

The List of Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassadors (Japan) ①



※Titles are as of the date of appointment.

Appointed in February, 2015 (Japan)

- **UMEZAKI Masatoshi**
Former head chef, Kasuga Hotel
President, Nara Japanese Culinary Expert Association
- **KATADA Katsunori**
President, Kasugaro (Japanese style inn offering traditional cuisine)
Chairperson, Japan Federation of Japanese Culinary Expert Associations
- **KAZATO Masayoshi**
President, Sakae Sushi
Chairperson, All Japan Sushi Associations, Sushi Skills Institute
- **KIURA Nobutoshi**
Representative Director and President, Nadaman
President, Japan Federation of Japanese Culinary Expert Associations
- **NAGASHIMA Hiroshi**
Former head chef, Tsukiji Honganji Shisui
Senior Director, Japan Federation of Japanese Culinary Expert Associations
- **MURATA Yoshihiro**
Owner, Kikunoi
President, Japan Culinary Academy
- **KUMAKURA Isao**
President, Shizuoka University of Art and Science
- **TSUJI Yoshiki**
Chairperson and President, Tsuji Ryori Gakkan, Tsuji Culinary Institute
Representative, The Tsuji Group
- **MIYAKE Yoko**
President, Association for the Advancement of the Japanese Culinary Art

Appointed in February, 2016 (Japan)

- **ASO Shigeru**
Secretary General, Kyoto Japanese Culinary Expert Association
Owner, Hanakagami (Kyoto-style cuisine restaurant)
- **OHTA Tadamichi**
President, Hyogo Japanese Culinary Expert Association
- **OBATA Kotaro**
Vice President, Association for the Advancement of the Japanese Culinary Art
Representative Director, Koshuya Employment Agency
- **KATO Tatsuo**
Counsel, Garden Court Club KATO'S
- **KURISU Masahiro**
President, All Japan Food Association
Owner, Tankuma Kitamise (Kyoto-style cuisine restaurant)
- **SHIMAMIYA Tsutomu**
International Relations Committee Chairperson, Federation of All Japan Sushi Associations
Representative Director, Sushizen
- **TAKAHASHI Takuji**
Representative Director and President, Kinobu
- **NAKAMURA Shoji**
Director, Educational Foundation Goto Gakuen, Musashino Cooking College

Appointed in February, 2017 (Japan)

- **IRIGUCHI Shuzo**
Council, Shikinoaji Hanaakari
- **ENOMOTO Keiji**
Executive Managing Director and Head Chef, Kenken-ochin
- **ENDO Toshio**
Representative, Cuisine Institute Aoyama Club
- **OGAWA Hirotoshi**
Director and Secretary General, All Japan Sushi Associations, Sushi Skills Institute
- **KATO Tsunao**
President, Shinkameya
- **SAITO Akio**
Owner and chef, Shichi Ju Ni Ko (Japanese restaurant)
- **TAKAGI Shinichiro**
Nihon Ryori Zeniya
- **TAKAHASHI Yukio**
President, Tokyo Cook Promotion Association
President, Shinko Cook Employment Agency
- **TASAKI Shinya**
Chairperson, Japan Sommelier Association
- **TOMISAWA Hirokazu**
General Manager and Head Chef, Yoshimura (Japanese restaurant) For Cooks
- **NAKAGAWA Junichi**
Vice Chairperson, Japan Association Of Training Colleges
- **NAGATSUMA Satoru**
Beijing Yongchang Restaurant Management Co., Ltd
- **MAEKAWA Keiichi**
Council, Hotel Seifu
- **MIYAKE Kensuke**
Vice President, Association for the Advancement of the Japanese Culinary Art
- **MIYASHITA Minoru**
Representative Director, Toyukai Cook Employment Agency
- **YUMOTO Tadahito**
Owner, Yuan (Japanese restaurant)

