



日本
Japan



theBid

An Association Meetings International special supplement

Japan has long been an attractive destination for international association meetings. Now there is a new strategy designed to focus on the country's key industry sectors. Sally Trelford reports on Japan's innovative cities and how their strengths can assist your next association event

The power of industry

With the largest number of researchers per capita in Asia, there are lots of exciting opportunities for international associations to keep coming to Japan.

In order to continue to harness the power of its industry, Japan is now focusing on promoting its various industry clusters to the international association market. Seven cities have been selected by the Japan Tourism Agency as particularly strong in one or more key industry sectors. They include: Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Kobe, Fukuoka, Nagoya and Osaka. This initiative derives from the growth strategy promoted by Prime Minister Abe and known as 'Japan Revitalization Strategy - Japan is Back', focusing in particular in the areas of 'Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation' and 'Creating and developing good health and longevity in industry'.

This new strategy is designed to help promote new meetings related to the key industry sectors of each city, which should in turn help each city to develop both its meeting industry and ensure the long-term health of its industry clusters.



QUICK FACTS

Population: 127.7 million

Capital city: Tokyo, population 12 million

Time zone: Greenwich Mean Time + 9 hours

Visa requirements: many nationalities are allowed entry without a visa. For further information check with the Immigration Bureau of Japan at www.immi-moj.go.jp/english or Tokyo Immigration Bureau at www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/essential/immigration

Climate: most of Japan enjoys a stable temperate climate. However, because the islands stretch so far from north to south, each region has some seasonal variation. The north of Japan is blessed with fantastic powder snow in the winter, making conditions ideal for world-class skiing and other winter sports. The south of Japan has a sub-tropical climate, making it a haven for scuba divers and sun-seekers, who can enjoy beautiful beaches and coral reefs for much of the year

Access: nearly all major international airlines offer flights into one of Japan's three major international hub airports. The country also has more than 30 regional airports serving other Asian destinations plus many domestic airports. Narita is the most common port of entry and is used by more than 34 million international passengers every year

Getting around: Japan's public transportation system is one of the world's largest and a global leader in terms of quality. The network of aviation and rail systems makes it possible for travellers to access almost all of the country easily, safely and comfortably. Within individual cities, subway and bus routes are well organised.



Japan has launched a Conference Ambassador Programme to help position it as the top country in Asia for international conferences. The team of well qualified, influential and passionate ambassadors will help to promote Japan as a world-class conference destination and be involved in bid preparation supported by the Japan Tourism Agency and Japan National Tourism Organization.

Why choose Japan for your next event

- Japan is a world leader in many industries from technology to pharmaceuticals, architecture to fashion design
- Japan often has one of the largest national memberships within an international association, and a strong tradition of hosting association meetings
- Efficiency is guaranteed. Japan is a clean, safe, high-tech and courteous country, which makes it ideal for hosting international events
- Japan offers a wide variety of sophisticated facilities and a well-developed meetings infrastructure – from modern congress centres to uniquely Japanese venues with meeting or reception capabilities
- There is a strong network of local meeting professionals from PCOs to DMCs as well as local city CVBs
- Japan's domestic transportation system is the envy of the world. All of the country is accessible in less than 3.5 hours from Tokyo via bullet train, local train or domestic flight
- Number one international destination for delegate security – Japan has the lowest incidence of street crime in the world
- Famous Japanese hospitality – delegates receive a warm welcome from everyone wherever they go. Hospitality remains a key part of Japanese culture
- Glorious gastronomy – Tokyo boasts almost as many Michelin stars as London and New York combined. From sushi to noodles, high-end to street food, eating in Japan is one of the world's great pleasures
- Japan offers a variety of new experiences for delegates not found anywhere else. From a unique and traditional culture to thriving metropolises, neon cityscapes to beautiful mountainsides and seafronts
- With such a varied country on your doorstep, there is an excellent range of pre- and post-convention options to tempt delegates to extend their stay.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

