



## THE EU-JAPAN BRT MEETS FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> TIME

On 7 November, the EU-Japan Business Round Table (or “BRT”) held its 25th annual meeting. The European Commission marked this milestone by hosting the meeting in its Berlaymont headquarters and by having Věra Jourová, Vice-President for Values & Transparency deliver the keynote address and receive the BRT’s 2023 recommendations on behalf of the Commission.



Since its inaugural meeting in October 1999, the BRT annual meeting has brought together business leaders from the EU and Japan (the BRT’s official ‘principal members’) and senior representatives of the EU and Japanese Authorities to discuss and exchange on issues of common interest and concern, and for the BRT principal members to adopt practical recommendations to the EU and Japanese Authorities on ways to support official EU-Japan dialogues or to help develop trade and investment between the EU and Japan or together in third markets.

Indeed, as a 1999 Commission press release noted, the BRT, “has been set up as a forum for discussion and exchange of experiences in order to foster better understanding between the two sides and to enhance business cooperation projects. The Roundtable will discuss changes in the business environment, including the prospects for the European and Japanese economies in the wake of the recent crisis. Participants will address potential governmental measures, within the context of an increasingly open inter-continental trade and business background, and the development of the information society, in particular electronic commerce.”

This year, in addition to the keynote session, reports by working parties and ‘Joint Session with the EU and Japanese Authorities’, the BRT addressed four topics: ‘Economic Security & Supply Chains’; ‘Green



From left: Mr. Nobuhiro Endo, Mrs. Věra Jourová, Mr. Nikolaus Boltze

Transition’; ‘Standardisation & regulatory harmonisation, R&D and skills’; and ‘Digital & AI’. This year, the BRT adopted 39 recommendations from both sides of the BRT to both the EU and Japanese Authorities, 10 recommendations from both sides of the BRT to just one Authority, 16 EU-side recommendations to one or both Authorities and 3 Japan-side recommendations to one or both Authorities.

In addition to Commission VP Jourová, other senior Authority participants included: Kiyoto Tsuji, State Minister for Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Nobuhiro Yoshida, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI); Kerstin Jorna, Director-General, DG GROW; Maria Martin-Prat, Deputy Director-General, DG TRADE and MIC’s Yoshikazu Okamoto, Deputy Director-General for International Economic Affairs, Global Strategy Bureau.

The 2023 annual meeting was co-chaired by Philippe Wahl (Chairman & CEO, La Poste Groupe for the last time) and Nobuhiro Endo (Executive Advisor, NEC Corporation for the first time) with Nikolaus Boltze (Country Representative Japan, thyssenkrupp AG) moderating some sessions. Although it was a hybrid meeting, most participants joined the meeting on-site in Brussels, although some joined it online from Japan and France. During the meeting, Mr Wahl announced that Belén Garijo (Chair of the Executive Board & CEO, Merck) would succeed him as the BRT’s EU-side Chair. During her acceptance speech, Ms Garijo underscored the importance of EU-Japan collaboration in times of growing uncertainty.



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In its 2023 Joint Recommendations statement entitled, 'The EU & Japan – partnering on economic security for sustainable growth' the BRT included recommendations and pledges on economic security, green transition, digital, standardisation and other areas. Moreover, it congratulated the EU and Japanese Authorities for having reached an agreement on EU-Japan data flows, seeing the agreement as vital for companies that depend on free data flows between our two regions.



Mrs. Belén Garijo,  
Chair of the Executive Board & CEO, Merck



Mr. Philippe Wahl,  
Chairman & CEO, La Poste Groupe

The Statement concluded with the BRT reiterating the importance of shared values such as human rights, the rule of law, democracy and fundamental freedoms, and that ensuring a rules-based international order and multilateralism is essential; and calling on the EU and Japan to strengthen ties with like-minded countries and to operationalise the EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership in order to bring lasting benefits and create sustainable growth in partner countries.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/brt/annual-meeting-2023>

## BIG SUCCESS FOR THE EU-JAPAN CENTRE'S CBAM SEMINAR IN TOKYO

On 13 November, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, together with the Delegation of the EU to Japan and the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), held a seminar on "EU CBAM and its implication for Japanese companies" in a hybrid format.



Mr. Gerassimo Thomas, Director General,  
DG TAXUD, European Commission



Mr. Yojiro Hatakeyama,  
Director General, ISTEP Bureau, METI

The event took place in the context of the 28th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP28) to stimulate discussion on policies to mitigate climate change. The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) was introduced by the European Commission as a carbon leakage countermeasure, to ensure effectiveness of EU climate policy and to contribute to the objective of decarbonization globally and reaching the climate neutrality by 2050 in the EU. As part of its efforts to dialogue with partner countries and exchange with third-country operators that will be subject to CBAM, a dedicated seminar was organized at

the EU Delegation on the occasion of the visit to Tokyo by European Commission DG TAXUD Director General Gerassimo Thomas and his team. The seminar was very well attended by Japanese companies: 740 participants attended the event onsite or online (1060 registered). The seminar featured interventions by Ambassador of the EU to Japan, Mr. Paquet, Mr. Thomas, Director General, DG TAXUD and Mr. Hatakeyama, Director General, ISTEP Bureau, METI. Mr. Boubilil (TAXUD), Mr. Ono (JISF) and Ms. Yanagi (IEEJ) took part in a panel discussion led by Mr. Tanabe, Japan-side Managing Director of the Centre.

Many questions were addressed to the European Commission about the consistency of CBAM with the WTO, handling of the ETS free quota, possibility of expanding the range of items for CBAM, confidentiality issues of EU importing companies, establishment of a CBAM certification body, etc. The materials and recording of the event can be found on the Centre's website address here:

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/eu-cbam-carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism-and-its-implication-japanese-companies>

For further information and updates about CBAM, visit the following page:

➔ [https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism\\_en](https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism_en)

## VULCANUS IN EUROPE 2023-24 SESSION: MID-TERM MEETING IN BRUSSELS

The 'Vulcanus in Europe' programme offers EU companies an opportunity to host Japanese S&T university students as interns in R&D for a 6/7-month period.



By taking part in the Vulcanus in Europe programme, the host company has a chance to gain a valuable addition to its R&D team, a person who can bring in a Japanese perspective and make contribution to the company's R&D projects and needs. Vulcanus interns can also assist the company in the development of its business and contact with Japan.

Vulcanus in Europe 2025 - 2026: Next recruitment for host companies will be launched in May 2024

On 20 October 2023, the EU-Japan Centre organised the 'Mid-Term Meeting' for the Vulcanus in Europe 2023-24 session. On this occasion, 22 Vulcanus students who have been carrying out internships at their European host companies gathered in Brussels.

