

# Kyoto Prefectural International Center



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## Special focus on page 3:

### From learning Japanese to start a business in Japan

Ever wanted to work in Japan? You might be a student wondering how to get a job with your Japanese language skills. Or maybe you are already working in Japan but you want to start your own business? Today we are glad to introduce you Jean-Baptiste Fauvel, co-founder of JB&B. You will learn about his story and get to know his vision to succeed in working with Japanese people and starting a business in Japan.



## Corner of Kyoto (by CIR)

### 5 years as a CIR in Kyoto Prefecture



Mark Garratt

Or 4 years, 8 months, and 3 days from when I started this journey on 29th July 2012 through to my official ending date on 31st March 2017, to be more precise.

Having been asked to write about my time as a JET Programme participant in Kyoto Prefecture, I now find it a surprisingly difficult task. For all the translation, interpreting, presentations, and travelling that I have been busy doing over the past few years, perhaps I have not had an opportunity to stop and think how this experience has changed who I am from when I first embarked on this journey.

One question that many foreign residents of Japan of course get asked is, “where are you from?” Now it is this simple question that has often caused me to pause to consider my answer. Answering with “the UK” almost certainly invokes images in the mind of London and fish and chips, while on the other hand answering with “Scotland” can tend to draw a slightly blank look that reminds me that I am very far from home.

Since becoming a Coordinator for International Relations for Kyoto Prefecture, I have tried to spread a little more awareness of my home country, and I feel like Japanese people are now at least slightly more aware of Scotland than they were before, although by no means has this been due to only my singular efforts.

However not only have I tried to teach Japan about myself and my country. Kyoto and its people have taught me so much

about themselves and their culture too, and it is this two-way exchange that is really so important, not just for me but for everyone. I really hope that I have been able to contribute to international exchange in Kyoto Prefecture.

Being a CIR in Kyoto has been full of learning, fantastic experiences, and delicious food and drink. However the enjoyment and challenges with which these years have provided me are perhaps what I have found most meaningful. A unique experience in a unique place in a unique country has brought me to where I am today, and for that I am hugely grateful — this opportunity of growth and self-discovery that has allowed me to reflect and think to myself, “so this is where I am from,” and finally have an answer to that most innocuous of questions.

Let's see where it takes me next.



### Forum to celebrate 20 years of Kyoto Prefectural International Center

The ceremony was first opened by the introduction speeches of the Governor of Kyoto Prefecture, Mr. Yamada and the President of Kyoto Prefectural International Center, Mr. Oike. Then, the President of Kyoto Prefecture Assembly, Mr. Kondo gave the congratulatory address in front of about 120 people attending the event that day.

It would have taken too much time to thank every person who supports us or is directly involved in the Center activities. (Yes you are a lot! Thank you very much!). It's not less than 65 people that deserved to be cheerfully congratulated for their helpful cooperation. 5 organizations received from KPIC a certificate of commendation on the spot. At this occasion, Vice president Sudo and President Oike also received thank-you letters from Governor Yamada on behalf of Kyoto Prefecture.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone for these 20 years and look forward to your continued cooperation and support in the future!

### Ube Walter : Shakuhachi performance

After the acceptance speeches and thank-you messages, Mr. Walter gave a shakuhachi performance deep in emotions. Born in East-Germany, this talented artist now lives in the little but beautiful town of Miyama. With more than 35 years of

experience living in Japan, he interspersed his several songs by narrating some episodes of his life and integration in his small Japanese village. The interactions with people or his walks in the forest give him inspiration when it's not more modern pieces like Take five that takes him to play among the audience!

### Keynote lecture "Regional revitalization and globalization"

The keynote lecture was given by Ms. Hamada, professor at Kyoto University of Education. With precise figures, she analyzed the current situation of internationalization in Japan. The population is ageing and currently decreasing. At the same time, the number of foreign residents has been increasing in recent years. Ms. Hamada calls for a new approach based on local initiatives rather than government top-down decisions. According to her, it is necessary to invite foreign residents to take part in the process of local revitalization and community development.

