

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The staff of the EU-Japan Centre would like thank you for your cooperation and the attention you have kindly given to our activities throughout 2009.

The EU-Japan Centre team will be pleased to be at your service again next year for further developing cooperation between businesses of the EU and Japan and sends its best wishes to you for 2010.



2010 EC-funded programmes - Calls for applications

<Vulcanus in Japan> 8-month internship in Japan

Dates: Sept 2010 - Aug 2011

Application deadline: 20 January 2010

The 'Vulcanus in Japan' programme consists of industrial placements in Japan for EU students. The participants are selected among students in the last year of their undergraduate studies, or following a postgraduate course in the fields of Engineering, Sciences or Architecture.

All the participants in the 'Vulcanus in Japan' programme will follow a four-month intensive Japanese language course, during which they will attend various seminars related to Japan (culture, society, economy, history, etc.), company and factory visits, cultural activities, and an eight-month internship in a Japanese company.



<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/vulcanus-in-japan.html>

< H RTP - Japan Industry Insight > 4/5-week training in Japan

Dates: 17 May - 11/18 June 2010

Application deadline: 18 February 2010

For EU managers working for EU companies "H RTP - Japan Industry Insight" programme in Japan will help EU companies take full advantage of Japanese business opportunities and provide an integrated in-depth view of Japanese industrial structure and business practices. It includes lectures, conferences, seminars, study visits, negotiation exercises and language classes and an optional 5th week with individual company visits.



< World Class Manufacturing > 5-day training in Japan

WCM I dates: 28 June - 2 July 2010

Application deadline: 25 March 2010

WCM II dates: 18 - 22 October 2010

Application deadline: 10 June 2010

For EU managers working for manufacturing companies in the EU. The training course consists of lectures and workshops, and European top decision-makers are able to visit some Japanese factories to understand the real «Gemba» (the production site), to talk directly with their production managers and to observe the effective implementation of manufacturing methods. A preliminary visit to an industry applying WCM methods is held in Europe, as well as a Pre-departure briefing session, prior to the training in Japan.



<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html>



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation
日欧産業協力センター

is a joint venture co-financed by the European Commission 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 occasional newsletter is produced by the EU-based office of the EU-Japan Centre, and is primarily intended to provide EU/Japan-related news.

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Seminar on Smart Grid

15 December 2009 – Brussels, Belgium

The EU-Japan Centre is organising a seminar on Smart Grid - Current status and technical development: Comparative views from the EU and Japan.



By promoting electricity market competitiveness, renewable energy and energy efficiency, we can ensure sustainable economic development and help realise a low-carbon society. 'Smart Grid' will assist the development of these solutions.

Whereas conventional electricity grids generally only transmit power from a few central power generators to a large number of users, thanks to their digital technology, smart grids can route power in more optimal ways and can respond to changing conditions – including allowing consumers with generating capacity to become suppliers and feed any excess power production into the grid, and also enabling the storage of power from unpredictable power sources such as wind power or photovoltaics.

Moreover, the development of smart grid technology will influence other sectors including electrical appliance manufacturers, building construction and electric cars. Smart grids will, therefore, have a crucial role in optimising energy efficiency in the future.

This seminar will identify the current position and perspectives for smart grids in Europe and Japan and the possibilities for cooperation on their further development. The first session will focus on policy issues, while the second session will consider the technical development of smart grids.



<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/seminar-smartgrid-15-december2009.html?year=2009>

Industrial Policy Seminar on Consumer Protection: The Role of Public Administration in the EU and Japan

In the wake of the establishment of the Japanese Consumer Affairs Agency, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation co-organised on 8 December 2009, with the Delegation of the European Union to Japan and support from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, METI and the Consumer Affairs Agency, a seminar on "Consumer Protection: The Role of Public Administration in the EU and Japan" with Commissioner Kuneva as keynote speaker.

The seminar was opened by Ambassador Richardson, Delegation of the European Union to Japan, Mr. Atsushi Oshima, Senior Vice-Minister for Consumer Affairs and Mr. Koichi Takemasa, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Commissioner Kuneva presented her vision of "Consumer Protection in the 21st Century – the Example of Europe". She suggested that it would be desirable to develop cooperation between the EU and Japan to ensure that the collection of personal and behavioural data online for commercial targeting is fair and transparent. The online environment must remain safe and trustworthy.



