

Yasukazu Hijikata

I was born in Japan in 1960 in Kyoto, the old capital of Japan. I graduated from Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in Hitotsubashi University in 1984 and entered into Marubeni Corporation, commercial company.

In 1985 I moved to Hamburg branch as a manager. First time I came to Poland for business trip as Marubeni representative in 1997, that time I visited Bielsko-Biala and first time in my life I ate “flaczki”. Poland seemed to me little underdeveloped compare to west Europe countries at that time. I couldn't predict that after some years I come again and start to live for so many years.

In 1999 I quited Marubeni and decided to spend two years of my life to study and develop. I chose MBA in Case Reserve University Weatherhead School in Cleveland OH. In 2001 graduated from MBA and started to work for NGK Insulators, LTD in Japan. In 2003, soon after joining NGK I was assigned to an Administration Director in NGK Ceramics Polska Sp. z o. o., newly created company. I spent in Poland 7 years working in Gliwice and left to Japan in April 2010.

Again, I did not expect that I will spend longer time in Poland. In 2015 I was nominated for a President of NGK Ceramics Polska Sp.z o.o. which became a challenging task for me taking into account current size and strategical meaning of the Polish entity.

Now it has been nearly 10 years of my total stay in this country and I am again working with my friendly colleagues, some of them I personally hired to work for NGK.

The weather in Japan is quite humid in the summer so I do appreciate nice summer climate in Poland and feel very comfortable to stay here in this season.

Nevertheless, I sometimes miss Japanese food like sushi, sukiyaki and sake particularly. Every week I love to play sports like golf and tennis. Before, during first assignment, I used to live in Krakow with my wife and a daughter for 7 years but I am sometimes lonely living in Katowice alone nowadays.

My hobbies are playing golf, tennis, and calligraphy. Have wife and one daughter, but they are staying in Japan. Love Poland and Zurek.