

Sándor Kiss Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born in Budapest on 2nd of January, 1943.

Marital status: he was married in 1969. Wife, Ilona is Japanese language teacher. Daughter, Réka is Japanese interpreter. Son, Gergely is software engineer.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATION

Postgraduate courses in foreign trade, international commercial law and diplomacy. Diploma in foreign trading, 1981. Diploma in sociology, 1979. Diploma in computer mathematics and electronic engineering earned at Technical University of Budapest, 1973 and 1966 respectively.

LANGUAGES

English, conversation level of Japanese. His Japanese language teachers were Professor Gyula Major and Mr. Iwaki Hajimu.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2009-2016 – **Rubik Exhibition Co. Ltd.** Managing Director

2005-2010 **Visiting Lecturer** at International Business School and Budapest Business School Collage of Commerce

2004 – 2009 **Herend Porcelain Manufactory** Member of the Board
2005 He was appointed as Acting CEO for several months

since 2003 - **Hungary-Japan Economic Club** President

1998-2017 - **EcoAction Co., Ltd.** Budapest, Hungary
Managing Director and one of the owners. This business consulting and trading company was established in 1998 involved in: 1.) Promotion and consultation for Hungarian-Japanese trade and investment, 2.) IT solutions and web technologies, 3.) Japanese interpretation, translation, language teaching and distribution of teaching materials.

1997 - 1998 **Hungarian Trade Office**

1992 - 1997 **Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, Commercial Counsellor's Office**

Tokyo, Japan

Last position held as Chief Trade Representative of ITD the Investment and Trade Development Agency. Until mid-1997 he was the Commercial Counsellor appointed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Person in charge for all high level economic missions visiting both Hungary and Japan. His main activities covered the development and promotion of bilateral trade, Japanese direct investments (FDI) into Hungary and consulting service to solve trade policy and business problems. Until the opening of the Hungarian National Tourist Office in April, 1998 his office was responsible for promotion of tourism as well. Organizer of promotional events, investment seminars with JOI, JETRO, Keidanren, MITI, Rotobo and many prefecture Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Coordinator of Hungarian participation at exhibitions and trade fairs in Japan. Editor and creator of the internet home page bringing daily economic news and statistics for the Japanese business community. The Japanese Language NEWSLETTER has been edited by his office since 1991.

1987 - 1992 **Rubik Studio Co., Ltd.** Managing Director
Design and production of the world famous Rubik's logical puzzles including the Rubik's Cube, Magic, Clock, Pyramid and Jig-saw Puzzle.

1982 - 1987 **Embassy of the Peoples Republic of Hungary, Commercial Counsellor's Office.** Tokyo, Japan
Second Commercial Secretary. Person in charge for chemical, electrical, electronics, table and house ware, glassware, porcelain, furniture and artistic goods and commodities. Marketing activities for above commodities and handling claims. Initiator of the Hungary-Japan Friendship Sumo Cup (Herend vase) that has been presented six times annually since January 1986. It has been one of the most effective means to promote the name of Hungary in Japan. He presented the cup over 20 times, last occasion on 26th of March, 2019, when the Cup was replaced.

1980 - 1982 **Metrimpex**
Advisor in foreign trade of computer hardware and software.

1977 - 1980 **Volan Elektronika**
Technical Advisor. Involved in the design, development and implementation of the first nationwide computer network system for bus and truck transportation.

1972 - 1977 **Computing Institute of Ministry of Labour**
Director General of Development Department.

1969 - 1972 **Tungsram**
Deputy General Manager at Computing Department.

1966 - 1969 **Medicor**
Electronic engineer involved in the development of medical electronics devices and intensive care systems for patients.