Mrs. Meglena Kuneva,
EU Commissioner for Consumer Affairs

The keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion with Mrs. Kuneva, Mr. Hideo Hato, Director-General of the newly created Consumer Affairs Agency, Mrs. Rieko Aoyama, Vice-President of Nippon Association of Consumer Specialists (NACS), Ms Toshiko Sawada, Director of EC Network (METI-related non-profit corporation), and Ms Midori Tani, Senior Analyst for Consumer Policy, Commerce and Information Bureau at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.



<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/seminars/industrial-policy.html>

Funding and Career Opportunities Fair for European Researchers and Students

On 20 November 2009 the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan and EURAXESS-Links/Japan (Network of European Researchers in Japan) co-organised in Tokyo a full-day event entitled "Funding and Career Opportunities Fair for European Researchers and Students".

The main objective was to help highly-skilled European researchers and students in the development of their research activities, studies and career through informing them about the European and Japanese public research and funding opportunities (e.g. FP7, funding schemes by EU Member States, Japanese funding schemes open to non-Japanese researchers) and career opportunities in public research organisations as well as in industry.

The key public research and funding organisations in Japan, as well as recruitment managers from four Japanese companies (Panasonic, Fujitsu, NTT Communication, Omron), presented their programmes, opportunities for foreign researchers and recruitment procedures.

The event also introduced actual experience of European researchers for obtaining public funding and working in Japanese industry, including the stories of two 'Vulcanus in Japan' alumni.

The event was attended by over 150 people and followed by a reception to facilitate networking among European researchers and research and funding organisations of both regions.



<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/seminars/industrial-policy.html>

Workshop - Toward EU-Japan Aerospace Cooperation in Research and Technology



Mr. Liam Breslin, Head of Aeronautics Unit, DG Research, European Commission



Mr. Naoshi Hirose, Director, Aerospace and Defence Industries Division, Manufacturing Industries Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

On 17 November 2009 the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, together with the EU Delegation, the section of S&T with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and DG RTD + Delegation of the Commission to Japan, as well as of the European Business Council in Japan (EBC), the Aerospace & Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) and the Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies (SJAC), organised a workshop on "Toward EU-Japan Aerospace Cooperation in Research and Technology", with speakers from Brussels, DG RTD (Liam Breslin, Head of Aeronautics Unit), the European Commission Delegation to Japan (Barbara Rhode, S&T Counsellor), METI, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), ASD, SJAC and the R&D Institute of Metals and Composites for Future Industries (RIMCOF).

In a context where the EU-Japan Science & Research Cooperation Agreement (signed on 30 November 2009) underlines the political support of European and Japanese authorities to deeper R&D cooperation

between the EU and Japan, the main objective of this seminar was to hear from experts from both sides how to use existing structures to promote successful joint EU-Japan research projects in the aeronautics sector. At policy level, presentations of the EU Framework Programme and of the Japanese aerospace industrial policy showed how these programmes are structured.

At private sector level, presentations of European industry's experience of the Framework Programme and of various existing cooperation between Japanese and European industries made clear that the potential for increased collaboration is strong and not yet exploited to its full extent. The audience gathered about 65 participants from the major EU and Japanese aeronautics companies. They debated with the speakers on how to better promote R&D cooperation in the aerospace sector between Japan and Europe. This was considered as a useful first step for exploring the possibility of having joint EU-Japan research projects supported by FP7.

<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/workshop-aerospace-17-november2009.html?year=2009>

Join the Centre's Groups!

The EU-Japan Centre has recently created networking groups in «LinkedIn» for managers interested in EU-Japan cooperation and for former participants of European Commission-funded programmes and in «Facebook» for engineering students who have participated in the Vulcanus in EU and in Japan exchange programmes.



Join the EU-Japan Cooperation Group in LinkedIn or sign in to become a member of this group.

[Details](#)



New **Vulcanus in Japan** group in Facebook. The group is open to everybody. Feel free to join!

