



日本

Japan

theBid

An Association Meetings International special supplement

Japan-

a unique country for events



Professor Shige Makino
Chair of the Academy of International Business (AIB) annual conference that took place in Nagoya in 2011

“Japan is a unique country that embraces contradictory characteristics: traditional and modern (anime, AKB48), cultured, blessed with natural beauty and advanced systems, well-preserved history and the latest innovations. Japan has four seasons and is known for the variety of its authentic food and drink (sake and shochu) across the seasons and regions. Visitors to Japan are also impressed by the spirit of whole-hearted hospitality or ‘Omotenashi’. Japan is also famous for its safety – it has among the lowest rates of crime and traffic accidents in the advanced countries. The people of Japan are renowned for having a healthy life, with a very high life expectancy.”



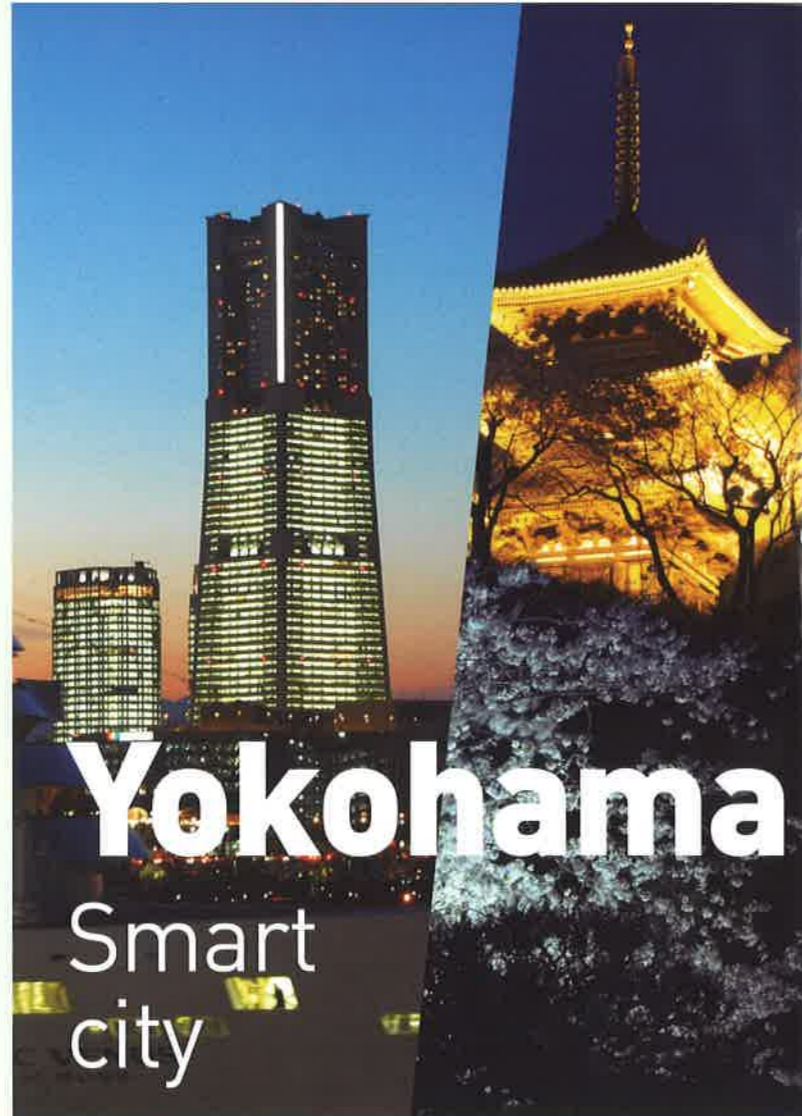
Dr Chin Takaaki
Hyogo Rehabilitation Center Hospital
Conference Ambassador of Japan

Conference: World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) in 2019
Candidate city: Kobe

“The reason I have recommended holding this international conference in Japan is because I want to contribute to the internationalisation of Japan plus I love Kobe city.

ISPO is an international organisation consisting of experts from around the world in prosthetics, rehabilitation care, welfare and rehabilitation engineering.

I think it is a great opportunity to have the ISPO World Congress in Japan in order to share our important skills in these areas and learn from the rest of the world. Japan is a safe, secure and hospitable country and I am keenly aware of its attributes every time when I go abroad. There are few if any countries that can compare and this becomes apparent when organising international conferences. It is hard to put into words, but you feel it when you are here.”