Prior to the internship at companies, each student completed a 4-month language training course in their respective host countries.

The purpose of the meeting was for each student to reflect on their experience in Europe so far by presenting the projects they are currently involved in at their host companies and to learn from each other. The meeting was also joined by Mr. Koichi Sato, Counsellor at the Mission of Japan to the EU. The students will continue with their internships until mid-March 2024. The EU-Japan Centre would like to thank our European host companies for all the support and supervision they are providing to our students. Domo Arigato Gozaimasu!

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-europe>

## VULCANUS IN JAPAN 2023-24 SESSION: STUDENTS AND NAGANUMA JAPANESE SCHOOL

"End of School Reporting Ceremony" on 15 December

In just a few days, the 16 Vulcanus students of session 2023/24 will complete the first part of the programme, consisting of seminars about Japan and a Japanese language course. The "End of school Reporting Ceremony" will take place on the 15 December, at the Naganuma school premises, in Tokyo. Students will give presentations in Japanese, proving the linguistic skills acquired with the intensive course that they have been attending since September. The photo is from the seminar on Japanese politics, lectured by



Dr. Malitz from the German Institute for Japanese Studies. In early January, the students will be dispatched to the various host companies located all over Japan, to start their internship period ending in August.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-japan>



### NEWSLETTER SURVEY

The EU-Japan Centre invites you to fill in a quick survey about your experience with us. Give feedback and help us improve the EU-Japan Centre's quarterly flagship newsletter!

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/form/newsletter-survey>

## HIGH-LEVEL EVENT - FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU-JAPAN BUSINESS COOPERATION IN AFRICA

The EU-Japan Centre successfully co-organised a hybrid event on 19 October 2023 with the Delegation of the European Union to Japan and the EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership Programme. Over 100 participants joined the event either onsite or online.



The objective was to explore how EU and Japanese financing instruments can be used to support the private sector's initiatives in Africa. The event mainly covered three business areas - energy, transport and critical raw materials - which are key for EU-Japan cooperation with African partners. The event started with the presentation of a practical guide prepared by the EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership Programme. The document aims at providing an overview of EU and Japanese financing opportunities available to the private sector for projects related to connectivity. The event continued with presentations from financing organisations about financing instruments that could support EU-Japan business cooperation in and with Africa.

On the Japanese side, the event hosted speakers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). On the EU side, speakers from the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) were present.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) also presented its instruments and a few projects in Africa involving EU and Japanese companies that benefitted from these instruments.

The event showcased several existing success stories between EU and Japanese companies in Africa and with African partners. The French company EDF presented its own energy projects in Africa and the Middle East with Japanese companies such as Mitsui & Co. and Kyushu Electric Power. The EU-Japan Centre provided additional examples of EU-Japan projects in Africa in the fields of transport infrastructure and energy.

Finally, during the second part of the event, the EU-Japan Centre organised a matchmaking session for onsite participants. In total, 10 meetings were arranged between companies and financing organisations such as JICA, JBIC, JOGMEC and EIB.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/financing-opportunities-eu-japan-business-cooperation-africa>

## NEW LIST OF CASE STUDIES OF EU-JAPAN BUSINESS COOPERATION IN AFRICA

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation recently published a list of 18 projects between EU and Japanese companies taking place in Africa.



Through these case studies, the EU-Japan Centre aims to encourage EU and Japanese companies to consider collaboration in Africa, and with African partners, where many business opportunities remain untapped.

These projects show that EU and Japanese companies can complement each other in these markets. For example, EU companies are often well-established and well-connected in the region. They can be the entry door to a local tender or local partners for Japanese companies. On the other hand, while Japanese trading houses (sogo shosha) are present in

the continent and can be good partners for large-scale projects, smaller Japanese companies with innovative and affordable technologies can also be highly relevant partners in Africa.

Whether it is the knowledge of the local language, standards and culture or more technical aspects such as project management, engineering capacity or financing, EU and Japanese companies can leverage their own strength for successful joint projects with local partners. The EU-Japan Centre compiled this list of case studies by monitoring EU and Japanese companies' activities in Africa

and by interviewing some of the companies involved in the projects. The EU-Japan Centre did not contribute to the realisation of these projects, but it aims at promoting best practices and at providing a deeper understanding of these types of partnerships. For a quick overview of all the case studies identified, check **our mapping** which shows EU-Japan projects in Africa and Southeast Asia.

For more information about these case studies, please contact the EU-Japan Centre at: [EJ3A@eu-japan.or.jp](mailto:EJ3A@eu-japan.or.jp)

➔ [https://www.eu-japan.eu/sites/default/files/imce/EJP3A/Case\\_studies\\_EU\\_Japan\\_Africa\\_business\\_cooperation.pdf](https://www.eu-japan.eu/sites/default/files/imce/EJP3A/Case_studies_EU_Japan_Africa_business_cooperation.pdf)

## BIOTECH MISSION TO JAPAN

This year again, the EU-Japan Centre organised a business mission for SMEs and Cluster representatives in the Life Sciences field. Nine SMEs and one Cluster took part in the four-day mission from 10-13 October, which consisted of participation in the one-day EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Conference in Osaka and three days of partnering and joint exhibition at BioJapan in Yokohama.

The EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Conference (<https://bio-pharma-osaka-2023.b2match.io>) is a partnering event jointly organised by the EU-Japan Centre and the Osaka Prefectural Government. It is supported by various Japanese and European clusters as well as EU Member States embassies and trade promotion organisations. Offered free of charge to all EU and Japanese biotech and pharmaceutical companies, it has become a must-attend event for most companies travelling to Japan at this time of year. This year, more than 130 participants attended the event in Osaka on 10 October, which included a pitching luncheon and poster session in addition to partnering. In total the event generated 221 meetings of which 82 online ones were already scheduled in the last week of September.

BioJapan (<https://jcd-expo.jp/en>), Asia's largest bio-partnering event, was bigger than ever, with many national pavilions returning after the Pandemic. At the EU-Japan Centre stand, each mission participant was represented with a small display and poster stand. Information material about the participating SMEs and the Cluster was provided by the EU-Japan Centre in Japanese, and interpreters helped with communication at the stand. Most participants also had a busy schedule full of 1:1 meetings and spent much of their time in the dedicated partnering area in the exhibition hall. BioJapan evening events provided additional opportunities for informal networking. In total the participants had 144 meetings with potential partners during the whole mission.



