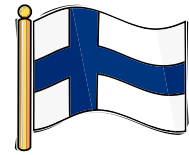


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Press Release

Japanese Business Community Membership Exceeds 100

22 December 2014

According to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce (Chair: Mr. Yoichiro Oda, Regional Manager, Japan Airlines), its membership has recently surpassed 100. The membership of the organization, mainly comprised of Japanese business owners and employees of Japanese companies based in Finland, dipped to an all-time low of around 60 in 2012, but has since regained its strength. The main background for the increase has been the arrival of Japanese companies to the Finnish market, such as Murata Electronics Oy and Japan Airlines.

One of the newest and most important examples of direct investment from Japan to Finland this year is Yaskawa Electric Corporation's acquisition of The Switch Oy, a producer of generators and converters for wind-power electricity generators and other products. As a result of this partnership, three Japanese members of staff are now stationed in The Switch, at headquarters in Vantaa, at its factory in Vaasa and at their factory and R&D center Lappeenranta. Ambassador Kenji Shinoda, has recently visited their Vaasa and Lappeenranta facilities.

The Embassy of Japan welcomes these developments, as a typical example of Japan-Finland win-win business partnership in renewable energy related sectors, which definitely contribute to the strengthening of overall economic and business relations between Japan and Finland.

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