

Life is Taketombo

A Bridge of Shared Values Connecting Japan and Central & Eastern Europe in ICT

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A New Beginning Brought by Stroke

At the age of 46, I suddenly collapsed from a stroke. Facing the brink of life and death shook my worldview to its core. The question I repeatedly asked myself in the hospital bed was:

” What should I devote the rest of my life to?”

Reflecting on the essence of a fulfilling life, I arrived at one answer: to harmonize three spheres of time — work, family, and self. I called this philosophy “Life is Taketombo.” Like a bamboo-copter (taketombo) that rises gracefully when its three wings are balanced, a person can also live higher and more flexibly by balancing these three aspects. Yet, just as the bamboo-copter’s flight time is brief, life too is short. That is why we must cherish each present moment. This realization transformed my way of living.

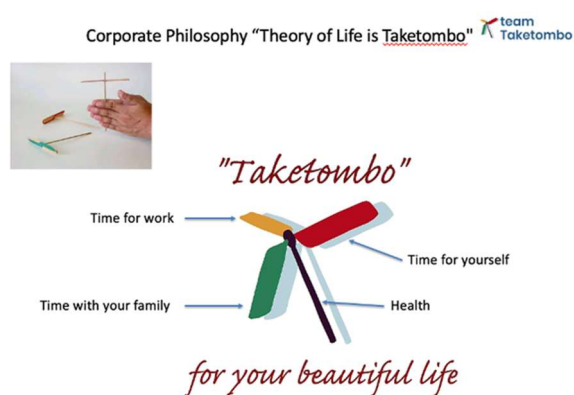


Figure 1: Concept of “Life is Taketombo”

Words from Noriaki Takayama and the Encounter with Slovenia’s XLAB¹

During my career, I came to know Noriaki Takayama, founder of OceanBridge, a pioneering software importer. When my company acquired OceanBridge, I assumed the role of leading its business.

Mr. Takayama once told me: “When speaking with a potential partner, ask yourself whether you can share joy beyond business. That is the most important thing.” These words became a guiding light for me, linking business to the way I live my life.

One of the companies Mr. Takayama discovered and collaborated with was XLAB, a student start-up based in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Their remote-control software has since grown to be adopted by over 2,500 companies in Japan, including major use cases such as Nippon



Figure 2: With Mr. Noriaki Takayama (right)² at OceanBridge³

Life's Insurance Company's remote sales operations, the country's largest life insurance provider. This success was built upon both the strength of Slovenian technology and the trust established with Japanese enterprises.



Figure 3: With Jure Pompe, Co-founder & MD of XLAB (right), in Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Affinity Between CEE (Central & East Europe) and Japan's Digital Transformation

My connection with XLAB opened the door to further exchanges with companies in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania. CEE companies combine mathematical rigor and strong ICT capabilities with hands-on experience from collaborations with major Western firms. They excel at fast decision-making and delivering high-quality results, while also offering cost competitiveness that allows them to provide globally viable solutions at reasonable prices.

These characteristics directly align with the challenges Japan faces in the so-called “2025 Digital Cliff” — the modernization of aging systems, strengthening of cybersecurity, and accelerated adoption of advanced technologies such as generative AI. For Japanese firms, CEE partners are not mere subcontractors, but co-creators of value and future vision.

Among them, one company showing particularly great potential is Wultra, a Czech cybersecurity firm⁴.

Wultra: A Leader in Post-Quantum Authentication

Wultra provides advanced authentication platforms for banks and fintech companies. Its hallmark is preparing for the so-called “Q-Day” — the near future when

quantum computers are expected to break conventional cryptography — through its innovations in Post-Quantum Authentication technologies.

Key Features

- Mobile-first authentication: PIN, biometric (Face ID/Touch ID), and one-tap approval balance convenience and security.
- Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC): Hybrid cryptography combining classical elliptic-curve cryptography (ECC) with modern, NIST-approved cryptographic standards (ML-KEM, ML-DSA), to withstand both current and future threats.
- Transaction signing: Based on the principle “What You See Is What You Sign,” dynamically linking payee and amount to prevent tampering.
- Runtime Application Self-Protection (RASP): Detects and blocks malware and unauthorized apps.
- eKYC (digital onboarding): Facial recognition with liveness detection for secure customer verification.

