

Cobh man charms Japanese premier

A COBH business man had top level discussions earlier this week with the Prime Minister of Japan.

Kevin Cullinane, president of Junior Chamber International (JCI) and a senior marketing executive with Heineken Ireland in Cork, had the meeting with Mr Junichiro Koizumi in Tokyo to brief the Japanese leader on JCI's non-political agenda to create better leaders in order to create better societies.

They covered such diverse topics as the recent bombings in London and Egypt, global warming and climate change, economic developments in mainland China and challenges facing young entrepreneurs.

By BRIAN WINDERS

Business Reporter

Mr Cullinane was joined at the summit by JCI secretary general Edson A Kodama from Brazil, a distant relative of the Japanese prime minister.

"I raised the important issue of global morality and ethics in light of recent atrocities around the globe, including London, Egypt and Baghdad, which require a pan-national response."

Mr Cullinane had first-hand knowledge of the terror that swept London on the day of the bombing which claimed 56 lives as he was in the city on that day.



Cobh man Kevin Cullinane, President of JCI, has had talks with the Japanese Prime Minister.

He cited the Northern Ireland Good Friday Agreement in 1998 as an example of how democratic means could be used to end conflicts of religious and ethnical diversity.

Mr Cullinane added that, as a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, JCI is also committed to achieving the United Nation's millennium development goals.

Prime Minister Koizumi, learning of Mr Cullinane's job at Lady's Well brewery, confessed to enjoying a Heineken himself on a rare occasion he actually has a weekend off.

"It was a friendly and cordial meeting," reported Cullinane.

"The prime minister expressed his admiration for the role JCI has played and is playing in global events.

Last week the Cobh man made official visits to India, Nepal and Lanka.