



BBA
British Business Awards
2017



The British Chamber of Commerce in Japan

PRESS RELEASE

UK–Japan firms vie for top awards Tokyo business event shows strong bilateral ties

Tokyo, Japan (November 10, 2017)— With both Brexit and the EU–Japan trade deal on the horizon, the UK and Japan on Thursday evening confidently showcased their increasingly strong bilateral ties in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, business success and social contributions at a record-breaking awards ceremony held in Tokyo.

Organized by the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BCCJ), the annual British Business Awards (BBA) ceremony recognizes excellence and promotes success and innovation across all industries. The awards also acclaim the important social contributions made by organizations through their commitment to community and ethical behavior.



Photo caption: Winners of the 2017 British Business Awards and British Ambassador to Japan Paul Madden CMG at the Grand Hyatt in Tokyo on November 2. Photo credit: LIFE14

Held at the Grand Hyatt Tokyo on November 2, the 2017 BBA event attracted 25 nominations across five award categories. Nominees came from global corporations, SMEs, not-for-profit organisations, academia and entrepreneurs across a number of traditional and modern industries. The BCCJ welcomed over 350 guests - the largest event in the not-for-profit organisation's 69 year history.

This year's winners are from the sectors of tourism, food, luxury autos, IT and consumer goods. Iconic luxury carmaker Aston Martin celebrated winning the coveted Company of the Year gong the day after opening a new showroom in Aoyama. JTB Corporation, Japan's largest travel agency, scored the UK-Japan Partnership award along with Sports Travel & Hospitality Group. The founder of a popular bakery and deli in Kudanminami, Chiyoda Ward, walked off as best entrepreneur, while huge conglomerate Unilever received the award for community contribution. Innovation, meanwhile, was won by SciBite whose technology is revolutionizing the pharmaceutical industry.

Five judges independently voted for winners from among the 25 entrants in five categories. Based in London and Tokyo, the independent judges included a CEO, an Olympics chief, a chairman, an architect, and a senior embassy trade official. Nominations were judged against specific criteria based on the BBA values of success, innovation, and ethics. A BBA statement said: "Independent judges used well-defined and proven methodologies to ensure that the judging process was fair and free of influence."

Envelopes containing the names of the successful nominees were kept confidential and sealed until British Ambassador to Japan Paul Madden CMG revealed winners to the hushed audience. Madden then presented trophies - designed by traditional artisans in Gifu Prefecture in partnership with Sebastian Conran Associates - to winners for "outstanding contributions to the UK-Japan commercial relationship."

Madden said: "You only have to look at the names of the nominees to appreciate the diversity and the quality of the British business community in Japan. Everyone who has received a nomination is a winner and deserves our admiration." He also offered a reflection on bilateral ties in the nine months since he took his current post. Prime Minister May and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "moved the relationship on to the next level" by discussing both security and economic issues during May's visit to Japan from August to September, the ambassador said.

Established in 2008 to mark the 60th anniversary of the BCCJ, the event is a unique showcase for British creativity, culture and commerce. Next year's BBA comes as the BCCJ celebrates its 70th anniversary.

The 2017 British Business Award winners are:



ASTON MARTIN

Company of the Year: Aston Martin

To recognise Aston Martin Lagonda for driving trade and investment between the UK and Japan in its latest deal, announced August 2017 and worth up to £500 million over the next five years. The deal will support British manufacturing, the Japanese supply chain, as well as the development of the Aston Martin brand in Japan. Dr Andy Palmer, CEO of Aston Martin says: "On behalf of all the family at Aston Martin, I'm delighted to receive this prestigious award, in recognition of what has been a fantastic year for us. In the Japanese market, my second home, we are set for our best year on record in terms of sales, having just launched our new Tokyo dealership on Aoyama dori."



UK-Japan Partnership: STH and JTB

STH Japan is a pioneering partnership between JTB Corporation and the multi award-winning Sports Travel & Hospitality Group. It will introduce top-class hospitality experiences for international and domestic sports events in Japan, with a particular focus on the 2019 Rugby World Cup.



Innovation: SciBite

In recognition of SciBite's transformation of data management in the life sciences and the opportunity this brings for Japan to gain a global advantage in this sphere. Our technology is revolutionising Research and Development for pharmaceutical companies – a major contribution for a small, British company in a highly competitive market.

SWAN&LION

Entrepreneur of the Year: Ian Gibbins (Swan and Lion)

Gibbins says, "At Swan & Lion our focus is to make great tasting modern British food that represents the huge overhaul in British cuisine in recent years. I am passionate about being all natural and using seasonal produce. I want to show my Japanese customers that British food is not just fish and chips!"



Community Contribution: Unilever Japan

To recognise Unilever for its initiatives to operate a sustainable business and, through "Work Anytime Anywhere" and "Women Empowerment" programmes, to catalyse a big social movement and change corporate culture in Japan.

2017 BBA Judges

Philippe Fauchet, OBE (Chairman and Representative Director, GlaxoSmithKline K.K.)

Lady Barbara Judge, CBE (Chairman, Institute of Directors)

Astrid Klein (Architect, Klein-Dytham Architecture)

Bill Sweeney (CEO, British Olympic Association)

Esther Williams (First Secretary and Head of Trade, British Embassy Tokyo)

What is the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BCCJ)?

Established in 1948, the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan is a not-for-profit organisation open to members of all nationalities. The BCCJ's mission is to strengthen business ties between the UK and Japan, promote and support the business interests of its 200 member firms, and actively encourage new British business into the Japanese market, as well as Japanese investment into the UK.

For more information about the BCCJ and upcoming events please see www.bccjapan.com.

For any media enquiries, and / or to interview any 2017 BBA winners or judges, please contact: info@bccjapan.com or 03-6426-5739



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