[Details](#)

<http://www.eu-japan.eu/>

Intercultural seminar: Transforming Cultural Differences into Business Strength

On 19-20 November 2009 the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, with the support of Centre Européen d'Etudes Japonaises d'Alsace (CEEJA), organised an intercultural seminar "Transforming Cultural Differences into Business Strength" at the CEEJA premises in Kientzheim (Alsace-FR), with workshop facilitators from the Japan Consulting Office-JCO.

The main objectives of the seminar were: to understand the position of culture in international business, to be more aware of one's own cultural assumptions and preferences, to understand Japanese/European culture and its implications in the workplace, to be more effective in communication and team work with Japanese/European colleagues.

The seminar highlighted the main differences in communication techniques between Europe and Japan, and



identified potential solutions through lectures, case-study discussions, role-plays and problem-solving activities.

The seminar brought together European and Japanese managers based in Europe, interested in improving their business communication skills regardless of cultural differences. The audience gathered 23 EU and Japanese participants from EU as well as Japanese companies.

<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/seminar-intercultural.html?year=2009>

Host company in Japan feedback

“Vulcanus in Japan programme 2008-2009”; a wonderful research experience with an Italian student

I am a molecular biologist of AIST working on the regulation of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) production and its application to the tolerance to environmental stress in yeast.

Our institute, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), is in Tsukuba Science city, which is located about 50 km northeast of Tokyo.

I had a wonderful experience not only in research but also in culture and language by accepting a student of the “Vulcanus in Japan” programme. This time I accepted an Italian graduate student. Before participating in this programme I had had several experiences of instructing foreign scientists; two government researchers from Brazil and Mexico based on the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) programme, and three post-docs from England, India, and Russia based on the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellowship programme. But it was my first time to accept an Italian student, and I do not know much about Italy except for spaghetti and pizza. However, my concerns were eliminated after seeing what a smart and hard-working student she was.

Furthermore, she had a very high motivation to learn as much as she could during this programme, and her sunny disposition brightened up my lab.

When accepting foreign researchers I always pay very close attention to their daily life as well as their research. I know it is not so easy for foreigners to adapt to new circumstances, because I myself had post-doc experiences in the US for almost three years at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Harvard Medical School. I enjoyed my research there not only because of their excellent research facilities, but also because of my fulfilled life there.

Thanks to the helpful assistance of my supervisors, our relationships were very good, and I could concentrate on my research. Therefore, what I most paid attention to this time was building a good relationship with my trainee in daily life and research. Since sometimes I asked her if she was eating all right and so on, she said that I was her supervisor and mother at the same time.

In order to understand each other better, I started to study the Italian language. It is very important to respect each other, and I think studying the Italian language is one of the best ways to understand the background of the country and its culture.



We usually communicated in English, but sometimes I used my beginner level of Italian to talk with her. It worked well to soften the air between us, especially when she made a mistake in her experiments.

Because of her dedicated hard work, she contributed a lot to the progress of our research, and I also enjoyed working with her and have learnt many things from this trainee. I hope that her experience here at AIST will help her career in the future.

Currently I am expecting a Spanish student under the “Vulcanus in Japan programme 2009-2010”. When should I start studying Spanish this time?

Hiroshi Uemura, Ph.D. - Senior Researcher-Institute for Biological Resources and Functions

 <http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/vulcanus-in-japan.html>

Vulcanus Alumni Feedback



Fernando Vázquez from Spain – recently awarded with the Open Source Software Contributor Award by the Japanese Government (Information-

Technology Promotion Agency) as the first non-Japanese winner – holds a position as Chief Consultant at NTT Data Intellilink and is currently on loan to the NTT Open Source Software Center, where he is the technical lead of the Operating Systems and Virtualisation Team and represents his company in the LINUX Foundation’s technical initiatives.

What has led to him being among few foreigners in leading positions in a Japanese business and research environment?

He is one of the Alumni of ‘Vulcanus in Japan’ (2003) – a 1-year scholarship programme for European students in Japan organised by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. Hearing about the programme during his time as a university student in Spain, it was this opportunity to be able to study, work and research in a very high-level technology environment, the chance to learn with Japanese a non-Western language, encounter a different yet fascinating culture and the career opportunities that come along with ‘Vulcanus’, that prompted him to apply.