World Ophthalmology Congress of the International Council of Ophthalmology - WOC 2014	April 2014	Tokyo	10,000
XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology	July 2014	Yokohama	5,000
Kiwanis 99th Convention	July 2014	Chiba	3,000
Asia Oceania Geosciences Society 11th Annual Meeting	July 2014	Sapporo	3,000
The 15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology - AOCR 2014	Sept 2014	Kobe	4,000
XXth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect	Sept 2014	Nagoya	2,000
The third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction	March 2015	Sendai	10,000
14th World Engineering Conference and Convention 2015	Nov 2015	Kyoto	3,000
The 116th Annual Congress of Japan Surgical Society	April 2016	Osaka	15,000
Lions Clubs International Convention	June 2016	Fukuoka	35,000
The 23rd World Congress of Neurology	Sept 2017	Kyoto	7,000
The 2017 World Conference on Lung Cancer	Oct 2017	Yokohama	8,000
18th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology	July 2018	Kyoto	6,000
The IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition	Sept 2018	Tokyo	6,000
The 9th International Orthodontic Congress	Oct 2020	Yokohama	6,500
The 22nd International Congress of Nutrition - ICN 2021	Oct 2021	Tokyo	4,500

Tokyo

Tokyo hosted 225 congresses in 2012, placing it sixth in the world. Combined with a winning bid for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan's capital has cemented its place amongst world cities; furthermore, firmly committed to building on its success with convention business, a five-year Tourism Plan launched this year, with a focus on providing subvention and support to large association meetings.

A fascinating mix of the old and the new, Tokyo retains its own distinct culture and traditions: a cuisine that covers traditional Japanese food and authentic foods from across the world and that has gained more Michelin stars than any other city in the world. Its numerous and diverse shopping areas are renowned and entertainments range from sumo, kabuki and bunraku to the latest musicals and shows. Unique excursion ideas include hands-on activities such as a traditional tea ceremony, flower arrangement and kimono wearing, while numerous famous attractions are within easy reach, including the volcanic scenery and hot springs of Hakone, and the temples and shrines in Kamakura and World Heritage Nikko.

Conventions are equally well-served by the impressive array of five-star and business hotels, most offering an excellent location and stylish Western design at a range of budgets. And some are on a huge scale. The three hotels in the Takanawa area, **The Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa**, **The Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa** and the **Shinagawa Prince Hotel** combined, offer a total of more than 5,000 rooms and 46 banquet halls.

CITYFILE

Key venues

Tokyo International Forum

Seven halls including one of the country's largest with 5,012 seats, exhibition hall, 34 conference rooms, galleries and others.

Theatre: 5,012
Classroom: 612
Banquet: 1,328
Reception: 3,000
Exhibition (sqm): 5,000

Tokyo Big Sight

Ten indoor exhibition halls in two buildings. The Conference Tower caters to the International Conference Room, the Reception Hall and 22 other conference rooms.

Exhibition (sqm): 80,660 (total floor space)
International Conference Room: 1,000
Reception Hall: 1,700 (sqm)
22 Meeting Rooms: 35-760 (sqm)

Exclusive venues

Tokyo City View

Offering a panoramic view 250 metres above the ground in Roppongi, this stunning venue can host standing receptions and buffets for up to 1,000 guests as well as product launches and other types of events.

Happo-en

Traditional Japanese Garden with a restaurant, café and banqueting facilities with rooms accommodating up to a maximum of 450 for dinner or schoolroom-style, 700 for a buffet or 800 theatre-style.

Kokugikan Sumo Stadium, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo Disney Resort and Tokyo Summerland can all host 1,000 pax.

Worth a visit

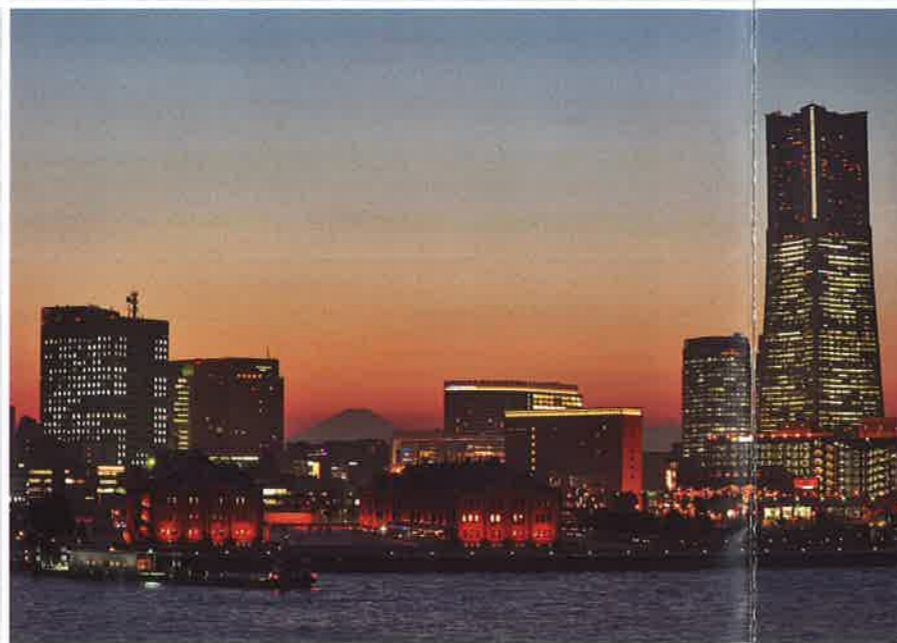
Ginza: an urbane shopping district with department stores offering fashion, beauty care, lifestyle, foods and restaurants together with traditional Japanese arts and crafts.