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- **INOUE Akihiko**
Head Chef, Kasenkyo Izutsuya, Yunomura Onsen
- **UEKI Daihachi**
Representative, Shunsai Ueki
- **KASHIWAGI Naoki**
Hyogo College of Nutrition and Culinary
- **KADOWAKI Toshiya**
Head Chef, Azabu Kadowaki
- **KIMURA Toru**
Product Manager and Head Chef, Takashige Food Service
- **KURODA Hiroaki**
Managing Executive Director and Manager of Restaurant Department, Tokyo Nadaman
- **KOYAMA Hirohisa**
Owner, Aoyagi
- **SAOTOME Yoshikatsu**
Head Chef, Mitsui Taipei (Japanese restaurant)
- **SHODA Hideyuki**
Head Chef and Instructor, Miho-no-Matsubara Hotel Hagoromo
- **TAKEDA Toshichika**
Head Chef, Restaurant Kobaitei, Kotohira Grand Hotel
- **TANAKA Seiji**
Vice Chairperson, Japan Association Of Training Colleges For Cooks
Chairperson and President, Taiwa Gakuen Education Inc.
- **FUSHIKI Toru**
Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Ryukoku University
Chairperson, The Washoku Association of Japan
- **MUROTA Daisuke**
Osaka Shoin Women's University,
Special lecturer, Food Studies Program
- **YANAGIHARA Naoyuki**
Successor to Edo Kaiseki Kinsa School
Vice President of Yanagihara School of Traditional Japanese Cuisine

Appointed in March, 2019 (Japan)

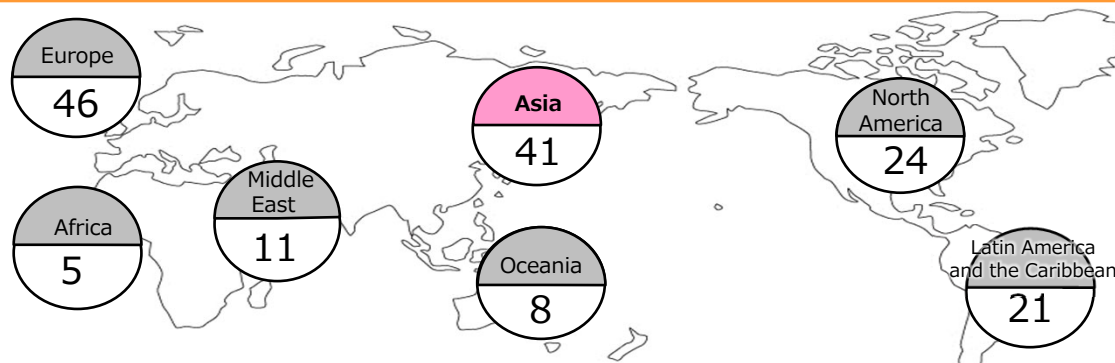
- **UCHIYAMA Hidehito**
Owner Chef, Ginza Uchiyama
- **OMIYA Yasuo**
Meiji Kinenkan Permanent Cooking Advisor
- **KIKUCHI Hideyuki**
Master Chef, GINZA TENKUNI
- **TAKADA Haruyuki**
Representative Director, Takada Hassho
- **NONAGA Kimio**
Third Generation Owner, Nihonbashi Yukari
- **MATSUO Hideaki**
Proprietor, Japanese Cuisine KASHIWAYA
- **MIYAKE Akira**
Owner, unagi yuugetsu

Total 54 persons (domestic)

The List of Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassadors (overseas) ①

Export and International Affairs Bureau
Export Policy Planning Division

As of August 2025



Asia

India	
KOSATO Hakuei	India Representative & Director, Kikkoman India Private Limited Founder, Sushi and More India
★Nooresha Kably	Japanese restaurant "Izumi" Chef/Owner
★Brehadeesh Kumar	Japanese restaurant "Ginkgo" Chef/Owner
Indonesia	
Melody Nurramdhani Laksani	Public figure
Singapore	
MAETOMO Akihiro	Japanese Cuisine Maetomo Owner Chef
★WATANABE Mitsutake	"Hazuki" chef
Sri Lanka	
©Dharshan Munidasa	Owner of Japanese Restaurant "Nihonbashi", Owner of Seafood Restaurant "Ministry of Crab"
Thailand	
©WATANUKI Takashi	Second owner of Japanese restaurant HANAYA
Republic of Korea	
ISHIMOTO Junko	Project Professor, Division of Japanese Culinary Arts,SOL International School, Woosong College
KWEON OH JOON	Owner Chef of Japanese Sushi Kaiseki "Takumi Gon"
Suh Jeung Hoon	Zennihon Jyuryu Co., Ltd. CEO
Yang Byoung Suk	Nihonshu Korea Co., Ltd. President
NAKAMURA Tetsu	Principal, Nakamura Academy (Seoul Branch of Nakamura Culinary School)
Yoo Sung Yeub	"SANRO" owner chef

