

Press Release

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Darragh McGann pictured with 2005 JCI World President, Kevin Cullinane at the JCI Awards Ceremony in Fukuoka, Japan.

Cobhman Wins in Japan

Native of Cobh, Darragh McGann, has crowned his achievements of becoming the JCI European Public Speaking champion last June by being part of the three person Irish team who became World Debating Champions at the recent Junior Chamber International World Congress in Fukuoka, Japan. With Mr. McGann on the Irish team were MacDara Hosty (speaker) from Galway and Jeremy Doyle (coach) from Fingal, Co. Dublin.

The Irish team came through a tough semi-final against JCI-UK in carrying the motion that "A woman's first love is her man's credit card". In the final against Australia, the Irish trio were equally successful in winning through by successfully defeating the motion that "Love letters are a thing of the past". The victory continues a long line of successes by JCI Ireland members in both Public Speaking and Debating over the last few years.

Mr. McGann nearly pulled off a superb double when he was close runner-up in the final of the World Public Speaking competition. As winner of the European Public Speaking crown in Lausanne in June, Mr. McGann was representing Europe at the World Competition. Speaking on the topic of "Entrepreneurs in Action, Leading with Passion" Mr. McGann put up a marvellous display only to be pipped at the post by a professional speaker from Canada, Rhonda Victoor, who was representing the American continent.

Mr. McGann's successes in Japan were particularly special following the election of his friend and fellow-covite, Kevin Cullinane, as World President of Junior Chamber International at the conference. As incoming president of JCI

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Cobh, Mr. McGann is looking forward to heading up the local organisation in 2005 as well as providing support to Mr.Cullinane in his role as JCI World President.

Junior Chamber International Ireland is part of the largest personal and leadership development organisation for young people in the age group of 18-40 in the world - Junior Chamber International. It is a voluntary, non-political organisation that fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship and social responsibility through it's range of activities and projects throughout the country. Further information is available at www.jci-ireland.org.