides, as well as radio and television broadcasting. By these and other means, he is supporting expansion outside Japan and development of overseas bases by businesses. He is aiding business expansion, supporting logistics and marketing, and in other ways providing diverse services required by Japanese people and enterprises outside Japan. Services are offered in 25 cities in 15 countries. For example, Mr. Mori is presenting Kyoto programs with English subtitles through radio and television broadcasts aimed at people in Asia. Primarily for Japanese people and local residents in Singapore, he is presenting the attractions of Kyoto’ s culture, traditional crafts, music and agricultural produce. Additionally, after supporting business development of Kyoto enterprises in Asia, he continues to function in a guiding role.

Isao Yasuda (Mao-Hsun Chang):Chairman Society of Taiwan Diaspora in Japan - Kyoto Branch(Resides in Kyoto)



Isao Yasuda was born in Kyoto in 1947, to a Taiwanese father and Japanese mother. He graduated from the Doshisha University Faculty of Economics. As chairman of the Society of Taiwan Diaspora in Japan - Kyoto Branch for 18 years from 1997 to the present day, Isao Yasuda has visited Taiwan on countless occasions for dialogue and exchange with key Taiwanese people. He provides assistance for tourists from Taiwan and in many other ways presents the charms of Kyoto. For his endeavors over many years in international exchange between Japan and Taiwan, the Taiwan government awarded Isao Yasuda the 華光三等獎章 in November

2014.

Sachiyo Yamada:Lacrosse Player(Resident of Shiga Prefecture)



Became a professional lacrosse player in September 2007. The following year, as Japan’s first professional lacrosse player, she joined the veteran team “Wilderness,” based in Adelaide, Australia. She is a Kyoto Sangyo University 50th Anniversary Publicity Ambassador (Musubiwaza Ambassador), and Kyoto Marathon Supporting Ambassador.

RENA RELAN:Managing Director of an entertainment company(Resides in England)



Born to a Japanese mother and Indian father, Ms. Relan studied at an international school in Japan and later went on to study at an American university. After graduation, she worked for a Japanese-affiliated company before launching her career as a TV and radio personality, model, event host etc. She is currently based in London and the managing director of Geenar International Co.,Ltd. in London. The company focuses on spreading fashion trends in England and Japan, organizing cultural exchange events, and consulting businesses with a global vision.

She hosted “Japan Matsuri 2014” and a ceremony at the Japanese pavilion set up in 2015 to commemorate the Rugby World Cup 2019, both held in London, while wearing kimono, and introduced Japanese cultural traditions such as the Shamisen, Shakuhachi, Koto and more. Ms. Relan promotes the beauty of Kyoto throughout Japan and abroad, especially in Europe.

Ro Igyou:Representative of Shokodo Co., Ltd(Residing in Hangzhou City)



As representative of Shokodo Co., Ltd (Hangzhou City, China), a company involved in sustaining the culture of fragrance, Ro Igyou is developing cultural exchange between China and Japan through cultural events such as incense appreciation gatherings and tea ceremonies.

Robin Shōen Heřman



Born in Prague in 1972.

Finished his master’s degree in Japanese Studies at Charles University Department of Philosophy, in Prague, where he teaches as a part-time teacher today, after studying abroad at Kyushu University Department of History and Geography. Trained at Enryaku-ji Temple and studied at Eizan Gakuin School in 2002. Current President of Czech-Japan Association. Contributed to forming the sister-city relationship between Kyoto and Prague in 1996. Heřman introduces Japan – especially Kyoto’s traditional culture through cultural festivals and

photo exhibitions that portray some of Kyoto’s important annual events and “Saijiki”, a list of kigo (seasonal terms) used in haiku and related forms of poetry, in the Czech Republic. He also organizes Kyoto culture experience tours for Czech business people, artists, architects etc. as well as teaches about Kyoto culture in his university classes, promoting the beauty of Kyoto from various perspectives.

The Aeon Group

Regarding Asian countries and Japan as one market, Asia's "Super Regional Retailer" Aeon operates over 15,000 stores and offices in 12 countries. In April 2012, the company concluded a comprehensive cooperation agreement for the promotion of local communities and culture with the City of Kyoto.

