

The Japan Society Annual General Meeting

The Society's 2010 AGM took place on 16 June 2010 at the Embassy of Japan. The membership was well represented and we are grateful to all who attended and who took the time to vote by proxy. The meeting was followed by a Sake tasting courtesy of the Sake Samurai Association. Members had the opportunity to taste 15 top sakes, recognised in the Sake Section of the International Wine Challenge.

If you wish to receive a hard copy of the annual accounts and Council Members' report, please [contact us](#).

Minutes of the 113th Annual General Meeting of The Japan Society

Held at the Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly, London W1 at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th June 2010.

The Chairman (Christopher Purvis) opened the meeting by welcoming all those present; he gave a particular welcome to the Society's President, the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Shin Ebihara. Christopher also thanked the Ambassador and all the Embassy staff for their tremendous and ongoing support and assistance to the Japan Society, especially with events hosted at the Embassy, such as tonight's AGM and Sake Tasting Reception.

Ambassador Ebihara

Ambassador Ebihara noted that this was his 3rd AGM as President and, although much had occurred since his arrival, including the economic downturn, he commended the Japan Society for its resilience and for maintaining its activities and funding under such conditions. He thanked the Society for all its hard work this past year and expressed his appreciation to Heidi Potter and Christopher Purvis, while wishing the Society well for the future.

Christopher Purvis

Christopher Purvis explained that notwithstanding the harsh economic situation, the Japan Society had had its most successful year, with a financial turnover higher than ever before. This demonstrated both the increase in activity and consequent demand for our services, and in particular, the ability to generate some financial surplus during the year at times where previously there may have been concerns to raise funds.

Christopher expressed thanks to six groups of people for their contributions to the Japan Society this year:

1) Volunteers

With particular thanks to: Japanese ILadies who assist with Japan in the Classroom and the Hammersmith Garden Party event, Events and Publication Planning committees, Lectures preparation group, and the Trustees.

2) Members

Involvement by the Members is crucial in the success of the Society, and we were delighted to receive such support during the Members' Art Exhibition this year.

3) Partner Organizations

The Japan Foundation, Daiwa Foundation, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, JETRO and JCCI were key partners for the Japan Society and it was of great importance that the Society was able to collaborate on events and activities during the year. The major collaborative event had been Japan Matsui 2009 attracting 35,000 attendees, with Japan Matsui 2010 scheduled this year for Saturday 18th September.

4) Donors

Donations are the largest source of income for the Society. This support is greatly appreciated and without it the Society would not be able to continue the current level of activity. Donated funds are received at the basic level in the form of individual membership fees, through to corporate donors and individual donors, support from foundations and legacies. Members were encouraged to consider becoming Donors, which also provides them with the opportunity to have increased involvement with the Society.

5) Staff (under Heidi Potter's leadership)

6) President

The Society is hugely appreciative of its President, His Excellency Ambassador Ebihara for his great support of the Society.

The floor was then opened to Members for their comments and suggestions.

Paul Dimond raised particular attention to the small committee involved in promoting and attracting corporate membership. He highlighted the existence of hundreds of potential companies with British/Japanese connections, to whom membership of the Society was potentially of interest. He asked that members try and promote corporate membership of the Society when networking.

Any potential corporate members should be directed to the Japan Society's office, so that they can be contacted by Heidi Potter, Robert Guy, Paul Dimond or Sandy Sano, to discuss the recommendation further, in the first instance, and then arrange a personal visit where appropriate.

Christopher Purvis encouraged people to contact the Society at any time with ideas and suggestions, including nominations for the Board.

Agenda Items

There were three ordinary resolutions to be considered at the AGM. Christopher Purvis explained the details and outlined the procedure for voting. Votes were counted after the meeting and the results announced during the subsequent sake tasting reception, following the short lecture by Sake Samurai, Mr Simon Hofstra.

The following resolutions were passed:

1. To receive and adopt the audited annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2009 and the Trustees' report.
2. To reappoint Richard Place Dobson as auditors and to authorise the Board to approve their remuneration as thought fit.

3. To elect and re-elect Ordinary Trustees of the Company to fill certain vacancies arising. There were four possible vacancies for ordinary membership to the Council and four candidates. All were duly elected:

David Cairns

Pauline Chakmakjian

Andrew Fraser

Koji Nakamura

Council members who had served during the year, but who were standing down were thanked for their contributions to the Society: Masamichi Morooka, Anna Dingley.