China	
MIWA Kei	Director of JAPANESE CUISINE CHEFS CLUB IN BEIJING
He Rongwan	Guangzhou Wansui Catering Management Co., Ltd Legal Representative
ITO Mitsuru	Owner and Chef, FUJI TSURU KAPPO
◇TORIU Yutaka	Culinary Advisor
◇IWAI Tomonori	Hotel Nikko Guangzhou "Benkei" Japanese Master Chef
KUSHIDA Naoji	EXECUTIVE CHEF Shanghai Waitan Urban Redevelopment Co.,Ltd.
FUKAYA Hiroyasu	President of JAPANESE CUISINE CHEFS CLUB IN BEIJING
TONOYAMA Mitsuo	General cooking manager of Japanese restaurant "Aji no Yuzen"
©KARASAWA Hiroaki	The Chairman of Japanese Cuisine Chef Club In Dalian Dalian Shangrila Hotel Japanese Executive Chef Culinary R&D Centre Dalian Head Chef Honorary President, "KUMO" Association of Japanese Cuisine in Dalian
YOSHIMIZU Masanobu	"Kurogi Shanghai" Executive Chef

Nepal	
©TOMITA Kensei	Owner of Japanese Restaurant Kotetsu
TAKADA Hideaki	Sales, PR & Marketing Manager, Kaze Enterprises Nepal Pvt. Ltd
Viet Nam	
KOBAYASHI Koujiro	The owner of Restaurant "Khang"
◇UEMURA Koji	Owner chef of Tonkatsu TONPEI
Le Van May	CEO & PRESIDENT, LOTUSGROUP.

Overseas	Japan	Total
156 persons (63 Countries & Regions)	54 persons	210 persons

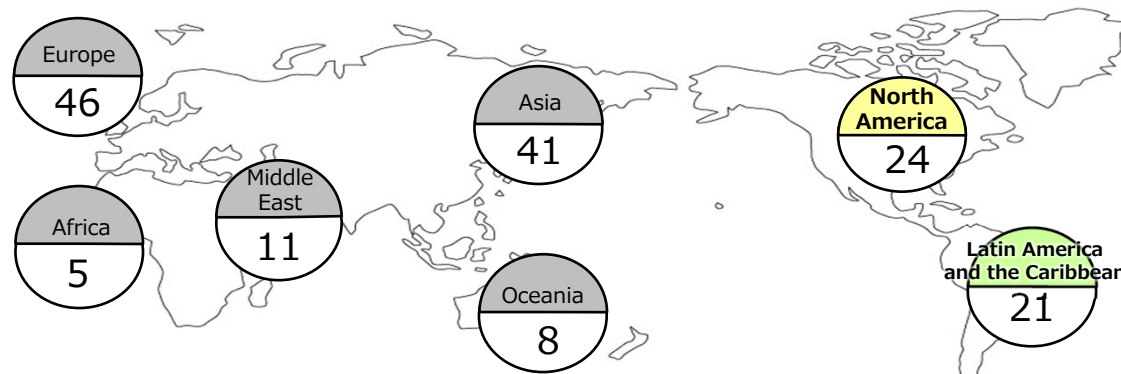
- ★ Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador appointed in 2024
- © The Winners of the Minister's Awards for Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food
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Malaysia	
KAWASAKI Naoya	Sushi Oribe Master Chef
Ling Teck Chong, Thomas	Principal Partner of Entwine Consultancy
SUZUKI Ichiro	Motoko Resources Sdn Bhd CEO HIRO FOOD PACKAGES MANUFACTURING SDN BHD Managing Director Doka Sdn Bhd CEO Nodoka Trading Co., Ltd. Managing Director "The 19th Suzuki Shoten" "The 19th Suzuki Hanten" "THE WAGYU Restaurant" Owner
★SAITO Makoto	Sushi Hibiki Fourseasons Hotel KL Owner Chef Sakana Japanese Dining Owner Chef Sushi Summit Founder
Mongolia	
SHIMIZU Kunitoshi	Juulchin LCC Deputy CEO Tavan Bogd Mongol Grill LCC Japanese Restaurant NAGOMI, MG Restaurant Chief Executive Officer
Hong Kong	
◇ANDO Shinichi	Chef and Owner, Gensui
Oscar Lau	Chef, KAETSU – Grand Hyatt
©HIMURO Toshio	Chairman, Zen Foods Co., Ltd. Chairman, Hong Kong Japanese Restaurant Association Chair, Chamber for Promoting Japanese Food Imports in Hong Kong
Mayuko Okada Picquot	Culinary Specialist & Owner of Mayu's Kitchen & Co.
◇SATO Naoyuki	Chief Chef of Hong Kong OOTOYA and NAOZEN Vice Chairman, Hong Kong Japanese Restaurant Association
◇Susanna Wong	CEO of YATA LIMITED•YATA Department Store / Supermarket
★Dennis Tokuaki Wu	Aji-No-Chinmi Co. (HK) LTD. Managing Director Hong Kong Japanese Food and Cuisine Association Chariman Hong Kong Japanese Restaurant Association Director/Executive Officer The Hong Kong Food Council Vice Chairman