Track Record and Relevance to Japan

Wultra has already been deployed at major European banks, protecting over 20 million users with an average user satisfaction score of 4.7/5. In 2025, Gartner recognized Wultra in its “Hype Cycle for Digital Banking Transformation, 2025” as a sample vendor in post-quantum authentication category, which, we believe, will be a critical area for financial services.

For Japan, where financial institutions and regulators alike must prepare for quantum threats and AI-driven fraud such as deepfakes, Wultra's solutions offer timely and critical insights into the future of financial DX.



EU Business Hub: The Official Platform Connecting Europe and Japan

Efforts to systematically introduce such “hidden gems” from Europe, including CEE, to Japan are embodied in the official EU initiative, EU Business Hub⁵.

In September 2025, more than 50 European companies in green energy attended Smart Energy Week Autumn 2025 in Tokyo/Makuhari, engaging in active discussions with Japanese firms in renewable energy, battery storage, and AI-based energy management.

Looking ahead, December 2025 will see Semicon Japan 2025⁶, where a wide range of European semiconductor firms — from materials to manufacturing equipment and AI design solutions — will participate. From the standpoint of economic security, stronger EU-Japan collaboration in semiconductors is vital, with great potential for new innovations.

I have been present on the ground at these EU Business Hub missions, serving as a bridge between European start-ups and Japanese enterprises. What unites CEE and European companies is their sincerity and their willingness to grow together — values that I believe are indispensable for building true partnerships with Japanese firms. The EU Business Hub continues to bring these “diamonds in the rough” companies to Japan, offering opportunities that Japanese firms cannot afford to miss.



Team Taketombo and Life is Taketombo

To embody these ideas, I founded teamTaketombo Inc. Our mission is to connect Japan and Central & Eastern Europe, creating new value from relationships built on trust.

At its core lies the philosophy of **Life is Taketombo**. Just as a bamboo-copter flies on three balanced blades, life soars when the three axes of work, family, and personal time are harmonized — with health as the indispensable foundation. My stroke taught me that health is the very axis of life itself.

This balance is never easy; depending on life's phase, imbalance is inevitable. Yet by keeping the ideal in mind, we naturally move closer to harmony. I believe

every person has the right to pursue this balance, and society should be one where mutual respect makes that pursuit possible. And just as the bamboo-copter's flight is short, so too is life. Thus, whom we meet and what we build together in our limited time ultimately defines how we live.

Toward the Future

In an age of rapid AI advancement and growing global fragmentation, building international collaboration on a foundation of trust is more vital than ever. The shared spirit of Central & Eastern Europe and Japan makes this possible.

Looking back, I now realize that my journey continues the mission of my father, Yoshiaki Nakada⁷, who worked tirelessly to build trust between Japan and the Philippines in the chaotic postwar years. His legacy lives on in me.

Life, like the flight of a bamboo-copter, is short. That is why it matters whom we meet, what values we share, and what we build together. With “Life is Taketombo” as my guiding philosophy, I will continue to believe in and work toward a future where Japan and Central & Eastern Europe fly high together.

1. The official website of XLAB: <https://xlab.si/>
2. The blog of Mr. Takayama
<https://www.oceanbridge.jp/taka/>
3. The official website of OceanBridge Inc.
<https://www.oceanbridge.jp/>
4. The official website of Wultra: <https://www.wultra.com/>
5. The official website of the EU Business Hub
<https://japan.eubusinesshub.eu/ja>
6. Event Details: EU Business Hub at SEMICON Japan 2025
<https://japan.eubusinesshub.eu/ja/missions-catalogue/eu-business-hub-semicon-japan-2025>
7. Reference: “BC-Class War Criminals – The Christian Yoshiaki Nakada and Propaganda Work” by Kaihei Oshio (Word of Life Press).