His ‘Vulcanus’ year in Japan offered great professional enhancement, and it was well spent not only in terms of learning Japanese or exploring the depths of Japanese tradition.

(continued on page 7)

Vulcanus in Japan Home Stay

From 30 October to 2 November 2009, the 43 ‘Vulcanus in Japan’ students went to Aizuwakamatsu and Kitakata (Fukushima Prefecture), where they spent 4 days for a new cultural and human experience in their 1-year programme.

They spent their first day at Aizu University where an exchange meeting had been organised with Japanese students. At the end of the meeting they had a wrap-up session about their discussions. A Welcome Reception was then offered in the evening. Over 160 people attended the party, with prestigious participants such as Mr. Suzuki, Vice-President of Aizuwakamatsu International Association, Mr. Iwase, Regent of the Board of Executives at the University of Aizu, members of the Regional Government and of the Kitakata International Association and the 43 host families. Mr. Tsukamoto, General Manager at the EU-Japan Centre, made a speech, as did Sebastian Gorga, on behalf of the ‘Vulcanus’ students.

The students were offered an interesting programme with the aim of discovering a region in Japan as well as Japanese culture and traditions: 43 host families welcomed them to help them better understand life in Japan and practise the Japanese language skills they learnt during the previous 2 months and a half. The students also participated actively at the Aizu International Festival 2009 by presenting their own country at booths and performing on stage. They visited famous places in the area such as Tsuruga Castle, Noguchi Hideyo Memorial Museum and had a walk along the Goshiki-numa Nature Trail.

This experience was very positive for all those involved and every year helps a Japanese region and European ‘Vulcanus’ students to strengthen their mutual understanding.



 <http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/vulcanus-in-japan.html>

Manual for the guidance of SMEs to participate in EU-funded projects



Are you a Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) interested in strengthening your market position, improving your existing products or acquiring new skills by getting involved in a Research and Development (R&D) project funded by the European Commission? Alternatively, are you a researcher currently working on a project with SMEs, or considering doing so in the future?

The consortium of the "USE and DIFFUSE" project has completed a very useful and practical manual for the guidance of SMEs to participate in EU-funded projects. The manual is packed with helpful information, advice, quotes and real-life examples from SMEs that participated in 24 Best Practice projects. The manual can be downloaded from the webpage.

<http://www.useanddiffuse.eu>

Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement

The European Community signs an Agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology with the Government of Japan.

On 30 November 2009 the European Community (EC) and Japan marked a firm commitment to strengthen their collaboration in research by signing a Science and Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreement. This agreement will help them identify common research priorities and areas of common

interest, such as energy and environment, in which joint research efforts could be particularly promising. It will also provide a framework to establish mechanisms for enhanced S&T cooperation, such as reciprocal participation in research programmes, exchange of researchers, and coordinated calls for proposals.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1844&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Mergers: Commission approves proposed merger between Renesas Technology and NEC Electronics

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed merger between Renesas Technology, jointly controlled by Hitachi Ltd. and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, and NEC Electronics Corporation (NEC-EL). All parties to the transaction are headquartered in Japan. The Commission concluded that the transaction would not significantly impede effective competition in the European Economic Area (EEA) or any substantial part of it.

Renesas and NEC-EL are semiconductor manufacturers. In particular, they both supply microcontrollers for a broad range of applications (e.g. automotive components, portable devices, computer peripherals) as well as LCD (Liquid Crystal Displays) drivers, SRAM (Static Random Access Memory), and other semiconductor products.

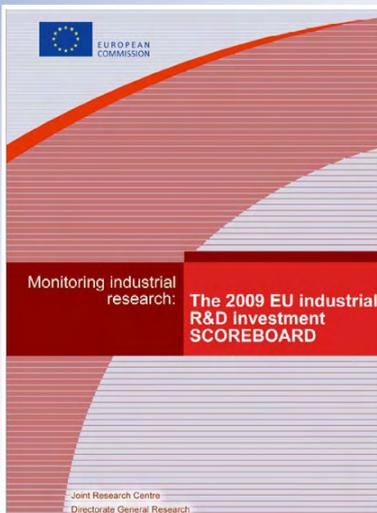
Microcontrollers are small semiconductor devices that act as the 'brain' of electronic appliances.

