



GUINNESS INFORMATION

“IT’S A LONG WAY FROM JAPAN TO HERE”
CYCLIST COMPLETES 12,000KM JOURNEY AT THE GUINNESS
HOPSTORE

Five months and 12,000 km later Mr. Yasayuki Ozeki cycled into the Guinness Hopstore today on the last stage of an expedition that has taken him from Osaka, Japan to Dublin, Ireland.

The 25 year old Japanese man forsook his career as a budding sales executive to fulfil his lifelong ambition of cycling across the Eurasian continent to Ireland. Inspiration for his epic journey that took him through China, Mongolia, Russia and across Europe came from Irish music and the irresistible lure of a pint of Guinness upon his arrival.

Yasayuki’s love affair with all things Irish, began three years ago when he visited Ireland and vowed to return again to enjoy the fresh air and our traditional pub culture. On a specially designed bicycle, sponsored by Bridgestone, this young man left from his home city of Osaka on April 16th, 1998. Osaka is also the location of the first Irish pub ever opened in his native country. Japan currently boasts 12 Irish pubs with several more planned, in conjunction with the Guinness Irish Pub Concept.

36,000 Japanese tourists visited Ireland in 1997 but few have gone to such spectacular lengths to get here. In a style reminiscent of a latter day Forrest Gump Yasayuki said “I wish to end my project surrounded by millions of Irish people waiting for me with millions of pints of Guinness”.

Yasayuki is keen to forge strong cultural relations between Japan and Ireland and it is particularly appropriate that he has arrived on the weekend of the Guinness All Ireland Hurling Championship. As a special memento of his visit Yasayuki was presented with a hurley stick (an camán) at the Guinness Hopstore, in celebration of the ancient sport of hurling. He was also invited to attend Sunday’s All Ireland Final at Croke Park between Kilkenny and Offaly.

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