

General Manager / International Business Development Director

International experience with Startups, Expansion, Market Development & Problem Solving

Focus market: Japan / Asia / Europe

Trilingual in Japanese, English & Danish



With an upbringing in Japan, more than 40 years relation to Japan, native Japanese language, cultural & business skills, more than 20 years of business development experience, Kim Pedersen has a unique skillset and experiences understanding the Japanese & Asian markets. For a foreign capital company wishing to enter or expand on the Asian markets in record time, Kim Pedersen is one of the best candidates.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Market Entry, Sales and Market expansion
- Start-ups and Business Development
- Networking
- Marketing, Strategic Planning, Goal Setting
- Pilot Customer & Major Account Acquisition
- Problem Solving & Complaint Management
- Critical thinking, Root-Cause Analysis, Logic
- Strong interpersonal skills / conflict resolution
- Result Oriented Negotiations
- Office Administration

CAREER SUMMARY

(2017 present) Business Consultant (Europe)	Japan Expert (Present)
(2014 to 2017) Business Consultant (Europe)	Starzen Europe
(2009 to 2011) Marketing Coordinator (Japan)	The Danish Agricultural Council, Tokyo office
(2005 to 2006) Local Coordinator (Europe)	JETRO
(2003 to 2011) Director & Owner (Japan & Europe)	mx2, Japan & Denmark
(2002 to 2003) Business Develop. Manager (Japan)	NTC Dream Max Co. Ltd & Uridan A/S
(1998 to 2002) Commercial Attaché (Japan)	Royal Danish Embassy, Tokyo
(1987 to 1990) Store Manager (Denmark)	Fakta Hobro, Dagligvaregruppen, Denmark

LEADER & MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCES

- **(2014 - 2017) Starzen Europe**, The directors “right hand” assisting with all management tasks
- **(2006 - 2007) Martok ApS**, The directors “right hand” assisting with all management tasks
- **(2003 present) mx2 / mx2Denmark / Japan Expert**, Self-employed
- **(2002 - 2003) NTC Dream Max**, Business Development Manager, Torishimariyaku Bucho (leading **10** employees)
- **(1998 - 2002) Royal Danish Embassy**, Commercial (leading **1** employee)
- **(1987 - 1990) Fakta Hobro - Dagligvaregruppen**, Store manager (leading **7** employees)



KIM C. B. PEDERSEN

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE / NETWORK

- Food Industry
- Furniture / Interior
- Gift items
- Business Consulting (many different industries)
- Technical components for machineries
- Construction/Building materials
- Gardens / landscape
- Exhibition equipment
- Government / Embassies
- Many other Industries

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **Japanese**, Native spoken & written
- **Danish**, Native spoken & written
- **English**, Business level spoken & written

EDUCATION

- (1997 – 1998) **The Danish Export Institute**, International Marketing and Export Diploma
- (1994 – 1996) **Aarhus University**, Japanese Language Bachelor Degree Course (completed first 2 years)
- (1983 – 1986) **Arhus Business School**, HH (Higher Commercial Examination)
- (1974 – 1981) **Attended Kanazu Shogakko (Japanese Primary School)**

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- (2017) **Fundamentals of Management**, University of California
- (2017) **Project management**, The Basics for Success, University of California
- (2015) **Successful Negotiation**, Essential Strategies and Skills, Michigan University
- (2011) **Food Hygiene Manager**, Funabashi municipality no. 23101/2011, Japan
- (2010) **Kanji kentei 3-kyu**, Nihon Kanji Noryoku Kentei Kyokai, Japan
- (1998) **Examined Exporter**, The Danish Export Institute, Denmark

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IT

- MS Office 2.0 to 2016 (JP/DK/ENG)
- Web: HTML / CMS / HSP / CGI
- OS / Dos 5.0 to Windows 10 (JP/DK/ENG)
- Staff education
- General setup of ISP
- MS Access database development
- Adobe Illustrator
- Software installation & setup
- Hardware installation & setup
- Handling of domains

A FEW OF MY MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Market entry to Japan

- Successful market entry for Uridan
- Successful market entry for System Standex
- Successful market entry for Damptech

Export to and from Japan

- Tripling export of pork - Starzen Europe
- Japanese gardens
- Export of Japanese porcelain

CONTACT INFORMATION

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*** Business Development in Japan for European Companies ***

mx2

2003 to 2005

Founder & Director

(Periods worked for company: 11/2003 to 08/2005 – 07/2009 to 05/2011)

Launched a profitable Japan based import export company from scratch.