There are no significant vertical relationships between the companies, and the Commission's investigation focused on horizontal issues.

The Commission's investigation revealed that the proposed merger would not give rise to competition concerns in the markets for microcontrollers, SRAM, LCD drivers and other types of semiconductors, as these markets are characterised by dynamic competition and significant buyer power. In particular, the combined entity would continue to face large and effective competitors.

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/index/m110.html#m_5535

Corporate R&D investment in 2008: a global increase with EU companies leading US and Japan



Worldwide corporate R&D investment increased by 6.9% in 2008, in spite of the economic crisis, according to the 2009 «EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard» released in November 2009.

With an 8.1% increase, the R&D investment growth of EU companies, defined as companies having headquarters within the EU, is significantly higher than of US ones for the second year, at 5.7%, and Japanese ones, at 4.4%.

Two EU companies feature in the top ten: Volkswagen in 3rd place with an R&D investment of €5.93 billion and Nokia in 8th place. The world's biggest investor in R&D was Toyota Motor, with €7.61 billion.

The report also shows that companies from emerging countries have the highest R&D investment growth. The 2009 "EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard" presents information on 2000 companies from around the world reporting major investments in R&D.

The set of companies the report covers comprises the top 1000 R&D investors whose registered offices are in the EU and the top 1000 registered elsewhere. http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/research/scoreboard_2009.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1716&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC-funded training abroad for EU Managers

The 'Commerce International' magazine has published in its December 2009 issue a feature on European Commission-funded training programmes abroad for EU managers. Among others, please find below those focused on Asia:



Objective: Japan
Industrial cooperation: The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation programmes:
- Didier Landaud, participant in the H RTP Programme "A true immersion in Japanese life"
- Ralf Wallau, participant in the WCM Programme "The Japanese example gave me new ideas"



Objective: Japan and Korea
The Korea and Japan Executive Training Programmes (ETP) aim to provide a solid cultural and linguistic foundation within one year for

European executives seeking to work with these countries:

- Arnaud Dupont, participant in the ETP Korea Programme "A unique experience" under the "EU Gateway Programme"

Objective: Japan and Korea

- Markus Pichler, EU Gateway Programme graduate "The programme responded to all of our objectives"

Objective: China

Managers Exchange and Training Programme

- Julius Daujotas, METP graduate "The best way to succeed in China"

More information on



http://www.actu-cci.com/theme/Training_45/

French Mechatronics invited to Japan

Last October, at the invitation of JETRO, six French SMEs had the great opportunity to participate at two important trade fairs specialised in mechatronics, one in Nagoya (MECT 2009) and the other in Suwa, Nagano area (SUWA Industrial Messe 2009).

This invitation to this so iconic country (1st industrial world power and birthplace of mechatronics) allowed the French companies not only to discover the Japanese mechatronics industry, and especially the world of SMEs, but also to establish fruitful business and technical contacts.

The visitors noted with interest and sometimes with astonishment, significant differences with French SMEs, such as their high level of investment in R&D, their greater size with often a presence in China for part of production, their significant, and sometimes astonishing, diversification in terms of technology implementation or in terms of activities (e.g. machining + electronics + R&D, subcontracting and also own product, in-house tools and production equipment manufacturing).



Discussion between the CEO of a French SME and the Mayor of Nagoya.

It was also a great opportunity to move forward on collaboration about "Desktop Factory", the new concept for low-impact and highly-flexible manufacturing equipments able to reconfigure a plant in a very short time for a new production.

The French SME representatives did not return home only with beautiful souvenirs; specific and concrete contacts were established. A Japanese company went to France in the following weeks to realise the business relationship initiated in Japan, and other appointments are scheduled. An evaluation campaign of «desktop factory» manufacturing equipments is under way at CTDEC (Centre Technique de l'Industrie du Décolletage) in France.

More information on

<http://thesame-innovation.com/>

The Science Forum Poland-Japan 2009

On 11 December 2009 the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Japan held an event promoting cooperation between Polish and Japanese universities and research centres: "The Science Forum: Poland-Japan 2009".