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North America

United States of America	
◎SUETSUGU Takeyuki	Chairman ,Chairperson, Seattle's Japanese Restaurant Association
◎MATSUHISA Nobuyuki	Owner, Restaurant Matsuhisa Manager, Nobu
John Emerson	Senior Vice President of Restaurant Foods at Wegmans Food Market
Andy F. Matsuda	Sushi Chef Institute Chief Instructor / CEO Holland America Line's Culinary Council Member
◎KASHIBA Shiro	Restaurant owner (Sushi Kashiba, SHIRO KASHIBA SUSHI EXPRESS and Takai by Kashiba)
Ari Kastrati	MGM Resorts International Chief Hospitality Officer
David Schlosser	Chef/Owner of Shibumi
UENO Toshio	Sake School of America, Co-Founder/ Executive Instructor
KURIBARA Masao	SASALADINING USA Inc. CEO
Alvaro Perez Miranda	Owner of Japanese restaurants "Wabisabi" "Hiyakawa" "Midorie" and "Ogawa"
UKI Hidehito	Sun Noodle Founder, CEO/President
OGA Toru	Executive Chef and Owner, Oga's Japanese Cuisine
KOTANI Shuichi	CEO for WORLDWIDE-SOBA,INC. & BWH20,INC. Director for New York Japanese Culinary Academy,INC.
SHIMIZU Teruo	Miyako Oriental Foods Vice President
YAMAZAKI Nobuhiro	Owner Chef of Japanese Restaurant Sushi Taro
ODO Hiroki	Owner / Executive Chef of "odo"
Derek Wilcox	"Shibumi" Chef de Cuisine
FURUKAWA Shigeyuki	"Kado no Mise" "Kaiseki Furukawa" "Gori Gori Peku" "Sanjusan" Co-owner & Chef
★MOMOSE Yoshihiro	Uogashi Global Innovation, LLC CEO

Canada	
◎KIMURA Shigeo	Ginko Restaurant owner chef
TOJO Hidekazu	Chef and owner, Tojo's Restaurant
OKUMIYA David (Tsuneo)	President and Owner of "Mikado Restaurant"
◎KASHIWARA Seiichi	Owner Chef of "Zen Japanese Restaurant"
SAITO Masaki	Owner Chef of "Sushi Masaki Saito"