By **MARJO PUUMALAINEN**, International Director, SwedenBIO → <https://swedenbio.se>

### What was the purpose of SwedenBIO's participation?

*"I have experienced that large pharmaceutical companies in Asia have a strong appetite for innovative drug discovery projects but have challenges in finding small Swedish biotech companies. Given that SwedenBIO has recently published the Swedish drug discovery and development pipeline report 2023 (<https://swedenbio.se/information-in-english/reports>), mapping Swedish drug discovery and development projects, we have a great opportunity to present the Swedish pipeline to Japanese pharmaceutical scouts and invite them to Nordic Life Science Days (<https://www.nlsdays.com>) to meet Swedish companies."*

### What is your experience from the mission?

*"The application for the EU-Japan mission was straightforward and the visit itself well organized. The translation of our material to Japanese and the translators at the booth were great for increased visibility. I would recommend the mission, especially for first-time comers; it's an easy way to attend BioJapan and to get support to connect with local actors."*

### How was the interest towards Swedish life science companies?

*"Swedish biotech companies are poorly known in Japan, but it's well known that Sweden is an innovative country with untapped business opportunities. I had several partnering meetings where companies showed a strong interest in learning about Swedish companies and our*

*life science ecosystem. Japanese pharma scouts highly appreciated the detailed list of Swedish drug discovery projects, and I'm continuously working on connecting interested parties. The aim for the future is to continue building bridges between Japan and Sweden, organize a Japanese delegation to Nordic Life Science Days and use our local connections to support our members in expanding their business in the east."*

## WCM NOVEMBER 2023 TRAINING MISSION

The World Class Manufacturing November 2023 mission organized by the EU-Japan Centre hosted 25 companies from 12 Member States, out of which 15 were SMEs.

The 1-week training mission provided five lectures on Japanese manufacturing methods, four plant visits and one workshop. In addition, a discussion session titled "Back-of-the-Bus University" was moderated by Prof. Richard Keegan who is an advisor to the mission. At the end of the packed week, participants discussed and exchanged ideas on how the principles and practical methods gained from the training can be used in their daily work. Since its first edition in 1992, the EU-Japan Centre's WCM training programme hosted over 1000 executives with the aim of boosting EU manufacturing competitiveness. The next WCM mission will be organized from 11 to 15 March 2024 in Japan.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/world-class-manufacturing>

*"I have learned that implementing Kaizen is not about the tools, but all about the people. The tool must be modified to fit your own company business, and the methods involving all employees of the company should be the focus. If you create the mindset to continuously improve, you will create a team where the team members motivate each other. If you already have some notion of the different tools, this mission will be a real eye opener on how to implement this philosophy."*

By **STIJN DE CONINCK**, Project Manager, Vandewiele  
<http://www.vandewiele.com>



*"The WCM training is the most important accelerator for continuous improvement I ever experienced. Thanks to it, it is possible to understand that Japanese are people like any other in the world, but they also achieve excellence in defining standards, following them with discipline and (most importantly) putting the person first. During the mission it is possible to feel all these points, to learn them as to be ready to "import" back to Europe."*

By **LUCA RIGAZZI**, CEO, Graziadio,  
<https://www.graziadio.it/en>

## LAST TWO LEAN VISITS – TO SEE PROCESS INNOVATION IN AUSTRIA AND TOYOTA IN FRANCE

Lean in Europe looks at how EU companies use 'Japanese' production methods to drive their activities.

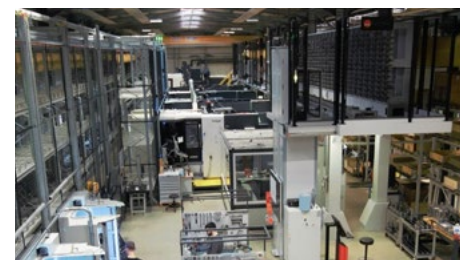


On 8 December, RATIONAL AG hosted 12 participants from a range of sectors who learnt how Germany's Factory of the Year uses 6S, kanban and one person/one unit to produce multifunctional appliances used in professional kitchens and has a strong apprenticeship programme to train and retain future leaders. In 2022, the company's 2,000 employees implemented 7,838 improvement ideas.

Just two more Lean in Europe visits will be organised:

- to Kostwein Maschinenbau GmbH on 6 February – Kostwein is a family-owned

and led business with a 100-year history of innovation. Today it operates in Europe, the USA and the Indian sub-continent, all led from Klagenfurt in Austria. The company has focused relentlessly on building the capability and capacity of its full team to realise clients' machine concepts into fully operational equipment, in class leading delivery times. This Lean in Europe visit will focus on trying to learn how the Kostwein leadership team are working to develop their people and processes to be ready for the next generation of product, process and opportunities.



- to Toyota Motor Manufacturing France on 6 March – During the final visit, participants will go to Toyota – the origin of many of these Japanese principles.

During the visit, participants will learn how TMMF in Valenciennes uses principles such as just-in-time and Jidoka to drive its daily production of 1,250 Yaris or Yaris Crosses, and will go to the Gemba, learn about the Obeya room, discuss digitalisation deployment and future challenges. Places are limited.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/lean-visits-europe>

## JAPAN MARKET ACCESS WORKSHOPS

In its ongoing efforts to help European SMEs access the Japanese market, the EU-Japan Centre has been organizing various market access workshops on a regular basis since 2015 to explain the specificities of doing business in Japan, with a focus on cultural aspects and certain industrial sectors.

Three online workshops organized since October gathered a total of 78 participants and were co-organized with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (on Japan ICT sector), Kosice Regional Chamber at the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the ADMANTEX2i Consortium of clusters (on Japan business cultural aspects) respectively.

Interested in organizing an on-site or online workshop? Please contact Ms Ana Horvatin at: [workshops@eu-japan.eu](mailto:workshops@eu-japan.eu)

*"The content of the webinar was not only insightful but also presented in a manner that was easy to comprehend, even for those with limited prior knowledge of the Japanese market. The speaker demonstrated a profound understanding of the subject matter, providing valuable perspectives and practical insights that will undoubtedly prove invaluable. We particularly appreciated the emphasis on cultural considerations and relationship-building, which are often underestimated aspects of entering a new market."* About their motivation to organize this workshop: *"It has been fueled by the growing interest in the region*



*from our stakeholders, as well as our moral duty and obligation to share general and trade-related knowledge about Japan and other Asian markets. One of the key motivations is also the upcoming World Expo in Osaka, in which the Slovak Republic is going to participate. As a professional organization with a heritage exceeding 170 years, we have the responsibility to support our region and country on the mission to represent us in the best manner possible."*

By Mr. **JURAJ SEMAN**, Advisor for Foreign Affairs and Protocol, Kosice Regional Chamber



## "ABOUT JAPAN" REPORTS AND WEBINARS

The following reports and forthcoming webinars have been planned within the frame of the Centre's EU Business in Japan support.