The event was addressed mainly at presidents and vice-presidents in charge of international relations at Japanese and Polish universities, executive members of Japanese research centres and researchers interested in establishing/strengthening cooperation.

The Science Forum, conducted in English, was organised as a full 1-day seminar including networking sessions and lunch, during which Polish and Japanese institutions discussed the priorities for further exchange and cooperation. The main objective of the event was to provide broad networking and matching opportunities for cooperation between partners from Poland and Japan.

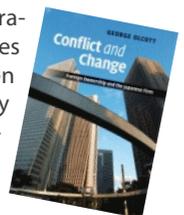
More information on

<http://www.tokio.polemb.net/index.php?document=420>

New publication

"Conflict and Change: Foreign Ownership and the Japanese Firm"

What happens to the traditional work practices of Japanese firms when they are taken over by European and American firms? How do the employees react? What lessons can be learned



from examples of successful and unsuccessful acquisitions? Ten years ago such questions would never have been asked, simply because the incidence of take-overs of Japanese firms by foreign companies was virtually non-existent. However, in the past decade a number of major Japanese companies have come under the control of foreign firms.

These are some of the topics covered by the new publication presented by the Daiwa Foundation Japan House on 10 December 2009.

More information on

http://www.dajf.org.uk/event_page.asp?Section=Eventssec&ID=461

Internationalisation of Higher Education

DAAD Secretary General visits Japan

On 23-24 November 2009 Dr. Christian Bode, Secretary General of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), paid a visit to Japan to give several lectures on the Internationalisation of Higher Education.

On the first day, following an expert discussion with a select group of Japanese higher-education representatives, he spoke to a wider audience in the atrium of the German Embassy about the challenges and developments facing the institutes of higher education, both in the former East Germany and in Germany as a whole, set against the background of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Attended by numerous Japanese partners from universities, research institutes and government organisations, his speech stimulated a discussion about how internationalisation can be achieved by implementing new structures in higher education. The DAAD has played a major role in this, by guiding German universities into the European Higher Education Area. Acting as the National Erasmus Agency, among others, the DAAD has guaranteed the speedy integration of the East German universities by means of EU mobility programmes such as ERASMUS and LEONARDO.

A recent publication gives detailed insight into the DAAD's main activities during the 90's: "20 Jahre Mauerfall - Die Integration der ost-deutschen Hochschulen in die europäische Bildungszusammenarbeit" (published by The International ASEM Education Secretariat; <http://eu.daad.de/eu/05590.html>).



On his second day in Japan, Dr. Bode attended an international symposium at Kobe University on the "Development of Globally-Sought-After Human Resources and Strategies for Overseas Study". In his keynote speech, "Internationalisation as the Key Element of Individual Human Development, of Institutional Strategies and of Higher Education Policies", he postulated that internationalisation was an absolute necessity in order to produce the highest quality in teaching,

research, H.E. Management, reputation, attractiveness and competitiveness, and to provide access to complementary funding and make a significant contribution to solving global problems (e.g. Millennium Development Goals). In his speech, he made special reference to the European framework of the Bologna Process. His main focus was to outline the future potential of the Bologna Process by way of the introduction and development of two-tier degrees, and by ensuring mobility, quality assurance and attractiveness.

More information on

<http://tokyo.daad.de/wp/lang/de/>

"Intercluster '09"

"Intercluster '09", the conference on cooperation and building information exchange platforms, was held on 3 and 4 December in Brussels, Belgium.

By releasing its Communication of 17 October 2008 entitled «Towards World-Class Clusters in the European Union», and by establishing its «European Cluster Policy Group», the European Commission has set out the following objectives:

- generate optimal synergies between the cluster policies of individual EU Member States;
- promote excellence in cluster organisation; and
- last but not least, bring about the emergence of world-class clusters.

European clusters are themselves aware that they are now at a major turning point: to attain «world-class» status they need to set themselves market objectives (on growth markets), develop and implement a strategy for market leadership. This can only be achieved by reaching a critical mass through the formation of alliances with other clusters.

