EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation
一般財団法人 日欧産業協力センター

EU-Japan Digital Partnership Seminar
Towards a New Dimension of EU-Japan Digital Partnership

Wednesday 15 October 2025 17:00-18:30

Co-hosted by Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association and EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

<Summary>

Opening remarks:

Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Japan

・The Japan-EU Digital Partnership is progressing smoothly, and Japan-EU Summit in July once again underscored its significance. Both Japan and the EU are seeking to strengthen their respective economic security.

・Industries in Japan and the EU are actively working on infrastructure such as AI and 5G/6G. In addition, Japan and the EU aim to develop digital services within a common market under the DFFT framework, while ensuring the protection of personal data and other sensitive information.

Presentations:

Mitsuru Ikeda, Director in charge of EU-Japan Digital Partnership, Digital Agency

・While digital technologies become widespread in society and the economy, they are also greatly influenced by values such as democracy and the rule of law. We wish to enjoy the benefits of digitalization on a human-centric basis.

・The Japan–EU Digital Partnership, first proposed in September 2021 when Japan's Digital Agency was launched, was agreed upon by both leaders in May 2022. A recommendation issued in March of the same year by industry groups—such as DIGITAL EUROPE, JBCE, and JEITA—also served as a catalyst.

・On the Japanese side, the Digital Agency, METI, and MIC participate, while on the EU side the European Commission takes part. Ministerial-level meetings were held in July 2023, April 2024, and May 2025.

・The Japan–EU Digital Partnership is characterized by its inclusiveness and agility, and it has begun presenting practical cooperation models in areas such as semiconductors, submarine cables, and digital identities. Specific actions are emerging, including interoperability testing between Catena-X and the Ouranos Ecosystem, the OECD reporting framework stemming from the Hiroshima AI Process, and joint research and development on 6G and quantum technologies.

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・To enhance investment predictability, we will continue shaping a shared vision, and active involvement from industry will be essential.

Olivier Bringer, Head of Unit for International Affairs and Policy Outreach, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission（participated online）

・EU's international digital strategy is built around technological competitiveness, security, and global digital governance and standardization.

・At this year's Ministerial and Summit Meetings under the Japan–EU Digital Partnership, the two sides highlighted joint R&D on 6G and quantum technologies in the areas of competitiveness and innovation; cooperation on the Arctic, cybersecurity, and semiconductor supply-chain resilience in the field of economic security; and, in global digital governance, AI safety, interoperability of digital identities and data spaces, and the online platform market.

・Moving into a new phase, we aim to strengthen visible, results-oriented projects, innovation cooperation, and engagement with industrial stakeholders. Key topics include technologies under Horizon Europe and other programs; robotics and other fields under AI innovation cooperation; and mutual trust frameworks for interoperability in digital identities and data spaces.

・Going forward, Cyber Week will be held in Tokyo in November; in March next year, dialogues with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and METI as well as Digital Week will take place in Tokyo; and the fourth ministerial meeting will be held in Brussels in May next year.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General, DIGITALEUROPE

・More than 4,000–5,000 companies from Europe, Japan, the United States, and other regions participate in DIGITAL EUROPE, making it a global organization.

・As part of mapping critical technologies, we compared the United States, China, Europe, and Japan. The results showed that the speed of innovation has accelerated, that strong partners are essential, and that security—such as secure 5G/6G and submarine cables—is indispensable.

・DIGITAL EUROPE issued a declaration on "AI and Critical Technologies" calling for stronger European competitiveness and security, signed by the heads of 16 EU companies and 25 related national organizations.

・We will continue to contribute strategically in the areas of AI, cybersecurity, security, sustainability, and standardization.

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Sebastiano Toffaletti, Secretary General, European Digital SME Alliance

・More than 4,000–5,000 companies participate in the European Digital SME Alliance. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of Europe.

・The challenges shared by Japan and the EU have global roots, and we aim to address them on the basis of fair competition.

- High dependence on foreign digital technologies
- High dependence on U.S. providers in the cloud market
- Semiconductor manufacturing market share: EU at 10%, Japan below 10%.

・The United States is making massive investments, leveraging economies of scale, and often achieving monopoly positions where only one player wins.

・U.S. technology foreign policy initiatives include:

- U.S. AI Action Plan (“America Stack”)
- EU-U.S. trade agreement: resulted in a commitment to purchase USD 40 billion worth of NVIDIA AI chips

・To curb overdependence on foreign technologies, we need to create technological options and secure technological sovereignty. The EU has realized that regulation alone cannot reduce dependence, and is therefore building public digital infrastructure through public–private partnerships.

- €200 billion “AI Continental Strategy” (EU)
- Semiconductor AI Initiative (Japan, METI)

Marco Canton, Senior European Affairs Executive, Fujitsu Ltd.／Chair of Digital Innovation Committee, JBCE

・Japan-EU trade has increased since the conclusion of the Japan-EU EPA in 2019: goods by 14% and services by 27%.

・Pillars of the Japan-EU Partnership:

- Competitiveness Alliance
- Digital Partnership
- Green Alliance
- Mutual recognition of adequacy for personal data
- Agreement on non-personal data flows
- Security Partnerships

・Strengthening the Japan-EU Digital Partnership is a strategic necessity. Key ideas include:

- Making both regions the world’s largest data-flow areas while ensuring trust

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- Arrangements between Japan's AI Safety Institute and its EU counterparts
- Cooperation on general-purpose AI and AI agents
- AI pilot projects
- Mutual recognition in areas such as cybersecurity
- Next-generation development of space-based satellite networks
- Horizon Europe and Japan

Panel discussion:

Moderator: Professor Naoto Ikegai, Department of Business Law, Graduate School of Law, Hitotsubashi University

・I have been doing research on global digital legal systems and have provided policy recommendations in Japanese councils and study groups. While specific Japan-EU policies differ, Japan—having closely followed the EU's GDPR, DSA, DMA, AI Act, Data Act, and DGA—has been influenced by the "Brussels Effect."

・The Japan–EU Digital Partnership is not well known, yet it is a highly important framework for building a shared market through policy and business cooperation.

Moderator raised the following topics, and concluded as the last two white points.

- Japan-EU Digital Partnership: current assessment, achievements, and challenges
- Initiatives making use of AI, IoT/6G, quantum technologies, and their impact on the Digital Partnership
- Regulatory cooperation in the digital field
- Future prospects for the Japan–EU Digital Partnership

○ Shifting from Brussels Effect to an era of mutual learning: how can Japan share its experience with Europe?

○ It is essential to advance the practical implementation of the Japan-EU Digital Partnership.

Closing remarks:

Yuko Shigyo, Director, Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association

・Japan-EU digital cooperation, grounded in trust, transparency, and human-centric values, will strengthen competitiveness and innovation in advanced fields such as AI and quantum technologies.

・Addressing challenges such as cyber threats and open, secure data flows requires indispensable international public–private collaboration.

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・This year's theme of CEATEC, which we host— *"Innovation for All"*—reflects the idea of creating innovation that transcends borders and industries and delivers benefits to everyone.

~End~

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