The EU Business in Japan content provides practical information for European Union businesses in need of clear guidelines to trade with or invest in Japan or cooperate with Japanese partners. More than 400 reports and recorded webinars are already available. Please note that these pages have restricted access content only available to registered members.

### LATEST PUBLISHED REPORTS

#### Market Situation and Potentials in Japan for Plastic Recycling Technologies

This report is addressed to mainly small and medium-sized companies in Europe who offer innovative technology in the plastics recycling sector. It presents a comprehensive overview of the Japanese plastics recycling market including current trends, drivers as well as business potentials and challenges for European companies seeking to develop or strengthen their positions in the Japanese market.

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/library/publication/report-market-situation-and-potentials-japan-plastic-recycling-technologies>

#### The Log House Market in Japan

The present work is a snapshot of the position that log houses occupy in the Japanese housing market and the opportunities that European SMEs related to this sector can encounter in it.

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/library/publication/report-log-house-market-japan>



#### The Newspace Market in Japan

This study aims to evaluate the present challenges and prospects encountered by Japanese space organizations and identify areas where European players can contribute significantly. It will furnish instances of how Japanese companies are presently tackling these challenges, considering both economic and regulatory aspects.

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/library/publication/report-newspace-market-japan>

### FORTHCOMING WEBINARS (AND RELATED REPORT):

- 'About Japan' webinar 224: Market Situation and Potentials in Japan for Technologies for Solid Biomass Utilization, 06 February 2024
- 'About Japan' webinar 225: Japanese Business Culture - Techniques for effective virtual communication with Japanese partners, 13 February 2024
- 'About Japan' webinar series 226: Baby Goods in Japan, 27 February 2024
- 'About Japan' webinar 227: Mandatory regulations for electronics products in Japan, 12 March 2024

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events>



## INTERVIEW SERIES: THE PEOPLE BEHIND EU-JAPAN COOPERATION

EU-Japan cooperation takes many forms. Time and time again, we read news reports about agreements signed between the EU, or its Member States, and Japan, about trade missions and cultural events, about joint innovation and dialogue. But the question remains: Who are the people behind these efforts? What is their story and how did they become involved in developing international cooperation?

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation is happy to introduce the third installation of this series with the interview of Mrs. **ANNA-MARIA WILJANEN**, Director, Finnish Institute in Japan (<https://www.finstitute.jp>) and one of the vice-presidents of the Board of Directors of the Finnish Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (<https://fcc.or.jp>).



**Q: You are currently the acting Director of the Finnish Institute in Japan, and you sit at the Board of Directors of the**

**Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Japan. Could you tell us about the missions of these organizations?**

*Anna-Maria: Finnish Institute in Japan was founded exactly 25 years ago, and the main task has remained the same - to establish, develop and strengthen the ties between Finland and Japan when it comes to science, culture and higher education. Regarding my position at the Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Japan, I was offered to be part of the Board soon after arriving in Japan due to the many networks I was involved in, and because I have a vast experience, not only from the corporate world, but also from culture, economics, art history, marketing and communication. The Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Japan, of course, wants to help organisations and companies do business. I am also the chairperson of the Board for the Finnish private art foundation called Didrichsen, which also has its own art museum. I was recently elected to the Board of ICOM (International Committee of Museums) Finland. If you ask why I am*

*involved with all these organizations, it is because I think culture, science, higher education, and business go together and benefit each other.*

**Q: Can you tell us more about the connection between culture and business?**

*Anna-Maria: It is important to understand the impact of culture when the company is trying to establish itself on a new market. At the end of the day, different companies might have similar products. Culture can provide an added value; it can be the final touch for a Finnish company to establish itself in Japan instead of its competitor. Furthermore, we all need culture and there is scientific research showing that culture improves our wellbeing. The Institute's task is to introduce new ways of implementing culture, to introduce new artists, designers, writers, and scientists to the Japanese audience. For example, I have been knitting and crocheting all my life, so why not introduce the Finnish tradition of the Knitting Club to the Japanese audience. The Institute started its knitting club more than 5 years ago, and it instantly became a huge success. Today, almost 90 people gather every month to knit and crochet, both onsite and online. Eventually, we also found a Finnish sponsor who has been providing*



**Finnish Institute in Japan**



us with Finnish yarn and Finnish needles. This sponsor then established itself in Japan with yarns being sold in more than 60 stores in Japan. This is what I mean with the connection between culture and business.

**Q: How do you see the relations between Finland and Japan developing in the forthcoming years?**

*Anna-Maria: Excellent I would say. We celebrated the centenary of the diplomatic relations in 2019. Our relation has been very fruitful from the beginning, and I do not see any reason why it would not get even better. We can learn so much from each other. Finnish Institute in Japan is part of Team Finland (network that promotes Finland and its interests abroad), which also includes the Embassy of Finland, Business Finland, and the Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Japan. The fact that we are all here at the same compound is a strength. Finland is a small nation, but we are curious, innovative, bold, always willing to help and test new ways of doing things. We see that education and innovation are assets. Critical thinkers and innovators are coming out of schools into the cultural and business sector.*

This is only an abstract, the whole interview continues online at:

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/publications/highlighting-contributors-to-eu-japan-cooperation-anna-maria-wiljanen>



## EU AND JAPAN CONCLUDE LANDMARK DEAL ON CROSS-BORDER DATA FLOWS

The EU and Japan have concluded, on the margins of the G7 Trade Ministerial in Osaka (28-29 October 2023), a landmark deal to make doing business in the online world easier, less costly and more efficient.

The agreement was concluded at the EU-Japan High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED), co-chaired by European Commission Executive Vice-President, Valdis Dombrovskis, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Nishimura Yasutoshi, and Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa.

The EU and Japan are both among the world's largest digital economies. This deal is a milestone in the EU and Japan efforts to advance the digitalisation of their societies and economies. Cross-border data flows are a crucial enabler to this development. Once ratified, the agreed provisions will be included in the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). They lay the foundation for a common

approach on digital trade, sending a strong message against digital protectionism and arbitrary restrictions. They are also consistent with the EU digital agenda and EU privacy rules, and deliver on the digital trade agenda of the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

The agreement will deliver real benefits to companies active across most sectors, from financial services, transport, machinery to e-commerce. It will enable them to handle data efficiently without cumbersome administrative or storage requirements, and provide them with a predictable legal environment in which to prosper. An important element of the deal is the removal of costly data localisation requirements, an unnecessary

burden for European and Japanese businesses. This matters as it will ensure companies are not required to physically store their data locally. This would not only entail additional costs and complexities, as businesses might have to build and maintain data storage facilities in multiple places and duplicate the data they use, with a negative impact on their competitiveness, but could also undermine the security of such data.