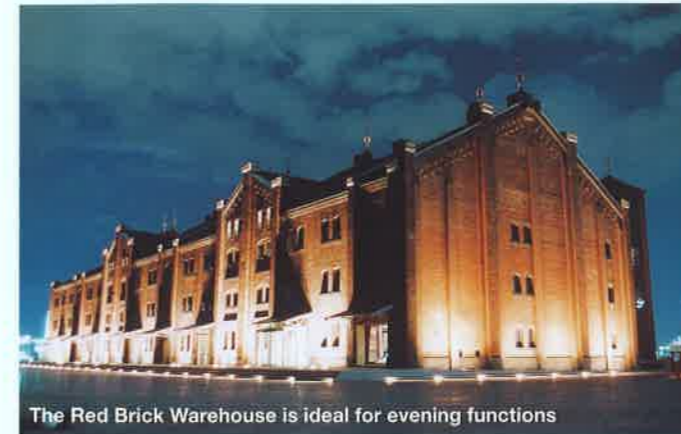
Yokohama

Smart city

Japan's second largest port, Yokohama is focusing on becoming the country's 'Smart city'

Yokohama, a huge modern metropolis of nearly four million people, is easily accessible via Tokyo's Haneda airport. Boasting Japan's largest convention complex, it is setting its sights on becoming one of the world's most sustainable cities. And in the process, it wishes to attract conventions from associations and corporates interested in all things 'smart' and 'environmental'.

On my recent visit I was shown around a new office building, Yokohama i-Mark Place, where lots of thought has been given to encouraging its tenants to help conserve energy - from the large computer screens showing energy consumption to the energy-saving gadgets such as motion sensors that can turn lights off when a room is empty and turn them down as the sun's light increases.



The Red Brick Warehouse is ideal for evening functions

At Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise, a huge aquarium and amusement park located by the ocean about half an hour from the heart of the city, a new 'farm' has opened dedicated to teaching visitors about 'Blue Carbon' and its importance to the health of our oceans and atmosphere. Events can be held here for large numbers including a barbecue lunch for up to 500 and receptions and dinners for 2,000 once the park is closed.

While I was visiting the city, a joint initiative supported by the City and Tourism authorities was highlighting the work of the coastguard and the boats that trawl Yokohama Bay bringing in an assortment of rubbish. This was not just impressive from a high tech point of view – although the boats and what they recover is extraordinary – but it was the emphasis on education and awareness that was so striking.

And this is what interests Yokohama, welcoming experts and visitors from around the world to get together to share knowledge to help solve some of the biggest challenges facing our planet today.

Making a good start are the impressive recycling facilities at the city's huge PACIFICO Yokohama Convention Centre. Scattered all around the centre are six bins to help delegates separate their rubbish while rainwater is collected and used to flush the toilets in the Conference Center. For associations looking for ways to give something back to their destination, the '1.5 million trees activity', which PACIFICO sponsors, might be of interest.

One of the largest convention complexes in the world, the PACIFICO Yokohama Convention Centre, with 50 rooms, is located close to the National Convention Hall, which can seat 5,000, and sits



opposite almost 20,000 sqm of exhibition space. The stylish 594-room InterContinental Yokohama Grand offers direct access to the facilities, making this both an attractive and highly functional convention facility.

Unique venues

- The restored Red Brick Warehouse, a complex of attractive shops and restaurants on the docks, is an interesting reception or party venue for large numbers
- Dockyard Garden, a reconstruction of the oldest stone-built dock for merchant ships in the country dating back to 1896, is another atmospheric venue
- Osanbashi Hall, in the International Passenger Terminal, is a dramatic space with a glass wall offering views out to sea and a wooden deck, offering 2,000 sqm of column-free space
- The city's large Chinatown is also a fun neighbourhood for delegates to explore.



IPCC 38th Plenary Session

Case study

The 38th General Meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel Discussion on Climatic Change took place at the PACIFICO Yokohama Convention Centre in March this year. Global researchers presented the latest reports to the audience of 500 scientists and government representatives from more than 100 countries. Discussions on the influences climate change may have on society and the economy continued until midnight on some days and through the night on the last day. A report on the complicated and widespread influences of global warming was compiled and released to the world within two days of the convention.

For further information: www.yokohamajapan.com