

1 April 2026

Press Release

EFPIA Japan

## **EFPIA Japan Appoints Kanako Kikuchi as New Vice Chair**

European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA Japan, Chair: Takahiko Iwaya) announced that Kanako Kikuchi (UCB Japan Co., Ltd.) has been appointed as Vice Chair effective 1 April 2026. Her term will run until March 2027. This appointment follows the departure of Takafumi Horii. Vice Chair John Paul Pullicino (Novartis Pharma K.K.) will remain in his role, continuing to support Chair Iwaya (Sanofi K.K.) together with the newly appointed Vice Chair Kikuchi.

“In an environment of rapid change, we remain committed to contributing as a trusted partner that supports value creation driven by innovation in Japan, through open dialogue that embraces diverse perspectives and advancing initiatives that address priority issues. Building on the expertise EFPIA Japan has developed over the years, we will actively participate in the reform of Japan’s pharmaceutical industry in close collaboration with our stakeholders, while remaining dedicated to expanding the range of treatment options available to patients in need.” says Kanako Kikuchi upon her appointment.

### **Kanako Kikuchi – Biography**



Kanako Kikuchi has over 20 years of leadership experience in the pharmaceutical industry, having held a wide range of senior roles in both Japan and the United States across several multinational pharmaceutical companies, including positions in business operations and corporate strategy. Since May 2018, she serves as President and Representative Director of UCB Japan Co., Ltd.

Throughout her career, she has been deeply engaged in promoting cross sector collaboration from the perspective of industry–government–academia partnership, while contributing broadly to organizational development, corporate governance and cultural transformation. As a senior female leader, she has also been an active advocate for advancing and fostering deeper understanding of inclusion both within and outside her organization.



European Federation of Pharmaceutical  
Industries and Associations

She currently serves as Advisor in Economic Diplomacy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium, and is also a member of the Administrative Council of Hokkaido University.

**About EFPIA Japan** (<http://efpia.jp/>)

Established in April 2002, EFPIA Japan represents 24 R&D-based European pharmaceutical companies operating in Japan. In 2024, combined sales from the member companies accounted for approximately 29.4% of the pharmaceutical market in Japan. The mission of EFPIA Japan is to “Contribute to healthcare and patients in Japan through the early introduction of innovative medicines and vaccines.” EFPIA Japan aims to strengthen dialogue with decision-makers in order to improve Japanese healthcare for all.

**About EFPIA (The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations)** (<http://www.efpia.eu>)

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Association (EFPIA) represents the biopharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Through its direct membership of 36 national associations, 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, and growing number of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), EFPIA’s mission is to create a collaborative environment that enables our members to innovate, discover, develop, and deliver new therapies and vaccines for people across Europe, as well as contribute to the European economy.

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