During the HLED, the EU and Japan also reiterated their commitment to the rules-based international trading system and determination to shape global data flow rules that respect our values and regulatory approaches.

Source: European Commission

➔ [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_5378](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_5378)

➔ [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2023\)773&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2023)773&lang=en) (text of the agreement)

## EU LAUNCHES TOOL TO HELP EXPORTERS SEIZE BENEFITS OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS

The new 'Access2Conformity' tool will allow EU exporters large and small to reduce red tape by making better use of the EU's Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with third countries.

When businesses export goods to a trade partner country, these goods have to be certified by testing facilities ('conformity assessment bodies', or CABs) in the country of destination, to ensure that they comply with local rules and regulations, even when already certified for their domestic market. This essentially means that exporters must go through the process of testing their goods twice. Fortunately, MRAs can solve this problem. In the case of the EU, they allow the exporting Member State to designate their own CAB as capable of testing and

certifying exported products to make sure that they comply with the rules and regulations of the importing trade partner. These are Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United States, and Switzerland.

Access2Conformity, integrated into the Access2Markets portal (<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/home>), will help EU exporters identify where in the EU they can perform product testing and certification when exporting to certain third countries

Source: European Commission - Directorate-General for Trade

➔ [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-launches-tool-help-exporters-seize-benefits-mutual-recognition-agreements-2023-11-13\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-launches-tool-help-exporters-seize-benefits-mutual-recognition-agreements-2023-11-13_en)



## EUROPEAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2023 IN TOKYO

The European Literature Festival took place in Tokyo on 21-26 November at eight locations across the capital bringing writers, translators and other experts from the literary world to share their passion for letters with Japanese bibliophiles. The seventh edition of this festival comprised a series of events including lectures, workshops and dialogues.

The festival was co-organised by the Delegation of the EU to Japan, EU Member State embassies in Japan, EUNIC Japan and the Mita Library in Tokyo's Minato Ward in the hope that visitors were able to enjoy experiencing the diversity and excellence of European literature.

Source: Delegation of the European Union to Japan

➔ <https://eulitfest.jp>

## SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN FINANCIAL COMPANIES TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN OSAKA

The Osaka Prefectural Government and City Government have made a significant move to bolster the financial sector in the region. On April 21, 2023, they jointly announced a new Subsidy Program aimed at attracting financial companies, particularly those involved in FinTech, both from Japan and overseas.

### Benefits for FinTech and Finance Businesses

This Subsidy Program offers a helping hand to FinTech-related businesses that are considering establishing their base in Osaka. The primary goal is to encourage the growth of innovative financial services that leverage IT, including technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain. Companies operating in asset management, investment advisory, and related fields are also eligible to apply for this subsidy.

### What Does the Subsidy Cover?

FinTech companies that meet the criteria can receive financial support to cover a

part of the cost incurred during the initial phase of establishing a base in Osaka. This reduces the financial burden on companies when entering Osaka market.

### Eligibility for Foreign Financial Companies

Foreign financial companies providing services such as innovative financial solutions utilizing IT (including AI and blockchains), asset management, investment advisory, and other asset management-related businesses that are approved by the Governor of Osaka Prefecture, are eligible for this subsidy. It's a move designed to make Osaka an even more attractive destination for international financial firms.

➔ <https://global-financial-city-osaka.jp/en/onestop>



### Driving Innovation in Osaka

This initiative reflects Osaka's commitment to fostering innovation and economic growth in the financial sector. By offering support to FinTech companies, Osaka aims to strengthen its position as a hub for cutting-edge financial technologies and services.

### How to Apply

Detailed information on eligibility criteria and the application process is available on official channels. Interested companies are encouraged to explore this opportunity and contribute to Osaka's vibrant financial landscape.

Source: Osaka Prefectural Government

## KYOTO'S EXCELLENT BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Kyoto City government fosters industry-academia-government partnerships by integrating Kyoto's unique traditional industries with technologies and skills in advanced industries.

It has also built a system for stimulating technological innovation under the leadership of universities or other research institutes with the participation of companies inside and outside Kyoto. By doing so, the Kyoto City government aims to promote manufacturing industries unique to Kyoto and revitalise the local economy. Despite disadvantages such as the difficulty in constructing large production facilities due to its location being enclosed by mountains in three directions, Kyoto City has been an incubator of many world-class high-tech companies. This has happened thanks to a favourable environment for collaboration between industry, academia and government, created by sharing universities' intellectual resources

with local companies and the municipality, as well as owing to a favourable environment for combining long-established techniques in traditional industries, such as ceramics, and advanced industries.

On one hand, as a city full of universities, Kyoto has always been a leader in education and research. There are as many as 36 four-year universities and two-year colleges currently based in Kyoto City. Due to a massive accumulation of research achievements with considerable future potential, the city has developed and produced outstanding academic talent, including many Nobel Prize Laureates.

On the other hand, the industrial structure of Kyoto comprises a wide range of



industries, from long-standing traditional industries to advanced industries based on technologies created by universities and companies. From generation to generation since the early Meiji era (1868-1912), many venture companies with original technologies have been born in Kyoto. Therefore, Kyoto has been called "the city of Venture companies".

Kyoto has long served as an arena for beneficial combinations of tradition and novel ideas, which has created various innovations together with harmony and integration between diverse cultures.

To know more, contact the City of Kyoto Business Attraction Promotion Office at: [kigyoyc@city.kyoto.lg.jp](mailto:kigyoyc@city.kyoto.lg.jp)

Source: City of Kyoto Business Attraction Promotion Office ➔ <https://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/page/0000305425.html>

## MEETING OF JAPANESE ENTREPRENEURS FROM OSAKA WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MÁLAGA TECHPARK

On Friday, 13 October, a delegation of Japanese entrepreneurs representing various companies convened at the Málaga Chamber of Commerce, marking a significant moment of cross-cultural business exchange. The visit showcased the growing economic ties between Málaga and Japan.