PUBLICATIONS (in relation to Japan and Japanese matters)

He wrote two books, several lecture notes and articles on computing and electronics, foreign trade and history of economy. Japan related publications:

- His book *In Allurement of Japan* was published in 2017. Depicting the life story of those Hungarian businessmen who were working in Japan between 1869 and 1959.
- Report on the Japanese Electronics, 1985
- Japanese language NEWSLETTER, 1992-98 3-5 issues per annum
- Special report for Hungarian exporters how to trade with Japanese companies, 1994.
- Home page for Commercial Counsellor's Office, 1994-98
- Essay for Tibor Wehner's book on Hungarian sculptor Nándor Wagner titled "The Philosopher Sculptor", 2006
- History of Japanese-Hungarian trade and economic relations from the beginnings, Commemorative issue of Japanology on the occasion the 140th and 50th anniversary of Hungarian Japanese diplomatic relations, 2009
- The sculptor who had three life, Ághegy periodical, Sweden, 2010

DECORATIONS (for activities in Japan)

- 2016 Gold Award in recognition of fifty years of professional service. TUB (Technical University of Budapest)
- 2010 Order of the Rising Sun with Golden Rays and Neck Ribbon
- 1997 Minister Order for Outstanding Development in Foreign Trade

- 1996 Pro Turismo Order of the Hungarian Tourist Board

COMMUNITY WORK (in relation to Japan)

- President of Hungary-Japan Economic Club since 2003.
- President of Academia Humana Foundation since 1999. The foundation is taking care of cultural heritage of sculptor Nandor Wagner who lived in Japan for 3 decades.
- Vice-President of the International Computer Association in Japan in 1985/86.
- Founding member of the Hungary-Japan Friendship Society in 1987, since 2002 board member
- Founding member of the Rotary Club Budapest the first chartered club in Eastern Europe after the war. He was President in 2000/2001, Treasurer in 1990 and Youth Officer in 1991/92. Person in charge for Japanese relations

Hungary-Japan Economic Club. He took the president position in 2003, after losing many members of the club. With new kind of activities and better representation of the members' interest the club has been revitalized and the membership has been doubled. He created the home page for the club bringing quite an interest over the internet. The sessions of the club using the commercial diplomacy over the white table could take a good care of the Hungarian Japanese commercial relations. A newsletter on changes of the law has been distributed among the Japanese companies settled in Hungary for several years. The club with her members organized two competitions for the grammar school students on Japanese topics in 2005 and 2009 respectively attracting many participants. The competitions have got the right to use the official logo 2005 EU-Japan Cultural Exchange and Japan Danube Friendship Year 2009 respectively.

Hungary-Japan Friendship Society. He has been responsible for the home page of the society between 2002 and 2012. He has been involved in most of the activities of the society as organizer and/or role player. He gave several speeches about Japanese topics including economy and sumo.

Academia Humana Foundation. The foundation is taking care of the cultural heritage of late sculptor Nándor Wagner who was a Japanese citizen and lived and created art pieces in Japan since 1969. The foundation has been giving financial support to university and grammar school students and small art groups both in Hungary and Romania. The presentation of the group of statues named as *Garden of Philosophy* to Japan as a civil initiative was also supported by Academia Humana Foundation in order to commemorate the diplomatic relation jubilee in 2009. His statues *Corpus Hungaricum* in Székesfehérvár (1999) and *József Attila* in Nagyvárad (2005) were saved and erected. The *Mother Earth* statue by Nándor Wagner was presented to Budavar in 2012, *Motherhood* to Miskolc Ferenczi Sándor Health Vocational School in 2015 and the statue of *Moses* to Christ the King Catholic Church in Dunaújváros in 2021 respectively.

Support of Japanese language teaching in Hungary. He was the computer editor of his wife's book "Comprehensive Japanese Grammar" and the Japanese-Hungarian plus Hungarian-Japanese students' dictionaries published by the Hungarian Association of Japanese Language Teachers (MJOT).

HOBBY & SPORTS

Fan of gardening, collecting cacti. He likes sailing and watching sumo.

Updated: Budapest, 11th of October 2021