

EU-Japan Joint Webinar on Business and Human Rights ~ Towards building a more resilient supply chain ~

Co-organized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry / Delegation of the European Union to Japan / EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

There is growing interest in respecting human rights considerations in business activities. In February 2022, the European Commission adopted proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, aiming to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behavior, and to prevent negative human rights and environmental impacts in the global supply chains. The new rules will apply initially only to EU companies with certain turnover in few sectors, as well as to certain non-EU companies due to their operations taking place in the EU.

In Japan, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has taken the lead in formulating cross-industry guidelines on human rights due diligence. METI has also been working on promoting international cooperation to enhance predictability for businesses and to create an enabling environment where businesses can actively engage in efforts to respect human rights on a level playing field.

As an example of concrete collaboration between the EU and Japan, this webinar will introduce EU and Japanese policies on business and human rights; industry initiatives and other efforts to deepen mutual understanding and explore the possibility of further advanced future cooperation between the EU and Japan.

1. Date and time: Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 16:00-17:40 Tokyo JST / 9:00-10:40 Brussels CET
2. Languages: English and Japanese (with simultaneous interpretation)
3. Program: As next page
4. Participation fee: Free
5. Registration: This webinar will be held online. Please click the following ZOOM link to register for participation. [ZOOM registration link](#)
6. Q & A:

Any questions during the webinar will be welcomed at the Q & A box from your PC etc.. Questions in advance are also welcome and please fill in the question / comment column when registering for ZOOM.

Program

* The closing time may be extended depending on the Q & A / discussion.

16:00 Opening

- MC & Moderator: **Yasuo Tanabe**, Managing Director, [EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation](#)

16: 00-16: 05 (9: 00-9: 05) Opening Remarks

- **Kyoko Kashiwabara**, Deputy Director-General for Business and Human Rights Policy, [METI](#)
- **Ulrich Weigl**, the Head of Unit of Bilateral Relations in Trade and Sustainable Development in [DG TRADE, European Commission](#)

16: 05-16: 45 (9: 05-9: 45) Session 1 EU presentation

- **Alexandra Kuxova**, Policy Officer. [DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Unit G.2, DG GROW, European Commission](#) (20min)
- **Miriam Geelhoed**, Senior Consultant, [MODINT](#) (Dutch Trade Association for Fashion, Interior Design, Carpets and Textiles) (10min)
- **Anke Ehlers**, Managing Director Corporate Responsibility for the [ALDI SOUTH Group](#) (10min)

16: 45-17: 20 (9: 45-10: 20) Session 2 Japanese presentation

- **Ken Toyoda**, Director, Business and Human Rights Policy Office, [METI](#) (15min)
- **Kenichi Tomiyoshi**, Executive Vice President, [Japan Textile Federation](#) (10min)
- **Mitsu Shippee**, Senior General Manager, [Sustainability Dept. Sony Group Corporation](#) (10min)

17: 20-17: 40 (10: 20-10: 40) Q & A / Discussion