Roppongi: has more than 200 restaurants, cafes, boutiques and event spaces, an art museum and gallery, Cineplex and City View.

Asakusa: Senso-ji Temple, the oldest in Tokyo, dates all the way back to the 7th century.

Access

Tokyo's two modern international airports handle all major carriers, providing great access globally. Narita Airport offers more than 1,500 international flights per week from 98 cities around the world. Haneda Airport serves 18 cities worldwide with 350 flights every week.



Testimonial



Teruo Miyazawa, a Japan Conference Ambassador, explains why Tokyo will be hosting the 22nd International Congress of Nutrition in 2021

"The academic significance of choosing Tokyo as the venue for the International Union of Nutritional Sciences resides in the competency of Japanese scientists, who have acquired a deep knowledge in basic, applied and clinical nutrition. Strong support from the capital as a leading convention city together with the rich attractions of the city, great access from around the world and its safe and clean environment, are among those factors that make Tokyo a perfect place for this scientific gathering.

In addition, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has promised to secure both financial and non-financial support, such as subsidies, complimentary Tokyo city tours, complimentary cultural programmes and visitor information both at the airport and congress venue, co-ordination of street banners and a city guidebook and map for all congress delegates. The Tokyo Convention and Visitors Bureau essentially supported the preparation of the bid paper and presentation materials.

I would definitely recommend Tokyo for conventions."

Yokohama

Located just 30 minutes from Metropolitan Tokyo by road or rail, Yokohama is a beautiful port city that opened its gates to the world 150 years ago. It was in Yokohama that international culture and products were introduced and spread throughout Japan, making Yokohama a city with a unique blend of Japanese and world cultures. The city offers diverse experiences, from authentic Japanese customs to an exciting world-class metropolis.

Yokohama has been the nation's key entry point for international trade and engagement, which has resulted in a fusion of global perspectives with local expertise. Today, Yokohama is the nation's centre for innovation in science and technology, designated as the 'International Strategic Zone for Life Sciences' by the Japanese government. Having clusters of universities, R&D and industries in the life science field, it provides the network knowledge quotient that all delegates to conferences seek.

From being the first Japanese port to open up, to hosting first-time-in-Asia congresses, and the first in innovation and research and development, Yokohama's open 'can-do' approach has made it Japan's first port of call.

Whether it is a high profile meeting such as APEC (2011, 8,000 attendees) or association congresses with wide socio-economic implications such as the 10th Annual Meeting for the International Society for Stem Cell Research (2012, 3,500 attendees) and the 28th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection (2013, 1,500 attendees), Yokohama can cater to any, with its extensive range of facilities from international brand hotels to a world-class convention complex. Japan's active trade and professional association community also means a high number of local participants for international association congresses.

CITYFILE

Key venues

PACIFICO Yokohama

The largest convention complex in Japan, this 'ALL IN ONE' venue is equipped with all the facilities required for a variety of meetings and events. The beautiful view of Yokohama Bay adds to the convenient facility package and staff expertise that make it so highly valued by its customers.

Meeting rooms: 50
National Convention Hall: 5,002 seats
Exhibition space (sqm): 20,000

Yokohama Arena

Theatre: 17,000
Banquet: 3,000-4,000 depending on layout
Exhibition space (sqm): 8,000

Exclusive venues

Yokohama Museum of Art

An art museum featuring a collection of more than 10,000 pieces of modern art, including works of Yokohama-related artists. The Grand Gallery, the eighth-floor observatory deck and art galleries are available for receptions of 30 to 350 guests.

Osanbashi Hall

A pillar-free hall of 2,000 sqm situated at the entrance to the port and offering magnificent views of the bay and the city. The floors and walls are made of wood, reminiscent of a ship's deck. It can accommodate 600 guests for seated banquets or 1,200 guests buffet style.

Houseboat Hamashin

A traditional Japanese houseboat cruising the Yokohama Bay. Able to accommodate up to 124 passengers, the boat offers traditional Japanese cuisine such as sushi and tempura.