The meeting was an opportunity for the Japanese delegation to explore investment and partnership opportunities in Málaga. The presence of Málaga TechPark at the event added a significant tech innovation dimension to the discussions. Málaga TechPark, a hub for technological innovation and start-ups in the region, played a pivotal role in connecting the Japanese entrepreneurs with local businesses and institutions. This collaborative effort aims to foster innovation and economic growth in both regions. The visit is seen as a testament to the thriving business and innovation ecosystem in Málaga, as well as the growing interest of Japanese companies in expanding their presence in Southern Spain. The event signifies a promising future for international collaboration and business development in Málaga. Source: Malaga TechPark

➔ <https://www.pta.es>

## BIOCAT, THE CATALAN HEALTHCARE CLUSTER, EXPLORES THE JAPANESE LIFESCIENCE ECOSYSTEM

Biocat, a non-profit entity in the life sciences and health sector of Catalonia, is actively exploring the Japanese life sciences ecosystem with a specific focus on Personalized Medicine and Advanced Therapies. These areas hold priority status within the Catalan Bioregion, supported by the Catalan government, and present a significant opportunity for fostering synergies between the two regions.



The increasing interest from Catalan companies and SMEs in the Japanese life sciences sector, and vice versa, has prompted Biocat to gain deeper insights into the Japanese healthcare landscape. To achieve this, Biocat participated in the EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Congress in Osaka on 10 October and exhibited with its own booth at BioJapan2023 on 11-13 October in Yokohama.

Through this immersive experience, Biocat has reactivated previously established contacts, stemming from its involvement in European projects such as IURC Japan (<https://www.iurc.eu/2021/05/03/japan>) and BioXcluster (<https://bioxclusters.wordpress.com>). Additionally, the initiative has paved the way for forging new connections, projects, and fostering potential collaborations between different prefectures for future partnerships.

Biocat's participation at both events in Japan was part of a mission in collaboration with the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to Japan (Generalitat de Catalunya) within the strategic lines of the Japan Plan and in coordination with ICEX and ACCIÓ Japan.

Source: Biocat ➔ <https://www.biocat.cat/en>



Biocat booth at BioJapan 2023

From right to left: Mònica Castellà, Delegate of the Catalan Government; Estephan Arredondo, CEO of Catalan startup Cytes Biotech; Yuko Kijimoto, Director of ACCIÓ, Catalonia Trade & Investment in Tokyo; Núria Martí, Director of Innovation and Business Development at Biocat; Clara Mediñà, Project Manager in the Strategic Alliance and International Relations at Biocat.

## DELEGATES FROM OKINOSHIMA AND MISATO HAVE VISITED KROTOSZYN IN POLAND

The 2nd edition of the Japanese Festival in Krotoszyn (24-25 November) brought into town distinguished guests from Okinoshima and Misato towns, the Embassy of Japan in Poland, and the Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region in Poznan.



During the trade mission to Japan organised jointly by Krotoszyn, Okinoshima and Misato earlier in May this year, the term of a reciprocal visit in Poland by the Japanese hosts of the event had been scheduled. Following the invitation by Krotoszyn's Mayor, Mr. Franciszek Marszałek, six guests from the Krotoszyn's Japanese partner city Okinoshima (since 2016) had the opportunity to get a closer look at the three most important cooperation pillars: education, sports (sumo) and self-governing activity.

*"We always strive to welcome visiting groups from our partner cities according to the tradition of Polish hospitality. We try to apply creativity to our actions, so this year we have proposed to our friends from Japan to take part in the second edition of the Japanese Festival in Krotoszyn. I think that this is a good occasion to find out how we – Polish people – perceive Japan. The many exhibitions gathered within the premises of Krotoszyn's Public Library and the various organised workshops are some kind of artistic presentation of how we imagine Japan, but they also play an important role in introducing Japanese culture, tradition, history and beauty of Okinoshima to all participants"* stated Franciszek Marszałek, Mayor of Krotoszyn.

Content-related supervision was provided by the Language and Culture of Japan Centre of Ryochu Umeda in Łódź, and the exhibition of samurai swords (katanas) and armors was lent out by Mr. Maciej Płotkowiak (<https://katana.pl>). The event was held under the honorary patronage of the Embassy of Japan in Poland.

In addition, it should not be forgotten that the main sport discipline that bounds the two cities, sumo, was proudly promoted during the festival days. On 25 November, the children and youth from kindergartens and primary schools from Krotoszyn have competed in sumo tournaments organised by the Athletic Association ROZUM (<http://www.tarozum.pl>). Worth mentioning is the role of Krotoszyn as the seat of both the Polish and the European Sumo Federation - another proof, if needed, of the town being at the forefront as a sumo promoter in Poland and beyond.

In addition to the exhibitions, various meetings were held covering a large variety of topics such as education and forestry management. Many people were sharing their experience such as entrepreneurs about good practices, or the local association of housewives presenting Polish recipes for dishes served with rice,

From left to right: signature of cooperation agreement, exhibition of samurai armors, delegates visit to local elementary school.

with the possibility of tasting local products. There was also time for sightseeing along the historic streets of Krotoszyn. Following the end of the festival, the bonds of Krotoszyn and Japan are stronger than ever, an aspect that is also reflected in the business sector. The CEO of the Las Kalisz Ltd. Co., (<https://www.las-kalisz.pl>), Mr. Tomasz Tarnawski, has extended an invitation to Mrs. Akane Kuroda, CEO of the Ohchi Yamakujira Co. from Misato (<https://yamakujira.jp>) to take a tour of Krotoszyn's facility and see up closely how it operates. Both firms are specialised in the venison meat production. The benefits of this exchange of opinions between the two CEOs will be covered in a future article in the March issue of the EU-Japan Centre's newsletter. Stay tuned!

## 33<sup>RD</sup> EDITION OF THE ITALY-JAPAN BUSINESS GROUP ASSEMBLY

The Italy-Japan Business Group (IJBG) is a valuable and tangible binational association recognized for its significant role by the Governments of both countries. It is dedicated to promoting greater industrial cooperation between the two nations and fostering a permanent dialogue between their business communities, with the support of their respective institutions.

Meeting in Plenary Session for the first time in Tokyo on 24 October 1989, the IJBG has convened annually since then, alternating its location between Japan and Italy.

The Secretariat of the event on the Italian side is entrusted to ITA – Italian Trade Agency, and on the Japanese side to MHI – Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

The current co-chairmen of the Group are Prof. Roberto Cingolani, CEO of Leonardo Spa, and Mr. Shunichi Miyanaga, Chairman of the Board at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd..

The entire event took place over three days, from 6 to 8 November, with over 40 companies, 10 institutions, and a total of 150 attendees participating.

On the first day, participants were warmly welcomed at the opening ceremony at Happon, in the heart of Tokyo. On 7 November, the event extended throughout the entire day at the Italian Cultural Institute in Kudanshita.

