

# Poland·Japan Foundation

## NEWSLETTER



### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOUNDATION

The Poland-Japan Foundation, established in 2024, was created in response to the challenges of the modern world and the need to deepen cooperation between Poland and Japan in the fields of business, science, culture, education, and institutional exchange. Through the commitment of experts with international experience, we have developed a dynamic platform for dialogue and collaboration that inspires the building of lasting Polish-Japanese relations. By connecting people, institutions, and ideas, we operate as an independent non-profit organization, promoting an innovative approach through the implementation of projects that support the strategic partnership between Poland and Japan. Our mission is to foster Polish-Japanese relations and build long-term cooperation, opening new opportunities for joint development.

### DOCUMENTARY FILM " FAR AWAY TO JAPAN: THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE POLISH PEOPLE"

In 2024, the Foundation premiered the documentary film "Far Away to Japan: The Untold Stories of the Polish People". This production explores the stories of Poles who have permanently or for an extended period connected their lives with Japan, touching on themes such as the work of Polish missionaries, Bronisław Piłsudski's research on the culture of Japan's Ainu people, the history of Polish Siberian orphan children rescued by the Japanese, the fate of Polish prisoners of war from the Russo-Japanese War interned in Japan, Polish-Japanese collaboration in cryptography, and the behind-the-scenes details of Pope John Paul II's visit to Japan.



Enriched with unique photos, documents, and interviews, the film brings to light little-known episodes from Polish-Japanese history. The premiere screening took place at the EuroLive cinema in Tokyo, attracting a full house and numerous distinguished guests. So far, 17 screenings have been organized in 14 cities across Japan, with more than 600 attendees.

The film has received media acclaim, with coverage in outlets such as Kyodo News, Chunichi Shimbun, and the quarterly magazine Torii. Additionally, the production has been included in the "New Polish Films" catalog of the Polish Film Institute for 2024.

We are delighted that our film promotes the history and cooperation between Poland and Japan!

[WATCH THE PREVIEW HERE](#)

## **SPRING PIANO CONCERT "KIDS FOR KIDS" – CHOPIN AND NOT ONLY...**

In May, our first music project – a piano concert aimed at children and young people in Japan – was held at Shibuya Hall in Tokyo. The stage featured eight young Japanese pianists of varying skill levels, who delivered their interpretations with great dedication. The event was graced by a recital from Polish pianist Michał Sobkowiak, who performed works by Fryderyk Chopin as well as his own compositions. Our heartfelt congratulations to all the participants, and we wish them continued success on their journey toward professional musical careers!

[\*\*WATCH THE CONCERT VIDEO HERE\*\*](#)



**Poland•Japan  
Foundation**

**2024**

**Spring Piano Concert**

**"Kids for Kids"**  
Chopin and not only...

A refreshing season has arrived. Why not take a breath to relax with beautiful music? At the Spring Piano Concert, children who have been practicing piano performance will showcase the results of their efforts and offer a pleasant time.  
Additionally, Polish pianist and composer Michał Sobkowiak will give a special performance. The program will include works by Chopin as well as original compositions by Sobkowiak. We look forward to welcoming you all!

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**Open at 9:45 Start at 10:00**  
**SHIBUYA HALL & STUDIO**  
5th floor of NKG Tokyo Building, 15-17 Sakuragōkacho, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo  
(3 minutes walk from the West Exit of JR Shibuya station)

Ticket: adult 1,500 yen / student 500 yen (all seats are unreserved)  
For reservations and inquiries, please contact us at the following:  
secretary@polandjapanfoundation.com

**Michał Sobkowiak**  
Born in Poland. Graduated from Chopin Academy of Music. Postgraduate study at the Zurich Conservatory. Won a prize at the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition in 1995. Has performed at major concert halls and music festivals across the world. Jury member of the PTNA and the Chopin International Piano Competition in Asia, the jury chairman of the European International Piano Concours in Japan. Founder of the Japan Jazz Pop Piano Competition. Currently a professor at Fukushima College and a lecturer at Shonan University of Music.