Introduced Danish exhibition equipment to the Japanese market.

Selected projects and accomplishments:

- **Finding and Connecting of Companies:**
 - Promoted Kataka Actuator to attract target companies in Japan to purchase Danish patent.
 - Connected Cablox Computer Cable Organizer with Yamada Denki, the biggest Japanese IT accessory retailer.
- **Market Entry Business Development:**
 - Successfully introduction of exhibition equipment from System Standex A/S to the Japanese market.
 - Outcompeted established Osaka based Japanese distributor: Leveraged “ex-Danish diplomat” image as a seal of quality. Sent products initiatively to customer to “try and see” combined with a return-at-no-cost guarantee. Leveraged first deal with largest exhibition equipment leasing company to get into the market. Offered a 14 day delivery guarantee compared to 2-month delivery by Japanese competitors.

Notable Results Delivered:

- ✓ Secured deals with Hiratsuka Lease (One of the largest exhibition equipment leasing company in Japan) and renowned companies like Otafuku Sosu and Louis Vuitton as well as universities.
- ✓ 100% customer acquisition rate with “try-and-see product” and “return-at-no-cost guarantee” strategy.
- ✓ Client satisfaction with orders led to early termination of distributorship with Japanese importer resulting in sole distributor rights.

The Danish Agricultural Council Tokyo Office

2009 to 2011

Title: Marketing Coordinator

Promoted Danish pork meat to biggest Japanese importers such as Nippon Ham, Ito Ham, Starzen, Shinshu Ham, and Shunsetsu Saburu (former Yukijirushi). Built, nurtured and leveraged strong food service industry and related media companies network.

“His unique personality made Japanese trust him from day one... He was instantly liked by everyone.”
Katsuya Itoh, Senior Marketing Manager, The Danish Agricultural Council Japan Office, 1989-2013

NTC Dream Max Co. Ltd.

2002 to 2003

Title: Business Development Manager

Logistics company with 60 employees that diversified into environmental and water-saving business. **Pioneered** the introduction of **water-free urinals** to the Japanese market. Obtained product rights from Danish manufacturer and started urinal business despite all warnings of potential failure. **Managed staff of 10** in New Business Development Division and **reported directly to the president and owner of the company.**

“There is no doubt that Kim Pedersen will be able to operate any other product forward with great success in Japan” Migita Kouji – Manager/NTC

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Selected projects and accomplishments:

- **Market Introduction and Competitors:**
Handled the introduction and business development of water-free urinals in an environment of two dominant players (TOTO and Inax) with a combined 85% market share.
- **Complaint Management**
- **Leading a team of 10 Japanese employees**

Notable Results:

- ✓ Penetrated the Japanese market in only one year with 30 agents all over Japan and with sales and installations at 3 out of 5 of the largest general constructors in Japan.
- ✓ Penetrated most of relevant markets: e.g. chain restaurants: McDonalds and Skylark; department stores: Mitsukoshi and Takashimaya, as well as major players in theme parks, railway stations, supermarkets, schools and universities (Click [here](#) for more references).
- ✓ Awarded as one of 100 companies with highest growth potential in Japan in 2003.
- ✓ Most visited booth at Hotel and restaurant show in Japan in 2003.
- ✓ Obtained references in 17 out of 47 municipalities.