Latin America and the Caribbean

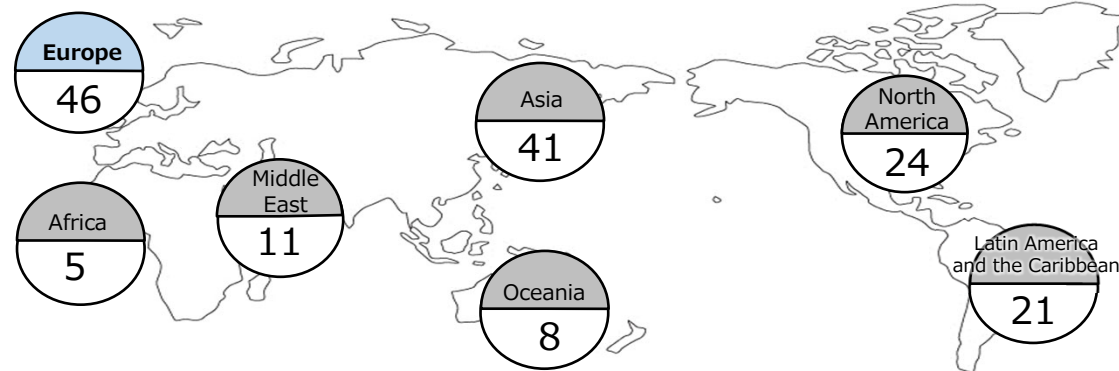
Argentina	
◎OHNO Takehiro	President and Representative Director, OHNO SRL Director, Japanese Soul SA Owner-chef. OIAN Owner, Xiao Bao Lecturer, Universidad Argentina de la Empresa, UADE
◎KOMIYAMA Iwao	Manager, Iwao Sushi & Cuisine (catering company)
◎Maria Alejandra Kano	Owner and chef of Japanese restaurant "Ichisou"
El Salvador	
★EDAMOTO Shigeki	Owner of Japanese restaurant "Kamakura"
Costa Rica	
OCHI Toshihiko	Head Chef of Restaurant FUJI
Jamaica	
UTOGUCHI Kazumi(TAKA)	Owner/Chef of Japanese Restaurant "East Japanese", Kingston Jamaica
Chile	
NAITO Takeo	Owner of restaurant Japon

Paraguay	
ODA Shunsuke	Owner and Head chef of Restaurant Hiroshima (Encarnacion)
UCHIYAMADA Kaoru	Owner of Japanese Restaurant Sukiyaki
HAYASHI Eijiro	Owner of Japanese Restaurant Delicias Japnesas and A&E S.A.
SAKANASHI Hiroaki	President of SANKEN S.A.I.C.
Brazil	
◎Telma Yuca Shimizu Shiraishi	Owner and chef, Restaurant Aizome
Alexandre Tatsuya Iida	Adega de Sake
Peru	
Mitsuharu Tsumura	Owner/Chef of the Restaurant "Maido"
Hajime Kasuga	Restaurant Hanzo, Chef and Adviser of Nikkei Cuisine
Venezuela	
◎TAKEUCHI Hiroyuki	Owner Chef, Restaurant "Avila Tei"
Mexico	
Edo López	Founder of Edo Kobayashi Group
ASAI Yasuo	Owner chef of "Asai Kaiseki Cuisine"
◎KUMOTO Kazu	Owner Chef of "Kazu's Kitchen"
José Felipe Ytuarte Nuñez	Director General, fynso group
★TSUCHIYA Ippei	General Director of Mikasa Group Owner of Wavia Insurgentes Advisor to the Board of Directors of the Japan-Mexico Association Director of The Nippon Club Co.

