

For Immediate Release

GR Japan Launches New Office in Osaka

**- Japan's Largest Government Relations Firm Affirms
Its Commitment to the Kansai region -**

25 January 2018 - GR Japan K.K., the leading government relations firm in Japan, announced today that it will open a new office in Osaka on 1 February 2018. GR Japan will be the first government relations and public affairs consultancy to open an office in the Kansai region. While the company has long maintained strong relationships with stakeholders in Kansai, the opening of GR Japan's Osaka office marks a new level of commitment to the region and underlines GR Japan's desire to foster even closer communication and understanding between local government leaders, business and civil society.

Osaka and the Kansai area have become increasingly important centers for both Japanese and international businesses. The region has positioned itself as an engine of reform, and is experiencing a sustained increase in international investment and inbound tourism. That strong growth is predicted to continue. Osaka is preparing for the Rugby World Cup in 2019, and is the front runner to host the World Expo in 2025.

"We have had very positive recent experiences of working with local authorities to find win-win solutions, and are looking to deepen that co-operation further with the opening of our office in Osaka.", said Jakob Edberg, GR Japan's President and CEO.

GR Japan's Osaka office will be led by Tomohiko Kinoshita and Daisuke Sakamoto, both former members of the House of Representatives and originally from Osaka.

Edberg said, "Our Osaka office will be headed by two exceptional leaders. Together their unrivaled experience of policy-making and an intimate understanding of the region will be a huge asset."

Kinoshita said, "Our local presence in Osaka will give existing and future clients a unique opportunity to engage with local governments, and to help us be even more responsive and strategic in the way we support clients in the Kansai region."

Sakamoto said, "Political leaders here are already at the forefront of innovative policy-making in Japan, and have been proactively seeking examples of global best practice that can be applied to the local context. Our goal is to work closely with local government leaders and the business community to find innovative solutions that will benefit not just Osaka and Kansai but all of Japan."

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【About GR Japan】

GR Japan is the leading and largest government relations and public affairs consultancy in Japan. It offers a range of government relations services, including policy and issue monitoring, stakeholder mapping, strategic outreach, advocacy, public affairs campaigns and strategic support for public tenders and public-sector sales. GR Japan has unrivalled networks of contacts spanning the National Diet, ministries, political parties, local government, Japanese and global media and academia. GR Japan also offers government relations and public affairs support globally, as a member of the world's leading international public affairs networks, helping clients succeed in markets around the world.

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