

Building a ‘Bridge’ between the Asia Pacific and the EU

- The Strategic Significance of the EU-Japan FTA/EPA -

Date: Wednesday February 10, 2016, 14h30 -17h00

Venue: Amphitheatre of Business France 77, Boulevard Saint-Jacques 75014 Paris

This event is aimed at providing opportunities for stakeholders to understand the situation of the dynamic trade policy in the Asia Pacific and the EU, share the importance of establishing comprehensive and consistent economic trade rules globally, and the strategic significance of an early and ambitious outcome of the EU-Japan FTA/EPA negotiations.

Recently, regional trade agreements (RTAs) have become increasingly prevalent as well as plurilaterals among like-minded countries (e.g. the ITA) in trade and investment rule-making. Last October, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was sealed as the largest regional trade accord in history. What is more, this deal will set new and high standards as a platform for economic growth in the Asia Pacific, including in its emerging economies. The fruits will be shared with European businesses penetrating the market.

Currently, the Asia-Pacific region can be regarded as the driving power for the world’s economic growth. To take advantage of its vigorous growth power, the EU is now actively engaging in trade deals with Asia-Pacific countries such as Vietnam, Singapore, and Canada and has launched (the TTIP) trade negotiations with the United States.

Under such circumstances, linking the two big economic areas of the EU and the Asia-Pacific region is an urgent issue for creating a seamless business environment with comprehensive and consistent rules applied globally. Such work is of crucial importance for the SMEs exploring new gateways for future business opportunity overseas.

In this context, the EU-Japan FTA/EPA is more important than ever, as it will constitute the ‘economic bridge’. The future agreement will provide further economic growth through advanced economic rules for both the Asia Pacific and the EU besides enhancing trade and investment. However, in spite of its strategic value, the negotiations have encountered stumbling blocks as they have entering the final stretch.

To help the negotiations transcend the current difficulties, this event will promote open and transparent dialogue, drumming up support for an early and ambitious outcome.



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation
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JETRO
Japan External Trade Organization

Agenda

- 14:00-14:30 Registration
- 14:30-14:35 Welcome remarks
Mr. Akio IKEMORI, Director General, JETRO Paris
- 14:35-15:35 Keynote speech
- Mr. Takayuki UEDA,
Vice-Minister for International Affairs,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan (METI)
- Mr. Marco CHIRULLO, Deputy Chief Negotiator of EU-Japan FTA/EPA
DG Trade, European Commission
- Mr. Ken ASH, Director of Trade & Agriculture, OECD
- Prof. Patrick MESSERLIN, SCIENCES PO PARIS (IEP)
- Mr. Antoine D'ESPOUS, Vice President, The French Federation of
Industrial Deli Meat Producers, Delicatessens and Meat Processors
(FICT)
- 15:35-15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45-16:45 Round table
Moderator : Dr Françoise NICOLAS (IFRI)
Director of Centre for Asian Studies,
Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI)
- 16:45-16:55 Q and A session
- 16:55-17:00 Closing remarks
Ms Aiko HIGUCHI, Director, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

Simultaneous translation English-French-Japanese