### Panel Discussion

Finally a panel discussion with Professor Hamada as a moderator was the last part of this Forum. Mr. Kondo, director of the

project division at KPIC gave a brief summary of the current situation of the globalization in Kyoto Prefecture and explained what initiatives are taken at the Center to deal with international residents' issues. While Japanese lessons, disaster prevention drills, support to children with international roots and cultural exchanges are the core activities, Mr. Kondo talked about the vast range of activities at the Center such as training volunteers or creating Japanese classes inside local associations.

Asked about the possible support from the Japanese Government, Ms. Masuda with an energetic voice described the difficult task to set the limits of government support to Japanese language education. However, Ms. Masuda assured that it is part of her mission that residents living in Japan get the opportunity to learn Japanese and interact with Japanese citizens. Whatever their goals in Japan, they should be considered as members of the society and then be able to live a cultural and social life like others.

What emerged in the course of the discussion between the three panelists is that Japanese classes in local areas are not only useful for learning Japanese but also ensure a welcoming place where one can make friends and get support or information on daily life in Japan.



# Working in Kyoto Prefecture: from learning Japanese to start one's own business in Japan.

## Interview with Jean-Baptiste Fauvel, CEO at JB&B.



### 1. Could you introduce yourself ?

My name is Jean-Baptiste Fauvel, I am 30 years old, and I have lived in Japan for 7 years now. Born in a small town in the South of France, I spent my early years in this peaceful and rural environment. Being curious, I was lucky to grow up surrounded by craftspeople and artists who taught me the value of the work hand-made, with their unique know-how and a vision of life based on effort and attention to details. This education was enriched with my family who encouraged me to set goals and to accept new challenges.

### 2. Tell us about your background.

Everything was decided at a university fair where I met a professor of Japanese language who convinced me to go into Japanese studies. Once I graduated with a master degree, I did a one-year exchange at the University of Osaka. Even today, this is my best academic experience, with exceptional on-site support and a perfect environment for learning and perfecting Japanese. I decided to return to Japan with a working holiday visa, with the will to find a fixed occupation. I found a part-time job some months later, which quickly turned into a full-time job as a deputy director of an international school in Osaka. I worked there for a few years and then start looking for a new challenge. So I decided to embark on tourism, working as a guide. During my visits, I had the chance to go to Kyoto, a city that I love, and presenting craft-works to tourists longing for tradition and authenticity.



### 3. What made you want to create your own business?

Everything began with the meeting of a craftsman based in Arashiyama. It became obvious to me that the artisans of Kyoto were living today the situation experienced by the craftsmen of my region, who tend to disappear. To forestall this decline, I thought of setting a prospective mission to Paris to present and explain the French market to Japanese craftsmen in a constructive way. Our mission met tangible results that led me to start my own consulting company: the JB & B agency. With my partner, our main business is offering customized prospecting and development services for companies interested in approaching the Japanese market or the opposite. The 2018 Franco-Japanese year, the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020 are all reasons to think that Japan will be in the spotlight for the next 3 years at least.



### 4. Could you explain us how you work with Japanese people?

Communication is at the heart of our business. As a result, we spend a lot of time talking to our partners, whether they are in Japan or abroad. Working with the Japanese requires rigor, patience and honesty. Our unique position as intermediary is based on three concepts: reactivity, adaptation and efficiency.

### 5. What would you recommend when starting a business in Japan?

First of all, do not hesitate to ask many organizations for the creation of your company. The choice of the type of company is also crucial. This process is quite tedious, although very informative. Then, know and understand the Japanese market, its needs and its rules. To think that the Japanese market works like any other is a mistake, frequently made by foreign companies wanting to settle in Japan. Finally, Steve Jobs summarizes it well: there is no miracle formula to start and succeed in one's business apart from motivation and emotion. This is all the more true here in Japan, where perseverance often turns into trust, essential for your success.