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Europe

United Kingdom	
◇ISHII Yoshinori	Head chef, UMU Japanese restaurant
◎HAYASHI Daisuke	Roketsu Owner Chef Japanese Culinary Academy UK Deputy Chairman
Italy	
SHODA Hirohiko	Chef, Cooking instructor, TV personality (Japanese cuisine)
ICHIKAWA Haruo	Chef and business partner of Japanese restaurant ICHIKAWA
ONISHI Hideki	Executive Director, Ginkakuji Onishi Co., Ltd.
Ukraine	
FUJIWARA Yoshihiro	Owner Chef of Japanese restaurant Fujiwara Yoshi
Estonia	
SHIRAISHI Shuichi	Former Owner Chef of restaurant Haku
Austria	
KONDO Ayumi	Owner of Japan Market "NIPPON-YA" and Japanese tea shop "Cha No Ma"
Netherlands	
◎TOMIKAWA Masanori	HOTEL OKURA AMSTERDAM Japanese Restaurants Manager and Executive Chef
◎Marinus Noordenbos	CEO of Hokkai suisan and Hokkai Kitchen
Switzerland	
NUMABUKURO Masahiko	Owner and Chef of Japanese restaurant nagomi
◎TANAKA Shinji	Owner Chef of Newstyle Restaurant TANAKA
Spain	
◎Roger Ortuño Flamerich	Founder and Director, ComerJapones.com Marketing Director, ISSé JAPAN
MATSUHIRA Hideki	Owner and cook, Koy Shunka restaurant
Andoni Luis Aduriz	"Mugaritz" owner/chef
YANOME Yoshikazu	"KAIDO SUSHI BAR" Owner Chef

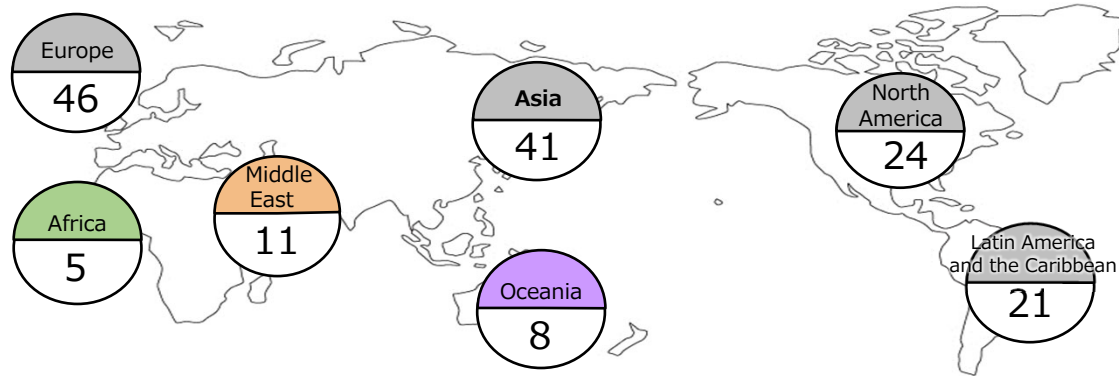
Czech Republic	
Marek Hora	Chef
Denmark	
Ole G. Mouritsen	Professor emeritus, Department of Food science, University of Copenhagen
Germany	
SAKAMOTO Mitsunori	Head chef, Sushimoto
Christian Bau	Head chef and host, Victor's Fine Dining by Christian bau
KOBATAKE Toshio	Chef, Restaurant JAPATAPA Toshiba
NAKAMURA Tohru	Head Chef at Tohru in der Schreiberei
NAGAYA Yoshizumi	The chef-owner of Nagaya
Norway	
Vladimir Pak	Director of "Omakase AS"
Hungary	
Maki Stevenson	President, Culinary Institute of Europe President, Makifood
Finland	
◎TOMIDA Norio	Tokyokan owner
France	
OKUDA Toru	Owner, Restaurant Okuda in Paris, Ginza Koju and Ginza Okuda
HANADA Masayoshi	Sushi Chef/Chef
Bulgaria	
Petar Mihalchev	Owner and chef of Japanese restaurant MIYABI
Belgium	
◎SUETSUGU Yosuke	Owner chef of Japanese restaurant NONBE DAIGAKU
KAMO Tomoyasu	Owner and Master Chef of the restaurant Kamo
Poland	
Alon Than	Owner of Alon Omakase, Izumi sushi, Kago sushi, Kiseki by Alon restaurants

