

Harp concert by Keiko Kikuchi

Kobayashi Hall, KEK, the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization

29 September 2016

Message from Ambassador of Ireland Anne Barrington

I am truly delighted to send my best wishes to organisers and guests of this first ever Irish harp event at KEK's Kobayashi Hall.

We are very proud of our strong cultural links with Japan. Our music, literature, Celtic heritage and our festivals enjoy huge popularity here. Many people, of all ages, also enjoy Irish food and drinks in a wide network of Irish pubs across Japan!

In addition to our shared interest in culture, the Embassy has been building ever stronger links in the field of science and education. These efforts fall within the framework of an MOU signed by both Governments in Dublin, in 2013.

So I was very pleased to know that KEK, the High Energy Accelerator Centre, was planning an Irish music recital by Ms Kikuchi. KEK's Professor Tsutsui was a visiting researcher in Dublin and we very much appreciate his continuing interest in Ireland.

As we move towards marking the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic relations next year, I hope that more and more Japanese people, will come to know and contribute to deepening our mutual cultural and educational links.

I hope also that following today's event, some people will be inspired and encouraged to find out more about Ireland, consult our new official, Japanese-language Tourism site: www.Ireland.com/ja-ip and visit us in Ireland one day!