# INFORMATION FROM KPIC

## 1 Field trip in Kyotango



**Date** July 8th and 9th

**Participants** International students of Kyoto Prefecture

**Details** enjoy home stay with Japanese locals and discover Kyotango food, culture and nature!

Details and application will be posted on the following website

<http://www.kpic.or.jp/njfumin/fieldtrip/tango>

## 2 International Day of Yoga in Kyoto

This day is for people to enjoy yoga regardless of age, gender, or nationality. This year it will be held in Kyoto, in front of Heian Jingu Shrine.



**Date** June 18th

**Place** Heian Jingu Shrine

**How to join** everyone is welcome. Please come early (7:45am to 8.30am) to register at the vent reception desks in front of Heian Jingu Shrine

**What to bring** comfortable clothes, yoga mat, towel, rain gear.

For more information, please visit the official website: <https://www.yogadaykansai.com/> or send an email to [yogadaykansai@gmail.com](mailto:yogadaykansai@gmail.com).

### Kyoto Prefecture CIRs common blog

<http://tabunkakyoito.wordpress.com/>



### For more information, please refer to

**Web** <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/>

**GO**

## COUNSELING SERVICES for Kyoto's International Residents

### 1 Support Desk for International Students

Our counseling staff will give you information and advice for daily life, preparation for jobs, contacts with graduates working in Japan, etc. This service is free of charge.

- **Consultation days and hours** : Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00-17:00
- **Languages** : Interpretation in English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Spanish and Portuguese available. Reservation required for interpretation.
- **Email** : [counsel@kpic.or.jp](mailto:counsel@kpic.or.jp) ■ **TEL** : 075-342-0088

### 2 Visa consultation

An expert can respond to your visa-related questions including those about changing or renewing your status of residence.

Please make a reservation at least one week in advance by Web form or Fax.

**Date**: Fourth Sunday of every month, 13:00-16:00 (30 minutes/person)

**Fee**: Free of charge.

**Details**: <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/residents/consul.html>

<http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/residents/consul.html>

## COUNSELING Q&A for Kyoto's International Residents



### Q

What should I be aware of or what should I do to find a job successfully?

### A

One of the difficulty former exchange students usually faced was Japanese language skill. They lacked vocabulary and had trouble to express themselves so it was hard for them to go into the basic recruitment process: entry sheets, interview exams, etc. It is necessary to make opportunities such as talking politely with Japanese seniors on a daily basis and brush up your Japanese ability from the very beginning.

Foreign students tend to have a stronger interest for big companies than Japanese students. However, there are many excellent small and medium sized enterprises. Moreover, local companies are increasingly recruiting international students so please take time to have a look at those companies as well.

Also, foreign students tend to lack information on job hunting activities in Japan. It is also crucial to connect with Japanese students who are looking for a job and to exchange information with them. When looking for a job, it makes a big difference if you prepare thoroughly. But most importantly you should persevere throughout the whole job search.

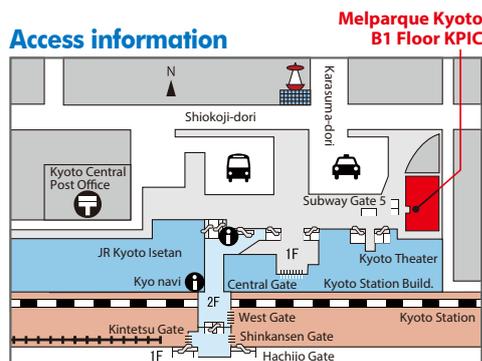
## Living Info by Email

We send email messages full of useful living information twice a month. Please send your choice of language (English, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese or Japanese in the hiragana syllabary) to:

[living-e@kpic.or.jp](mailto:living-e@kpic.or.jp)



### Access information



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Open hours : 10:00-18:00

Closed : 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, national holidays, 12/29-1/3



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