The focal point of the event was the Plenary Assembly, preceded by a networking outreach session, during which companies and their representatives actively engaged in B2B exchanges and contributed to economic panels, focusing on the following topics:

- sustainable energy & infrastructure, including green tech;
- agrifood & agritech;
- mobility & transportation;
- biotech, pharma, medical & cosmetics;



- advanced technology, innovation, microelectronics;
- aerospace & security.

This edition expressed the hope of furthering these exchanges, especially in anticipation of the 2025 Osaka Expo.

Mario Vattani, Commissioner General for Italy at Expo 2025, emphasized that

*“the Expo will not only be the opportunity to showcase what already exists but also to initiate newly fresh collaborations.”*

The programme concluded on 8 November with a visit to the Hardtech Hub at the MHI factory in Yokohama.

Source: Italian Trade Agency - Tokyo office

➔ <https://www.ijbg.it>

## EUREKA GLOBALSTARS JAPAN VIRTUAL MARKETPLACE

The Eureka Network is launching a new call for joint R&D projects involving Japan, Czech Republic, France, Netherlands, Spain, Canada, Singapore and UK located companies. Participants from Japan and the respective EUREKA member countries are invited to submit joint project proposals in the research and development of innovative products and applications with a strong market potential. Application deadline: 31 January 2024

Source: Eureka

➔ <https://www.eukanetwork.org/open-calls/globalstars-japan-2023>

➔ <https://eureka-globalstars-japan-round-2.b2match.io/home>

## NEW MOU PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ATR AND GIN SHALL ONCE AGAIN DEEPEN COOPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND JAPAN

The signing of the MoU is intended to underline once again the mutual intention to continue this already very successful cooperation between Austria and Japan!

"We play a decisive role in promoting research, development and innovation in Austria. However, FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency is not only active at a national level, but also promotes international cooperation e.g. with the Enterprise Europe Network. The close and long-standing relationship with Japan in economic cooperation and bilateral R&D activities is particularly noteworthy," emphasizes FFG Managing Director Henrietta Egerth at the signing ceremony for in-depth cooperation with ATR.



From left to right: Henrietta Egerth, Managing Director of FFG; Hiroyuki Suzuki, Executive Vice President, Representative Director of ATR; Bernhard Sagmeister, Managing Director of Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH.

Source and photo credits: FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency

➔ [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ffg\\_japan-aemsterreich-wien-activity-7129861612202573824-V2V0](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ffg_japan-aemsterreich-wien-activity-7129861612202573824-V2V0)

➔ [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/globalincubatornetworkaustria\\_vienna-gin-gincommunity-activity-7130128929142546433-x4lj](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/globalincubatornetworkaustria_vienna-gin-gincommunity-activity-7130128929142546433-x4lj)

## INTERNATIONAL FORUM INTELLIGENCE AUGMENTATION AND AMPLIFICATION PLUS SOCIETY 2024

16-18 JANUARY 2024, PARIS, FRANCE

IAA+Soc 2024 is an initiative organised by the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).



This event provides a forum for innovative dialogue to explore novel research issues and methodology for a future symbiotic society with Artificial Intelligence. The intensive dialogue is planned between junior and senior researchers in the field of social sciences and humanity (SSH) and of computer/engineering sciences (CS/ES), revolving around artificial intelligence, with researchers from Japan, France and Germany.

Participants from Japan, such as Kurihara Satoshi (Keio Univ.), Emura Katsumi (AIP Network lab.), Mase Kenji (Nagoya Univ.), Kuzuoka Hideaki (Univ. of Tokyo), Izumi Kiyoshi (Univ. of Tokyo), Kameda Tatsuya (Univ. of Tokyo), Endo Kaoru (Faculty of Law, Gakushuin Univ.) and so on, and



participants from France such as Valérie Beaudouin (EHESS), Jean Lassègue (CNRS), Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS), Jean-Pierre Nadal (EHESS), Winston Maxwell (Télécom Paris), Gaël Varoquaux (INRIA), Tiphaine Viard (Télécom Paris) and so on, will have the opportunity to present the current state of their research and to debate in the following panels:

Panel 1: Working in a Cyber-Physical AI world: which interactions between human beings and machines?

Panel 2: AI ethics: how to envisage fair and explicable uses of AI?

The impact of generative AI on child development and the transformation of educational models.

Panel 3: Creativity and AI: machine creativity, auctorality, authors' rights, what re-configurations for the cultural industries?

Panel 4: The Influence of AI and information technologies on human communication, consensus building.

A side event will also be organized on the 18 January evening at the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris on the topic "What future for work in the 5.0 society?".

Source: EHESS ➔ [http://ffj.ehess.fr/evenements\\_a\\_venir.html#20241601](http://ffj.ehess.fr/evenements_a_venir.html#20241601)

## KYUSHU UNIVERSITY EU CENTRE (JMCOE-Q) JEAN MONNET SYMPOSIUM

The Making of European Citizenship: Past Achievements and New Developments



On Tuesday, 29 August 2023, the Kyushu University EU Centre hosted the Jean Monnet Symposium “The Making of European Citizenship: Past Achievements and New Developments.”, in collaboration with the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), Fundamental Research (C) “An Exploration of Contemporary Republican Theory of Education: With a Particular Focus Upon Citizenship Education” (19K02399, PI: Jiro Hasumi) and under the auspices of the Japan Association for Citizenship Education.

The Jean Monnet Symposium Series, which focuses on and delves deeply into a specific EU-related topic, is one of the core research activities of the Jean Monnet CoE Kyushu, Second Stage (JMCoE-Q2). This symposium was the third of its kind, following the second symposium on ‘Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine and the EU: Delving from the Perspectives of Political History and Economy’ held in March 2023.

The symposium was held in a hybrid format (at the Jonathan K. S. Choi Cultural Centre of Kyushu University and online) and was attended by over 60 participants. The hybrid format of the symposium attracted a wide range of participants from all over the country, not only researchers in the field but also students and the general public.

This year marks 30 years since 1993, when the Maastricht Treaty entered into force, and European integration was greatly developed, not only economically, but also politically as the EU. As was highlighted by the rejection of the EU Constitutional Treaty, the challenge has been how to create and nurture ‘EU citizens’ or ‘European citizens’. For this reason, the EU, the Council of Europe, and other European institutions have been focusing on the development of its citizenship from various angles. In this context, what changes have been seen in recent years after Brexit and the Corona disaster in the task of making ‘EU citizens’ and ‘European citizens’ and has the previous policy continued in such circumstances? The aim of the symposium was to examine the current situation from a variety of disciplines, including politics, education, and language, to gain a perspective on the future, and to provide suggestions for Japan and the other regions outside Europe.