Worth a visit

Yokohama Sankeien Garden

Take a stroll in an authentic Japanese garden with an area of 175,000 sqm, graced with flowers and greenery in every season. Well preserved and historically important buildings were relocated here from Kyoto and Kamakura. Receptions and cultural programmes can be held in a traditional Japanese style reception hall, Kakushokaku.

Yokohama Landmark Tower Sky Garden

Enjoy the panoramic sweeping 360-degree view of Yokohama city, Tokyo and Mt Fuji from the observatory on the 69th floor of the Landmark Tower Building. The high-speed elevator takes visitors from the ground floor up to 273 metres in just 40 seconds.

Kamakura

Visit the beautiful shrines and temples of Japan's medieval capital of Kamakura. The Great Buddha, a bronze image depicting Buddha in a seated meditative pose is 11.4m in height and one of the many popular tourist spots in the vicinity.

Access

Haneda Airport and Narita Airport combined handle more than 1,500 international flights weekly from more than 90 cities on more than 60 airlines. Haneda Airport will expand and increase its international flights in March 2014.

Haneda Airport to central Yokohama: 15 minutes by bus/car or 24 minutes by train
Narita Airport to central Yokohama: 90 minutes by bus/car or 80 minutes by train

Testimonial



Yoshiyuki Osamura, host for the International Congress of Cytology (ICC) 2016 in Yokohama and a Japan Conference Ambassador

"I have previously organised two large congresses - the Japanese Society of Pathology with 2,700 attendees and the Japanese Society of Clinical Cytology (JSCC) with 4,300 attendees - at PACIFICO Yokohama and both were very satisfactory. This is the reason why I selected PACIFICO Yokohama for this event.

Before bidding for the Congress site selection, we organised a 'Team Japan', which was composed of members from JNTO, Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau and PACIFICO Yokohama. They offered a great deal of support including the organisation of a site visit to Yokohama and Kyoto, and organising promotional events such as 'Japan Night' during the Lisbon and Paris IAC meetings.

The final selection for the 2016 congress was completed at the 17th ICC at Edinburgh in 2010, and we won against a very strong competitor, Sydney, Australia.

'Team Japan' has promised to maintain support to JSCC to ensure the success of the International Congress of Cytology (ICC) Yokohama 2016."



Kyoto Convention Bureau
www.hellokcb.or.jp/eng/

Hiroshima Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.hcvb.city.hiroshima



Kyoto

The cultural heart of Japan, capital from 794 to 1868, Kyoto has more than 2,000 Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines and 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. With a history of more than 1,200 years of global hospitality, Kyoto sees hospitality as the highest of art forms, offering visitors warm service and personalised attention. Today, Kyoto also writes world history, from the Kyoto Protocol to international gatherings at the Kyoto State Guest House and provides superb venues, both modern and historic - and unrivalled cultural experiences. Such is the global attraction of Kyoto, it has recently been voted the world's number two (*Wanderlust*, 2011) and number three (*Conde Nast Traveler*, 2012) favourite city.

As the heart of traditional Japanese culture, the city has many local specialities. Try cuisine including kyo-gashi (traditional sweets), kyo-tsukemono (local pickled vegetables), Fushimi sake and kyo-kaiseki (Japanese haute cuisine) or indulge in the epitome of Kyoto hospitality as geisha (known as Geiko and Maiko in Kyoto) from five thriving schools in the city entertain you with their famed willowy dances and haunting songs. Or wander the twisting streets and hidden lanes and discover some of Kyoto's history and secrets for yourself.

CITYFILE

Key venues
Kyoto International Conference Centre
Meeting rooms: 70
Theatre: 2,500
Classroom: 1,840
Banquet: 1,700
Reception: 2,500
Exhibition space (sqm): 3,000

Exclusive venues
Kodaiji and The Sodoh Higashiyama Kyoto
Enjoy a welcome drink in the grounds of the beautiful temple, built in 1605, standing in Zen gardens, with a bamboo grove and tea house and then stroll to the nearby Garden Oriental for a banquet at the garden-style restaurant.

Worth a visit
Minamiza Kabuki Theater
The birthplace of kabuki, and a landmark of the city, performances have been designated as an important cultural property. Concerts and rakugo (traditional comic storytelling) performances are also held here.

Taizoin Zen Buddhist Temple
A 600-year-old Zen Buddhist temple and its garden are available for use as a reception venue as well as a place to experience Zen meditation, calligraphy, a tea ceremony, shoin temple cuisine and other aspects of a Zen priest's daily life.

