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H.E. Mitsuru Kitano, Japan's Ambassador to Ireland

Ireland and Japan at 65

A statement from Japanese Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Mitsuru Kitano

Japan and Ireland are important partners who share fundamental values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Ireland serves as a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council from 2021 until the end of this year. As Japan will serve as a nonpermanent member of the council for two years from 2023, following Ireland's term, I highly expect that Japan will continue to deepen its cooperation with Ireland to work behind the scenes at the U.N. and other international fora.

Japan, with the world's third-largest economy, and Ireland, with its open and vibrant economy full of entrepreneurial spirit, have developed a complementary relationship. The EU-Japan economic partnership agreement has provided an important platform for the expansion of bilateral economic relations. In terms of investment, Japan was the top Asia-Pacific country in terms

of accumulated foreign direct investment in Ireland in 2020 (€31.4 billion). Areas of active Japanese investment in Ireland include life sciences and financial services, including fintech.

In recent years, investment and partnerships in the renewable energy sector are also on the rise. I hope that our bilateral collaboration will deepen through economic initiatives to address issues such as pandemics, digitalization and decarbonization.

Japan and Ireland are also mutually interested in each other's culture, which was a major element in the deepening of our bilateral relationship over the past 65 years. In Japan, there is a strong interest in Irish literature, and the Yeats Society of Japan has developed into a large organization. In Ireland there is a growing popularity of Japanese food, the Japanese language and traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. ♦ See the complete interview at: <https://bit.ly/IEJP22-bridges>

ElectroRoute: Providing energy services and trading to Japan

ElectroRoute is an independent energy trading and services company that aims to liberalize the energy markets of Ireland, Great Britain and Continental Europe. As part of the Mitsubishi Corp. family since 2016, the company is also strengthening its presence in Japan.

Eamonn O'Donoghue, a founder of ElectroRoute and CEO of ElectroRoute Japan, spoke with Bridges.

Bridges: What opportunities do you see for ElectroRoute in Japan?

O'Donoghue: The energy landscape in Japan is undergoing rapid change as a result of two major drivers. The country's ambitious carbon reduction targets have led to the continued development of new renewable electricity



Eamonn O'Donoghue, a founder of ElectroRoute and CEO of ElectroRoute Japan

generation assets, such as solar and offshore wind.

Secondly, the liberalization of the electricity marketplace is encouraging new

entrants and price competition and is highly advantageous for ElectroRoute as we have been at the forefront of similar market transitions in Europe. We are now ready to replicate our European successes by bringing our products, experience and knowhow to Japan. The fact that Japan will be the largest liberalized electricity market in the world is a significant opportunity for ElectroRoute. We believe our European experience and successes, combined with Mitsubishi Corporation's reputation, are a perfect combination for success.

What is ElectroRoute's role in the industry, particularly in Japan?

In line with other G7 countries (seven leading industrialized nations), Japan has set an

ambitious target to deliver net-zero carbon energy systems by 2050. As a company, our mission is to solve the commercial mechanics of a decarbonized energy system.

In order for global energy systems to be effectively decarbonized, legacy fossil fuel technologies (gas and oil-fired power generators) need to be replaced with clean renewable technology, such as solar and wind generators.

Existing energy markets and associated financial structures were not designed with renewable technologies in mind so the journey towards delivering carbon-zero energy systems will require significant commercial and financial innovations in addition to shifts in technology.

ElectroRoute excels in energy markets and financial

innovations and has much to offer Japan. ElectroRoute's mission includes studying, developing and optimizing the necessary financial structures to allow new renewable technologies to be financed, built and successfully compete in energy global markets.

What is your vision for the future of ElectroRoute?

Global warming and the need to rapidly decarbonize our societies to curb increasing temperature change is without doubt the defining challenge of this generation.

We are unfortunately already beginning to see the catastrophic impacts of global warming. Energy costs are increasing in line with fossil fuel prices and geopolitical instability. There is an urgent need to accelerate the

transition from a reliance on fossil fuels towards carbon-free renewable technologies and ElectroRoute has a significant role to play in assisting and driving this process forward. We at ElectroRoute plan to remain at the forefront of the green transition and future-ready. Ready for a renewables-led, net-zero, secure future.

In Japan we are establishing our Tokyo office and aim to employ 50 energy market experts by early 2025. We look forward to completing our three-year plan, in partnership with our colleagues at Mitsubishi Corporation, to strengthen our energy trading and trading services in the Japanese market. ♦

www.electroroute.com



Carten Controls: Valves and flow solutions with a Japanese connection

As a member of the Fujikin Group, Carten Controls designs, manufactures and supplies high-performance valves and flow solutions for ultra-high-purity systems. Declan Irish, managing director of Carten, spoke with Bridges.

Bridges: Bring us up to date on Carten Controls' business in 2022.

Irish: Semiconductor-grade materials are at a premium today and our main challenge has been to ramp up our manufacturing capabilities to satisfy global demand. We have been successful this year and



Declan Irish, Managing Director of Carten

will increase our shipments by approximately 60% by the end of 2022 and future growth looks strong.

What industries do you serve and what opportunities do you see for further growth?

Carten has developed off-site manufacturing capabilities at our Waterford, Ireland, facilities that allow many critical processes to be manufactured off-site, such as flow-control systems which are traditionally manufactured during semiconductor facility builds.

Combined with Carten's high-capacity valves, also

manufactured at Waterford, we provide greater ultrapure gas flow to the larger microchip production and fabrication facilities. This distinguishes us from our competitors.

Performing key assembly and fusion processes at Carten reduces qualification and validation times. Carten has implemented the same model in the bioprocessing industry, particularly in the area of single-use technologies (SUT).

With the Fujikin Group acquiring Carten Controls in 1991, what strengths does the company have today?

Headquartered in Osaka, the Fujikin Group is one of the leading flow-control system manufacturers in the world. Cutting-edge industries, such as hydrogen fuel cell technologies, nano-picotechnology and medical devices using ionizing and nonionizing radiation, drive the Fujikin Group's vision to be an industry leader.

Carten and Fujikin have realized successful synergies and we combine product offerings across international markets and add value by licensing Fujikin technologies. In bioprocessing, Carten has taken a lead in SUT with the

Fujikin Group providing sales and global distribution support.

How would you describe the relationship between Japan and Ireland?

Yet while Ireland is an island to the extreme west of Europe and the Japanese islands are located on the extreme east of Asia, our cultures are close in terms of our dedication to achievement, positive outlook and sense of humor. ♦ www.cartencontrols.com