At the beginning of the symposium, Professor Kenji Iwata (Director and Vice-President for International Affairs, Kyushu University, former Director of the EU Centre, Kyushu University) gave a greeting and a brief explanation of the development of European citizens from his specialist perspective of economics. There were three lectures as the central part of this symposium, including ‘New Challenges and Issues of EU Citizenship: In Search of a Resilient Society’ by Professor Noriko Yasue (School of Policy Science, Ritsumeikan University), ‘How the EU Promotes Linguistic Diversity’ by Professor Noriyuki Nishiyama (Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University) and ‘Recent Trends in Moral and Civic education in France’ by Associate Professor Takashi Otsu (School Education Centre, Mukogawa Women’s University). This was followed by comments from Dr Rika Kobata (Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University) on European citizens, higher education, and the impact of Brexit, and also from Jiro Hasumi (Director, EU Centre and Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University) from the perspective of citizenship education, both of which offered alternative perspectives to deepen understanding of this important topic. In the Q&A session that followed, the speakers responded to the issues raised by the audience and online participants, further deepening the discussion. The session concluded with a summary and closing remarks by Prof. Hasumi.

## PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

JAPANESE COMPANIES LOOKING FOR PARTNERS IN THE EU

➔ <http://een-japan.eu/opportunities>

### SERVICES OFFERED

**Sector: robotics**

Japanese SME offers system solutions using Artificial Intelligence and collaborative robotics under an outsourcing agreement

Profile ID: **BOJP20231122006**

### REQUEST FOR SUPPLIER

**Sector: chemicals**

A Japanese trading company is seeking EU suppliers of chemicals and compounds for the electronics sector

Profile ID: **BRJP20221102001**

### REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTOR

**Sector: pharmaceutical**

Japanese company is seeking EU partners for their oligonucleotide related products

Profile ID: **BOJP20221019003**

### TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFERED

**Sector: renewable energies**

Japan developed small hydropower unit on licensing partnership

Profile ID: **TOJP20231109003**

## ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK EVENTS

B2B OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU AND JAPANESE SMEs

➔ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/events>

### SWEDISH BIG SCIENCE FORUM 2024

31 January - 1 February 2024, Lund, Sweden  
Sector: multisectoral



The Swedish Big Science Forum is a biennial event where high-tech industry and academia meet with European Big Science organisations. The event will focus

on the latest developments and challenges, as well as opportunities for future business, R&D projects, and collaborations, in Big Science.

➔ <https://www.b2match.com/e/swedish-big-science-forum-2024>

### FUTURE OF FOOD – SUSTAINABLE FOODTECH SOLUTIONS

19-22 March 2024, Cologne, Germany  
Sector: food  
Registration deadline: 22 March 2024



Anuga FoodTec is one of the leading international trade fairs for the food and beverage processing industry. NRW.Europa is happy to partner once again with the

organisers of Anuga FoodTec to offer an onsite B2B match-making, insightful workshops, knowledge transfer, networking opportunities and high-level conferences.

➔ <https://future-of-food.b2match.io/>

GreenEnergy:Community



### GREENENERGY:COMMUNITY

Open until 30 June 2024, Online  
Sectors: renewable energies

This virtual community was created to focus on the fundamentally important issue of ENERGY. By joining, participants will gain access to a global energy network and can initiate valuable project, technology and/or business collaborations. Participating companies and organizations will be able to benefit from B2B matching opportunities, informative sessions (e.g., upcoming calls, patent search, business opportunities, etc.) and pitches (projects, technology and business) regularly organized during the period and visible for registered participants only.

➔ <https://greenenergy.b2match.io>





DATE/LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACTS
16-17 January 2024	<b>CONFERENCE</b> EU-Japan Regional and Cluster cooperation annual conference	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://eu-japan-regional-cooperation-2024.b2match.io">https://eu-japan-regional-cooperation-2024.b2match.io</a>
31 Jan - 3 Feb 2024 Tokyo, Japan	<b>MATCHMAKING MISSION</b> Nanotech Cluster & SMEs Mission	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/nanotech-clustersme-mission">https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/nanotech-clustersme-mission</a>
6 February 2024 Klagenfurt, Austria	<b>COMPANY VISIT</b> LEAN in Europe - Visit to Kostwein Maschinenbau GmbH	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/lean-visits-europe">https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/lean-visits-europe</a>
6 February 2024	<b>WEBINAR</b> About Japan webinar 224: Market Situation and Potentials in Japan for Technologies for Solid Biomass Utilization	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events">https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events</a>
6 March 2024 Valenciennes, France	<b>COMPANY VISIT</b> LEAN in Europe - Visit to Toyota Motor Manufacturing France	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/lean-visits-europe">https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/lean-visits-europe</a>
13 February 2024	<b>WEBINAR</b> About Japan webinar 225: Japanese Business Culture - Techniques for effective virtual communication with Japanese partners	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events">https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events</a>
20 February 2024	<b>VIRTUAL MATCHMAKING MISSION</b> Exhibit at ISIEX 2024 Deadline for Application: 19 January 2024	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/join-us-isiex-2024-tokyo">https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/join-us-isiex-2024-tokyo</a>
27 February 2024	<b>WEBINAR</b> About Japan webinar 226: Baby Goods in Japan	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events">https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events</a>
28 Feb - 1 March 2024 Tokyo, Japan	<b>MATCHMAKING MISSION</b> Green Economy Cluster & SMEs Mission	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/green-clustersme-mission">https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/green-clustersme-mission</a>
11-15 March 2024 Tokyo, Japan	<b>TRAINING MISSION</b> World Class Manufacturing - March session	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/world-class-manufacturing">https://www.eu-japan.eu/world-class-manufacturing</a>
12-15 March 2024 Tokyo, Japan	<b>MATCHMAKING MISSION</b> Digital Cluster & SMEs Mission	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/digital-cluster-sme-mission">https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/digital-cluster-sme-mission</a>




**EU-Japan Centre**  
for Industrial Cooperation  
一財団法人 日欧産業協力センター

is a joint venture co-funded by the European Union and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Its aim is to foster the development of industrial cooperation between companies from both regions through training programmes for businesspeople, for EU and Japanese students and researchers, and through information services and an industrial dialogue.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by the EU-based office of the EU-Japan Centre, and is primarily intended to provide EU/Japan-related news.

## ANY EU-JAPAN-RELATED NEWS?

Feel free to contact us if you would like your EU-Japan-related news/event to be announced in our forthcoming newsletter : [newsletter@eu-japan.eu](mailto:newsletter@eu-japan.eu)

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