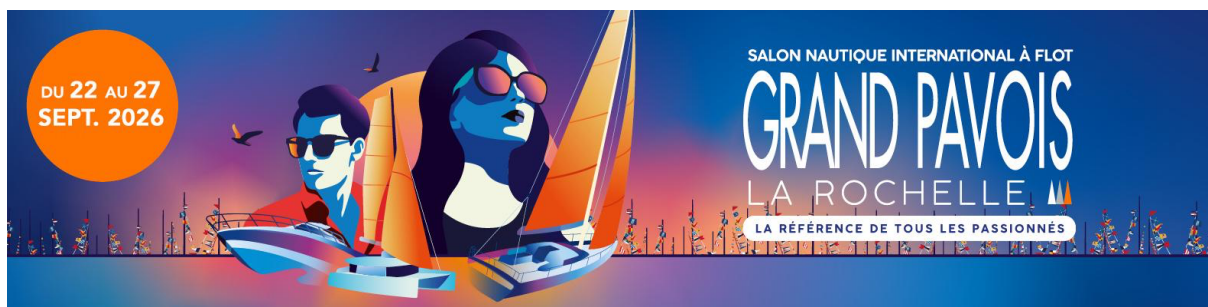




Press Release – November 13, 2025

JAPON, COUNTRY OF HONOUR AT THE GRAND PAVOIS LA ROCHELLE 2026, INTERNATIONAL IN-WATER BOAT SHOW

The Grand Pavois La Rochelle (from Tuesday 22 to Sunday 27 September 2026) will have the honour of welcoming **Japan as its 2026 Country of Honour**, an invitation marked by elegance, innovation, and a profound maritime culture. An archipelago of 6,800 islands bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Japan has fostered a deep and enduring bond with the sea for centuries: a source of livelihood, exchange, inspiration, and technological excellence.

Being the Country of Honour means **offering the public an immersion into Japan's maritime way of life**. Through cultural activities, meetings, dedicated booths and demonstrations, Japan will showcase its unique expertise, combining traditional know-how with contemporary innovation.

The Japanese hall will also be a place for exchange and dialogue between nautical cultures, since “the Land of the Rising Sun” remains a leading player in international boating, electronics, technological innovation and sport fishing. Japan's invitation reflects Grand Pavois La Rochelle's ambition to celebrate the diversity of maritime cultures and to strengthen ties between tradition and modernity, between East and West.

This exceptional presence will reveal to visitors that Japan is not only a country of the sea, but a civilization shaped by the sea — a remarkable model of harmony between technological innovation, respect for nature and a deep-rooted passion for sailing. See you from Tuesday 22 to Sunday 27 September 2026!

On behalf of Japan, Yvonne Chu-Kit (YCK Culture & Events) : «This will be a first for the Japanese archipelago — a leading nation in the global boating industry — as it has never before been among the annually invited countries of honour. The organization of the Pavilion of Honour has been entrusted to YCK Culture & Events, which, in collaboration with Japanese partners and local contributors, will create an authentic Japanese Village. Covering 600 m², it will showcase various forms of traditional craftsmanship through retail booths, Japanese gastronomy with a restaurant and specialty food stalls, as well as cultural demonstrations and activities. Particular emphasis will be placed on maritime regions and coastal tourism».

On behalf of Grand Pavois La Rochelle, Alain Pochon (President) states: : «It is both a great honour and a genuine pleasure to welcome Japan as the 2026 Country of Honour. An honour, because Japan has long been a key nation in the world of boating and in the technologies associated with this industry for several decades. And a pleasure, because Japan has always fascinated the world with its unique and captivating culture — blending tradition and modernity, aesthetics and meticulous attention to detail — not to mention a rich popular culture renowned worldwide. We should also remember that Japan is a major economic and technological hub, home to outstanding talent in innovation, robotics, and electronics. Japan unquestionably embodies the image of a country that is both forward-looking and deeply spiritual, where the old and the new coexist in perfect harmony. It will undoubtedly be one of the true highlights of Grand Pavois La Rochelle 2026».

INTERVIEW REQUESTS: +33 (0)5 46 44 46 39 – Press Office

Key facts...

Grand Pavois La Rochelle, the must-attend event for all boating enthusiasts

Location: Port des Minimes, La Rochelle

2026 Dates : Tuesday 22 to Sunday 27 September 2026 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Sunday until 6 p.m.)

Visitors: 70,000 visitors expected over 6 days

Country of Honour: Japan

Themed areas for every passion: Boats on land & in-water Display, Multihull Area, Equipment Area, Services & Tourism Area; Charter & Cruising Area (new), Heritage & Craftsmanship Area (formerly Heritage & Tradition), Fishing Area & Grand Pavois Fishing, Grand Pavois Beach (new), Event Boats Area, Boat Test Area, Country of Honour Pavilion, Eco-Boating & Sustainable Innovation Area with EDF

Royalty-free high-definition photos – Press area www.grand-pavois.com – Photos credits : O. Blanchet and JM. Rieupeyrout / GPO

More information : www.grand-pavois.com

Facebook : www.facebook.com/GrandPavois

Instagram : @grand_pavois_official

Linkedin : @GrandPavoisOrganisation

GRAND PAVOIS ORGANISATION, CREATOR AND ORGANISER OF BOATING EVENTS! !

GPO provides the boating events sector with bespoke expertise, guidance, know-how and unique experience in France and abroad. Thanks to its non-profit status, GPO enjoys a close relationship with the international boating industry and benefits from recognised expertise in nautical event management, including offshore racing, corporate events and boat show organisation.

Key references: organiser of the Grand Pavois La Rochelle International In-Water Boat Show since 1973, Nice Boating Tomorrow 2026, *Salao Náutico de Salvador com Grand Pavois* (Brazil, 2023 and 2024), «Les Nauticales» Boat Show in La Ciotat (France, 2013–2021), Shenzhen China International Boat Show (China, 2009–2011), Sponsor of the China Qinhuangdao Aranya–Westport (Grand Pavois) International Boat Show 2025, Organiser of nautical events including: Rallye des Îles du Soleil (since 2017), Défi Atlantique Guadeloupe/Horta/La Rochelle (2019, 2023 and 2027), Class40 World Championship (2010 and 2022), Transat 6.50 Charente-Maritime/Bahia – Mini Transat (France/Brazil, 2001–2011), IMOCA 60 christenings: Maître CoQ V by Yannick Bestaven (2022), Macif by François Gabart (2011), Class40 *Le Conservateur* by Yannick Bestaven (2014)...

More information: www.gpoevents.com

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