Visit some of the most famous World Heritage Sites:
Kamigamo-jinja, Shimogamo-jinja, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kinkakuji (the Golden Pavillion) and Nijo Castle.

Access
Kyoto is located in the centre of Japan, easily accessible from all international gateways. Kansai International Airport is just over one hour away from Kyoto.



Testimonial



Yasuo Ikeda, a Japan Conference Ambassador, explains why Kyoto's culture of o-mo-te-na-shi helped to win the Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis conference for the city

"I chose Kyoto for this event because the city is amazingly attractive with many historic places to see, beautiful and delicious dishes to taste and a vibrant and academic atmosphere with many universities and their students. But most of all, the city has the rich culture of 'o-mo-te-na-shi, which means 'hospitality'.

The beautiful, imposing and impressive structure of ICC Kyoto with its state-of-the-art technology - the unique encounter of old and new - was one of the factors that helped win the congress. Both ICC Kyoto and the convention bureau were very helpful in the bidding process.

I would recommend Kyoto as your next convention destination - it is a city which you should visit at least once in a lifetime - then you will visit this charming city repeatedly, as I do!"



Hiroshima

The two UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Hiroshima represent the dual aspects of the city: the A-bomb Dome is a lasting memorial to world peace, while the beautiful island shrine of Itsukushima is dedicated to the glories of Japanese art and culture. Hosting more than 300 MICE events a year, the city's convention zone is based around the Peace Memorial Park in which stands the International Conference Centre Hiroshima. With many hotels and convention venues located within walking distance of each other, this compact city can accommodate both small meetings and conventions with 10,000 delegates easily and conveniently.

Known as the City of Water, with six beautiful rivers flowing through it, Hiroshima gazes out at the Seto Inland Sea, and is famous for its seafood, especially oysters, as well as Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki and sake. You can cruise through the city on a river boat, and a cruise is a must upon the sea. There are a variety of options ranging from a large ship across the Seto Inland Sea to a kayak, on which you can sail, at high tide, through the Otorii-Gate of the Shrine.



CITYFILE

Key venues
International Conference Centre Hiroshima
Meeting rooms: 14
Theatre: 1,504
Classroom: 360
Banquet: 300
Reception: 450

Exclusive venues
Hiroshima Museum of Art
Boasting modern paintings including an excellent collection of works by French Impressionists, it has a beautiful yard serving as a party venue.

Cruise Ship Ginga
A cruise ship accommodating 250 pax offers a party with a fascinating view of the Otorii in the Seto Inland Sea lit up at night.

Worth a visit
Hiroshima Castle and Shukkeien Garden
Take a walking tour and have a tea break in the garden designed by a great tea master of the 17th century.

Miyajima Walk
Miyajima is much more than the Itsukushima Shrine. Discover an unknown Miyajima, a sacred island with a long history of 1,400 years. A walk through the maze-like town of Miyajima is also interesting.

Peace Memorial Park and A-Bomb Dome
More than 120,000 sqm of park with the Peace Memorial Museum and the A-bomb Dome: a lasting memorial to world peace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a tangible link to Hiroshima's unique past.

Matsuda (Mazda) Museum
A must for any automobile fan.

Access
Two flights a day out of Narita Airport; 17 flights a day out of Haneda. Just over two hours by train from Kansai International Airport. There are also international flights to/from Hiroshima Airport.



Kanazawa
Often referred to as 'little Kyoto' for its many superb historical sites, Kanazawa is both a beautiful city and a centre for many cultural traditions such as noh drama and Kaga yuzen fabric dyeing craft, still very much alive today. Japanese sweets and desserts, first associated with the tea ceremony, are also still loved by many people here. The city is surrounded by some of Japan's most beautiful natural scenery, including the nearby Noto Peninsula and the Echizen Kaga Coast Quasi-National Park. There are also several onsen (hot springs) resorts. Key venues here include **Ishikawa Ongakudo**, one of three halls designed for traditional Japanese music performances which enjoy direct access to Kanazawa Station and can accommodate up to 1,500. Other special venues include **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa** and it is well worth visiting the ruins of Kanazawa Castle, old samurai residences, the famous Kenrokuen landscape garden and Myoryu-ji Temple (Ninja Temple). Komatsu Airport has direct flights from Seoul and Shanghai, the Hokuriku Expressway connects Kanazawa to major cities and, from 2015, the Hokuriku Shinkansen line will directly connect the city to Tokyo.