OMRON CORPORATION

OMRON has locations in 35 countries and regions across the globe and engages in business in over 110 countries in close partnership with local communities. Aiming for sustainable social growth centered on industry, the environment, lifestyle and society, OMRON provides pioneering products and services that solve social issues for people to live fuller, richer lives based on its understanding of society's latent needs. All of Omron's business activities are based on its core value, "working for the benefit of society," and over many years it has always been committed to contributing to social development through its business. Its name derives from "Omuro" area of Kyoto, the former location of its head office.

Kyoto Ikebana Association

Kyoto Ikebana Association consists of 35 flower arrangement schools which has their bases in Kyoto. They holds "Kado Kyo-ten" flower arrangement exhibition every year in Kyoto. Their 63rd exhibition was held in 2012. Their exhibitions are held on other occasions such as Gion Festival, Higashiyama Hanatoro, and Arashiyama Hanatoro. They welcome visitors to Kyoto by decorating flowers at Kyoto National Guest House and JR Kyoto Station Building. They also contribute to the international friendship by holding exhibitions in the sister cities of Kyoto such as Kiev, Xian, and Prague.

Kintetsu International

KNT has long been organizing leisure travel and incentive travel for employee groups as packages that include meals, transport and accommodation. Additionally, the company is undertaking comprehensive production and management of events and projects, always with the needs of customers as the first priority. The company promotes highly original proposal-style business, for enterprises and other organizations.

Furthermore, in the field of educational travel, focused on history, culture and nature, KNT proposes tours developed from diverse perspectives, both in Japan and abroad. Such tours leave deep impressions and experiences that strengthen bonds between companions and colleagues.

SHIMADZU CORPORATION

Founded in Kyoto in 1875, SHIMADZU provides its valued customers with various technologies and products in several fields mostly dealing with analytical and measurement devices, medical devices, aeronautical devices and industrial devices.

Shimadzu Foundation Memorial Hall, which opened its doors in 1975, welcomes on average 15,000 visitors every year and, in December 2013, it attained 300,000 visitors.

SHIMADZU offers guidance to overseas visitors to Japan not only on the Memorial Hall but also other Kyoto landmarks.

The PR magazine "MEDICAL NOW" published by SHIMADZU's medical systems division features a section that introduces Kyoto traditions and, from January 2014, SHIMADZU began publishing "MOMENTUM" external PR magazine for in an effort to convey Japan's appeal overseas readers.

Visa Worldwide (Japan) Co., Ltd.

Conducting business in 200 countries and regions, with 3.2 billion cards in issue, Visa Worldwide is a world leader in electronic funds settlement. VisaNet, a cutting-edge global processing network, can handle more than 65,000 transactions per second, and provides safe and trustworthy electronic settlement the world over.

In December 2015, Kyoto City and Visa Worldwide (Japan) signed a Comprehensive Regional Vitalization Cooperation Agreement. The main objectives of the agreement are to enhance the infrastructure environment for receiving foreign tourists and to promote vitalization of the region.

HORIBA, Ltd.

Established in 1953, HORIBA comprises of 37 Group company located in 26 countries. The Company provides analytical measurement devices in five fields, namely automotive, environment, medical, semi-conductor and scientific.

HORIBA's motto, "Joy & Fun," articulates the hope of providing a workplace where individuals can spend their best time and engage in amusing activities that will enrich the life of each individual. HORIBA has 5,500 employees worldwide that take on global challenges under its motto. Of course HORIBA provides high value-added products and services that enhance the HORIBA brand value in the analytical device field, but it also engages in corporate activities based on a culture that cherishes Kyoto's "honmamon" (genuineness).

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) is a global commercial bank which is capable of consistently providing up-to-date information and services by closely cooperating with group companies and overseas subsidiaries throughout the world, concentrating mainly on the three regional divisions of Asia-Pacific, Americas and Europe.

SMBC provides high value-added services appropriate to the specific local needs of its globally-operating clients of business corporations, financial institutions, governmental organizations and public entities.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ

The bank has about 100 offices in more than 40 countries in the world. Union Bank which is the affiliated company of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ has about 400 offices in the U.S.A. Thus the bank has a wide network across the world. The bank is the official financial institution for the city of Kyoto.

(The above names are organized in Alphabetical order, written without honorifics)