More than 1,000 years ago, Japan coalesced Confucian and Buddhist approaches to governing in those Mediation's Custodians, where chief active providers that "mediation be used, and should not be avoided." The underlying principle, as we know, was peaceful and reflective in the fabric of Japanese society and may have contributed to a persistent preference for non-adversarial means of settling disputes. Mediation, in particular, has a unique history in Japan and continues to play an important role in the settlement of disputes. But most mediation initiatives have been provided by the government or courts, despite a lack of national encouraging certification and expansion of previously populated alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services.

It is in the context of this contemporaneous challenge as well as the longer-standing goal of the Japan International Mediation Centre Kyoto (JIMC-Kyoto) that will soon be launched. The JIMC-Kyoto is part of a broader initiative to boost Japan’s international dispute services. Japan (see Luke Nottage & James Claxton, *Kluwer Mediation Blog* (2018)).

### Management and governance

The JIMC-Kyoto organization is closely linked with the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC), a non-profit organization originally established to provide training in mediation and to promote dispute resolution mechanisms. The SIMC is expected to follow the standard of other international institutions, such as the *Singapore International Mediation Centre* (SIMC). In particular, the SIMC has appointed an executive director and an advisory board that will be directly responsible for governance of the center.

### Mediation services

The JIMC-Kyoto will focus on international commercial mediations by offering various types of support to include preparatory and pre-settlement mediations, planning mediations for various commercial disputes, and understanding mediations. A crucial role of the JIMC-Kyoto is to ensure effective dispute resolution mechanisms. The SIMC is expected to follow the standard of other international institutions, such as the *Singapore International Mediation Centre* (SIMC).

### International panel of mediators

The JIMC-Kyoto will also collaborate with the SIMC to create a JIMC-Kyoto panel of mediators. The role of this panel is to facilitate mediation sessions, support mediation practices, and promote the center’s services. The JIMC-Kyoto will also establish a panel of mediators composed of professionals trained in mediation and dispute resolution. The panel will ensure that the center’s services are available to parties in Japan and abroad.

### Outreach

The JIMC-Kyoto will actively engage with companies, governments, and organizations in Japan and abroad to promote the center’s services. The center will also promote awareness of mediation and dispute resolution practices in Japan and abroad. The JIMC-Kyoto will also participate in various international conferences and events to promote the center’s services and to network with other mediation centers.

### Affirming international mediation

The success of the JIMC-Kyoto will depend on its ability to attract parties from Japan and abroad to use its services. The JIMC-Kyoto will actively seek out potential clients and promote its services through various channels, including social media, the center’s website, and events.

### Conclusion

The JIMC-Kyoto is a significant initiative for Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. It will provide a platform for resolving commercial disputes through mediation, promoting non-adversarial means of dispute resolution, and strengthening Japan’s position as a mediator in the international community. The JIMC-Kyoto is a testament to the growing interest in mediation services in Japan and the wider world.