Based on this, Europa InterCluster, the European Agency for Cluster Cooperation, supported by the joint efforts of many European clusters, decided to produce a White Paper on the emerging of World-Class Clusters as a way of contributing to the work of the European Commission and more specifically, of the European Cluster Policy Group.

"Intercluster '09" provided a brainstorming opportunity to serve as input for the White Paper on the emerging of World-Class Clusters.

More information on

http://intercluster.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=337

Vulcanus Alumni Feedback

(continued from page 3)

Fernando about his 8-month traineeship at NTT Data which was the "kick-off" to his career:

"During my internship at NTT Data I had the chance to experience at first hand the development model that has shaped much of the Internet as we know it today and is still the driving force behind innovation in fields as diverse as virtualisation, security, and embedded computing: open source. My work at NTT Data focused mostly on the open source security project 'SELinux' and resulted in the publication of a well received research paper.

After my 'Vulcanus' year I was lucky enough to get a job at one of the companies of the NTT Group (NTT Data Intellilink) where I could continue my involvement in open source in general, and Linux in particular. I have to admit that at first I was a mere user of open source software, but over time I became an active contributor in several projects and was trusted with the management of various open source initiatives (mostly kernel and virtualisation-related).

All these efforts paid off in several ways. On a professional level, I became the technical supervisor of the Operating Systems/Virtualisation Team at the NTT Open Source Software Center (part of the NTT Holding Company), and represent NTT at international open source events such as those organised by the Linux Foundation and USENIX. As an active member of the community I was honoured to be invited to events such as the Linux Kernel Summit, which brings together the world's leading kernel developers to discuss the state of the existing kernel and plan the next development cycle.

I was also very fortunate to be recognised with several awards from my own company and the Japanese Government, including:

- NTT Data Intellilink Presidential Award;
- NTT Data SE Grand Award;
- Information-Technology Promotion Agency, Japan - Open Source Contributor Award (first non-Japanese winner)".

Fernando is fluent in written and spoken Japanese as it is "the key to the Japanese business world in terms of promotion opportunities, access to positions of responsibility and, last but not least, gaining real understanding of the underpinnings of corporate Japan".

Looking back at his 'Vulcanus' time, it has had a tremendous effect on his life, a chance he would not have wanted to miss out on, and it is something he recommends young students to experience.



DATE/LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACTS
18 January 2010 London, UK	SEMINAR Political Change and National Identity in the UK and Japan	The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation in association with the Japan Society http://www.dajf.org.uk/booking http://www.japansociety.org.uk/
28 January 2010 Düsseldorf, Germany	SEMINAR Tokyo Investment and Business Seminar 2010	JETRO Düsseldorf http://www.tokyo-business.jp/eng/topics/investmanetseminar_002.pdf
2 - 5 March 2010 Tokyo, Japan	TRADE FAIR FOODEX JAPAN 2010 The 35 th International Food and Beverage Exhibition	FOODEX JAPAN Secretariat c/o Japan Management Association http://www3.jma.or.jp/foodex/en/
17 - 21 May 2010 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME EU Gateway Programme - Healthcare and Medical Technologies mission Application deadline: 15 January 2010	European Commission http://www.gatewaytojapan.org
17 May - 11/18 June 2010 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME Training Programme in Japan - HRTP-Japan Industry Insight Application deadline: 18 February 2010	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/human-resources-training-programme.html
28 June - 2 July 2010 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME Training Programme in Japan - World Class Manufacturing Application deadline: 25 March 2010	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html
18 - 22 October 2010 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME Training Programme in Japan - World Class Manufacturing Application deadline: 10 June 2010	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html

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 and/or on our website: michelson@eu-japan.eu



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation

日欧産業協力センター

HEAD OFFICE IN JAPAN

Round-cross Ichibancho 4F
13-3 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 102-0082, Japan
T +81 3 3221 6161
F +81 3 3221 6226
eu-japan@eu-japan.gr.jp
www.eu-japan.gr.jp

OFFICE IN THE EU

Rue Marie de Bourgogne 52
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 2 282 00 40
F +32 2 282 00 45
office@eu-japan.eu
www.eu-japan.eu