

# About the Japan-Netherlands Society of the Kansai

Japan and the Netherlands have maintained friendly relations for as long as 470 years, except for a brief period during World War II. This is a rare bilateral relationship between two advanced nations.

The Japan-Netherlands Society of the Kansai was founded in 1959, proposed by Konosuke Matsushita, the founder of the Panasonic Group, with the cooperation of volunteers from Kansai's business, government, and academic sectors. The Ambassador of the Netherlands to Japan serves as Honorary President. For over 60 years, the Society has promoted cultural understanding and exchange between Japan and the Netherlands at the grassroots level, working closely with the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Osaka.

■ Established: March 1959

■ Purpose:

To promote cultural and economic exchange between Japan and the Netherlands, and to contribute to mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of both countries.

■ Membership (As of October 1, 2025)

Corporate Members: 37 companies

Individual Members: 88 people

■ Main Events:

- Annual General Meeting & Reception (once a year)
- Regular Meetings (three times a year)

Themes include Dutch-Japanese culture and history:

- Lectures, art and music appreciation sessions
- Food and drink tastings
- Anniversary Events
- Tours to the Netherlands, Nagasaki, Hirado, etc.



Speech by the Ambassador  
of the Netherlands



Experiencing  
Vermeer



Exploring Dutch Cheese



Cheers to Heineken



Hirado Tour



Piano Concert  
Martin van den Hoek



Hindeloopen Workshop



Reception with buffet



Reception at the Residence of the  
Consul-General of the Netherlands

# Membership Information and How to Join

■ Join Us:  
Would you like to experience Dutch culture, food, and art? The Japan-Netherlands Society of the Kansai is a casual and open community for people who love the Netherlands, are interested in the Netherlands, or have business ties with the Netherlands, mainly in the Kansai region. We look forward to your participation!

■ Annual Membership Fee:

Membership Type	Annual Fee (1 unit)
Corporate Member	¥20,000
Individual Member	¥3,000
Student Member	¥1,500

- ✓ Fiscal Year: April 1 - March 31
- ✓ Regular events are charged at actual cost

■ Bank Account:  
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation  
Osaka Head Office  
Ordinary Account No. 156093  
Account Holder: Kansai Nichiran Kyokai

■ How to Join:  
If you wish to join, please contact the Secretariat. We will send you an application form. The application form can also be downloaded from our website. Two member recommendations are required for admission, but it is possible to obtain recommendations after participating in an event as a guest.

Honorary President	H.E. Gilles Beschoor Plug, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Japan
Honorary Vice President	Marc Kuipers, Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Osaka
President	Toshihiro Sakamoto, Associate, Panasonic Holdings Corporation
Advisors	Hirofumi Yoshimura, Governor of Osaka Prefecture
	Motohiko Saito, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
	Kizo Hisamoto, Mayor of Kobe City
	Yasushi Misawa, Representative of the Government of Japan / Ambassador in charge of Kansai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Kazushige Nobutani, Director-General, Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry
	Atsushi Kumanogoh, President, The University of Osaka
	Shingo Torii, Chairperson, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Secretariat  
Japan-Netherlands Society of the Kansai  
1006 Kadoma, Kadoma City, Osaka 571-8501  
c/o Panasonic Holdings Corporation  
Tel: 06-6908-1121 Fax: 06-6906-3484  
Website: <http://kansai-nichiran.com/>  
email: [kansai-nichiran@gg.jp.panasonic.com](mailto:kansai-nichiran@gg.jp.panasonic.com)

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