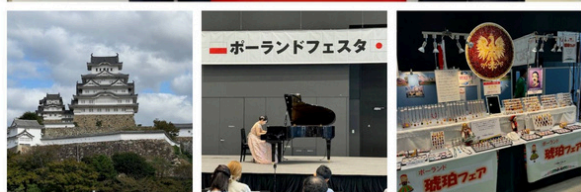
Organized by Poland • Japan Foundation







## COLLABORATION WITH THE KANSAI REGION



On October 20th, the Polish Festival in Himeji took place, organized by the Japan-Poland Cultural Exchange Association and the Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Kobe. Radosław Tyszkiewicz, President of the Foundation, met with Hideyasu Kiyomoto, Mayor of Himeji, to discuss opportunities for collaboration and the Foundation's future involvement in projects within the Kansai region. Last year, Mayor Kiyomoto visited Kraków, and in 2024, a partnership and cooperation agreement was signed between Japan's Himeji Castle and the Wawel Royal Castle in Poland.



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This year's Festival artistic program featured performances by Polish and Japanese artists, including students from the Himeji International School and the Sisters of Nazareth High School in Warsaw. Event participants had the opportunity to taste delicacies of Polish cuisine and purchase products from Poland, such as Bolesławiec ceramics, cosmetics, and handcrafted items. The Festival, thanks to the dedication of its organizers, including the Honorary Consul General of Poland in Kobe, Masahiko Suruga, and the Polish community in Kansai, enjoyed great interest!



In Osaka, Radosław Tyszkiewicz, the President of the Foundation, met with members of the Ni-Po Salon organization, which brings together individuals interested in deepening friendship and cooperation with Poland. Ni-Po Salon was established in 1999 as an initiative by Japanese volunteers supporting Polish students coming to the Kansai region. For many years, the organization's members have been annually inviting one student from Poland for a year-long stay at Kobe University, providing financial support to cover living and travel expenses. This time, a new scholarship recipient from the University of Warsaw participated in the meeting. As part of its activities, Ni-Po Salon organizes social gatherings, lectures related to Poland, musical concerts, and trips to Poland for the Chopin Competition. Additionally, the organization publishes an annual bulletin.



## POLAND-JAPAN CONNECT – STARTUP EVENT

In November, we held our hybrid event, “Poland-Japan Connect.” Under the shared theme “Global Gateways: Exploring Opportunities for Polish Startups in Japan & Connecting Japanese Startups with Poland,” participants gathered at CIC Tokyo, CIC Warsaw, and online to exchange experiences and establish business collaborations between Poland and Japan. The event's program included inspiring lectures and panel discussions focused on the Japanese innovation ecosystem, market entry strategies, and success case studies of startups from both countries. Key topics addressed during the event included cultural differences, business opportunities, and strategies for global expansion. The event concluded with a networking session in a Polish-themed atmosphere, where participants had the chance to enjoy Polish beer and doughnuts.



[WATCH THE EVENT VIDEO HERE](#)







## **COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE POLAND-JAPAN FOUNDATION AND QUANTALYSE AT EXPO 2025**

The Poland-Japan Foundation has signed a comprehensive agreement with the Belgian consulting firm Quantalyse, covering support for the company's delegation during EXPO 2025 in Osaka. The scope of the collaboration includes training on the specifics of the Japanese market and conducting business in Japan, organizing business visits with potential partners in Japan, and providing full logistical and substantive support during EXPO 2025.



Quantalyse is a renowned consulting firm operating in the European market, collaborating with global brands such as UBS, Raiffeisen Bank, Allianz Trade, ABN Amro, and BNP Paribas Fortis. With the support of our Foundation, the company has decided to expand its operations into the Japanese market, combining our expertise and knowledge of Japan with their analytical expertise. We are delighted to support Quantalyse on this exciting journey into the Japanese market!

Dear Friends,

On the occasion of Christmas and the upcoming New Year, we would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for health, joy, and success in both your personal and professional lives.

May this special time bring moments of peace, reflection, and inspiration for new challenges. We are grateful for the collaboration over the past year and look forward with hope to the opportunities that 2025 will bring.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Poland-Japan Foundation