Portugal	
◎KOIKE Shinya	Executive chef, Restaurant by Koji Lisboa
ONISHI Masaki	Owner and chef, Restaurant Rino
◎Paulo Morais	Owner and chef, Restaurant KANAZAWA
Latvia	
Martins Sirmais	Chef, Restaurant Owner, TV personality
Lithuania	
GRETA VAITKUTE-KAIKARIENE	UAB Izakaja Shareholder Manager of "Oišy Izakaya" restaurant Owner of Asian food franchise
Luxembourg	
◎MIYAMAE Hajime	Owner, Restaurant Kamakura
Romania	
TUCHIYA Naofumi	President of Tokyo Group
Iulian Constantin	The founder of the group of Japanese restaurants "Zen Sushi"
Russia	
◎KISHIMOTO Hideki	Brand Chef for Ichibanboshi
KUSANO Kazuo	Head chef, Restaurant "SEIJI"
KOBAYASHI Katsuhiko	Co-owner and chef of "Corner Cafe & Kitchen" Brand chef for restaurants of "IZUMI" and "Hachiko"
MURATA Tomoyoshi	Purchasing Manager of "TOYOSU TRADE" Co-owner of "SENDAI", a Japanese beef restaurant
KIJIMA Kazuhiko	Director, MTC Japan General Director, Hinomaru Noodle Owner and Brand chef, Takadaya Japanese cocktail bar
◇BAN Munechika	Head chef, Japanese restaurant "MEGumi", LOTTE HOTELS&RESORTS St. Petersburg

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■ Oceania

Australia	
Adam Liaw	Food personality, writer, presenter
◎DEKURA Hideo	Cooking expert President, Culinary Studio Dekura
◎WAKUDA Tetsuya	OAM (Order of Australia Medal)
ARAKANE Ikuei	Owner Chef, Wasshoi Managing Director, Do Imaginia
New Zealand	
TOKUYAMA Makoto	Owner Chef of Cocoro Restaurant
NARITA Yoshiji	Director, Daikoku Restaurant (NZ) Ltd.
HAMADA Kinji	Owner Chef of Kinji Japanese Restaurant
Palau	
MORISAKI Yoko	Instructor Chef, Tourism & Hospitality School of Excellence Palau Community College

■ Middle East

United Arab Emirates	
OHKUBO Shiro	Managing Director and General Manager, Summit Trading Company LLC
TANIUCHI Shinji	Managing Director & Partner BENTOYA KITCHEN LLC & GOURMET YA TRADING
TAKAHASHI Chitoshi	TOMO Japanese Restaurant, Partner Chef JtoW Co.,Ltd. President
Qatar	
NANRI Junko	Chairman, Famiglia Bicerin Co.,Ltd.
Kuwait	
◎MUTO Keiko	Managing Director / Owner of Kei Japanese Restaurant
Saudi Arabia	
SATO Taki	Brand Ambassador of Wakame Restaurant
Turkey	
HORIKOSHI Shunichi	Owner Chef, "ITSUMI JAPANESE CUISINE"
Selim Yalin	SushiCo, Founding Partner
★Sinan Damgacioglu	Founding Partner of Uzakdogu Mutfak Akademisi
Bahrain	
Budoor Steele	Founder of Chawan Japanese teahouse Co/ Founder of Wa bento Urasenke Japanese tea ceremony Instructor, tea name Soudou
Lebanon	
◎Aref Saade	The owner of a Japanese restaurant "Shogun Lounge" Owner of Tropical Bamboo that engages in the supply of Japanese food and the recruitment of chefs Treasurer of Syndicate of Owners of Restaurants, Cafés, Night-Clubs, and Pastries in Lebanon

■ Africa

Uganda	
YAMAGUCHI Yoshifumi	COTS COTS LIMITED Director "YAMASEN" Japanese Restaurant Head Chef
Gabon	
Marianne Ahlinba Hortense TIGOE epouse OKIAS	Owner / General Manager of Japanese Restaurant "SAKURA" "KITA by SAKURA" "CORNER by SAKURA (Hôtel de la Sablière)" "SNACK by SAKURA (Baie des Rois)"
Benin	
KARAM Jean Charbel	Manager of WASABI sushi bar restaurant Cotonou
Republic of South Africa	
Peter Tempelhoff	Owner and Chef of FYN
Rwanda	
Daniel NIYOGUSHIMWA	Japanda Restaurant Head Chef and Managing Director