Royal Danish Embassy, Tokyo

1998 to 2002

Titl: Commercial Attaché (diplomatic status)

Hired with the mission to promote Danish exports to Japan in consumer goods and building materials. Approached Danish companies to sell the embassy's market entry, market research, event management & promotion services. Searched for partner companies in Japan, arranged participation in exhibitions and facilitated networking.

"Thanks to Kim's work [...] we were able to establish contacts with major Japanese construction companies and later we got a good working relationship with and actual reference on the Japanese market, including Japan's tallest skyscraper." Dr. Imad Mualla, CTO, damptech A/S, Denmark

Selected projects and accomplishments:

- **Consultancy Bills:**
Exceeded the consultancy bills at Royal Danish Embassy by 150% from a target of 200 hours to 300 hours annually.
- **Customer Acquisition:**
Added 20 – 25 new customers annually and facilitated collaborations between 5 to 10 Danish and Japanese companies.
- **Promotion:**
Promoted major furniture brands, gift items, building materials and designer goods companies:
 - **Promoted furniture** (approximately 40 furniture manufacturers): Fritz Hansen, Fredericia Møbler ▪ PP Møbler ▪ Brdr. Andersen ▪ Carl Hansen & Søn ▪ Hammel Møbelfabrik ▪ JL Møllers Møbelfabrik ▪ Tranekær Møbler ▪ Club 8 ▪ Royal Furniture Collection ▪ Bo Concept etc.
 - **Promoted jewelry & lightings:** Louis Poulsen ▪ Pilgrim
 - **Promoted building materials:** Uridan A/S ▪ Damptech
 - **Promoted gift items:** Approximately 30 companies on regular basis and up to 30 more on "on-the-spot" basis: Royal Copenhagen ▪ Stelton ▪ JOVO and other

Business Development in Europe for Japanese Companies

Starzen Europe, Vejle, Denmark

January 2014 – April 2017

Title: Business Consultant

Starzen Europe exports pork meat from Denmark, Hungary, (Poland), Ireland, France, Portugal and other European countries mainly to Starzen's parent company in Japan. Developed and initiated business with 3 new suppliers in Europe.

Selected projects and accomplishments:

- **Denmark Office Management / Market intelligence:**
Handle all aspects of the office in Denmark, including sales, complaint handling, business development, transport documents and IT (transformation from paper based to IT based office – development of Access Database handling export documents) etc. Created a **company manual** for all tasks at the office. Source and found new suppliers in Europe and gathering of market intelligence.
- **Supplier Management:**
Visit, inspect and instruct suppliers around Europe regarding the strict Japanese quality standards and requirements.
- **Increased turnover considerably:**
Tripling the turnover in three years to 450 million DKK.

mx2Denmark

2005 to 2008

Founder & Director

Sold Japanese gardens in Denmark and Dubai. Sold Japanese porcelain to hotels and restaurants in more than 10 countries. Advising 30 to 40 different companies in various industries each year reg. the Japanese market.

Selected projects and accomplishments:

- **Major Projects / Japanese gardens:**
 - Successfully landed the largest order of creating a Japanese garden outside Japan in 2006. The size of the garden was 22.000 m2 and the scope of the project was 15 million DKK.
 - Handled additional 5 to 10 new projects annually
- **Major Projects / Japanese porcelain:**
 - Largest single project 370.000 DKK to a famous Danish restaurant (WH) in 2007.

JETRO Denmark, Copenhagen

2005-2006

Title: Coordinator

Local coordinator for a furniture project promoting 30 different Japanese manufacturers furniture and interior to the Danish market. Assigned to coordinate a furniture project which involved major players within the industry in Japan and Denmark.

Selected projects and accomplishments:

- **Project Closing:**
 - Closed down the fruitless project without anyone losing face, and with a successful result for the project itself by turning a 3 year project into 2 weeks intense sales activity.
 - Facilitated one of Japans leading furniture manufacturer, Karimoku Mokko, enter a contract with a Danish company for the Nordic market and possibility to get the rights for the European market.